

FM14 Session 3: The IAU National Outreach Coordinators (NOCs) Network – Coordinating and Catalyzing Astronomy Outreach Worldwide

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Abstract. Section 3 of the FM14 focus on the The IAU National Outreach Contacts (NOC) Network. This paper also contains supplementary materials that point to poster presentations that can be found online.

Keyword. astronomy outreach

1. What is NOC?

The National Outreach Coordinator (NOC) is the principal national representative appointed under the IAU structure responsible for the implementation of the proposed IAU outreach initiatives at the national level. The NOCs form a global network and is managed by the IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO).

Responsibilities of the NOCs

- To coordinate the IAU outreach initiatives (such as the IAU 100th anniversary activities) at the national level, to develop plans and action lists.
- To build and maintain a database of outreach experts mapped with their skills.
- To disseminate IAU communications and distribute them nationally.
- To maintain a database of national astronomical organizations at all levels.
- To maintain the relationship with the national communities of amateur astronomers/outreach professionals with the IAU.

2. Panel discussions

In this session, the NOCs break into small group panel discussions, namely - (1) Asian and Pacific Region, (2) Middle East and African Region, and (3) American and European Region, reporting their activities.

3. Supplementary materials

The following poster presentations of section 3 can be found online in the format of supplementary materials

- Simpemba, P. Panel discussion of NOC activities in Middle East and Africa Regions. Supplementary material 3-01.
- Benkhaldoun, Z. *et al.* Atlas Dark Sky Reserve. Supplementary material 3-02.
- Czart, K. *et al.* AstroGPS - database of all astronomy and space related events in Poland with mobile app. Supplementary material 3-03.
- Morcos, A. Activities in Egypt in the Frame Work of NOC. Supplementary material 3-04.
- Randriamanakoto, Z. *et al.* Growing Astronomy Outreach in Madagascar. Supplementary material 3-05.
- Sosa, A. *et al.* Astronomy Outreach Activities in Uruguay. Supplementary material 3-06.
- Yamaoka, H. Astronomical Activities in Japan: NOC report. Supplementary material 3-07.

Discussion

W. WALLER: Several NOCs are involved in National Astronomy Olympiads. Can you provide more information on this, and how they could be more coordinated internationally?

NOCs: Members of the audience noted that there are two National Astronomy Olympiads, and there have been problems coordinating them.

ANIKET SULE: The International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) has always desired close cooperation with the IAU. Presently, 45 national teams participate in the IOAA. On the other hand, the International Olympiad on Astronomy (IAO) is down to about 15 teams. The fact that the IAO chairman does not want to discuss a possible merger or other coordination of the two events should not come in the way of cooperation between the IAU and the IOAA.