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ARMENIAN  
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

# ArAS Newsletter



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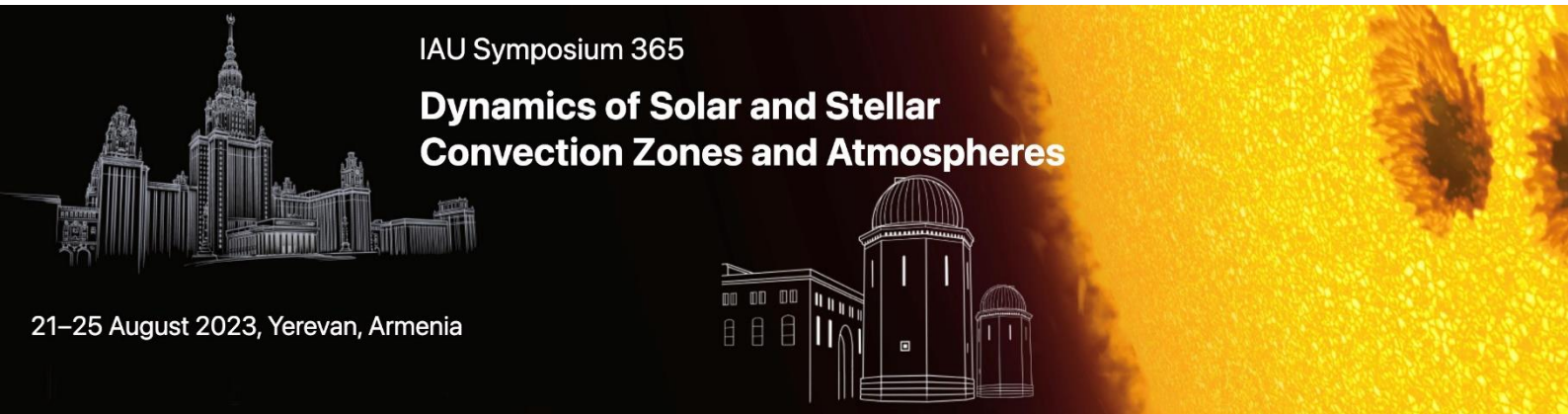
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## LOCAL NEWS



### **The IAU Symposium 365 Will Take Place in Armenia**

The IAU Symposium 365: Dynamics of Solar and Stellar Convection Zones and Atmospheres has a new time and place. The Symposium will take place from 21-25 August 2023 in Yerevan, Armenia.

The Symposium will bring together solar and stellar physicists investigating the dynamics of convection zones and lower atmospheres. It will be dedicated to observational and theoretical aspects of the hydrodynamics and magnetohydrodynamics (both global and local), of the solar and stellar convection zones and lower atmospheres with the inclusion of numerical simulations as a particular branch of theoretical research.

Specific subjects to be discussed are as follows:

- Convection (solar – on different scales – and stellar)
- Differential rotation and meridional circulation (both solar and stellar)
- Global dynamo (in the Sun and stars; solar-cycle observed patterns and predictions)
- Helioseismology and asteroseismology (both global and local; probing subsurface structure and dynamics)
- Local processes of magnetic-flux emergence, sunspot and starspot formation (observed patterns of sunspot evolution, small-scale motions, local dynamo)

The registration of participants is now open. For more information, see the [conference website](#).

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### European Astronomical Society Meeting in Switzerland

On January 18-19, the European Astronomical Society (EAS) committee held a meeting at the Geneva Observatory (Versoix, Switzerland). Among the invited participants was the acting president of the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS) Areg Mickaelian.

Such meetings are traditional and bring together the EAS council members and the presidents of national astronomical societies. EAS President Roger Davies (United Kingdom), Vice Presidents Sara Lucatello (Italy) and Lex Caper (Netherlands), EAS Secretary Ina Dominguez (Spain) and others were present.

The meeting covered various topics, namely EAS membership, annual meetings, awards, support for young astronomers, connection with national astronomical societies, etc. Areg Mickaelian presented the last year activities and events of the ArAS.

The EAS was founded in 1990 and currently includes 31 national astronomical and about 1400 members. ArAS has been a member of EAS since 2001.

This year's EAS annual meeting will take place on July 10-14 in Krakow, Poland, and the 2024 meeting will be held on July 1-5 in Padua, Italy. It is interesting to note, that in 2007, the EAS meeting was held in Armenia, which was an exceptional phenomenon both in terms of its significance and scale.



## IAU Office of Astronomy for Development Quarterly Meeting



Screenshot from the IAU OAD Meeting

On January 24, an online meeting of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) and IAU regional centres took place. The meeting was devoted to the preparation for the IAU Committee meeting and the participation to 2023 events.

Areg Mickaelian and Gayane Baleyan from Armenia participated in the meeting as well. During the meeting the efficiency of the regional centers, funding possibilities,

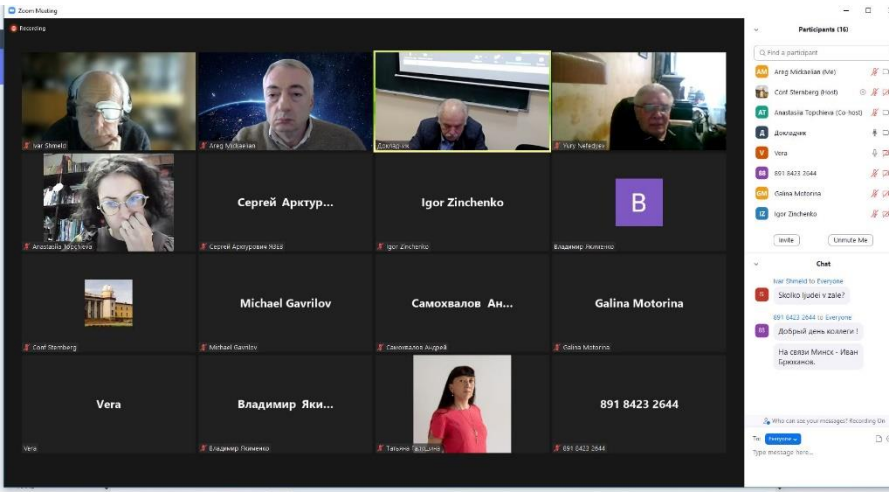
cooperation and many more were discussed.

Among the upcoming important events are the assemblies of 3 major IAU regions: MEARIM (IAU Middle-East and Africa Regional Meeting), LARIM (Latin American Regional IAU Meeting) and APRIM (The Asia-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting).

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.

## EAAS Council Meeting

On January 26, the Council meeting of the board of the Eurasian Astronomical Society (EAAS) was held online. Areg Mickaelian, vice-president of the EAAS and acting president of the Armenian Astronomical Society (AAS), also participated in the meeting.



EAAS Council Meeting

The EAAS Council meeting was devoted to the Council’s activity report, “Astrocourier” newsletter, the EAAS membership fees, the “Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions” magazine, the astronomical olympiads, the admission of new members and the implementation procedure of the EAAS meeting decisions.

It should be noted that the EAAS is the legal successor of the former Soviet Union Astronomical Society, uniting astronomers from a number of European, Asian countries, as well as many other countries. ArAS actively cooperates with EAAS and is its official representative in Armenia.

## IAU OAD Steering Committee and ROADs Meeting

On January 30, a meeting between the IAU regional center representatives (ROAD) and the steering committee of the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) was held. Each regional center presented its activities, current situation and problems, budget and offers. The meeting was also devoted to finding the most effective ways of developing the centers. The BAO director Areg Mickaelian and Gayane Baleyan represented Armenia at the meeting.

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.



## OTHER NEWS

### **A Recently Discovered Asteroid Passing Exceptionally Close to Earth**

On January 26, we witnessed one of the closest asteroid approaches ever recorded. Tiny 2023 BU whizzed only about 3,600 kilometers (2,200 miles) from the planet's surface. The flyby was perfectly safe. The audacious space rock was only about 5 meters (16 feet) across, about the same size as a 2023 Chevy Silverado. Even if it were to strike the atmosphere, it would shatter to bits. In a worst-case scenario, a fractured asteroid of its size would pepper the ground with a smattering of meteorites.

Small, near-Earth asteroids are discovered almost daily thanks to robotic searches like the Catalina Sky Survey as well as by amateur astronomers. In fact, it was astronomer Gennadiy Borisov who first laid eyes on 2023 BU. He imaged it from Crimea on January 21, about five days before its closest approach. He is also known for discovering of 2I/Borisov, the first known interstellar comet.

Objects the size of 2023 BU impact the planet about once a year. After atmospheric fragmentation, pieces occasionally survive and fall harmlessly to the ground over a large oval-shape area called a strewn field.





*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](mailto:melin.asryan@gmail.com). They will be reviewed for the publication in ArAS Newsletters next issues.

[ArAS Newsletter issues](#) are available online.