

2009 July - August
Sri Lanka Astronomical Association

Report 7 IYA2009-Sri Lanka

***July**

- 1) Astronomy Program – Anula Vidyalaya.
- 2) Partial Solar Eclipse 22 July 2009
- 3) Astronomy & Astrophysics Olympiad National Competition Underway

***August**

- 4) Universe Awareness program – Girl Guides of HFC
- 5) Astronomy Meeting – Thurstan College
- 6) Eyes on the Sky – subtitled by skylk.com

Astronomy Program – Anula Vidyalaya.

10th July 2009

The Astronomical Society of Anula Vidyalaya organized a special lecture on “Doppler Effect & Expansion of the Universe” for students in grade 8 to 12. The lecture was conducted by Prasanna Deshapriya a member of Astronomy & Space Study Center.

Partial Solar Eclipse 22 July 2009

A partial solar eclipse was visible to Sri Lanka on the 22nd of July. Many observers around the country and students tried to witness the event, but unfortunately majority of the country was clouded except for some parts (North, East).

A full report on the Partial Solar Eclipse with images can be viewed at <http://thilinaheenatigala.blogspot.com/2009/07/longest-solar-eclipse-of-21st-century.html>

Astronomy & Astrophysics Olympiad National Competition

The 3rd National Astronomy & Astrophysics Olympiad in Sri Lanka kicked off and many students around the country have applied. The Competition was conducted on following Universities of Sri Lanka in all three languages Sinhalese, English & Tamil.

University of Colombo
University of Perdeniya
University of Kelaniya
University of Ruhuna
University of Batticoala
University of Jaffna

Winners awarded with medallions and certificates whereas the top 5 scorers selected. These students will be trained extensively on Astronomy & Astrophysics to take part at the international event.

<http://ioaa2009.ir/>

Universe Awareness program – Girl Guides of HFC

Universe Awareness (UNAWA) is an international program that exposes very young children in under-privileged environments to the scale and beauty of the Universe. Universe Awareness illustrates the multicultural origins of modern astronomy in an effort to broaden children's minds, awaken their curiosity in science and stimulate global citizenship and tolerance. Using the sky and children's natural fascination with it as common ground, UNAWA creates an international awareness of our place in the Universe and our place on Earth.

Program: UNAWA for Girl Guides of HFC
Date: 8th August 2009
Conductors: Mr. Thilina Heenatigala
Mr. Dimuth Waliwitiya

The first Sri Lankan UNAWA program was held for Girl Guides at Holly Family Convent, Dehiwala. About 50+ girls in grades 6 – 9 and teachers joined together for an evening of a celestial experience.

The program started an introduction to Night Sky conducted by Thilina Heenatigala. It followed by introduction to use of "Star Maps" by Dimuth Waliwitiya. The girls were divided into two groups and the conductors took them a ride through the night sky, introducing constellations, planets, and the students were given chance to find constellations using Star Maps in their own as well. The evening concluded having dinner together with the guides.

<http://www.unawe.org/>

Astronomy Meeting – Thurstan College

Attendees:

Prof. Kavan Ratnatunga – IYA2009 Sri Lanka Node SPoC
Mr. Thilina Heenatigala – IYA2009 – Sri Lanka Node Secretary
Mr. Asitha Samarawickrama – Teacher in charge of Thurstan College Astro Club

Venue: Prof. Kavan Ratnatunga's residence

Summary:

Discussion was held regarding an upcoming program organized by Thurstan College Astronomical Society. Mr. Asitha described that they are hoping to run series of programs starting from September to November which will end with an exhibition – "The Magnitude".

Prof. Kavan and Thilina agreed to give their full support for the program.

Eyes on the Sky – subtitled by skylk.com

The *Eyes on the Skies* explores the many facets of the telescope — the historical development, the scientific importance, the technological breakthroughs, and also the people behind this ground-breaking invention, their triumphs and failures...

The website team from <http://skylk.com> subtitled the video in Sinhalese and put on their website.

<http://www.eyes.skylk.com/>

<http://www.eyesontheskies.org>

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Sri Lanka IYA2009 National Node website
<http://iya2009.lakdiva.net/>

Astronomical Association of Lanka
<http://aalk.lakdiva.net>

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

International Astronomical Union
<http://www.iau.org>

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