



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
"Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East"

Armenia, Yerevan
RA National Academy of Sciences

2017
NOV
13-17

PROGRAM

Monday, November 13

- 09:00-09:30** **Registration at the Presidium of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences**
09:30-10:00 **Opening and Welcome Addresses:** Radik Martirosyan (President of NAS RA), Ashot Hovakimian (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of RA), Piero Benvenuti (IAU General Secretary), Yuri Suvaryan (Academician-Secretary of Division of Armenology and Social Sciences) and Areg Mickaelian (Director of BAO and IAU SWCA ROAD)

Session 1. *Introductory*

Chair: Radik Martirosyan

- 10:00-10:30 Areg Mickaelian (Armenia) – Armenian Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (*Invited*)
10:30-11:00 Piero Benvenuti (France) – IAU activities related to Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (*Invited*)

11:00-11:30 **Coffee break**

Session 2. *Ancient Astronomy*

Chair: Vito Francesco Polcaro

- 11:30-12:00 Sadollah Nasiri-Gheydari (Iran) – Astronomical Heritage of Iran (*Invited*)
12:00-12:30 Garik Israelian (Spain) – Starmus Festival: Musical Astronomical Heritage (*Invited*)
12:30-13:00 J. McKim Malville (USA) – Geographic and Societal Determinates of Ancient Astronomies (*Invited*)
13:00-13:10 **"Per aspera ad astra"** Art Exhibition Opening Ceremony (*Lazar Mirzoyan*)

13:10-14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00-14:30 **AstroPainting Master Class**

Chair: Piero Benvenuti

- 14:30-15:00 Xiaochun Sun (China) – Astronomical Silk Road (*Invited*)
15:00-15:15 Ariel Cohen (Israel) – The Jewish Chronology and Astronomy (*Invited*)
15:15-15:30 Ramesh Kapoor (India) – When Ibn Sina Saw Venus on the Disc of the Sun

15:30-16:00 **Coffee Break and Poster Session**

- 16:00-16:30 Moh'd Al-khasawneh Awni (Jordan) – Astronomical heritage of Jordan (*Invited*)
16:30-17:00 Irakli Simonia (Georgia) – Ancient Astronomical Knowledge – the Unity of Diversity (*Invited*)

18:00-20:00 **Welcome Reception at Shirak Hotel**

TUESDAY, November 14

Visit to Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory

- 09:30-10:30 *Yerevan to Byurakan Transfer*
10:30-11:30 **Visit to V. Ambartsumian Museum**
11:30-12:30 **Visit to 2.6m telescope**
12:30-13:30 **Lunch break**

Session 3. *Astronomical Heritage for the Future*

Chair: Areg Mickaelian

- 13:30-14:00 Piero Benvenuti (France) – Modern cosmology and the “creatio continua” concept by Thomas Aquinas (*Invited*)
14:00-14:30 Habib Khosroshahi (Iran) – Iranian National Observatory; building heritage for the future (*Invited*)
14:30-15:00 Sinan Alis (Turkey) – Development of Astronomy in Turkey (*Invited*)

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

- 15:30-15:45 Ericson D. Lopez (Ecuador) – Ecuadorian Quito Astronomical Observatory, an astronomical heritage
15:45-16:00 Areg Mickaelian (Armenia) – Digitized First Byurakan Survey (DFBS) – as UNESCO “Memory of the World” documentary heritage (*Invited*)
16:00-16:15 Tigran Magakian (Armenia) – Byurakan Plate Archive Heritage

Session 4. *Astronomical Heritage for Science*

Chair: Xiaochun Sun

- 16:15-16:45 Coryn Bailer-Jones (Germany) – Understanding uncertainty: lessons from astronomy (*Invited*)
16:45-17:00 Magd Elias Kahil (Egypt) – The Scientific Method: An Approach of Developing Cosmology
17:00-17:15 Tomoko Fujiwara (Japan) – Clarification of unknown phenomena using historical star catalogues and charts
17:15-17:45 Massimo Capaccioli (Italy) – A pluralistic vein in the early Eighteen century in Europe (*Invited*)
17:45-18:15 Vito Francesco Polcaro (Italy) – The Astronomical Orientations of Sacred Buildings in the Levant during the Bronze and Iron Ages (*Invited*)
18:15-18:45 Ahmed Abdel Hady (Egypt) – Observatories and astronomers in Egypt during the period 969-1850 AD (*Invited*)
18:45-19:45 *Byurakan to Yerevan transfer*

WEDNESDAY, November 15

- 09:00-19:00 **Guided visit to ancient Observatory Zorats Karer (Armenian Stonehenge)**

Session 5. *Astronomical Heritage in Literature and Culture*

Chair: Sona Farmanyany

- 09:30-10:00 Grigor Broutian (Armenia) – Some astronomical-cosmic realities in the Armenian epic “Sasna Tzrer” (*Invited*)
- 10:00-10:15 Amir-Mohammad Gamini (Iran) – Al-Shirazi and the Non-Ptolemaic Planetary Models
- 10:15-10:30 Hanif Ghalandari (Iran) – The First Cosmological Works Islamic Period
- 10:30-11:00 Gohar Vardumyan (Armenia) – Celestial Bodies in Ancient Armenian Mythology (*Invited*)

11:00-11:30 Coffee break and Poster session

- 11:30-12:00 Hakob Simonyan (Armenia) – Sunrise as precondition for the orientation of grave-tombs in ancient Armenia (*Invited*)
- 12:00-12:15 Ferenc Szenkovits (Romania) – The First Astronomical Observatory in Cluj-Napoca
- 12:15-12:30 Jayanta Acharya (Nepal) – The influence of Astronomy in Nepali culture
- 12:30-13:00 Mohammad Bagheri (Iran) – Kushyar ibn Labban (Gilani) (*Invited*)
- 13:00-13:15 Martin Solc (Czech Republic) – V. Stratonov (1869-1938) – an astronomer on the way from Middle East to Prague

13:15-14:15 Lunch break

Session 6. *Astronomical Heritage in “Language”*

Chair: Sadollah Nasiri-Gheydari

- 14:15-14:45 Haik Harutyunian (Armenia) – Ancient Astronomical Knowledge in Armenian Myths and Names (*Invited*)
- 14:45-15:15 Ararat Yeghikyan (Armenia) – Does “Iron” in Armenian really means a “Sky Drop”? (*Invited*)
- 15:15-15:30 Harutyun Khudanyan (Armenia) – Some common patterns on the ancient astrology of Mesopotamia and the Armenian Highland
- 15:30-16:00 Karen Tokhatyan (Armenia) – Ancient Astronomical Knowledge and Rock Art in Armenia (*Invited*)
- 16:00-16:15 Sona Farmanyany (Armenia) – Revealing the answers of cosmic riddles in Armenian manuscripts

16:15-16:45 Coffee break and Poster session

19:00-22:00 Conference Dinner

FRIDAY, November 17

Session 7. *Astronomical Heritage for Outreach and Tourism*

Chair: Areg Mickaelian

- 09:30-09:45 Levon Aramyan (Armenia) – Immersive Visualization Technologies for Astronomy Outreach
- 09:45-10:00 Sona Farmanyany (Armenia) – Activities of Armenia at the Office of Astronomy Outreach
- 10:00-10:15 Gabriel Ohanyan (Armenia) – Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory as Tourism Center
- 10:15-10:30 Naira Nalbandyan (Armenia) – Development of Astro Tourism in Armenia
- 10:30-11:00 Panel Discussion: Goals and Methodologies in Cultural Astronomy**

11:00-11:30 Coffee break and Poster session

- 11:30-13:00 Press Conference and Interviews with scientists

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

Session 9. *Astronomical Heritage for Development*

Chair: Piero Benvenuti

- 14:00- 14:30 Kevin Govender (South Africa) – Office of Astronomy for Development (*Invited*)
- 14:30-14:45 Ishitsuka Jose Kaname (Peru) – Heritage for Astronomy Development in Peru trough Two Generations; Up and Downs
- 14:45-15:00 Ewelina Grandzka (Poland) – Under the Kyrgyz sky-from Astronomy to Development
- 15:00-15:15 Areg Mickaelian (Armenia) – South West and Central Asia Regional Office of Astronomy for Development
- 15:15-15:30 Iraj Safaei (Iran) – History and Kinds of Astrolabe in the Middle East and its Use in Armenia for Development

15:30-16:00 Coffee break and Poster session

- 16:00-17:00 Conference Summary and Closing Ceremony**