

The background of the cover is a painting of a large, domed structure, possibly a church or observatory, with a reddish-brown base and a white dome. The structure is surrounded by lush green and yellow foliage. A hand holding a paintbrush is visible on the right side, painting the scene. The overall style is impressionistic and colorful.

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LOCAL NEWS

ASTRONOMICAL HERITAGE OF THE MIDDLE EAST 2 (AHME-2)

The International Conference **Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East 2 (AHME-2)** took place on **6–10**

October 2025 at the **National Academy of Sciences of Armenia**. As the second meeting in the series, following the successful 2017 conference, AHME-2 continued efforts to make such interdisciplinary gatherings regular for the **Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO)** and Armenia.

The conference focused on the role of astronomy in culture, heritage, and other fields of human activity, highlighting interdisciplinary areas such as

archaeoastronomy, astrobiology, astrochemistry, planetary science, astroinformatics, astrolinguistics,



scientific tourism, and science journalism. It brought together astronomers, historians, archaeologists, and other specialists to discuss the astronomical heritage of the Middle East, ongoing and future projects, heritage-related data analysis, and opportunities for collaboration.

Armenia's rich astronomical heritage — including ancient observatories, rock art, calendars, records of astronomical events, and medieval sky maps — provided an important background for the meeting. During the conference, **AstroFest-2025 (Byurakan FEST 2025)** was also organized on **8 October** at BAO.

BYURAKAN FEST 2025

On 8 October 2025, Byurakan Fest 2025 took place at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory, offering a full day dedicated to science, art, and culture, and bringing together people, ideas, and creative initiatives from different fields.

The festival day was filled with stars, art, chess, music, and a warm, creative atmosphere. Byurakan Fest 2025 became a unique platform where science met art and culture, creating an environment of discovery, communication, and inspiration.

The festival brought together representatives of science, culture, and the arts, as well as young people, children, visitors, and friends of the Observatory around one shared

goal: to make knowledge, creativity, and cultural values accessible and engaging for the wider public.



Throughout the day, visitors had the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities, discover the world of astronomy, enjoy the musical and cultural program, and engage in intellectual and creative



experiences. The festival turned into a special celebration, where the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory was presented not only as an important scientific center, but also as a lively cultural and public space.

Byurakan Fest 2025 once again confirmed that the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory can serve as a unique platform for the popularization of science, the presentation of art, and

cultural dialogue, bringing together people of different generations and interests in one place — at a historic center of Armenian science.

ARMENIAN STUDENTS STUDIED SKY COLORS

On the occasion of the International Day of Light (IDL), the Network for Astronomy School Education (NASE) launched a global science education program titled “Sky Colors.”

From Armenia, the initiative was joined by Varduhi Mkrtychyan, a staff member of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), together with her students Sargis Malkhasyan, Hripsime Abajyan, and Davit Mkrtychyan.

Within the framework of the program, the students were tasked with studying the differences in the colors of the sky and explaining the physical meaning of the phenomenon.

The students observed and photographed the sky at different times of the day, presenting their scientific explanations of why the sky takes on different shades.

The initiative contributes to the development of students’ understanding of natural phenomena, while also highlighting Armenia’s participation in international science education programs.



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 lilit.darbinyan7@gmail.com. They will be reviewed for the publication in ArAS Newsletters next issues.

ArAS Newsletter issues are available online with the [following link](#).