

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 in Russia

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Abstract

The International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) will be a great event in the scientific and cultural life of all nations. IYA2009 activities will be on several levels, but the majority of IYA2009 events will take place locally and nationally. To prepare for these activities, National Nodes have been formed in each country. These nodes establish collaborations between professional and amateur astronomers, science centres and science communicators. The activity of the Russian National Node is described here.

IYA2009 in Russia

The National Committee of Russian Astronomers (NCRA) is responsible for the organisation of IYA2009 events in Russia. NCRA works in close cooperation with the Scientific Council for Astronomy (SCA) of the Russian Academy of Sciences and with the Euro-Asian Astronomical Society.

A list of planned actions currently includes:

- Organisation of a debate by the Scientific Council for Astronomy and Ministry of Science and Education with the mass media.
- Support of the *Hands on Universe* programme and organisation of a similar national project (simple telescopes, centres of collective use etc.).
- Organisation of astronomical exhibitions, TV-programmes, round table discussions on topics such as *Astronomy as an Element of Culture*.
- Observations of the total solar eclipse (Siberia, Russia) on 1 August 2008.
- Organisation and support of Russian astronomical conferences to strengthen and promote widespread access by the public to new knowledge.

A preliminary list of Russian conferences is as follows:

- Winter schools *Physics of the Cosmos* (February 2008 and February 2009, Ural State University);
- Ultraviolet Universe (May 2009, Moscow);
- Prospects for Russian ground-based and space astronomy (inauguration of Kislovodsk observatory, autumn 2009);
- 100th anniversary of the Tunguska Impact (2008);
- First Radioastron space mission results (2009);
- All-Russian Astronomical Conference (2010).

Our current (2007) activity includes the following items:

- Budgeting and attracting sponsors and partners.
- Lobbying for IYA2009 UN approval.
- Giving a presentation on IYA2009 at the All-Russian Astronomical Conference (Kazan, 17–22 September 2007).
- Constructing the National IYA2009 website¹.
- Forming the National Node.

Members of the National Node are currently:

- Head: A. Boyarchuk (NCRA head);
- Secretary: O. Malkov (NCRA scientific secretary);
- Head of Scientific Council for Astronomy (N. Kardashev);
- Directors of main astronomical institutions:
 - Institute of Astronomy Russ. Acad. Sci (B. Shustov);
 - Sternberg Astronomical Institute MSU (A. Cherepashchuk);
 - Special Astrophysical Observatory (Y. Balega);
 - Director of Moscow City Palace of Youth Creativity (D. Monakhov);
- Government representatives:
 - Administration of the President of Russian Federation (E. Popova);
 - Ministry of Science and Education (A. Barabanov);
- Sponsor representatives:
 - Pentar corporation / MEADE company (A. Svetlov);
 - Novosibirsk Instrument Factory (S. Maslikov).

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Pentar² corporation, the MEADE company³ and the Novosibirsk Instrument Factory⁴ for their support of IYA2009 activities. My visit to the CAP2007 conference was partially supported by the conference organisers.

¹ www.astronomy2009.ru

² www.pentar.ru

³ www.meade.ru

⁴ npz.optics.ru