



APRIM 2014

12th Asia-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting
August 18-22, 2014 / DCC, Daejeon, Korea

Session: Plenary Session I

Date: August 18, 2014 (Monday)

Time: 16:30~17:30

Room: Grand Ballroom 1

Chair: Young-Woon Kang (Sejong University)

[P1-1]

16:30~17:00

Astronomy in Korea and KASI

Inwoo Han (Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute, Korea)

*To be announced

[P1-2]

17:00~17:30

IAU Today and Asia-Pacific Region

Norio Kaifu (International Astronomical Union, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Japan)

An overview of astronomy of Asia-Pacific region under the light of IAU activities will be presented. Major purpose of the IAU is to promote astronomical research worldwide. Currently IAU has 73 national members, and this can be compared with 200, the rough number of United Nation countries. It was not surprising therefore, that high potential toward the future development of astronomy was clearly shown throughout the IYA2009; number of countries actively joined the IYA was as many as 148. In this consequence the IAU has been promoting the 10-years strategic plan (Astronomy for Developments) and established the Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO) to tap future power of astronomy and related sciences all through the world. Asia-Pacific region is playing important role both in Astronomy for Developments and in OAO. From astronomical researches point of view huge gaps of development of astronomy exist among regions in the world, and the regional cooperation and exchange are still inevitably important to develop self-sufficient researches in each region. The IAU regional activities started in Europe in 1970's as European Regional Meetings, followed by Asian-Pacific and Latin American regions shortly after. The Middle-East & African IAU Regional Meeting started in 2008, covering almost whole world (by adding North American region) now. Astronomy in each region is evolving in various ways depending on their economical/ political/ historical situations, but as for the Asia-Pacific region its recent growth of astronomy is prominent. It is especially impressive that many powerful national astronomical facilities with cutting-edge telescopes have been established since 1980's, and continuous regional and global cooperation have been developed based on those institutes. In this occasion of APRIM-2014 plenary talk I present and discuss a brief statistical and historical view and important features of development of astronomy in the Asia-Pacific region and its position in the IAU.