



Meet The Office for Young Astronomers:

Itziar Aretxaga (INAOE, Mexico), International School for Young Astronomers (ISYA) Director
David Mota (Univ. Oslo, Norway), ISYA Deputy Director



(45th ISYA, Algiers, Algeria, 2024)

International School for Young Astronomers: background

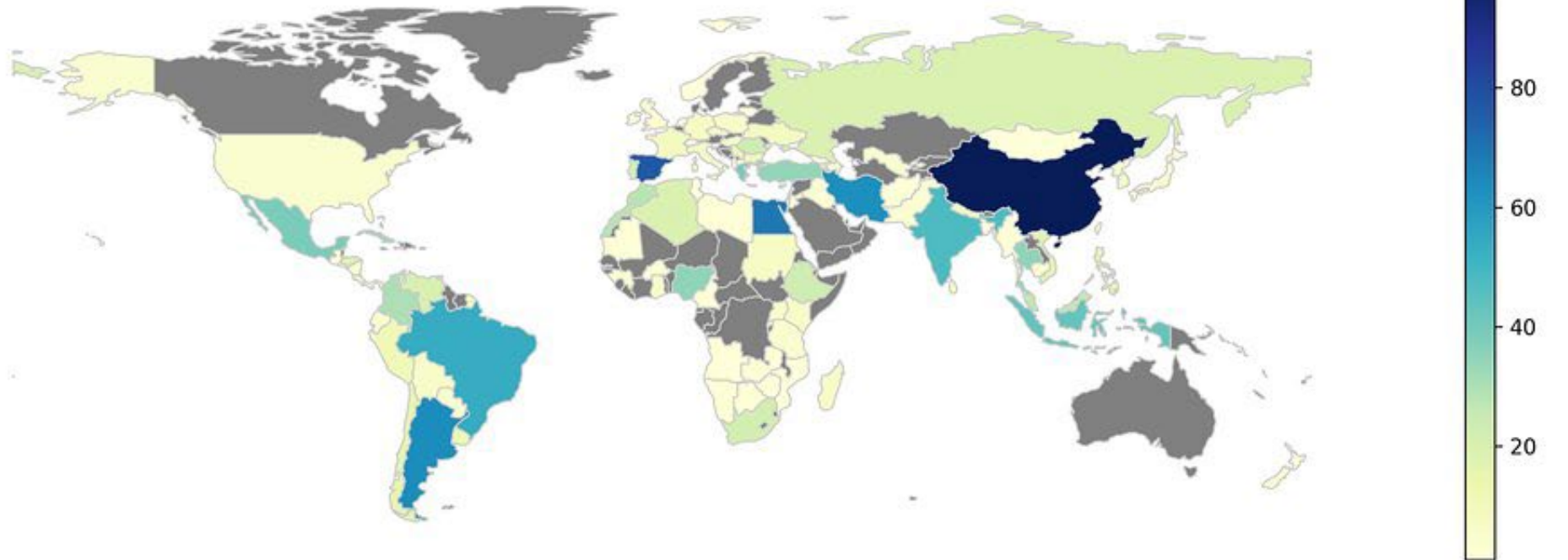
https://www.iau.org/training/school_for_young_astronomers/

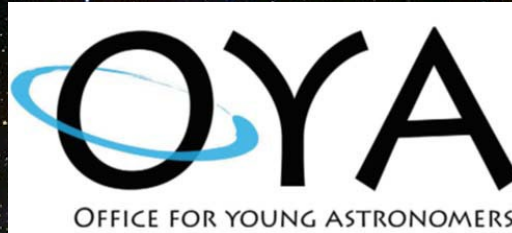
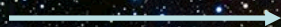
- Organized by IAU since 1967
- Layout: 3-week intensive postgraduate school for parts of the world where students do not have access to a broad up-to-date astrophysics background (mainly, but not exclusively, from astronomically developing countries).
- Target population: isolated MSc to PhD students
- Goal: broaden the participants' perspective on astronomy
- Lecturers: researchers in faculty positions with international career paths, familiar with the region.





1977 Brazil





OYA Steering Committee



isya@eau.org

Itziar Aretxaga
(INAOE, Mexico)
ISYA Director
2018-2024

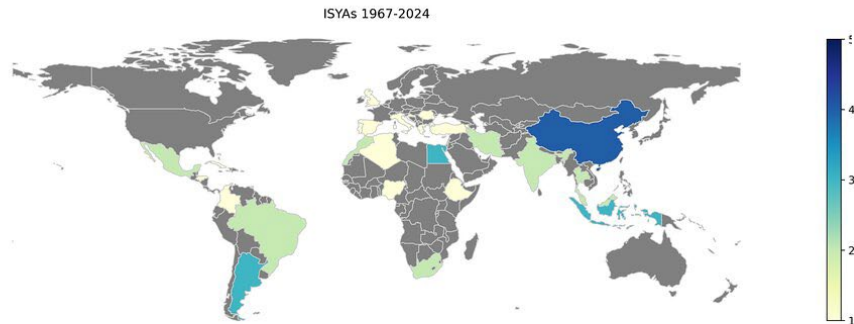
David Mota
(U. Oslo, Norway)
ISYA Deputy
Director 2018-2024



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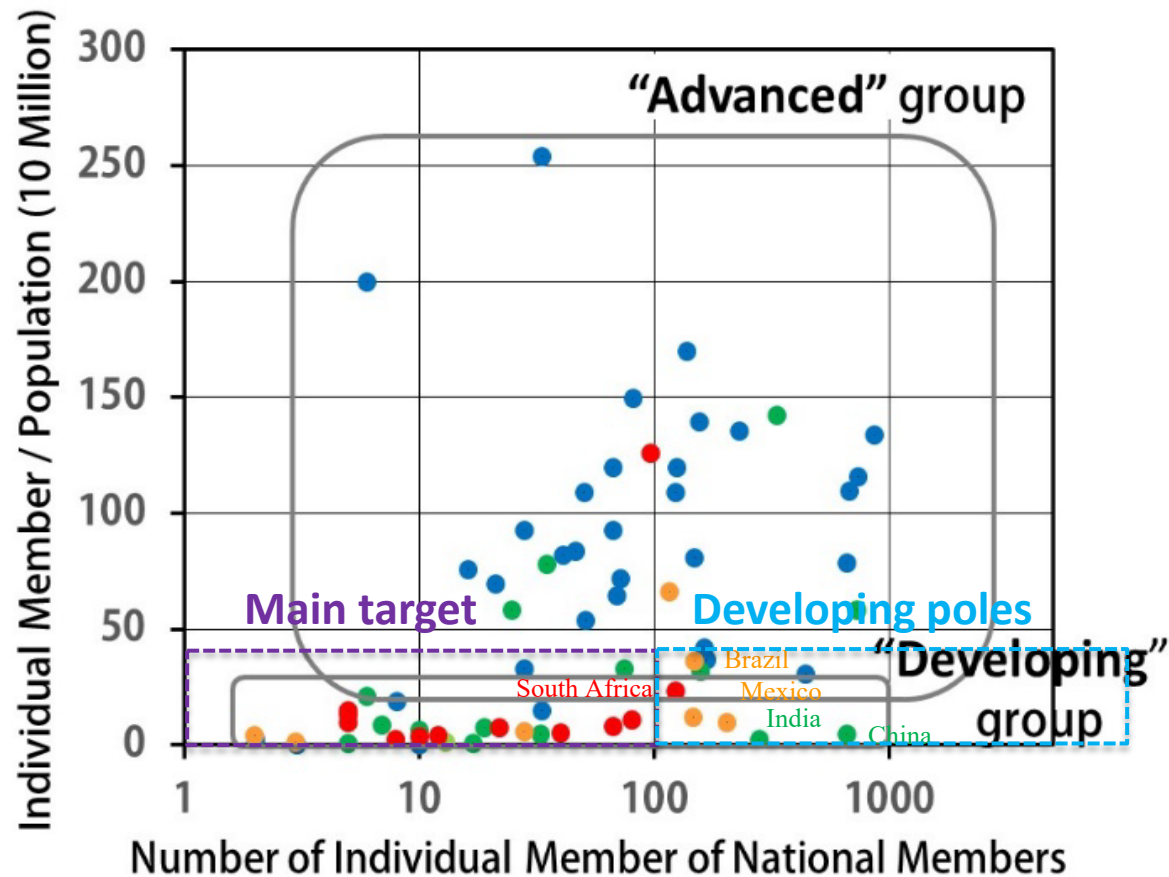
Local Director
Host country





What is our target population?

Analysis of IAU Regions : Most of Asian Pacific, Latin American and Mid-East and African regions are included in the “Developing” group



You are now part of the ISYA Community

Badjáneaddji Násti

The International School for Young Astronomers Newsletter

Letter from the Editors

Badjáneaddji Násti, the International School for Young Astronomers' newsletter, is the ISYA network of alumni, lecturers, tutors and organizers about community. It is intended to be an electronic only publication twice a year: in 1967, more than 1500 alumni and more than 450 lecturers, tutors and formalize our communications and network.

Badjáneaddji Násti in [Sami](#) language means Rising Star. Sami is the indigenous people of Northern Europe (North Finland, Northwestern Russia). Since the ISYA Program is nowadays Astronomical Union (IAU) and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (OYA), we have chosen an international name for our newsletter. The name makes reference to the beginning of their careers by ISYA.

This newsletter is reaching you through a private distribution. The titanic effort Michele Gerbaldi, former ISYA Secretary, and David Mota and the OYA interns to locate as many schools as possible in our current distribution list.

These pages are open for all the ISYA network to astronomy development in the target ISYA country. If you wish to submit an item to the newsletter, please send it to: isyaneaddji@iau.org. For your article to be published, it should reach us at least one month before and include one or two images.

In this number you can find a brief summary of the General Assembly of the IAU in Cape Town, in September 2024. We also in the Steering Committee of OYA, that oversees the "Inspiring Stories from Women in Astronomy of the African Astronomical Union". In this number Seghouani, alumni from the 24th ISYA place and Nassim has been the local contact.

We would love to hear from you!

2024 was indeed time for Africa!
Itziar Aretxaga and David F. Mota, for the ISYA Program

Letter from the Editors

This is our second issue of Badjáneaddji Násti! Thanks for subscribing to the ISYA Newsletter. As this issue reaches you we are embarking on yet another school: the 46th ISYA is starting in Urcuqui, Ecuador, on July 7th, and 30 students from Latin America and the Caribbean region are eager to join our community. We are also busy selecting the students for the 47th ISYA that will be held in Taipei in November this year, and further along the line, we are organizing the 48th ISYA in Zambia for June 2026. While in these six months we have not held any new schools, there are plenty of news to share.

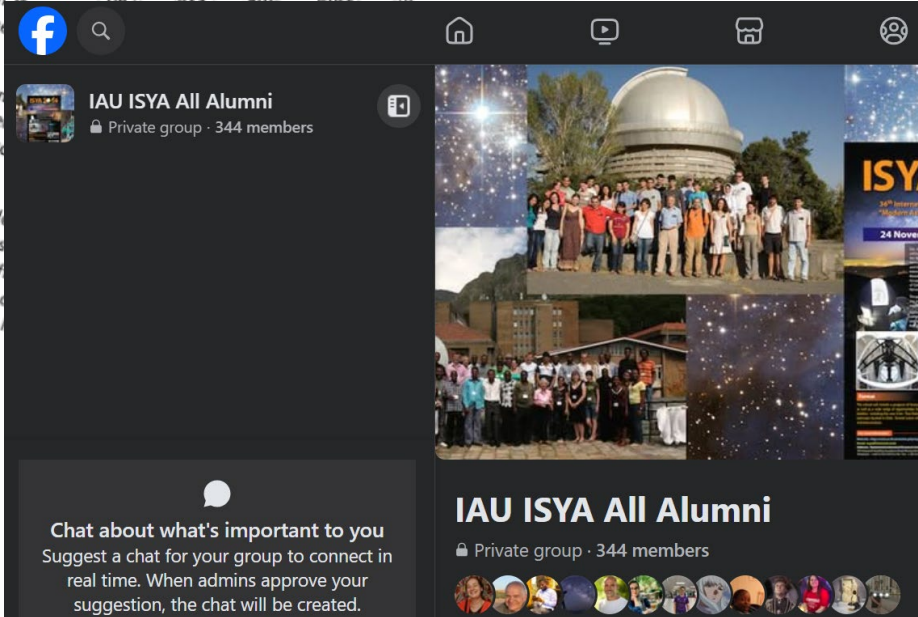
In this issue, we feature three interviews, with:

- Michèle Gerbaldi (IAU, France, ISYA Director 1998-2007), who has been awarded the Chevalier of the National Order of Merit by the French government, one of the highest distinctions in the country, for her contributions to astronomy. Among other important initiatives, including the ISYA leadership for more than 10 years, she has been part of the Astrolab project more recently. Michèle is joined by Astrolab co-creator Jean-Pierre De Greve (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, also ISYA co-creator).
- Nicole van der Blik (NOIRLab, Chile) for an interview on the future of the LSST.
- Sambatriniaina Rajohnson (Alumna, 39th ISYA), who has been awarded the 2025 Gruber Fellowship Award for her research on the intersection of cutting-edge astrophysics, space exploration and the intersection of "Alumni in depth".
- Hira Fatima (Alumna, 42nd ISYA 2019, Kunming University of Science and Technology, China), who is also interviewed in "Alumni in depth".

If you have news and views on the impact of astronomy development in your country, or about your personal progression as alumni, please send us your article to appear in the January or July Newsletter, your article should reach us at least one month beforehand. Please make it at most 3000 characters.

We would love to hear from you!

Itziar Aretxaga and David F. Mota, for the ISYA Program



IAU ISYA All Alumni

Private group · 344 members

Chat about what's important to you
Suggest a chat for your group to connect in real time. When admins approve your suggestion, the chat will be created.

ISYA 2018 Colombia 5-yr reports

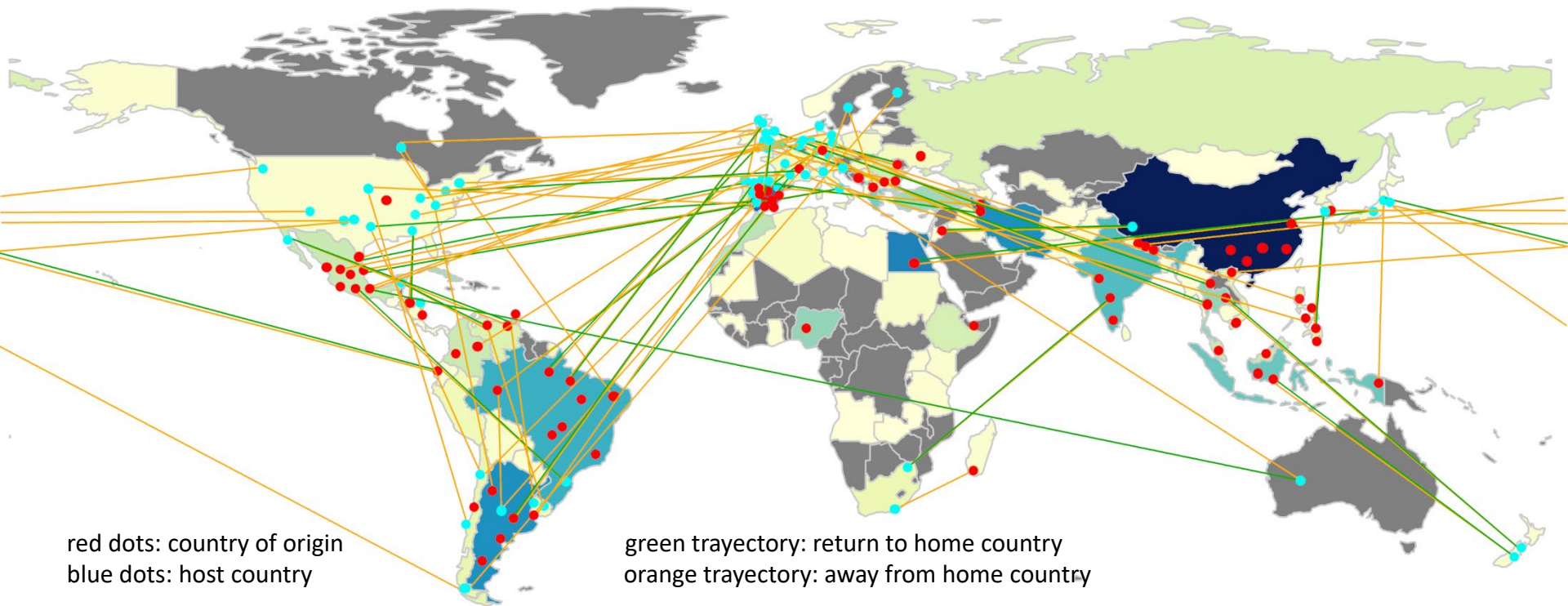
- **Possibly 23/32 still in Astronomy:** currently employed at universities/observatories:
 - Currently employed in Observatories & Unis: 6
 - Currently doing PhDs (some do hold jobs): 10
 - Currently doing MScs: 3
 - Other STEM fields: 3
 - Probably working on Astronomy related fields without clear affiliation: 3
 - Searching for Astronomy jobs, unemployed: 1
 - Unknown: 4

Mobility map of ISYA Colombia 2018 graduates



ISYA feedback survey 1967-2014: student mobility

57% of alumni do their MSc/PhD/postdocs/work in other countries: trans- & intercontinental exchanges
70% are currently working in their countries of origin



The IAU's mission is to promote and safeguard astronomy in all its aspects (including research, communication, education and development) through international cooperation. Science is best advanced when there is mutual trust, respect and integrity, and when it is conducted in environments free from harassment. The IAU expects all members to uphold the IAU Code of Conduct.



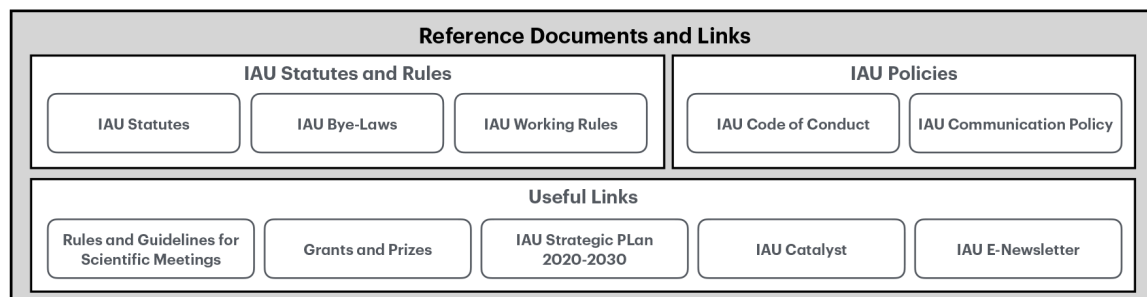
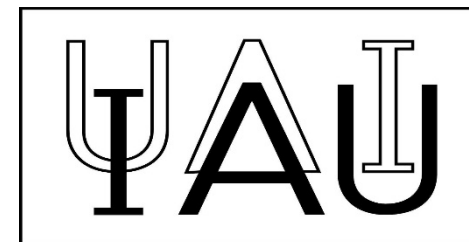
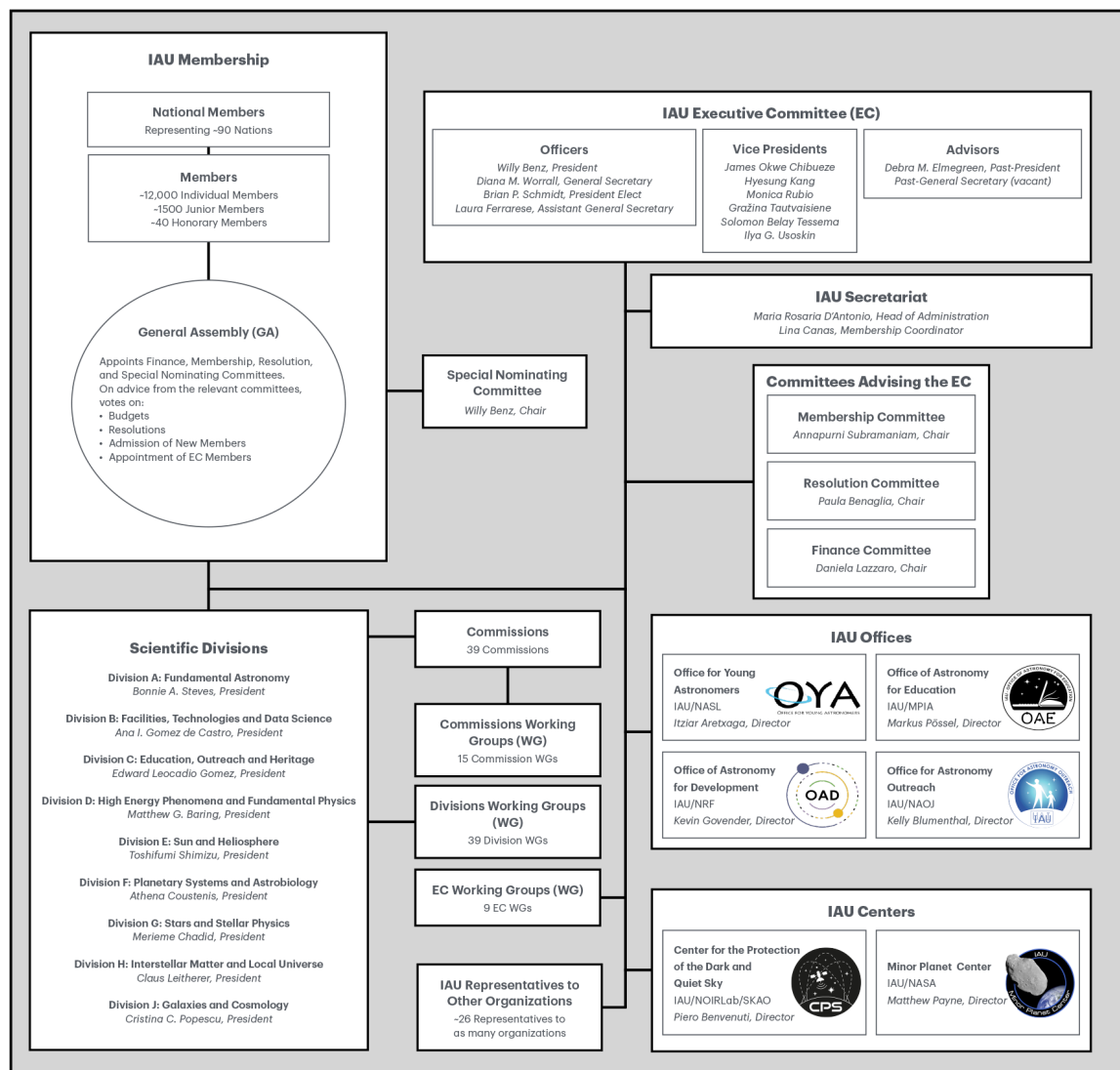
Founded in 1919, world-wide professional astronomer's association (www.iau.org)

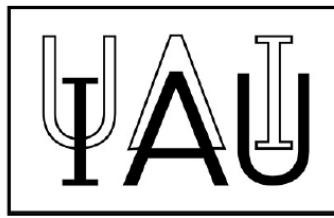
13119 members:

- regular national
- individual members
- honorary members
- junior members (~757), typically in postdoc positions

Structured in:

- Divisions – theme oriented
- Commissions and working groups – theme/task oriented
- Offices and centers – task oriented
- Executive Committee -- governing board
- Officers – Representatives (President, General Secretary, President Elect and Assistant General Secretary) renewed every 3 years





International Astronomical Union

IAU Membership

National Members
Representing ~90 Nations

Members
~12,000 Individual Members
~1500 Junior Members
~40 Honorary Members

General Assembly (GA)

Appoints Finance, Membership, Resolution, and Special Nominating Committees.
On advice from the relevant committees, votes on:

- Budgets
- Resolutions
- Admission of New Members
- Appointment of EC Members

IAU Executive Committee (EC)

Officers

Willy Benz, President
Diana M. Worrall, General Secretary
Brian P. Schmidt, President Elect
Laura Ferrarese, Assistant General Secretary

Vice Presidents

James Okwe Chibueze
Hyesung Kang
Monica Rubio
Gražina Tautvaisiene
Solomon Belay Tessema
Ilya G. Usoskin

Advisors

Debra M. Elmegreen, Past-President
Past-General Secretary (vacant)

IAU Secretariat

Maria Rosaria D'Antonio, Head of Administration
Lina Canas, Membership Coordinator

Special Nominating Committee

Willy Benz, Chair

Committees Advising the EC

Membership Committee

Annapurni Subramaniam, Chair

Resolution Committee

Paula Benaglia, Chair

Finance Committee

Daniela Lazzaro, Chair

Scientific Divisions

Commissions
39 Commissions

IAU Offices

Office for Young

Office of Astronomy



Scientific Divisions

Division A: Fundamental Astronomy
Bonnie A. Steves, President

Division B: Facilities, Technologies and Data Science
Ana I. Gomez de Castro, President

Division C: Education, Outreach and Heritage
Edward Leocadio Gomez, President

Division D: High Energy Phenomena and Fundamental Physics
Matthew G. Baring, President

Division E: Sun and Heliosphere
Toshifumi Shimizu, President

Division F: Planetary Systems and Astrobiology
Athena Coustenis, President

Division G: Stars and Stellar Physics
Merieme Chadid, President

Division H: Interstellar Matter and Local Universe
Claus Leitherer, President

Division J: Galaxies and Cosmology
Cristina C. Popescu, President

Commissions
39 Commissions

Commissions Working Groups (WG)
15 Commission WGs

Divisions Working Groups (WG)
39 Division WGs

EC Working Groups (WG)
9 EC WGs

IAU Representatives to Other Organizations
-26 Representatives to as many organizations

IAU Offices

Office for Young Astronomers
IAU/NASL
Itziar Aretxaga, Director



Office of Astronomy for Education
IAU/MPIA
Markus Pössel, Director



Office of Astronomy for Development
IAU/NRF
Kevin Govender, Director



Office for Astronomy Outreach
IAU/NAOJ
Kelly Blumenthal, Director



IAU Centers

Center for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky
IAU/NOIRLab/SKAO
Piero Benvenuti, Director



Minor Planet Center
IAU/NASA
Matthew Payne, Director



Reference Documents and Links

IAU Statutes and Rules

[IAU Statutes](#)

[IAU Bye-Laws](#)

[IAU Working Rules](#)

IAU Policies

[IAU Code of Conduct](#)

[IAU Communication Policy](#)

Useful Links

[Rules and Guidelines for Scientific Meetings](#)

[Grants and Prizes](#)

[IAU Strategic Plan 2020-2030](#)

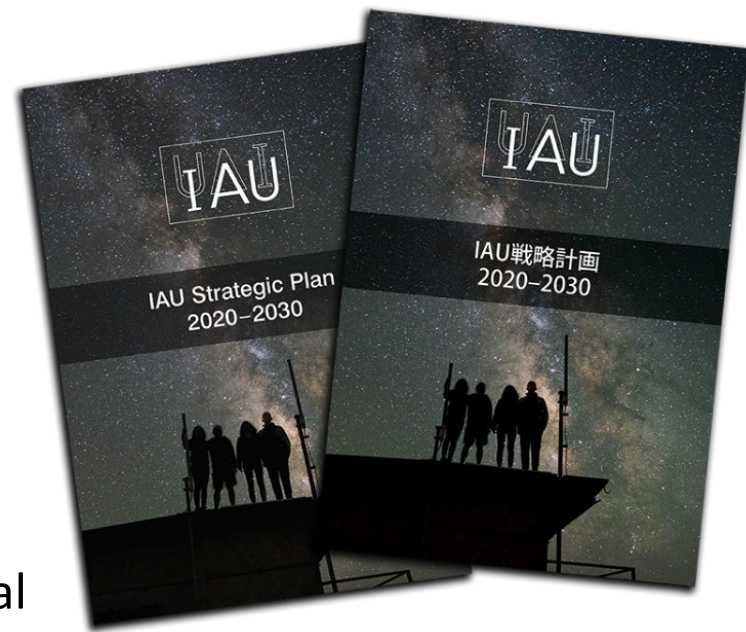
[IAU Catalyst](#)

[IAU E-Newsletter](#)

IAU Priorities

The IAU's activities center around 8 main areas:

- I. Stimulation and facilitation of sharing astronomical knowledge among professional astronomers;
- II. Coordination of professional tasks and interactions with other fields at the professional level;
- III. Recognition of excellence in astronomy through prizes;
- IV. Fostering inclusiveness in the advancement of astronomy;
- V. Facilitation of the advancement of the next generation of astronomers and scientists;
- VI. Stimulation of global development through the use of astronomy;
- VII. Engagement with the public in astronomy;
- VIII. Use of astronomy to stimulate teaching and education at school level.



Astronomy Impacts



(Mdhluli et al 2025, Nature Astronomy:
“Astronomy as a strategic driver for sustainable development”)



INTERNATIONAL
ASTRONOMICAL
UNION

Iniciar sesión

Keyword search

Acerca de ▾

Science ▾

Afiliación ▾

Publicaciones ▾

Noticias

Welcome to the New IAU Environment!

Thank you for your patience as we continue to build our site.

Our Mission

To promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects, including research, communication, education and development, through international cooperation.

Contact

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