

Dear IAU Member,

As we approach the holiday season, I want to reflect on some of the innovative activities carried out by the IAU membership these past few months, which unite and inspire us despite the challenges of another difficult year.

Our offices for Development, Outreach and Education continued to convey the value, excitement, and science of astronomy. For example, the Office of Astronomy for Development supported many [COVID-19 related projects](#), and was highlighted in the UN General Assembly 76 “Science Summit: Astronomy to Advance Sustainable Development Goals.” The OAD Astrostays project, which draws visitors to remote dark skies, was profiled by the International Science Council in a BBC production, “Unlocking Science.” The Office of Astronomy Outreach oversaw another “[100 Hours of Astronomy](#)” with participants from over 60 countries sharing their knowledge of and enthusiasm for the Universe.

There have been opportunities for astronomers across the globe to engage with scientific discovery through virtual IAU meetings. The Communicating Astronomy to the Public (CAP) Conference, supported by the Kavli Foundation, hosted nearly 1,000 people representing 89 countries. The Office of Astronomy for Education hosted its 3rd annual Shaw-IAU Workshop, focusing on effective teaching, education research, and evaluation. We hope conditions will improve so that the International Schools for Young Astronomers, overseen by the Office for Young Astronomers, can resume in the coming year.

The IAU is in final negotiations to establish the new Center for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky from [Satellite Constellation Interference](#). Meanwhile, at the [Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society II Conference](#), several hundred participants discussed implementation of recommendations to mitigate threats to our view of the night sky.

For further information about our activities, visit the IAU website, www.iau.org, which provides links for our Offices and Strategic Plan as well as some new features such as the Women in Astronomy monthly newsletter. Two of our latest announcements highlight the new Executive-level Working Group on Professional-Amateur Relations in Astronomy and the upcoming IAU Hands-On Workshops (I-HOW) to train early career astronomers in developing countries.

Many of IAU’s transformational programs have been supported by your generosity, for which we are very grateful. One initiative we hope to expand is “[Telescopes for All](#)”, which provides telescopes to schoolchildren in developing communities to help tackle educational disparities and encourage engagement in STEM fields. It costs 350 Euros to establish telescopes in each school, and we’d like to fund 20 telescopes in 2022. At this time of year, with so many deserving projects, we welcome your [donations](#).

We look forward to a long-awaited reunion at the [XXXIst General Assembly in Busan](#) in August 2022, whether you attend in person or virtually.

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and uplifting 2022,

Debra Elmegreen

President, IAU

