

Session: [B4A-5] S7 : Historical Astronomy, Astronomy Education and Public Outreach
Date: August 21, 2014 (Thursday)

Time: 11:00~12:30

Room: Room E (Room 107)

Chair: Tsolmon Renchin (National University of Mongolia)

[B4A-5-1]
11:00~11:15
[Invited] Astronomy as a Part of Culture

Hidehiko Agata (National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Japan)

What is "science communication"? There are still no consensus among all the people. In 2009, the scientists attended the World Conference of Science held at Budapest had agreed on and published the Budapest Declaration. 21st century science served 4 major responsibilities - "Science for knowledge", "Science for Peace", "Science for development" and "Science for Society and Science in Society". By extending the idea of Stockmayer¹), I propose the science communication as follows. Science communication is a process that the knowledge and culture of science is absorbed into the culture of the larger community, in return it feedback to science itself, it is a process that will affect the individual and society as a whole. [Context of society]: In modern society, the society has required each citizen to be educated on the nature of science, furthermore, modern society has required each citizen to act proactively the challenges facing society. [Context of individual]: On the other hand, science is not only for bringing economic development and convenience, science is also a kind of culture to make lives more mentally rich. Exploration of science, including astronomy, is the result of intellectual curiosity of the human from the old days. Astronomy should be respected as cultural activities in the same way as art, literature and sport. There are many cultural activities that provide leisure for the citizens. Will astronomy be able to contribute to the list and give happiness to the people? In order to realize this idea, we have started making a science instruction network from various Japanese places. "Astronomy as a part of culture" are demonstrated through science festivals, science cafes, science shows, and star watching parties that are being carried out in Japan. In this talk, we discuss how is the role of astronomy that represents science in culture. 1) S. Stockmayer, M.M. Gore and C. Bryant (eds.): Science Communication in Theory and Practice (Dordrecht, Amsterdam, 2001).

[B4A-5-2]
11:15~11:30
[Invited] The Creative Approach for Disseminating Astronomy to the General Public

Yudhiakto Pramudya (Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Indonesia) and Widya Sawitar

The astronomical outreach activities for the general public that are unfamiliar to astronomy is challenging task. It requires creative thinking to solve the problems. The amateur astronomical club in a number of cities in Indonesia have routine schedule for observation at public parks. The interaction between those clubs and formal education institution is established by face to face interaction and assisted by social media. The physics teachers who took astronomy course in the university are potential resources to enlarge the outreach scope by creating astronomical club as an extracurricular activities. Recent progressive trend in astronomy dissemination for the disabled is also great opportunity to assist the disabled for experiencing hands-on activities based on formal and informal education.

[B4A-5-3]
11:30~11:45
[Invited] Stars of Asia

Fumi Yoshida (National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Japan), Norio Kaifu, and Working group of Stars of Asia

The Stars of Asia project was one of the IYA 2009 activities. The aim of the project is to collect the best Asian myths and legends relating to stars and the universe through the collaboration of Asian countries/regions and then publish attractive books about these stories in each country/region in local language, so that many people enjoy these stories at schools, planetarium, and home. In order to collect myths and legends from each country/region, we held a workshop, titled "Star of Asia Workshop" at NAOJ, Tokyo, Japan, on 11-13 May 2009. Fifty people from 11 countries/regions attended the workshop and brought about 50 myths and legends originating from 14 countries/regions of Asia: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Taiwan, Thailand, the Pacific Ocean, Vietnam. At the end of the workshop, the international editorial board was organized to edit the stories comprising "Stars of Asia". The board consists of representatives from each country/region: Dulmaa Altangerel (Mongolia), Sze-leung Cheung (China), Yong Bok Lee (Korea), Norio Kaifu (Japan Chair), Quynh Ngoc Loung (Vietnam), Leena Damle (India), Jayanta Acharya (Nepal), F. R. Sarker (Bangladesh), Siramas Komonjinda (Thailand), Noriah Mohamed (Myasia), Widya Sawitar (Indonesia), Akira Goto (The Pacific Ocean), and Yi-Nan Chin (Taiwan). The Editorial Board members selected myths and legends and prepared original illustrations and pictures representing culture of each country/region for decorating stories. We planned to edit an English version of Book "Stars of Asia" first, then translate to local language of each country/region because only English is available as a common language in Asian region. However, we have noticed that publishing English book in Asian country is not easy, because Asian publishers do not have market of English books. Therefore we decided to compile with Japanese first and then make the English book with the help of Univ. of Hawaii Press. The Japanese version of Book "Stars of Asia" was finally published on 25 Feb. 2014.

The book contains 68 myths and legends from 13 countries/regions of Asia. The stories are distributed into two parts: the Part1 and the Part2. The Part1 includes most popular stories in each country/region. In the Part2, stories are classified with celestial objects. There are many different stories on bright objects: Sun, Moon, planets, remarkable star group and constellation (e.g. the Big Dipper, Orion etc.). This book contains a lot of colorful illustrations gathered from all over the Asian area. Through these colorful illustrations, people will be able to experience the culture and history of various parts of Asia. Various stories appear from each religion, climate, and geographical area. In addition, stories exist that are common across Asia, like the story of Vega and Altair or the stories in Rahu. These seem to have been disseminated by the racial migration and religious and cultural propagation. We added a commentary part at the last part of the book. In there, outlooks of the universe in ancient Asia and a flow of myths and legends in East Asia region (including the Pacific ocean) are described for teachers and lecturers by several specialists: Prof. Mayank N. Vahia, Prof. Xiaochun Sun, and Prof. Akira Goto.

The "Stars of Asia" project is the first effort to collect myths and legends on stars and universe from broad area of Asia. We are sure that adults and children can both enjoy this book with beautiful illustrations and attractive stories. And those with an interest in folklore and ethnology will also enjoy this book. At the APRIM, we will introduce the book and prospect of the Stars of Asia project.

[B4A-5-4]

11:45~12:05

[Invited] International Year of Light 2015, Public Naming of Exoplanets and IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach

Sze Leung Cheung (IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach, Japan)

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO) is an IAU new office hosted at National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) at Tokyo. After the International Year of Astronomy 2009, IAU decided to establish the OAO to coordinate the international astronomical outreach efforts. Two major campaigns that OAO are running are the International Year of Light 2015 and the Public Naming of Exoplanets. IAU is one of the supporting organization of the International Year of Light 2015 (IYL2015), and one of the IYL2015 cornerstone project is "Cosmic Light", which connect astronomy to light. OAO is the central hub of coordination for the Cosmic Light cornerstone. On the other hand, IAU has also launched the NameExoWorlds campaign, inviting public to name exoplanets, using a different approach than the naming of solar system bodies like asteroids or comets, the naming of exoplanetary system will involve public voting and proposal nominations from public organizations.

Poster Session

12:05~12:30

Chair: Tsolmon Renchin (National University of Mongolia)