

2009 January – February  
Sri Lanka Astronomical Association

### **Report 4 IYA2009-Sri Lanka**

#### **\*January**

- 1) Dawn of the IYA2009
- 2) Astronomy Meeting
- 3) Partial Solar Eclipse

#### **\*February**

- 4) "Beauty Without Borders"
- 5) Comet Lulin Observation

### **Dawn of the IYA2009**

"**Dawn of the IYA2009**" is a global, Sun observation campaign, proposed by **Centro de Astrofísica da Universidade do Porto (CAUP)** and the **IYA2009's Solar Physics Group (SPG)**, which seeks not only to be the global teaser for the IYA2009 (a first calling card), but also to show to a larger, global public, what our star is all about.

Many countries participated in DAWN to welcome the IYA2009. Here in Sri Lanka was also participated in this with a small group observing Sun.

<http://ciaa.net/dawn/index.html>  
<http://solarastronomy2009.org/>  
<http://dawn-iya2009.blogspot.com/>

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### **Astronomy Meeting**

An astronomy meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at the "Sri Lanka Astronomical Association". The purpose of the meeting was to brief the upcoming IYA2009 programs in Sri Lanka. And how everyone could get involved and what role school based astronomy societies could play in IYA2009.

The meeting discussed the upcoming Partial Solar Eclipse on 26<sup>th</sup> of January.

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### **Partial Solar Eclipse**

A partial Solar Eclipse was visible to Sri Lanka on 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2009. Many countries around the world who was in the path of the eclipse, held various programs to catch the excitement.

Sri Lanka also joined the excitement and had various Observing sites around the country for public viewing. It was a great collaboration of many holding observation sessions around the country. Many students, working people, general public were able to get catch the glimpse of the eclipse.

Observation sites;

- Sri Lanka Astronomical Association – at ARPICO Shopping Center, Colombo.
- Colombo Planetarium – Kurunagala.
- Arthur C Clarke Institute for Modern Technology – at Institute premises, Katubedda.
- Nalanda College – at school premises, Maradana.
- University of Colombo – Mathematics & Astronomy Society – at University premises.
- Other Individual observers.

<http://eclipse26jan09.wordpress.com/>

### **“Beauty Without Borders”**

“On the evening of Feb. 28, the crescent moon passed near Venus and created a beautiful sight for sky watchers.”

Start Time: February 25, 2009

End Time: Sunday, March 1, 2009

Location: Global

Summary:

Beauty Without Borders was initiated by members of “Sidewalk Astronomer”. It ran as ‘mini trial’ for “Earth Hour”, “Globe at Night”, “ISAN” on April 4th and 100HA April 2nd to 5th and Sun Day April 5th.

About 20 **countries** got together to enjoy the beautiful views of Venus, including Sri Lanka. A sidewalk astronomy event was held at Pilyandala for three days to celebrate BWB.

The IYA2009 – Sri Lanka node Secretary, Thilina Heenatigala was also involved in the global organization of BWB and was the webmaster for BWB website.

<http://beautywithoutborders.blogspot.com/>

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## **Comet Lulin Observation**

Comet Lulin was discovered by Ye Quanzhi and Lin Chi-Sheng from Lulin Observatory. It peaked in brightness and arrived at perigee for observers on Earth on February 24, 2009, at magnitude +5.

It was observed by many astronomers around the world.

Few of the local amateur astronomers tried to photograph and observe the path of the comet Lulin.

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International Year of Astronomy 2009  
<http://www.astronomy2009.org>

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