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NEWS



European Regional Office Launched

The European Regional Office of Astronomy for Development was officially established on 26 February 2018 at a signing ceremony in Leiden, Netherlands. The event was attended by (then) South African Minister of Science and Technology and marked the formation of the tenth OAD Regional Office. It will be operated jointly by the European Astronomical Society and Leiden University. Read more in the [IAU Press Release](#)



Keynote at CAP Conference 2018

Dr Wanda Diaz-Merced from the OAD delivered a keynote speech on "Human factors to foster equal participation" at the Communicating Astronomy with the Public 2018 Conference in Fukuoka, Japan. The CAP Conference series is organised by IAU Commission C2 to facilitate exchange of ideas and strengthen the local community of professionals by connecting them to the global network.



Special Sessions at EWASS 2018

The OAD participated in two significant and well-attended events at the 2018 European Week of Astronomy and Space Science (EWASS). One was the first regional workshop of the newly established European Regional Office of Astronomy for Development, and the other was a special session (including a lunch session) on Africa-Europe collaborations that was also attended by two OAD Regional Offices in Africa

RAS – OAD Mobility Grant

Sarah Eve Roberts (Cardiff University, UK)	Pheneas Nkundabigkura (University of Rwanda)
Ikechukwu Obi (CBSS, Nigeria)	Ann Njeri Ngendo (University of Nairobi Kenya)
Katherine Blundell (Oxford University, UK)	Sohan Jheeta (Science Communication Ltd)
Mikako Matsuura (Cardiff University, UK)	Bonaventure Olera (CBSS & WA-ROAD, Nigeria)
Alemiye Mamo Yacob (ESSTI, Ethiopia)	Prosperity Simpemba (SA-ROAD)
Edward Jurua (MUST, Uganda)	

[/astro4dev](https://www.facebook.com/astro4dev) <http://www.astro4dev.org/partners/rasexperts/>
[@astro4dev](https://twitter.com/astro4dev) Image: Milky way over SALT telescope, Sutherland by Alex Gagliano

RAS-OAD Mobility Grants

The [RAS-OAD mobility grant](#) provides funding to establish or nurture research, educational and/or development related collaborations between UK and countries where astronomy research is not well established. In the latest edition of the call ending in January 2018, 11 projects were awarded a total of 11,228 GBP. For more information on the projects and grant recipients, visit the [OAD website](#)

IAU OAD INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION OFFICE OF ASTRONOMY FOR DEVELOPMENT
YEAR BOOK 2017

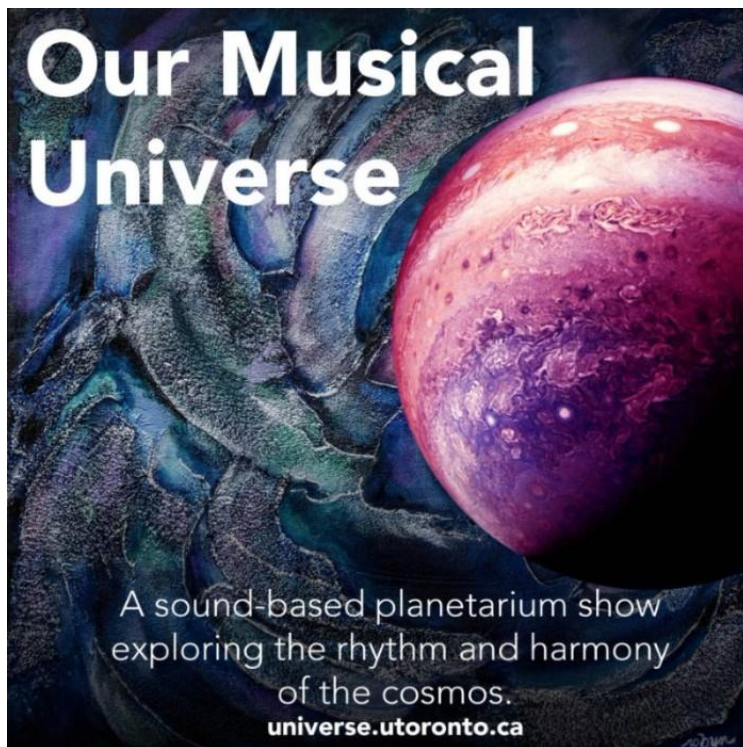
Yearbook 2017 Published

OAD published Yearbook 2017, its annual report of activities. Yearbook2017 contains information on projects funded globally and highlights of the year's activities. These activities are supported by a diverse global community, including the regional offices, partners, collaborators, and volunteers across the world. An electronic version of the yearbook can be downloaded from the [OAD website](#)

PROJECTS - UPDATES

The OAD's sixth annual call for proposals concluded in 2017 and 16 projects were selected to receive a total of €112 661 in 2018 (6 projects in Task Force 1, 5 projects in Task Force 2, 5 projects in Task Force

3). The OAD has compiled a '[Recommended list](#)' of project proposals that were approved by the reviewers but could not be funded. For more updates, please visit the [OAD website](#)



SECOND KATHMANDU ASTROPHYSICS SCHOOL
Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, Nepal

JUNE 10-17, 2018

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTATIONAL METHODS IN ASTROPHYSICS

Computational techniques and methods play a fundamental role in all fields of astrophysical research, with larger and larger observational datasets becoming available and astronomers carrying out computer simulations and theoretical modeling of growing complexity.

Students of the second Kathmandu Astrophysics School [KAS2] will be introduced to basic concepts and computational techniques in astrophysics and cosmology. Lectures will be combined with hands-on projects, professional development and networking, with the goal of mentoring advanced undergraduate and beginning graduate students to improve their research and presentation skills.

The school will be held in tranquil Pokhara, at the foothills of the Annapurna range, with student lodging and meals fully covered thanks to the support of the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:
 Michele Tesse (SOC Chair), University of Melbourne, Australia
 Neelima Budischewsky (SOC Chair), Tribhuvan University, Nepal
 Mustafa Zengin, IUP University, USA
 Clara Kenyon, University of Melbourne, Australia
 Vidyanjay Kharel, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
 Stefanie Kamassa, Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy, Germany
 Nina Lützgendorf, European Space Agency, USA
 Grant Buckley, Howard University, USA
 Elissa Pasetti, CNR Observ. Italy
 Andrzej Mikulski, Polish Academy of Science, Poland
 Contact: astrochoonapp@gmail.com
 Apple: <https://goo.gl/forms/15Y7256LDRAS10A1>
 Deadline for applications: April 20, 2018

Formation of Tutors for Astrolab

a hands-on project with remote telescopic observations

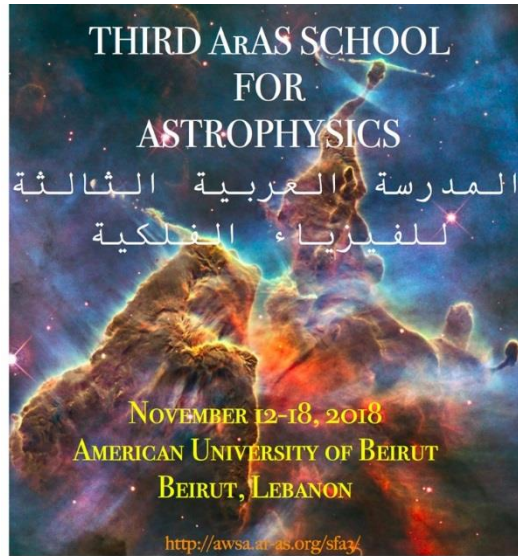
Astrolab is an enquiry-based lab for undergraduated students to learn project oriented research using a remote telescope and free software. Lecturers interested in implementing the tutorial at their university receive a one week training to learn supervising Astrolab.

For more information on Astrolab:
www.unizulu.ac.za/astrolabtraining/

Applicants find more information and should fill in the downloadable form on www.unizulu.ac.za/astrolab_application_form/ before March 31, 2018.

18-22 June 2018 University of Zululand Physics and Engineering Department 3886 KwaZulu-Natal South Africa





REGIONAL OFFICES - UPDATES

- **Andean ROAD** [Third Workshop Astronomia en los Andes](#) will be held from November 12-16, 2018 in Lima, Peru. Pre-registration is now open
- **Arab ROAD and LOAD** [12th Arab Conference on Astronomy and Space Science](#) will be organized in Amman, Jordan from 1-3 May 2018
- **East African ROAD** participated in the Communicating Astronomy with the Public Conference 2018 in Japan and European Week of Astronomy and Space Sciences, UK
- **East Asian ROAD and Chinese Language Center** organized, with Guangdong Astronomical Society, a Total lunar eclipse winter camp for 60 provincial astronomy olympiad (high school) students from 29 high schools in Guangdong Province, China
- **Portuguese Language Office**, with collaborators, has launched the website of Eddington@Sundy in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the experiment that confirmed the theory of general relativity. Check [website](#) for planned activities
- NARIT, host of the **South East Asian ROAD**, hosted the ASEAN Astronomy Camp 2018 in January at Chiang Mai, Thailand with 50 participants
- **South West and Central Asian ROAD** is publishing articles related to astronomy in SWCA ROAD countries in the [Armenian Astronomical Society Newsletters](#)
- **Southern African ROAD** is organizing a training workshop for Astrolab Tutors from 18-22 June 2018 at University of Zululand in South Africa. The target group is lecturers from Southern Africa

- **West African ROAD** has established an astronomy club in Ile-Oluji, a rural community in southwest Nigeria, to encourage students interest in STEM

More details on the [OAD website](#)

MEETINGS AND VISITORS

- The OAD ran a special, closed call for proposals for all past funded projects. This was in order to identify flagship OAD projects that would be highlighted and funded in celebration of the IAU 100th Anniversary in 2019. Three projects have been selected for expansion by the IAU100 Task Force. More information on this soon.
- McBride delivered a lecture and workshop on the OAD at the NASSP summer school in February 2018.
- McBride delivered a talk at the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa's symposium held at SAAO on 9-11 March 2018.
- McBride represented the OAD in Leiden in February 2018 at the signing of the agreement for the establishment of the European ROAD and delivered a talk at a Symposium on Science Diplomacy. The events coincided with an Honorary Professorship in Astronomy for Development being awarded to then South African Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor
- The annual face to face meeting of the OAD Steering Committee took place from 30th January to 1st February 2018 in Cape Town
- A 1 day workshop on Astronomy for Development was held at IUCAA, India with invited participants from astronomy and social sciences. The workshop was organized by the OAD in partnership with IUCAA and Astronomical Society of India's Public Outreach & Education Committee (ASI POEC)
- Venugopal attended the Astronomical Society of India (ASI) meeting in Hyderabad from 5-9 February, where he presented a poster on the OAD's work

UPCOMING EVENTS

Astrolab Tutors Training Workshop

18-22 June 2018

University of Zululand, South Africa

<http://www.unizulu.ac.za/astrolabtraining/>

41st International School for Young Astronomers (ISYA)

8-28 July 2018

Socorro, Santander-Colombia

<https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/842/>

COSPAR Teacher Training Workshop 2018

14-22 July 2018

Pasadena, USA

<http://galileoteachers.org/cospar-teacher-training-workshop-2018/>

IAU XXX General Assembly

20-31 Aug 2018

Vienna, Austria

<http://astronomy2018.univie.ac.at/>

Focus Meeting 15: Astronomy for Development

28-31 Aug 2018

Vienna, Austria

<http://www.astro4dev.org/fm15/>

SciDataCon - International Data Week (IDW)

5-8 Nov 2018

Gaborone, Botswana

<https://www.scidatacon.org/IDW2018/sessions/256/>
