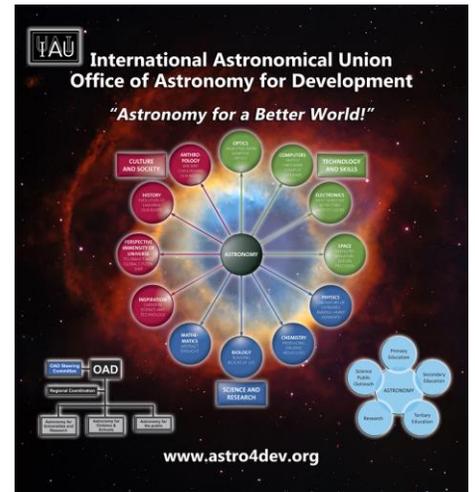


# Office of Astronomy for Development

International Astronomical Union

South African Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town, SA

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International  
Astronomical  
Union



## 2014 Funded projects

The IAU-OAD 2013 Call for Proposals saw an increase in the number of submitted projects as compared to 2012. The three Task Forces reviewed the projects in each of the following areas: [Universities and Research](#) (TF1), [Children and Schools](#) (TF2) and [Public Outreach](#) (TF3). A total of 230 applications were received (54 for TF1, 113 for TF2, 63 for TF3), which is a 20% increase in demand since the last call. Successful applicants were notified during November 2013 and grant agreements were prepared and distributed to project leaders during December 2013.

The 23 selected projects for 2014 can be viewed online at [www.astro4dev.org/funded-projects-2014/](http://www.astro4dev.org/funded-projects-2014/). The other recommended projects go onto a “wish list” that the OAD is working towards raising funds for ([www.astro4dev.org/2014-wish-list-projects/](http://www.astro4dev.org/2014-wish-list-projects/)). The OAD welcomes your ideas on how to make those wish list projects a reality: please contact us at [info@astro4dev.org](mailto:info@astro4dev.org).

## News & Updates from the OAD

### Projects 2013

Most of the projects funded in 2013 came to a close, with only a few projects continuing their activities in the beginning of 2014.

Final reports from projects implemented in 2013 are being consolidated and will be released in the first quarter of 2014. Regular updates on each of the funded projects can be found on the OAD website at

### *Astronomy for a better world!*

The [International Astronomical Union](#) (IAU) adopted a [strategic plan](#) in 2009 that aims to realize the global developmental benefits of astronomy.

In order to implement this plan, the IAU established the [Office of Astronomy for Development](#) (OAD). It is hosted at the [South African Astronomical Observatory](#) (SAAO) in Cape Town, South Africa.

The OAD is a global coordinating centre for “astronomy-for-development” activities. The three focus areas are: Task Force 1 [Astronomy for Universities and Research](#); Task Force 2 [Astronomy for Children and Schools](#); and Task Force 3 [Astronomy for the Public](#).

[www.astro4dev.org/funded-projects/](http://www.astro4dev.org/funded-projects/). During this quarter the OAD also developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, which was distributed to 2014 grant holders along with their grant agreements. This will form the basis of a more intensive monitoring and evaluation programme with projects implemented from 2014 onwards (read more in the section "OAD Special Projects and interns highlights" below).

### **Featured Project:**

The non-profit "[A Touch of The Universe](http://www.astro4dev.org/funded-projects/)" project has built 30 sets of tactile astronomy kits designed for children with vision impairments. The kits are being distributed among educators and teachers globally, with a focus on the Americas, Asia and Africa. The project can be followed online at <http://astrokit.uv.es/> and/or on the OAD website at [www.astro4dev.org/blog/category/tf2/visually-impaired/](http://www.astro4dev.org/blog/category/tf2/visually-impaired/). This kit is the result of the collaboration of a number of institutions, receiving funding and support from the IAU-OAD, EU-UNAWE, the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Valencia, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera, INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova, NASA-CXO, Eurastro, Sociedad Española de Astronomía, Galileo Teacher Training Program, Galileo Mobile and Astronomers without Borders. The pictures below show activities with children in Portugal (left) and adults in India (right). The project is currently looking for additional funds and support to expand the activity and send more kits around the world. Please contact [Amelia Ortiz-Gil](mailto:amelia.ortiz@uv.es) for more information.



Dr. Amelia Ortiz-Gil

Amelia is an astronomer at the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Valencia, Spain, where she is currently working as an Outreach and Public Officer. She coordinated the astronomical activities for disabled people of the Spanish node during IYA2009. She is co-chair of Astronomers Without Border's Program for People with Disabilities and has regular collaborations with GTTP and UNAWE. She is member of the Spanish Astronomical Society and of the [IAU](http://www.iau.org).

Contact Amelia at [amelia.ortiz@uv.es](mailto:amelia.ortiz@uv.es)



## 2014 IAU-OAD funded projects

During the fourth quarter of 2013, the OAD coordinated the intensive evaluation process of 230 proposals received before the deadline of 31 August 2013, for projects to be implemented in the 2014 calendar year. Evaluations were conducted by the three OAD Task Forces (TFs, see [www.astro4dev.org/task-forces/](http://www.astro4dev.org/task-forces/)) and the TFs' recommendations were submitted in early November 2013 for final approval by the IAU's Extended Development Oversight Committee (EDOC, see [www.astro4dev.org/oversight/](http://www.astro4dev.org/oversight/)). The EDOC approved funding for 23 projects spread across the three Task Forces. The geographical spread of the funded projects can be seen on the map below.



The total amount allocated by the IAU for these projects is about €100,000. Successful applicants were notified during November 2013 and grant agreements were prepared and distributed to project leaders during December 2013. Projects recommended but not funded have been placed on a “wish list” which is advertised on the OAD website in order to rally external support (see [www.astro4dev.org/2014-wish-list-projects/](http://www.astro4dev.org/2014-wish-list-projects/)). The 23 selected projects for 2014 can be viewed online at [www.astro4dev.org/funded-projects-2014/](http://www.astro4dev.org/funded-projects-2014/).

## Upcoming Events

### February 17th – 21st

SKA Transformational Science Meeting, SA

### March 4th – 5th

IAU OAO and IYL2015 meeting, France

### March 10th – 11th

NASA Asteroid Grand Challenge workshop, SA

### March 12th – 18th

SciFest Africa, SA

## Past events

### October 7th – 11th

UNAWE International Workshop, Germany

### October 14th – 18th

CAP2013, Poland

### October 21th – 25th

Astronomy summer school for West Africa, Nigeria

### Oct 28th – Nov 4th

São Tomé & Príncipe, Workshop, Gabon & OAD francophone Workshop

### November 25th – 29th

Latin American Regional IAU Meeting, Brazil

### January 23rd – 28th

OAD Steering Committee and Task Force Chairs meetings

## International & domestic events

There were several trips and events during this quarter: (i) OAD Project Officer attended the UNawe international workshop in Heidelberg, Germany ([www.unawe.org/events/workshop2013/](http://www.unawe.org/events/workshop2013/)) to present the work of the OAD and meet UNawe implementers from around the world; (ii) from 14 to 18 October 2013, OAD Project Officer and Director attended the Communicating Astronomy with the Public conference (CAP conference, [www.communicatingastronomy.org/cap2013/](http://www.communicatingastronomy.org/cap2013/)) in Warsaw, Poland. Besides presenting the work of the OAD to the CAP community several side meetings were held regarding regional nodes (Southern Africa, Eastern Europe, Andean region); (iii) OAD Director attended the West African Regional Summer School in Nigeria (21 to 25 October) where several high level meetings were held regarding the establishment of a West African regional node in Nigeria. The OAD also contributed talks to the students as part of the school; (iv) The OAD jointly coordinated a workshop in Gabon to discuss regional coordination amongst the francophone world (led by the French-speaking OAD Project Officer). Attendance in person and via Skype included representatives from Algeria, Canada, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Gabon, Lebanon, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia and Vietnam (more details can be found at [www.astro4dev.org/oad-workshop-french](http://www.astro4dev.org/oad-workshop-french)); (v) OAD Director attended the XIV IAU Latin American Regional IAU Meeting (LARIM, [www.larim2013.org.br](http://www.larim2013.org.br)) in Brazil; (vi) OAD Director was invited to a special session at the ICT for Development conference in Cape Town entitled "Opportunities of open and collaborative science for development in the global South", hosted by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, [www.idrc.ca](http://www.idrc.ca)) and meant as a stakeholder engagement exercise for future IDRC funding programmes; (vii) The OAD was invited to attend the USA-South Africa Joint Committee Meeting in Pretoria during which collaborations between the USA and South Africa were discussed. The OAD was invited to work with NASA on a global education/outreach project linked to their Asteroid Grand Challenge; (viii) The OAD was invited to a reception hosted by the Japanese Ambassador to South Africa. (ix) OAD Director

## A new partner organisation for the OAD



Haus der Astronomie  
Center for Astronomy Education and Outreach

*"The Haus der Astronomie (HdA), literally - House of Astronomy, is a unique Centre for Astronomy Education and Outreach in Heidelberg, Germany. HdA's mission is to demonstrate to the public in general, and to young people in particular, the fascination of astronomy, and to further the communication between astronomers and their colleagues in other scientific disciplines."*

[Excerpt from <http://www.haus-der-astronomie.de>]

The OAD recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HdA to facilitate the identification of and communication with contacts within Germany regarding activities that the OAD may need to collaborate on. HdA will partner with the OAD on projects of common interest. An HdA staff member will dedicate one day per week to OAD-related activities.

To read more about partner organizations to the OAD, please visit: [www.astro4dev.org/partners/](http://www.astro4dev.org/partners/)

The OAD is always open to partnerships with other organisations wishing to collaborate in the area of science for development.

Please contact the OAD Director at [kg@astro4dev.org](mailto:kg@astro4dev.org) to inquire about potential partnerships.

attended a workshop in Cape Town on MeerLICHT, a telescope project that will be used to observe objects that the radio telescope MeerKAT will also observe. The OAD was invited to collaborate on the education, outreach and development goals.

### **Special visitors to the OAD:**

The OAD hosted NASA Deputy Chief Technologist [W. James Adams](#) and NASA International Relations Specialist [Neal Newman](#). Their visit was a follow up to the OAD visit to the USA in September and revolved around NASA's Asteroid Grand Challenge, specifically how the OAD could collaborate to expand the reach of their efforts to developing regions. [Michael Gastrow](#) and [Hester du Plessis](#) from the Human Science Research Council (HSRC, [www.hsrc.ac.za/](http://www.hsrc.ac.za/)) visited the OAD to explore projects that would involve the humanities as well as the natural sciences, specifically around the topic of astronomy for development.

### **OAD Special Projects and interns highlights:**

This quarter saw the launch of astroEDU, a platform for peer reviewed astronomy resources. The project was coordinated by the OAD's Task Force 2 (Astronomy for Children and Schools), Universe Awareness (UNAWA, [www.unawe.org](http://www.unawe.org)) and the Las Cumbres Observatory (LCOGT, <http://lcogt.net>). astroEDU is currently inviting submissions on [astroedu.iau.org](http://astroedu.iau.org).

The OAD also worked with the Institute for Monitoring and Evaluation at the University of Cape Town (UCT, [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)) on a project to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for OAD-type projects. To download a summarized version of the framework, visit [www.astro4dev.org/me-framework/](http://www.astro4dev.org/me-framework/). The project involved OAD intern [Laure Catala](#) (currently a UCT/SAAO astronomy PhD student) and UCT postdoctoral researcher [Sarah Chapman](#) (UCT M&E). A research paper will be submitted in early 2014 within the two communities (M&E and Astronomy). Another project during this quarter was coordinated by OAD intern [Rajin Ramphul](#) (also a UCT astronomy PhD student) and involved the development of a system using the Raspberry Pi (a credit card sized computer, see [www.raspberrypi.org](http://www.raspberrypi.org)), which could be

## The OAD newsletter in different languages

BOLETÍN OAD #3 – Octubre 2013

### Oficina de Astronomía para el Desarrollo

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#### Resumen 2013 - Convocatoria de Propuestas

Publicación: 1<sup>o</sup> de julio 2013  
Fecha de cierre: 31 de agosto 2013  
Número total de propuestas: 230  
Proyectos por grupo de trabajo: TF1-54; TF2-113; TF3-63  
Traducciones: Portugués, español, árabe, ruso, chino y francés  
Evaluaciones por grupos de trabajo: 31 de octubre 2013  
Aprobación por UAI EDOC (Extended Development Oversight Committee): 30 de noviembre 2013  
Información a los proponentes y acuerdo de subvención redactado: 31 de diciembre 2013  
Implementación: Año calendario 2014

#### Novedades y Actualizaciones

##### Proyectos financiados en 2013

Durante este trimestre (de Julio a setiembre 2013), la OAD completó los últimos dos acuerdos de subvención y se hizo el pago respectivo. Los 18 proyectos seleccionados para ser financiados han recibido las subvenciones asignadas. Al 1<sup>o</sup> de octubre 2013, 4 de los 18 proyectos han sido terminados y el resto van bien encaminados. Desafortunadamente un proyecto (Escuela regional de astronomía en Libani) debió ser postergado debido a riesgos para la seguridad en la región. Los grupos de trabajo han recibido un reporte a mitad de plazo, basado en datos suministrados por todos los proyectos. Pueden

BOLETÍN OAD #3 – Octubre 2013



Astronomía para un mundo mejor  
La Unión Astronómica Internacional (IAU) adoptó un plan estratégico en 2009 que apunta a percibir los beneficios del desarrollo global de la astronomía. Con el fin de implementar este plan, la IAU estableció la Oficina de Astronomía para el Desarrollo (OAD). La OAD es organizada por el South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) en Ciudad del Cabo, Sudáfrica.  
La OAD es un centro de coordinación global para las actividades de "astronomía para el desarrollo". Las tres principales áreas enfocadas son: Grupo 1 Astronomía para las Universidades; el Investigador; Grupo 2 Astronomía para niños y escuelas; y Grupo 3 Astronomía para el público.

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*The OAD newsletter #3 in Spanish, courtesy of OAD volunteer Alfredo Gonzales, Peru*

The OAD newsletter is issued quarterly and reports on current OAD activities. To download and read the OAD newsletters, please visit the following link:

[www.astro4dev.org/newsletters/](http://www.astro4dev.org/newsletters/)

The OAD newsletter #3 has been translated to French and Spanish, thanks to the hard work and efforts of the OAD's volunteers. If you wish to translate upcoming newsletters, please contact us at [info@astro4dev.org](mailto:info@astro4dev.org).

The OAD currently has 520 volunteers worldwide. To register as a volunteer with the OAD, please visit:

[www.astro4dev.org/register-as-volunteer/](http://www.astro4dev.org/register-as-volunteer/)

Register as volunteer

To join the OAD mailing list: [www.astro4dev.org/emallists/](http://www.astro4dev.org/emallists/)

distributed to teachers and university students so they can have access to a computer and educational content at a minimal cost. The OAD will trial a few of the systems in early 2014. These (Linux-based) systems could also be distributed to universities to be used for astronomical data analysis.

### **Regional Nodes & Language Expertise Centres**

Both the South East Asian and East Asian regional nodes have been active and report on activities through their respective websites (see [www.astro4dev.org](http://www.astro4dev.org) for links).

Meetings were held in Poland regarding a regional node for Eastern Europe (partner hosts could be in Poland and Armenia) and the Andean region (led by Colombia). Various discussions were also held via Skype regarding the Andean Regional Node, with support from Venezuelan-born TF2 member [Cecilia Scorza](#) who speaks Spanish and knows the region well. This was followed up with meetings at the IAU Latin American Regional Meeting ([www.larim2013.org.br](http://www.larim2013.org.br)) in November.

A visit by the OAD and high-level discussions took place in Nigeria for the establishment of a West African Regional Node. A workshop for Francophone countries was held in Gabon and established the need (from the participants) for a Language Expertise Centre for the French language and culture. Following several exchanges between the OAD and Southern African stakeholders, the Zambian proposal for the Southern African region was developed, submitted and approved by the EDOC during this quarter. Towards the end of this quarter, and just into the next quarter, an agreement for the East African Regional Node was approved with an official signing event, taking place on 10 January 2014 in Ethiopia (see side insert on Page 6).

## **A new OAD Regional Node in East Africa**



*Mr. Tefara Waluva (ESSS Chairman), Her Excellency Demitu Hambisa (Minister of Science and Technology), Prof. Piero Benvenuti, (IAU Assistant General-Secretary) and Mr. Kevin Govender (OAD Director) signing the East African Regional Node agreement.*

On 10 January 2014, in Addis Ababa, the IAU signed an important agreement with partners in Ethiopia to host an East African regional node of the OAD. This is the first regional node to be established on the African continent and forms part of the IAU's decadal strategic plan. The initiative is driven locally by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Ethiopian Space Science Society and Addis Ababa University.

*"We are very excited about this collaboration with our Ethiopian colleagues, not only because of the visionary leadership shown within the country in terms of science and technology but also because of the exemplary projects they have embarked on such as the Entoto Observatory and Space Science Research Centre"*

OAD Director Kevin Govender.

More at  
[www.astro4dev.org/regions/](http://www.astro4dev.org/regions/)