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# ArAS Newsletter



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## LOCAL NEWS

### Astronomy Day in Armenia

On September 18, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, named after V. Ambartsumian, hosted a celebration for Astronomy Day in Armenia, and the 116th anniversary of the esteemed scientist Viktor Ambartsumian.

September 18 marks Viktor Ambartsumian's birthday and has been recognized as Astronomy Day in Armenia since 2009.

During the event, attendees had the opportunity to visit V. Ambartsumian house-museum, which offered free entry in honor of the occasion. Moreover, attendees enjoyed a VIP visit to the 1-meter Schmidt telescope, renowned for the famous Markarian Survey. It's included in UNESCO

"Memory of the World" documentary heritage international register. It is one of the 14 UNESCO items in Armenia and one of the rare scientific heritage items of UNESCO in the whole world.



Viktor Ambartsumian

## Regional Astronomical Workshop

From September 16 to 20, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory hosted the 4th South West and Central Asian (SWCA) Regional Astronomical Workshop ([4RAW](#)). The workshop aimed to summarize and report on regional activities while creating a platform for exchanging experiences in astronomy, astrophysics, and related fields, including astronomical heritage, regional tourism, and astronomy education and outreach. Six SWCA regional countries were officially represented: Armenia, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Turkey, as well as some more countries participated.

Over the five days of the workshop, participants engaged in sessions covering regional activities, astrophysical research, interdisciplinary sciences, astronomical heritage, regional tourism, and astronomy education and outreach.

The SWCA ROAD collaborates closely with the neighboring Arab World ROAD and the European ROAD (E-ROAD). SWCA ROAD organizes various meetings and events and runs several projects, including a key initiative focused on regional astro-tourism.



4RAW, Byurakan; Areg Mickaelian with official representatives of Iran Moein Mosleh and Georgia Bidzina Chargeishvili.

## 9th Byurakan International Summer School for Young Astronomers: “Astronomy as the Leader of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Sciences”

The 9th Byurakan International Summer School (9BISS) for Young Astronomers took place from September 9 to 13. This event marked the ninth edition of the Byurakan International Summer Schools (BISS), which were founded in 2006 and have been held every two years. This year, the theme of BISS was “Astronomy as the Leader of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Sciences.” Throughout the school, students participated in lectures and practical tutorials covering a wide range of topics, including Observational Astronomy, Data



9BISS, Byurakan

Reduction and Analysis, Astronomical Surveys, Catalogues, Archives and Databases, Theoretical Astrophysics, Astrochemistry and Astrobiology, Virtual Observatories and Astroinformatics, Space Astronomy, Exoplanets and Planetary Science, as well as Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Sciences.

It’s worth mentioning that BISS is recognized as one of the most significant and regular astronomical schools in the world. According to the

analysis by the IAU Division C (Education, Outreach, and Heritage), BISS ranked among the top three astronomical schools globally, alongside the IAU International School for Young Astronomers (ISYA) and Vatican schools (VOSS), as well as the NEON/OPTICON schools are among the best ones.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Armenian-Georgian Astronomical Colloquium

From September 23 to 27, the XVI Armenian-Georgian (Byurakan-Abastumani) Astronomical Colloquium took place, continuing a tradition that began in 1974.

The event was inaugurated by Revaz Chanishvili, Director of the Abastumani Astrophysical Observatory (AbAO), and Areg Mickaelian, Director of the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory, who welcomed participants before the first session commenced.

The colloquium featured sessions covering a range of topics, including Solar physics, stars and nebulae, galaxies and cosmology, theoretical astrophysics, astronomical instrumentation and cultural astronomy. 40 scientists participated, including 13 from Armenia, as well as astronomers from France and Spain. This Colloquium once again provided a valuable platform for exchanging knowledge and strengthening ties between Armenian and Georgian astronomers

The Scientific cooperation and friendship between Armenian and Georgian astronomers date back to the 1930s, thanks to the efforts of Viktor Ambartsumian (1908-1996), the founder of the BAO, and Evgeni Kharadze (1907-2001), the founder of AbAO.



XVI Armenian-Georgian Colloquium

## ANNIVERSARIES

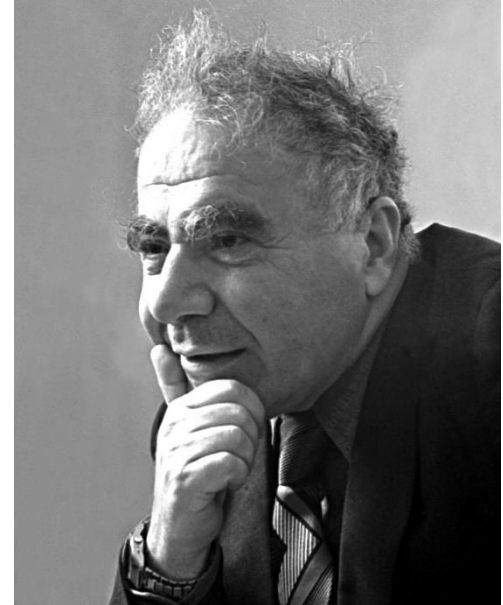
### Viktor Ambartsumian's 116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Prof. Viktor Ambartsumian (1908-1996) is one of the greatest scientists of the XX century, the greatest Soviet astrophysicist and the founder of the theoretical astrophysics school in the USSR that has fundamentally contributed to various fields of astronomy and astrophysics, cosmogony, theoretical physics, mathematics, and philosophy. His revolutionary works on stellar evolution and activity of galactic nuclei turned over the development of astrophysics and gave life to our previously unchanged Universe. Ambartsumian was also a great organizer of science, and an important political and public figure. He was the founder of the astrophysics departments at the Leningrad (St. Petersburg) and Yerevan State Universities, the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), the journal *Astrofizika* (Astrophysics), one of the founders of the Armenian Academy of Sciences. Ambartsumian was the Director of BAO in 1946-1988, the President of the Armenian Academy of Sciences in 1947-1993, the President of the International Astronomical Union in 1961-1964 and the President of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) in 1968-1972.

Viktor Ambartsumian was born on September 18, 1908, in Tbilisi. Ambartsumian played a significant role in different fields, in particular, in the theory of multiple light scattering. The invariance principle, formulated in these works for the first time, had a wide application in several other fields of science.

Ambartsumian's investigations on the problem of stellar evolution brought in 1947 to the revealing of stellar systems of new type - stellar associations. The existence of stellar associations in the Galaxy, dynamically non-stable and disintegrating systems, was the first observational evidence in favour of continuing at present star-formation in it.

Ambartsumian put forward a hypothesis about the joint origin of the diffuse matter and stars of dense matter of unknown nature – protostars. Ambartsumian's studies of early stages of evolution of stars and stellar systems are rather significant. It was shown that in the early stages of evolution, the instability of state reveals itself, being the regular phase of the cosmogonic processes. Among these results the conclusions about the existence of stellar systems of positive total energy in the Galaxy, non-thermal nature of ultraviolet stellar radiation of T Tauri



Viktor Ambartsumian

type and flare stars, are to be mentioned. New principle results were achieved by V. Ambartsumian in the study of evolution of galaxies. It was shown for the first time that the central regions of galaxies - their nuclei, play a decisive role in the phenomena of instability, observed in galaxies. Besides the stars and diffuse matter, they must contain dense massive bodies of unknown nature. The activity of galactic nuclei defines their evolution. At present the active galactic nuclei (AGN) are the most intensively studied objects in extragalactic astronomy.

Ambartsumian was awarded governmental prizes, orders and medals of a number of countries:

- 1940 - Title of Honorary Scientist of the Armenian SSR
- 1968 - Title of the Hero of Socialist Labour with investiture of Lenin Order and Gold medal "Hammer and Sickle"
- 1968 - Title of Honorary Scientist of the Georgian SSR
- 1978 - Title of the Hero of Socialist Labour with investiture of Lenin Order and Gold medal "Hammer and Sickle"
- 1994 - Motherland Order and title of "National Hero of Armenia"
- And many more.

Viktor Ambartsumian died on August 12, 1996, in Byurakan.

In 2010, Viktor Ambartsumian International Science Prize was created. It is one of the important awards in astronomy/astrophysics and related sciences. It is being awarded to outstanding scientists having significant contributions in physical-mathematical sciences from any country and nationality.



## Eduard Danielian's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Armenian astronomer Eduard Danielian recently celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Eduard Danielian was born on September 3, 1944, in Yerevan. From 1960 to 1968 he studied at Yerevan State University (YSU). After graduating, E. Danielian continued his education as a graduate student at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) from 1968 to 1972.

In 1972, Eduard Danielian joined the "Theoretical Astrophysics" department of the BAO as a junior researcher. In 1985, he was awarded the degree of Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences by the Higher Attestation Commission of the USSR. Two years later, in 1987, he became a researcher in the "Radiation Transfer Theory and Interpretation of Spectra" group at BAO, and in 1994, he was promoted to senior researcher.



## Armen Oskanian's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Armen Oskanian was born in 1949 in Belgrade, Armen was the proud heir of the Tehlerian clan, a legacy shaped by the dreams of his ancestors who yearned for a return to their homeland. This dream was fulfilled in 1966 when his family moved to Armenia, setting the stage for a remarkable journey that would impact generations.

From 1968 to 1973, Oskanian studied at Yerevan State University under the guidance of Professor Viktor Ambartsumian. This marked the beginning of a distinguished career in astronomy. His military service in the Soviet army and subsequent work at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory showcased his commitment to research. However, it was his role as a teacher at Quantum College that revealed his true calling.

Oskanian's passion for nurturing young minds transformed him into a beacon of inspiration for countless gifted adolescents, guiding them to excel in international competitions.

Tragically, Armen's life was cut short at the age of 55 due to a heroic act of selflessness. He managed to save one of his students from drowning, but could not help the second one. This became the very reason of Armen Oskanian's death, as his heart was unable to endure the pain of the dreadful loss.



Armen Oskanian

*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](mailto:melin.asryan@gmail.com). They will be reviewed for the publication in ArAS Newsletters next issues.

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