

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY
'Astronomy for the Developing World' - hosting the
Office for Astronomy Development

The IAU Strategic Plan "Astronomy for the Developing World" http://iau.org/static/education/strategicplan_091001.pdf is an ambitious blueprint for expanding astronomy development programs over the next decade. The key component of this new Plan is the IAU Office for Astronomy Development (OAD) which will coordinate the many existing and planned IAU activities in the areas of education, sustainable global development and capacity building. This is a long term commitment by the IAU, building on the unparalleled success of the International Year of Astronomy, and the IAU is seeking partners which share the same vision.

Among the tasks of the office will be:

- Management, coordination and evaluation of the IAU programs in the area of development and education, including recruiting and mobilizing participating volunteers.
- Organization of oversight of the IAU development programs and the formulation of their annual budgets.
- Liaison with the chairs of the various Commission 46 Program Groups/ sector task forces in planning and implementing the relevant programs.
- Liaison with the IAU regional coordinators and IAU regional nodes in planning and implementing the relevant programs.
- Provision of administrative support for IAU programs in development, education, and outreach.
- Coordination of contacts between the IAU and national authorities.
- Establishment of the new IAU endowed lectureship program.
- Liaison with other international unions and agencies promoting astronomy in the developing world, such as UNOOSA, COSPAR and USRI.
- Stimulation of communication on IAU development matters between members and associated members through the maintenance of an IAU website for development and education and appropriate forums.
- Provision of information for astronomers in all developing countries about IAU programs.
- Proactive coordination and initiation of fundraising activities for astronomy development.
- Report regularly to the IAU Executive Committee on office activity.

The key individual in the office will be the **Director of Development and Education**. This would be a full-time position to be filled by an astronomer or scientist in an allied field with management experience, good international contacts and an affinity both with education at all levels and with international development programs. The Director will be selected by the IAU jointly with the host institution, which will be the Director's employer. The Director will be responsible ultimately to the IAU Executive Committee for delivery on the tasks of the office.

The IAU envisages that the office will require additional staff and that the Director will subsequently participate in the recruitment of:

- A full-time **Executive Assistant** who will support the Director. It is expected that the Assistant will be a university graduate or equivalent capable of deputizing for the Director when necessary.
- A part-time (~0.3 FTE) **Webmaster** to maintain the website.

Proposals or expressions of interest are invited from organizations or institutes anywhere in the world willing to host this critically important office for an initial five years. The IAU can provide funding for the office up to a maximum level of €50,000 per year, subject to review. The remaining funds must be provided by the host organization or by sponsoring bodies. These must cover adequate salaries, normal overheads, suitable infrastructure and sufficient support for travel, computers etc. External funds will be sought by the IAU for many of the programs, which may eventually provide partial support for some of the office costs. It would be extremely advantageous to have the office located at an existing astronomical organization with excellent internet facilities.

Proposals should outline how it is intended to ensure that the high level goals of the "Astronomy for the Developing World" Plan are met, and how performance against those goals will be assessed. In addition, proposals should contain operational and business plans, including timescales, together with a budget that includes details of proposed salaries and the infrastructure and travel funds that will be available. Further information can be obtained from George Miley miley@strw.leidenuniv.nl and Bob Williams wms@stsci.edu.

Organizations interested in hosting the office are invited to submit expressions of interest on or before 31 December 2009 and to submit full proposals on or before 28 February 2010. Both expressions of interest and proposals for hosting the IAU Office for Astronomy Development should be submitted to Ian Corbett, General Secretary, International Astronomical Union, IAU - UAI Secretariat, 98-bis Blvd Arago, F-75014 Paris, France, with an electronic copy to icorbett@eso.org.

The IAU wishes to maintain a flexible approach throughout. Having evaluated the expressions of interest, the IAU will contact all proposers before the end of January 2010 to confirm details and timing of the selection process.