Dear friends and colleagues,

We've seen a lot of major activities and developments at the OAD in the past few months. A crazy amount of exciting things are happening as we prepare for the next IAU General Assembly.

The OAD welcomed three Fellows in the first half of May 2015. As part of the OAD Visiting Fellows program, they will be supporting the OAD in various ways, including Task Force 1 projects and evaluation.

The year are: Tibisay Sankatsing Nava (from Aruba), Ramasamy Venugopal (from India) and Silvia Verdolini, who will be supporting the OAD in various ways, including Task Force 1 projects and evaluation.

Sankatsing Nava, an OAD Visiting Fellow, will be driving our new communications strategy – an important step forward for the OAD!

We've had a major external review of OAD activities (the results will be published soon!). We also officially launched the OAD-IUCAA Fellowship, an important initiative to support visiting students from across the globe.

We've also seen a lot of new initiatives and resources from the OAD, including the IYL 2015 Galileoscope, which aims to help Latin American students interested in astronomy for development projects to be implemented in the following calendar year. The project team will provide support to organise these workshops, including the Cosmic Light EDU kit.

The Cosmic Light EDU kit invites teachers, educators and scientists around the world to organise workshops and events for the International Year of Light. The project team will provide support to organise these workshops, including the Cosmic Light EDU kit which is available for delivery for $100.

The Global Hands-On Universe Conference, organised in close collaboration with the University of Hawaii, will be held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, regarding the development of a regional office for the North American region.

The OAD also presented its activities to a high level meeting of the SKA Africa partner organisations and interviewed during the intensive review week, offering the OAD a great opportunity to showcase their work and gain valuable feedback.

Suggestions or comments on the new OAD newsletter? Please send us an email to inform us how we can improve this newsletter. We are always looking to improve our communications, so keep an eye out!

Best regards,
Kevin Govender, on behalf of the OAD Team

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