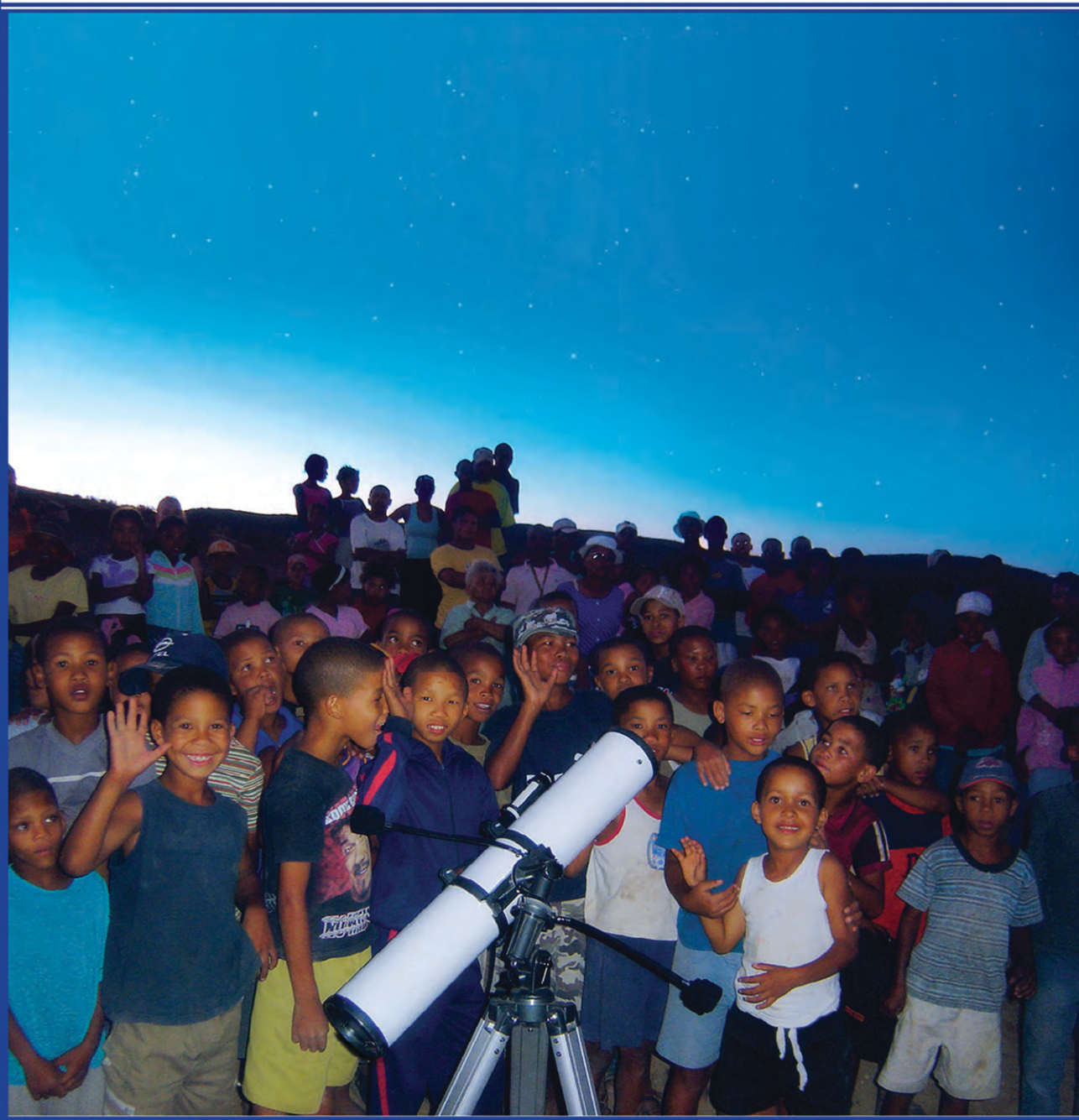

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12. EC Working Group on the International Year of Astronomy 2009 Follow-up programmes to IYA 2009

Brief Status Report on the International Year of Astronomy 2009
<http://www.astronomy2009.org>

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009), a global celebration of astronomy and its contribution to society, will be brought to an official close on 9-10 January 2010 with a ceremony to be held in Padova, Italy, in the Aula Magna of the University of Padova, where Galileo taught experimental physics and astronomy. This report summarizes the status of the main IYA2009 projects and activities and outlines plans for the future.

Participating Nations and Organisations

As of 17 December 2009, 148 National Nodes have signed up to participate in IYA2009. Innumerable professional and amateur astronomers, educators, communicators and enthusiasts have invested time, resources and passion into organising local, regional, national and global activities. The most recent National Nodes are São Tomé and Príncipe, Eritrea, Suriname, Côte D'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Liechtenstein and the Principality of Monaco. The full list can be consulted on the IYA2009 website: www.astronomy2009.org/organisation/nodes/national

The IAU is still welcoming suggestions for IYA2009 Single Points of Contact from countries or organisations that are not yet involved, but where future education and outreach activities in astronomy can be implemented.

Astronomy, education and science outreach related organisations and institutions are also participating in IYA2009. So far, 40 such organisations have signed up. The most recently joined Organisational Nodes are the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE,) the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry Coordinating Center and the Max Planck Society. The full list is posted at: www.astronomy2009.org/organisation/nodes/organisational/

Organisational Associates

The IYA2009 Organisational Associates provide financial support for the global coordination of IYA2009. The most recently joined Organisational Associates are the Greek National Committee for Astronomy, the Portuguese Astronomy Society, Associated Universities, Inc. and CROSCI. Please see the full list on www.astronomy2009.org/organisation/structure/partners/organisationalassociates

The IAU still welcomes organisations and individuals wishing to join the IYA-2009 Organisational Associates and support its continuing activities. For more information please contact the IYA2009 Secretariat at: [<iya2009@eso.org>](mailto:iya2009@eso.org)

Resources

The IYA2009 Secretariat has produced a wide array of resources for use by laypeople as well as professional participants in IYA2009. These include trailers, brochures and presentations that are easily accessible through the IYA2009 website at: www.astronomy2009.org/resources/

Educators and science communicators and the public are free to use them in activities and events after 2009.

IYA2009 Cornerstone Projects

The main development since the last *Information Bulletin* is the Galilean Nights Cornerstone project. Following the unprecedented success of the IYA2009's 100 Hours of Astronomy, Galilean Nights took place on 23-24 October 2009. It saw amateur and professional astronomers around the globe take to the streets and point their telescopes at the wonders that Galileo observed 400 years ago. More than 1 million people participated in 1310 events registered in 88 countries. The project focused on sidewalk observations of the gas giant Jupiter and its moons, and members of the public were also able to observe the Sun, our own Moon and many more celestial marvels with their own eyes, much as Galileo did 400 years ago.

IYA2009 Special Projects

While the focus of the global activities rests on the Cornerstones, Special Projects also contribute towards the vision and goals of IYA2009. The list of IYA-2009 Special Projects is available on:

<http://www.astronomy2009.org/globalprojects/specialprojects/>

The most recent Special Projects are:

- **Naming Pluto:** A UK 13-minute documentary about Venetia Burney Phair, the English schoolgirl who named Pluto in 1930, aged 11 years. More information: www.fatherfilms.com/films/namingpluto
- **The Eye 3D:** In close cooperation with ESO and as part of its IYA2009 activities, the production companies *parallax raumprojektion* and *fact&film* have produced a unique 3D documentary about the most powerful visible-light telescope in the world, ESO's Very Large Telescope (VLT). Capable of taking some of the sharpest pictures of the night sky, the VLT is located in a breathtaking, arid environment, providing astronomers with superb sky conditions as they study the deep Universe. More information: <http://www.theeye3d.eu/>
- **Cassini Scientist for a Day:** The Cassini "Scientist for a Day Essay Contest" is an opportunity for students around the world to learn about the Cassini mission to Saturn and to study and write about one of Saturn's three most interesting science topics: Saturn and its Rings, Tethys and Saturn's Rings, and Titan. More information: <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/education/scientistforaday8thedition/international/>

- **The Planets and Pictures World Tour:** Gustav Holst's "The Planets" and "Astronomical Pictures at an Exhibition" are two sequences of high-definition astronomical videos to accompany live performances of classical music works. The videos feature awe-inspiring images, historical illustrations, and visualisations produced by NASA, ESA, NCSA, and the Adler Planetarium. The sequences, produced and directed by Adler Planetarium astronomer and visual artist José Francisco Salgado, follow the tempo and tone set by the music, resulting in an experience where the music and visuals reinforce each other to great effect. They are not intended to be seen as documentaries but as art pieces that aim to inspire audiences and encourage them to learn more about our solar system and the Universe. More information: <http://svl.adlerplanetarium.org/videosuites/>
- **Scienceface** has created 15 science-oriented videos about black holes that are provided - together with further information - on www.scienceface.org as well as on YouTube for the use of young people, teachers, and other interested non-scientists. This outreach project is designed to inform young people about scientific themes, and bring them to understand that scientific research is an activity that is done by real people and closely integrated into society. Hopefully we will interest a few of them in becoming scientists themselves. More information at: <http://www.scienceface.org/>
- **The Lives of Galileo:** For the first time, astronomy and Galileo are presented in an historical, accessible and humoristic comic book. In 40 colour-filled pages organised into six stunning chapters, Galileo plays different roles through the ages of great astronomical discoveries. In Babylon, he learns how to write in clay and how to read the sky. In Alexandria, he measures the circumference of the Earth alongside Eratosthenes, using the shade of a stick. On the Ganges, Aryabhata explains to him that the Earth rotates around a central axis. In Venice, he relives the revolutionary moment when he first peered out into the vastness of the Universe. More information: <http://www.fiami.ch/>

Final Remarks

As the International Year of Astronomy 2009 comes to a close, the true scope of the venture is becoming clear. The final count of countries involved stands at 148 – a staggering number, establishing the IYA2009 network as the largest ever in science. Reports from these participating nations paint a picture of professional and amateur astronomers bringing the Universe down to Earth through countless events and opening the eyes of the public to the wonders above.

IYA2009 was never conceived as a "one-off" event for one year, but rather as a means of creating durable structures for collaboration, ongoing, self-sustaining activities and innovative concepts for the communication of astronomy. Now that 2009 is nearing its end, all involved are working on the continuation of the

mission and goals of IYA beyond 2009. The IYA2009 legacy programme, called “Beyond IYA2009” and to be launched during the IYA2009 Closing Ceremony, will foster the sustainability of the cooperative network, activities and innovative concepts for education and public outreach in astronomy. The IYA2009 Secretariat has prepared a document to give an overview of this legacy to the thousands of involved participants in IYA2009 at all levels – from SPoCs/-project chairs/stakeholders and onwards. We hope that it will inspire nations and projects to find ways for the continuation of activities and collaborations that have a long-term potential. The document will be available on the IAU and IYA websites.

Pedro Russo, on behalf of IAU IYA2009 EC WG and IYA2009 Secretariat

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13. IAU Scientific Bodies

13.1 Compositon of IAU Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups

DIVISION I – *FUNDAMENTAL ASTRONOMY*

<i>president</i>	Dennis D. McCarthy (USA)
<i>vice-president</i>	Sergei A. Klioner (Germany)
<i>past president</i>	Jan Vondrák (Czech Republic)
<i>OC members</i>	Daffyd W. Evans (UK), Catherine Y. Hohenkerk (UK), Mizuhiko Hosokawa (Japan), Chengli Huang (China), George H. Kaplan (USA), Zoran Knežević (Serbia), Richard N. Manchester (Australia), Alessandro Morbidelli (France), Harald Schuh (Austria), Gérard Petit (France), Michael H. Soffel (Germany), Norbert Zacharias (USA)

Div. I / Comm. 4 – *Ephemerides*

<i>president</i>	George H. Kaplan (USA)
<i>vice-president</i>	Catherine Y. Hohenkerk (UK)
<i>past president</i>	Toshio Fukushima (Japan)
<i>OC members</i>	Jean-Eudes Arlot (France), John A Bangert (USA), Steven A Bell (UK), William M. Folkner (USA), Marin Lara (Spain), Elena V. Pitjeva (Russian Federation), Sean E. Urban (USA). Jan Vondrák (Czech Republic), Steven A Bell (UK)