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ARMENIAN
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

ArAS Newsletter



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LOCAL NEWS

ASTRONOMY & ASTROPHYSICS

Board of Directors Meeting

On 11 June, European well-known “Astronomy & Astrophysics” Journal (A&A) Board of Directors meeting was hosted in Yerevan, Armenia.

The meeting took place in hybrid format and was chaired by Andre Moitinho, the chairman of the council.

During the meeting, the reports of the previous year activities were presented, and future actions were discussed. Andre Moitinho, A&A Letters Editor-in-Chief João Alves, Mark Allen, A. Henry and others presented talks.



A&A Board of Directors Meeting. Yerevan. Armenia.

The membership applications of

Georgia and Turkey were also discussed at the meeting. It was decided to grant observer status to Georgia for 2 years.

As a result of the closed session vote, Andre Moitinho handed over the post of president to Wolfgang Duschl (Germany), while Vassilis Charmandaris (Greece) was elected to the post of vice-president.

During their stay in Armenia, the participants went to the pre-organized trips around the country. They visited the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), as well as other sights, including the Zorats Karter observatory-monument.

It is interesting to note, that A&A is one of the 4 most important astronomical journals in the world.

A&A member countries are Austria, Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Italy, Poland, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Portugal, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Finland, France, as well as European Southern Observatory and Argentina, Chile that joined recently.

20th Anniversary of the I ArAS Annual Meeting



20 years ago, on 25 July, the Armenian Astronomical Society held its first Annual Meeting at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory's Conference Hall (BAO), where a number of outstanding meetings had been organized, including 4 IAU Symposia and 1 IAU Colloquium in 2001.

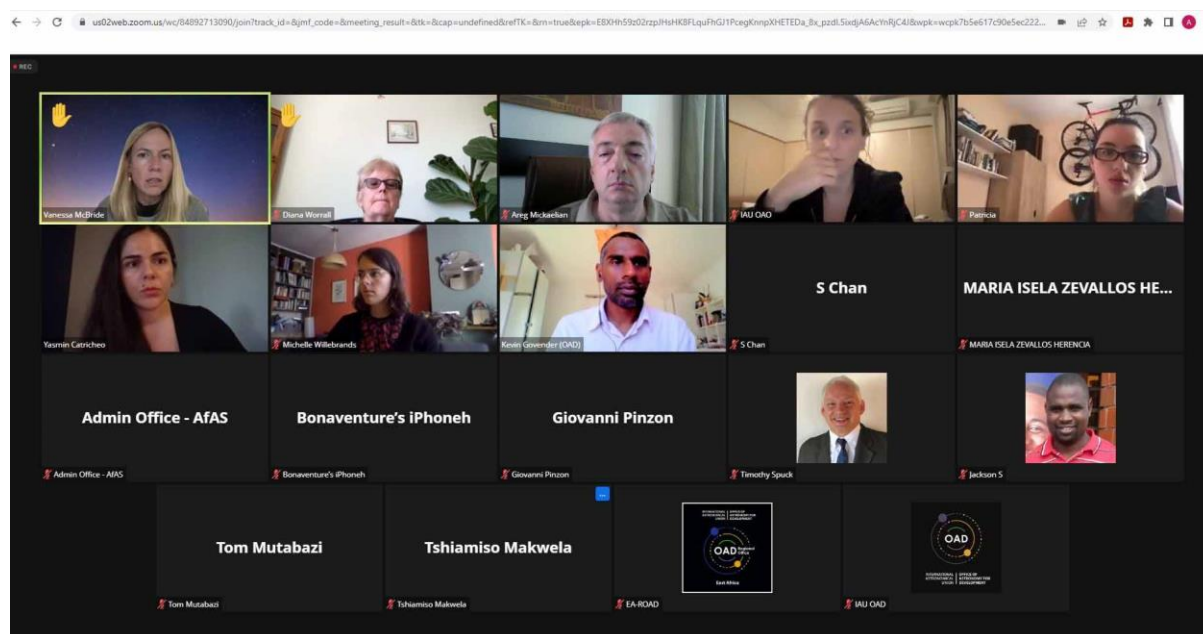
The meeting was attended mainly by BAO astronomers. Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Haik Harutyunian opened the meeting. Then ArAS President, Areg Mickaelian presented a report on ArAS activities during 2001-2002.

The scientific section of the meeting included 9 talks on various aspects of astrophysics. Although the ArAS First Annual Meeting was short, it was the first attempt, and it had a success.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.bao.am/meetings/meetings/aras01.php>

IAU OAD and Regional Offices (ROAD) Meeting

On 8 July, a meeting of the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) with the participation of the regional offices was held. The representatives of IAU Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD), Office of Astronomy for Education (OAE) and Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO), as well as coordinators of the 11 regional offices took part, including the Director of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory, Areg Mickaelian.



Screenshot from IAU OAD and ROAD Virtual Meeting 2022

During the meeting the cooperation possibilities between the regional centers and the IAU offices were discussed. The centers presented the summary of the last three-month activities. The IAU coordinates Astronomy development through 11 regional offices and language expertise centres that are located in Armenia (South West and Central Asia), Colombia and Chile (Andean Region), Jordan (Arab World and Arabic Language), Ethiopia (East Africa), China (East Asia and Chinese Language), Netherlands (Europe), USA (North America), Portugal (Portuguese Language), Thailand (South East Asia), Zambia (Southern Africa), and Nigeria (West Africa). Each of the offices are hosted by a local institution or consortium of institutes and supported in their efforts by regional partners.

It should be noted, that on July 6, 2020, an agreement about the further hosting of the South West and Central Asian Regional Office of Astronomy for Development was signed between the International Astronomical Union and the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory and will remain in force for 5 years.

Jubilee Seminar by BAO Director Areg Mickaelian

On 14 July, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory hosted a jubilee seminar on the occasion of BAO Director Areg Mickaelian's anniversary. It was attended by guests from other scientific institutes, as well as BAO researchers.

On the occasion of his 60th anniversary, A. Mickaelian presented a report on his scientific research and achievements.

Dr. Areg Mickaelian was born on 22 June 1962 in Yerevan. In 1984, he graduated from the YSU with a specialization of astrophysics. He started working at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory in 1986. He obtained his PhD degree in 1994 and was the Sci. Secretary of BAO in 1994-2001.

Find more about A. Mickaelian in our previous issue (N154).



Areg Mickaelian

Seminar by João Alves, A&A Letters Editor-in-Chief

On 15 July, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory hosted a seminar by João Alves, A&A Letters Editor-in-Chief (University of Vienna, Austria).

The speaker presented a report titled “The New Local Milky Way: from Ambartsumian to Gaia” paying homage to the founder of the field, Viktor Ambartsumian.



João Alves, A&A Letters Editor-in-Chief. BAO.

In his report, J. Alves talked about the prevailing view of the local interstellar medium which has been based on a peculiarity known as the Gould Belt, an expanding ring of young stars, gas and dust, tilted about 20 degrees to the Galactic plane. The speaker mentioned that with the advent of large photometric surveys and the astrometric survey, they reveal the three-dimensional structure of all local cloud complexes. They find a narrow and coherent 2.7-kiloparsec arrangement of dense gas in the solar neighborhood that contains many of the clouds thought to be associated with the Gould Belt. This finding is inconsistent with the notion that these clouds are part of a ring, bringing the Gould Belt model into question.

Byurakan Science Camp for Artsakh Schoolchildren (BSCA)

On 14-18 July, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) organized a summer camp for children from Artsakh.

Children from different parts of Artsakh took part. Within the framework of the program, they enriched their knowledge by participating in interactive lectures held by professional astronomers and representatives of different

fields. Among the lecturers from BAO were BAO Director Areg Mickaelian, BAO researcher associates Hayk Abrahamyan, Gurgen Paronyan, junior research associate Naira Azatyan and senior research associate Hovhannes Pikichyan.

During the camp the participants got acquainted with the activity and achievements of BAO, visited the 2,6m telescope, Victor Ambartsumian House-Museum, and had night observations with telescopes.

The children also took part in games, as well as acquired some practical skills, such as launching a mini rocket from the observatory.



BSCA Participants. BAO.

Byurakan Summer School for Artsakh Students (BSSA)

On 19-24 July, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) organized the Byurakan Summer School for Artsakh Students (BSSA).

During their visit, the 20 students had an opportunity to learn about the BAO history and activities by visiting Victor Ambartsumian house-museum, 2.6m and 1m telescopes.

Within the framework of the program, the students



Byurakan Summer School for Artsakh Students

participated in interactive lectures by BAO astronomers. BAO director Areg Mickaelian, researchers Hayk Abrahamyan, Hayk Malkhasyan, senior researcher Hovhannes Pikichian, leading researcher Ararat Yeghikyan and junior researcher Naira Azatyan held lectures on different Astronomy topics.

The students took part in night observations and intellectual games as well. They also had an opportunity to visit some historical and cultural sights of Armenia, namely Amberd, Tegher, Aghdzk, Saghmosavank, Ohanavank and the Armenian alphabet monument.

ANNIVERSARIES

Arthur Amirkhanian's 75th Anniversary



Artur Amirkhanian

On 20 July, Artur Amirkhanian would celebrate his 75th anniversary.

Arthur Amirkhanian was born on July 20, 1947 in Port-Artur. He started working at Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory in 1975. He was the head of the laboratory of the 2.6 m telescope.

A. Amirkhanian defended his PhD degree in 1989, under the supervision of E.Ye.Khachikian's. His main research area included groups and clusters of galaxies in particular Shahbazian

compact groups of compact galaxies.

He published more than 30 scientific papers and was a member of the European Astronomical Society.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EAS Annual Meeting 2022

From June 27 to July 1, the European Astronomical Society (EAS, formerly known as EWASS, and earlier JENAM) held its annual meeting. After two annual meetings in virtual format due to COVID-19, EAS 2022 was held physically in Valencia, Spain. The programme of the meeting included 15 conferences, 38 special and 9 lunch sessions.



BAO Director Areg Mickaelian, junior researcher Anahit Samsonyan, researchers Naira Azatyan, Hasmik Andreasyan and leading researcher Yelena Nokoghosyan. EAS Annual Meeting 2022. Valencia, Spain.

Researchers from the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory were among the participants. BAO Director Areg Mickaelian presented a talk, while leading researcher Yelena Nikoghosyan, researchers Hasmik Andreasyan, Gor Mikayelyan, Satenik Ghazaryan, junior researchers Anahit Samsonyan and Naira Azatyan introduced posters.

The EAS, often together with one of its affiliated societies, organises its annual meetings to enhance its links with national communities.

Note: The EAS meeting 2007 was held in Yerevan, Armenia.

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.