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Astronomical | Astronomy  
Union | for Development

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## NEWS

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### OAD 2017 Call for Proposals

The 2017 OAD call for proposals is a two stage process. During Stage 1, the Task Forces selected proposals, with input from Regional Offices. The OAD team, Regional offices (and other external collaborators) worked with these selected teams during Stage 2 to improve the proposals. The final, revised proposals were submitted to the OAD by September 15, 2017 and are currently being reviewed by the Task Forces.

Read more on the [OAD website](#)



### Space Awareness Workshop

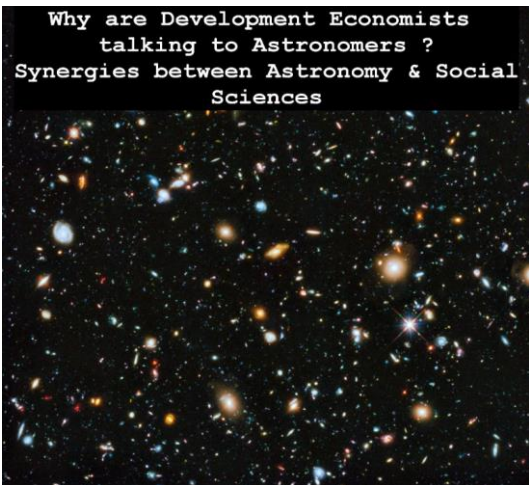
An international workshop on Space Education and Outreach was organized by the OAD, EU Space Awareness project, Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Institute (ESSTI) and Ethiopian Regional Office of Astronomy for Development. The event, officially launched by the Ethiopian State Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Afework Kassu, was attended by African Union representative, astronomers, space experts, teachers, and students.

Read more on the [OAD website](#)



### **Farewell to Eli Grant**

The OAD bid farewell to Dr Eli Grant, who was a staff member since February 2015. Eli brought an interdisciplinary background in statistics, behavioural sciences and social policy. She supported project management, design, implementation and evaluation processes at the OAD. She has over ten years of experience working in government, academia and the non-profit sector on issues concerning health, international development, criminal justice, education and gender equality. We will miss Eli but we wish her the very best in her future endeavours



### **Data and Development**

OAD is engaging with development economists from RESEP (Research on Socio-Economic Policy) at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Through a series of talks and discussions, OAD and RESEP are exploring common ground between astronomy and economics, such as skills sharing. Astronomers, for example, use image classification techniques that could be applied by economists using satellite data to study socio-economic conditions. Read more on the [OAD website](#)

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## **PROJECTS - UPDATES**

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20 projects funded by the OAD are underway in 2017 - 9 projects in TF1 (Universities & Research), 6 projects in TF2 (Children & Schools), 5 projects in TF3 (Public). Projects are now halfway through their implementation phase. Below are few of the pictures sent in by the projects. For more updates, please visit the [OAD website](#)



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## REGIONAL OFFICES - UPDATES

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- **Andean ROAD** organized a meeting called "[Aula Bajo las Estrellas](#)", an initiative to gather primary and secondary education instructors that use astronomy in their classroom.
- **Arab ROAD and LOAD** conducted a number of Astronomy lectures organized by members of Jordanian Astronomical Society (JAS) & Arab Union of Astronomy and Space Sciences (AUASS)
- **East African ROAD** and ESSTI in collaboration with US Embassy in Addis Ababa organized a public lecture by former US Astronaut Leland Melvin on 07 August, attended by more than 600 people

- **East Asian ROAD and Chinese Language Center** was involved in Meteorites China – a conference, workshop, and exhibition on the scientific and cultural significance of meteorites from 15-17 September 2017 at Duke Kunshan University.
- **Portuguese Language Office** is working on the development of a research collaboration between Brazil, Cape Verde, Portugal, Mozambique and other islands across the world
- NARIT, host of the **South East Asian ROAD**, organized Optical Design Summer School and the ITCA Colloquium on Astronomy for STEM Education
- **South West and Central Asian ROAD** is co-organizing the UNESCO regional conference on “Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East” from 13-17 Nov 2017 in Yerevan, Armenia
- **Southern African ROAD** is organizing an AstroLab workshop from 6-11 November 2017 at the National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. It will be followed by GTTP (Galileo Teacher Training Program) training from 13-17 November 2017.
- **West African ROAD** coorganized the West African International Summer School for Young Astronomers (WAISYA) from 31 July – 06 August 2017 in Accra, Ghana

More details on the [OAD website](#)

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## MEETINGS AND VISITORS

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- Prof Cherryl Walker and Dr Davide Chinigo from the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Stellenbosch University visited the OAD to discuss collaborations. Prof Walker is the DST/NRF SARChI Chair in The Sociology of Land, Environment and Sustainable Development
- Tawanda Chingozha joined the OAD in August on a part time basis, as an OAD Fellow. He is a Development Economics PhD Student in RESEP (Research on Socio-Economic Policy) group at Stellenbosch University. This is part of an effort to strengthen links with Development Economists.
- Diaz-Merced coordinated an eclipse experience for the kids at Athlone School for the Blind during the August total solar eclipse in the US. The eclipse was observed using [alternative methods of perception](#)
- Paul Anthony Wilson, OAD Fellow, designed the architecture for [Astronomy Data Science Toolkit](#), a project aiming to build a bridge between astronomy and data science
- McBride won a scholarship to attend the AAAS-TWAS course on Science Diplomacy, from 21-25 August 2017 in Trieste, Italy

- Diaz-Merced travelled to Chile (hosted by the Universidad Diego Portales in Santiago, Chile) to attend a workshop on sonification. During that trip, she also visited schools and gave a public talk
- Govender attended a workshop on Astronomy Education in Thailand and delivered a talk on the work of the OAD and its regions. This was part of the inauguration of the UNESCO International Centre for Training in Astronomy, which is hosted at NARIT, home of the South East Asian Regional OAD
- Venugopal represented the OAD at the SKA Ministerial Meeting in Ghana as well as the launch of the new Ghana radio telescope and Radio Observatory
- Govender, McBride and Venugopal attended the lecture "Science, SKA and Big Data: Can Africa Lead?" by Dr. Bernie Fanaroff at Stellenbosch university
- Annika Mueller, self-funded intern from Germany, volunteered as a graphic designer at the OAD during August. She continues to contribute on a voluntary basis from Germany

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **International Observe the Moon Night**

28 October 2017

All around the world

<http://observethemoonnight.org/>

### **Regional AstroLab Workshop**

6-11 November 2017

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

<http://southernafrica.astro4dev.org/>

### **World Science Forum 2017**

7-11 November 2017

Jordan

<http://worldscienceforum.org/>

### **Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East**

13-17 November 2017

Yerevan, Armenia

<http://unesco.aras.am/index.php>

### **.Astronomy (Dot Astronomy) 9**

14-17 November 2017

Cape Town, South Africa

<http://dotastronomy9.sao.ac.za/>

**Second Arab Winter School for Astrophysics (AWSA-II)**

19-25 November 2017

Ifrane, Morocco

<http://awsa.ar-as.org/awsa2/>

**Science Forum South Africa (SFSA 2017)**

7-8 December 2017

Pretoria, South Africa

<http://www.sfsa.co.za/astronomy-for-development-a-discussion-on-inclusion/>

**Communicating Astronomy with the Public - CAP2018**

24–28 March 2018

Fukuoka, Japan

<http://www.communicatingastronomy.org/cap2018/>

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Suggestions or comments on the OAD newsletter? Please send us an [email](#) and let us know!

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