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ArAS Newsletter



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LOCAL NEWS

“From School to Space” – School Astronomy Lectures Program 2025

The “From School to Space” astronomy lecture program, a collaborative initiative of the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS) and the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) continues its inspiring mission in 2025.

This year's program began with lectures by Dr. Mickaelian in schools located in the Gegharkunik region, including Nerkin Getashen, Karchaghbyur, and Shoghakat.

The initiative started in 2012 by current BAO Director and ArAS Co-Chair Dr. Areg Mickaelian, along with renowned American-Armenian astronomer Dr. Yervant Terzian. The program is one of the longest-running and most consistent astronomy outreach efforts in Armenia. Each year, BAO astronomers visit 30 schools across Armenia (and formerly in Artsakh), delivering engaging lectures and



From School to Space. 2025

interactive sessions. These visits introduce students to the wonders of astronomy and share opportunities for involvement in programs such as national and international astronomy Olympiads, the Byurakan Science Camps, and teacher training workshops.

Participating schools often receive astronomy literature and, in many cases, small telescopes to support continued learning. Lectures continued throughout April. The program was generously supported by the Fund for Armenian Relief and the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory.

Yet Another International Seminar at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory

The Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory recently hosted a seminar featuring Dr. Ismail Mohamed Emam Fayed from Egypt's National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG). In his talk titled "An Overview of the Kottamia Astronomical Observatory (KAO): Advancements in Instrumentation, International Collaboration and Future Prospects," Dr. Fayed presented the historic and ongoing contributions of KAO to regional and global astronomy.

Founded over 120 years ago, NRIAG is recognized as the oldest research institute in Africa and the Middle East, with extensive expertise in astronomy, geophysics, and related disciplines. As an international consulting authority, NRIAG actively supports industry, education, and scientific research through its wide-ranging services and partnerships. The seminar focused on the activities of the Kottamia Astronomical Observatory (KAO), operated by NRIAG. Located in Egypt, KAO houses a range of telescopes — 74-



Dr. Ismail Mohamed Emam Fayed at BAO. 2025.

inch, 14-inch, and 11-inch instruments — equipped with advanced imaging detectors and essential protective systems. These facilities support several national and international research projects, particularly in the study of astronomical transient phenomena and the discovery of near-Earth objects. A key highlight of the presentation was the planned establishment of a 6.5-meter telescope in Sinai, which is currently undergoing site testing. This major project is expected to significantly enhance observational capabilities in the region.

The session concluded with a call for collaborative opportunities between NRIAG and regional institutions, including BAO.

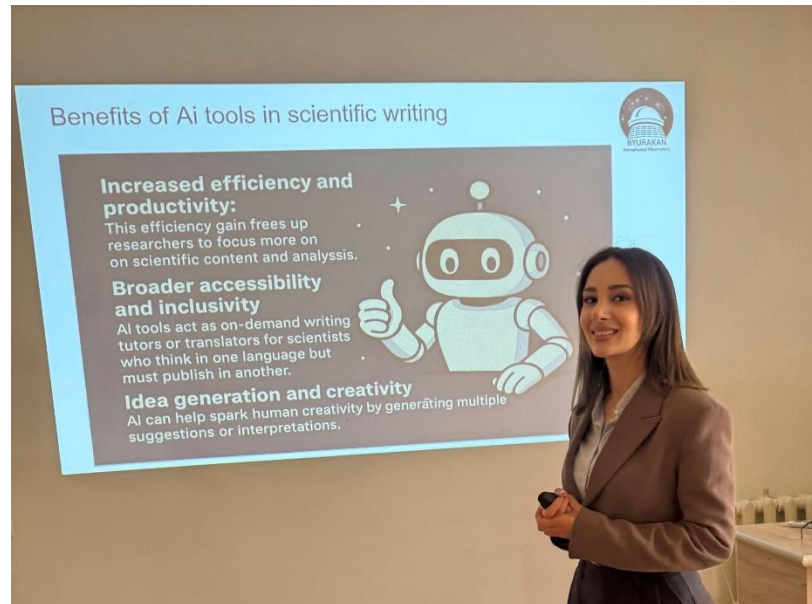
Seminar on AI in Astronomical Scientific Writing: Benefits and Risks

Head of the Public Relations Department of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory Gayane Baleyán presented a seminar entitled “Artificial Intelligence in Scientific Writing: Benefits and Risks”.

The seminar provided an overview of key presentations from a recent scientific conference in China, highlighting prominent speakers, major topics discussed, conference outcomes, and emerging trends in the field of AI-driven scientific communication.

During the seminar, G. Baleyán explored the growing role of artificial intelligence as a tool in scientific writing—from analyzing large volumes of data and structuring research texts to language editing and reference searches. At the same time, she emphasized the potential risks associated

with AI, including the use of unverified content, references to pseudoscientific sources, and issues related to copyright and academic integrity.



Gayane Baleyán at BAO. 2025

ANNIVERSARIES

Armen Sedrakyan's 60th Anniversary



Armen Sedrakyan

On April 1, 2025, Armen Sedrakyan celebrated his 60th birthday.

Professor Sedrakyan was born on April 1, 1965, in Yerevan, Armenia. He earned his degree in physics from the University of Rostock (Germany) in 1989 and completed his first PhD at Yerevan State University (YSU) in 1992. His impressive international academic and research career spans several prestigious institutions:

- 1993–1996: Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics (Rostock–Heidelberg, Germany)
- 1996–1998: Cornell University (New York, USA)
- 1998–2001: University of Groningen (Netherlands)
- 2002–2006: Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Tübingen (Germany)

In 2006, he earned a PhD from the University of Tübingen, followed by a Doctor of Science (Physics and Mathematics) from YSU in 2007.

In recognition of his outstanding scientific contributions, Professor Sedrakyan was elected a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia in 2014.

Learn more information about his work and achievements by visiting Professor [Sedrakyan's personal website](#).

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.