



Issue 179/ July 2024

ARMENIAN
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

ArAS Newsletter



EDITOR: MELINE ASRYAN

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LOCAL NEWS

Astronomy School Teacher Training Workshop 2024

From July 23-26, the “Astronomy School Teachers Training Workshop 2024” was held at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO). It was organized jointly by the BAO and the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS).

The training participants were Astronomy teachers from Armenia. During the selection of participants, emphasis was placed on the involvement of regions of Armenia, and the active participation of schools in BAO's previous programs was considered. As part of

the workshop, talks and lectures were given by the director of the observatory Areg Mickaelian, Hayk Harutyunyan, Hovhannes Pikichyan, Ararat Yeghikyan, Sona Farmanyan, Andranik Sukiasyan, and Derenik Andraasyan.

In addition to the lectures, several practical sessions were organized for the teachers, including the study of the night sky with a professional telescope, as well as educational visits to the 2.6m large and 1m Schmidt system telescopes, the V. Hambardzumyan house-museum, and a film



Astronomy School Teachers Training Workshop 2024

screening in the planetarium. The workshop was led by Lilit Darbinyan (National Coordinator of OAE Armenia, BAO), with Ani Davtyan and Arshaluis Andraasyan as program coordinators, and Areg Mickaelian (BAO Director) as the supervising consultant-expert. The courses were conducted within the framework of the Office of Astronomy for Education (OAE) of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the Network for Astronomy School Education (NASE), and the IAU Galileo Teacher Training



Program (GTTP). Accommodation and meals for the participants were provided by the organizers, and at the end of the program, the participating teachers received international certificates.

Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory Hosted Students from the Architectural Association School of Architecture Visiting School

The Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) hosted students of the Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA) Visiting School, one of the world's preeminent schools of architecture. They had a meeting with Areg Mickaelian, director of the BAO and took part in his seminar on the BAO's architectural heritage and scientific heritage in general.

The AA Visiting School carried out the Oshakan Project, set in the historic village of Oshakan. Oshakan, situated amidst an ancient Urartian fortress, an ecologically diverse gorge, a series of cave chapels and the burial site of the 4th-5th century monk and inventor of the Armenian alphabet Mesrob Mashtots, provided an ideal backdrop for experiments in heritage and sustainable construction. The village's rich building stock offered numerous points of study and opportunities for hosting events and workshops. It was the school's first endeavor in Armenia.



Students of AA Visiting School at BAO. 2024.

The Oshakan Project seeks to address the growing need for sustainable development in Armenia, particularly in the face of a surging tourism industry that poses threats to the country's rich heritage. With a focus on international partnerships, the school aimed to raise awareness of contemporary Armenian craft on a global scale.

At the end of the project there was an exhibition held in the Oshakan Culture House on July 20th displaying the students' research on the heritage of Oshakan.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting 2024

On July 1-5, the European Astronomical Society Annual Meeting (EAS, formerly EWASS) was held in Padova (Italy).

Each year it is organized in one of the European countries in combination with the annual conference of the astronomical society of that country. The conference brings together observatories, astronomical institutes and universities of different countries, as well as the science outreach specialists.

This year, the overall program of the conference included 15 symposia, 41 special sessions and 8 lunch sessions.

Among the participants were 8 employees of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory, namely BAO director Areg Mickaelian, leading researcher Elena Nikoghosyan, researchers Hayk Abrahamyan, Gor Mikayelyan, junior researchers Anahit Samsonyan and Andranik Sukiasyan, as well as head of the BAO public relations department Gayane Baleyan and BAO press secretary Meline Asryan.

Areg Mickaelian, Anahit Samsonyan and Gayane Baleyan gave presentations, while the others presented e-posters. Areg Mickaelian also took part in the EAS council meeting, presenting the activities of the Armenian Astronomical Society in the last year. *Note:* EAS was founded in 1990 and currently unites 32 national astronomical societies, including the Armenian Astronomical Society (ArAS). The EAS meeting 2007 was held in Yerevan, Armenia.



European Astronomical Society Welcomed a New President

Sara Lucatello (Italy) took over the role of President of the European Astronomical Society (EAS). Prior to this appointment, she was the vice president of EAS from 2018 to 2024.

Here's the first message of Sara Lucatello as President that we read in the [EAS newsletter's July issue](#), "I wish to start this first message to the membership in my new capacity with an acknowledgement of the tremendous contribution that my predecessor, Roger Davies, has made to the Society. Roger guided the EAS for seven years with exceptional leadership and dedication, during which the society has enjoyed an incredible growth both in size and in stature. Individual members have quintupled, and there was a significant increase in the number of organizational members and national affiliated societies, which now expand beyond the limits of the European Union, making the EAS a truly pan-European organization. The EAS annual meetings have established themselves as the largest yearly astronomy-focused event in Europe, regularly attended by over 1,500 scientists and are particularly popular with early career researchers, whose energy, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas are crucial to the future of our field..."



Sara Lucatello

International Astronomical Union XXXII General Assembly

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) General Assembly (GA) is just around the corner. It's the 32nd IAU GA and it's set to take place on 6–15 August 2024 at the prestigious Cape Town International Convention Centre in South Africa.



XXXII IAU GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 2024

The 32nd GA is the first to offer full online participation with a focus on providing a positive experience for those joining from around the world.

It's a platform where astronomers from different countries get together to share their experiences and knowledge. The program includes 5 Symposia, 12 Focus Meetings, and 6 Working Group Meetings.

Astronomers from the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) are also among the participants. Areg Mickaelian, BAO director and president of the Armenian Astronomical Society, will attend the meeting on-site, whereas the rest will join online.

The GA will also host the Astronomy Prize 2023 award ceremony. BAO researcher Naira Azatyan, who will participate in the event online, is among the winners.

It Should be noted that the BAO has been participating in the IAU General Assemblies since 1948. These conferences are the most important scientific meetings of the IAU, which aim to develop astronomy by studying the challenges of the time.

ANNIVERSARIES

Vahram Chavushyan's 60th Anniversary

Dr. Vahram Chavushyan is one of the most efficient foreign Armenian astronomers.

Vahram Hovsep Chavushyan was born on July 21, 1964, in Yerevan (Armenia), into a family of an astronomer. His father, Hovsep S. Chavushyan, was one of the famous scientists of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO).

In 1986, V. Chavushyan graduated from the Yerevan State University (YSU) and started his career at the BAO and worked there until 1991. In 1989-1991, he was the head of 1m Schmidt telescope laboratory. In 1991, he moved to Special Astrophysical Observatory (SAO), Russia. He took his Ph.D. at SAO in 1995

(advisor` Jivan Stepanyan). In 1996-1997, he was Senior Researcher at SAO and in 1995-1997, he was the responsible astronomer for SAO RAS 60 cm telescope modernization and automatization group. In 1996-1997, he was invited to Instituto Nacional de Astrofisica, Optica y Electronica (INAOE, Puebla, Mexico), as a visiting researcher. In 1998, he moved to INAOE, and till now works there, at the Department of Astrophysics, as a "C" (highest) ranked researcher. As a visiting astronomer, he worked at Hamburger Sternwarte (Germany) and Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie (Germany).

The main fields of Chavushyan's research interests are related to wide-field surveys (AGN, galaxies, CV, white dwarfs and hot subdwarfs), AGN and quasars (central engine and environment), compact groups of galaxies, supernovae and observational astronomy. The main area of study is the multiwavelength observations and interpretation of the processes going on around supermassive black holes (SMBH): the nature of the power source in AGN; the cosmological evolution of SMBH and their host galaxies, and relationships with environment in small and large scales. One of his long-term interests has been variability of the radiation from AGN to probe what is going on around the supermassive BH (structure and kinematics of the broad/narrow-line emission regions) and power generation. As a result, Chavushyan has published more than 200 articles, most of which are published in refereed scientific journals, including the major international astrophysics journals. For many years, he has actively collaborated with scientists from the USA, France, Germany, China, Armenia and other countries. He is a member of many astronomical boards and committees in Mexico. From 2011,



Vahram Chavushyan

he has been a member of the Editorial Board of International Journal of Astronomy and Astrophysics. He gave lectures at a number of Mexican Universities and Institutes; he has supervised many B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses.

Chavushyan is a member of European Astronomical Society (EAS, from 1992), the Euro-Asian Astronomical Society (from 1996), Sistema Nacional de Investigadores Nivel I, México (1999-2004), Armenian Astronomical Society (from 2002), Sistema Nacional de Investigadores Nivel II, México (from 2005), International Astronomical Union (IAU, from 2006), Mexican Academy of Sciences (AMC, from 2010).

We warmly congratulate Vahram Chavushyan on his birthday and wish him continued success in all his endeavors.

Hayk Malkhasyan's 40th Anniversary

On July 12, Hayk Malkhasyan, head of the Cultural Astronomy department at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory celebrated his 40th anniversary. On the occasion, a seminar was organised to introduce his works done in the field.

Hayk Malkhasyan was born on July 12, 1984. He started working at the BAO in 2020, first as a researcher, and from 2021 as the head of the department.

Hayk Malkhasyan is a member of the Armenian Astronomical Society.

His scientific works pertain to the study of Zorats Karer historical astronomical monument. In particular, he found out that it was used in the PreHaykian period to carry out observations and the PreHaykian calendars are also connected with it.

He has 8 published articles, all in peer-reviewed journals. Soon, his new scientific results will be published in “ComBAO” magazine and “Bazmavep” journal.

We warmly congratulate Hayk Malkhasyan on his birthday and wish him continued success in all his endeavors.



Hayk Malkhasyan

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.