



International Astronomical Union
Union Astronomique Internationale
Office of Astronomy for Development

South African Astronomical Observatory, Observatory, Cape Town
Phone: +27 (0) 82 487 8466 - Fax: +27 (0) 21 447 3639
Email : info@astro4dev.org - URL: www.astro4dev.org

20 January 2014

Jaime E. Forero-Romero
Assistant Professor
Physics Department, Universidad de los Andes
Carrera 1 18A-10, Bloque Ip. Bogotá
Colombia

Re: Revised proposal to host a Regional Node of the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development

Dear Dr Forero-Romero

I write to you on behalf of the International Astronomical Union's (IAU) Extended Development Oversight Committee (EDOC). This high level committee comprises the President of the IAU, the IAU General Secretary, the President of IAU Division C, and the 6 members making up the Steering Committee of the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD). The EDOC is the body responsible for the evaluation of proposals regarding the establishment of Regional Nodes and Language Expertise Centres across the world.

The EDOC, at a meeting on 21st November 2013, reviewed your revised proposal and noted its significant strength and the excellent support from institutions and individuals listed. They noted the importance of the proposed region of coverage but expressed some concern regarding the limited representation of Chile, a country which has a significant astronomical presence in the region. However, the strength of the proposal and the impressive support you have managed to raise was sufficient for the EDOC to give their endorsement of the proposal by instructing the OAD to engage with you and the target countries in the region in order to bring on board more partners (especially from Chile). In the longer term the OAD is to work with you and these partners towards an eventual formal agreement that will see the commencement of the node.

Please convey this positive feedback from the EDOC to all your partners and use it to call on other potential collaborators to join your proposal. I look forward to working with you into the future and will be in touch to explore how the OAD can assist in taking this forward.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Govender
Director: IAU Office of Astronomy for Development

Executive Committee

Officers:

Dr. Norio Kaifu (Japan), President
Dr. Silvia Torres-Peimbert (Mexico), President Elect
Dr. Thierry Montmerle (France), General Secretary
Dr. Piero Benvenuti (Italy), Assistant General Secretary

Vice Presidents:

Prof. Matthew Colless (Australia)
Prof. Renée C. Kraan-Korteweg (South Africa)
Dr. Xiaowei Liu (China)
Prof. Jan Palouš (Czech Republic)
Dr. Dina Prialnik (Israel)
Dr. Marta G. Rovira (Argentina)