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ArAS Newsletter



Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory 75

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LOCAL NEWS

Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory Annual Meeting 2021

On December 15, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) held an annual performance meeting, which was devoted to the BAO 2021 scientific and organizational activities.

The meeting was attended by the presidium members of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (NAS RA) as well, namely the president Ashot Saghyan, Academician-Secretary Artur Ishkhanyan and Academician-Secretary of the Division of Physics and Astrophysics Radik Kostanyan.



Left: Ashot Saghyan. Right: Radik Kostanyan.
BAO Annual Meeting 2021

At the meeting, BAO director Areg Mickaelian presented BAO 2021 achievements and established cooperatins. The presented report can be found online: <https://www.bao.am/reports/2021.pdf>:



Areg Mickaelian. BAO Annual Meeting 2021.

Judging by all the indicators BAO remains one of the most efficient scientific institutes in Armenia.

It should be noted that this year all the BAO events were dedicated to the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

BAO was founded in 1946 on the initiative of Viktor Ambartsumian, the famous Armenian scientist of the

20th century

According to tradition, at the end of the meeting the Armenian Astronomical Society (AAS, ArAS) 2021 Annual Prize ceremony and the Galileo Teacher Training Program (GTTP) International Certificate Award Ceremony were held.

Gayane Kostandyan's PhD Thesis Defense

On December 2, Gayane Kostandyan, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory's (BAO) researcher from the Astronomical Surveys department, defended her PhD thesis at BAO.

The thesis topic submitted for the doctoral degree in Physical and Mathematical Sciences was "The Study of DFBS Late-Type Stars at High Galactic Latitudes"



Gayane Kostandyan at the PhD Defense. BAO

The scientific advisor was BAO's senior research associate, PhD Kamo S. Gigoyan.

Official Opponents were Arthur G. Nikoghossian, BAO's principal research associate, Doctor of Science, and Zhaklin R. Martirosyan from the Yerevan State University.

Leading Organization was the Institute of Astronomy of the Russian Academy of Sciences

More: <https://www.bao.am/staff/specialcouncil/Kostandyan/Kostandyan.php>

Gor Mikayelyan - Armenian Astronomical Society Annual Prize 2021 Winner

On December 15, the name of the recipient of the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS) 2021 award was announced during the annual report meeting of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO).



Gor Mikayelyan

ArAS 2021 prize was awarded to Gor Mikayelyan, a researcher at BAO's Astronomical Surveys department and head of the department of Astroinformatics, for his active scientific and organizational endeavors.

In 2021 Gor published a number of scientific papers, presented reports and so forth.

*It should be noted that this year ArAS marked the 20th anniversary of its official registration. Learn more about the anniversary celebration in **Issue 144**.*

Ani Davtyan - GTTP International Certificate 2021 Winner

On December 15, together with ArAS 2021 award the GTTP International Certificate winner was announced.



Ani Davtyan at GTTP International Certificate Award Ceremony. BAO

Ani Davtyan, a project and event coordinator at BAO, was awarded the [Galileo Teacher Training Program](#) (GTTP) International Certificate officially becoming “Galileo Teacher”.

During 2021, Ani took an active part in different astronomy education programs, including School Lectures program 2021 “From School to Space” organized by ArAS and BAO, and the 7th Byurakan Science Camp, organized for children aged 12-14 (Republics of Armenia and Artsakh).

It should be noted that the Galileo Teacher Training Program was initiated during 2009’s International Year of Astronomy, and named after the famous 17th century Italian astronomer and physicist. It is aimed at teaching astronomy by innovative methods.

The certificate is awarded to the people who have contributed the most to astronomical education in Armenia.

Summary of Astronomical Year 2021: Press-Conference of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory

On December 21, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) hosted a press conference dedicated to summary of astronomy year and BAO 2021 activities.

The speaker of the press conference was BAO director Areg Mickaelian. The agenda was quite elaborate, it included BAO 2021 activities, scientific and popular events,



Areg Mickaelian. Press Conference. BAO. 2021

accomplishments and the upcoming events. At the end of the presentation, Q/A session was held for media questions.

At the end of the press conference, the results of the annual Scientific (Astronomical) Journalism Competition 2021 were summarized.



Journalism Award Winners with Areg Mickaelian. BAO

Being the initiator of scientific journalism in Armenia, BAO has been organizing the Scientific (Astronomical) Journalism Competition almost every year since 2009, aiming to promote the development of scientific journalism in Armenia and encourage journalists of the field.

According to tradition, the awards were given in 3 categories: “The best printed/online article or series of articles” - Elena Chobanyan (Ararat and Nor Kyanq (New life) Magazines), “Best author of audio/video materials” - Anahit Sargsyan (Tv9.am - YouTube channel), “The most active journalist of the year”, Grigor Emin-Teryan (“Poisk”) and Ani Karapetyan (“168 jham ()168 hours”). As it was mentioned the last category had two winners.

The winners were awarded certificated and the prize of 75,000 AMD for each nomination. Moreover, the participants of the press conference had the opportunity to visit Victor Ambartsumian house-museum and 1m Schmidt telescope.

OBITUARIES

Astronomer Misha Kazarian Passed Away

It is with great sadness that we announce to you the passing of Misha A. Kazarian, astronomer, professor of YSU Faculty of Physics, long-term head of the Department of Astrophysics, author of Kazarian Galaxies. He was one of the most famous Armenian astronomers in the field of extragalactic astronomy.



Misha Kazarian

Misha Kazarian was born on March 5, 1932 in the city of Maralik, Armenia. In 1958 he graduated from the Yerevan State University (YSU). He worked at Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) in 1958-1980. In 1968, he defended his PhD thesis under the supervision of Professor Grigor Gurzadyan, while in 1990 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

Since 1968 Kazarian worked at YSU Chair of Astrophysics, first as a lecturer, and later (from 1990) as a professor. He was the head of the chair of astrophysics in 1994-2005. In 1980-1990 he held the position of the head of YSU artificial satellites observation station.

Kazarian's research was devoted to various studies of galaxies with excess, H's stars, comets, and excess UV radiation.

He published more than 100 papers in *Astrofizika / Astrophysics*, *Communications of BAO* and *Astrophysics* journal. He presented reports at various international conferences.

706 galaxies with UV excess were recorded and later named as Kazarian galaxies. 120 out of these objects have been studied photometrically and spectroscopically by Kazarian et al. with BAO 2.6m and SAO (Russia) 6m telescopes.

Kazarian made a significant contribution to the training of many Armenian astronomers. He was a member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the European Astronomical Society (EAS) and the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development in 2022

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed [International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development](#) (IYBSSD) in 2022.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) is one of the several scientific unions and institutions who will coordinate the IYBSSD in 2022 to promote the links between the basic sciences and the Sustainable Development Goals.

IYBSSD2022 will be officially inaugurated at an opening conference from 30 June to 1 July 2022 at UNESCO

headquarters in Paris. Events and activities will be organized around the world until 30 June, 2023.



**International Year of Basic Sciences
for Sustainable Development**

The UN resolution ‘*invites all [its] Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other global, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including academia, civil society, inter alia, international and national nongovernmental organizations, individuals and the private sector, to observe and raise awareness of the importance of basic sciences for sustainable development, in accordance with national priorities*’.

The [decision](#) of the UN General Assembly was motivated by the high value of basic sciences for humankind.

Over 90 national and international science academies, learned societies, scientific networks, research and education centers are also supporting this initiative. They will organize events and activities all over the planet during the year to showcase and improve the links between basic sciences and the 17 SDGs.

Johannes Kepler's 450 Anniversary



Johannes Kepler

On December 27, German astronomer and mathematician Johannes Kepler would celebrate his 450th anniversary.

Kepler's discoveries have shaped our understanding of the planets and the way satellites orbit Earth. He is best known for his discovery of three laws of planetary motion, presented between 1609 and 1619. These laws describe how the planets orbit around the Sun.

Everything began with Kepler's discovery that Mars orbited the Sun in an elliptic orbit. That first discovery led Kepler to realize that all the planets moved at different speeds around the Sun in elliptical orbit.

It's worthy to note that Kepler's laws of planetary motion were significant for Isaac Newton's law of gravitation.

ArAS News is the electronic newsletter of the Armenian Astronomical Society. It was distributed to all ArAS members from the beginning of 2002, 4 times a year, typically at the end of each trimester. In 2009-2014, 8 issues annually and since 2015, 12 issues annually have been released.

ArASNews publishes information materials on ArAS, Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory and the Armenian astronomy in general, reports on ArAS Annual Meetings and participation of the Armenian astronomers in important international meetings, articles on occasion of anniversaries of famous Armenian astronomers and ArAS members, acceptance of new ArAS members, achievements of the Armenian astronomers, astronomical education in Armenia, Armenian archaeoastronomy, as well as science articles (reviews) on important studies.

So, if you want to share your studies with the scientific community, send us your articles to melin.asryan@gmail.com. They will be reviewed for the publication in ArAS Newsletters next issues.

ArAS Newsletter issues are available online: <https://www.aras.am/ArasNews/arasnews.html>