



## UNESCO International Conference "Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East"



*13-17 November 2017, Yerevan, Armenia*

### FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The UNESCO International Conference on “Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East” is devoted to the role of astronomy in culture and other fields of human activity and development of these fields due to the knowledge obtained from the Universe. In modern era, astronomy is probably the field of science, which plays a leading role in the formation and development of inter- and multi-disciplinary sciences. For a long time, the Astrophysics has reached high level of development, recently new science disciplines have been created, such as Astrochemistry, Astrobiology, Astroinformatics, Astrolinguistics. Archaeoastronomy plays an important role in culture and in the heritage of nations, chronologies and calendars created on the basis of astronomical knowledge, etc. Cultural Astronomy also plays an important role in the development of scientific tourism and scientific journalism. The meeting is aimed at the development of problems of astronomy-related interdisciplinary sciences in the countries of European and Asian regions and preparation of a basis for further possible collaborations by means of presentations of available modern knowledge in various areas of culture by experts from different professions and by joint discussions.

The history of Astronomy in Armenia goes back to very old ages. Since ancient times Armenians accumulated astronomical knowledge and have left this heritage in the forms of rock art, ancient observatories, calendars and chronology, records of astronomical events, medieval sky maps, astronomical terms in the language, etc. Nowadays Armenia is one of the developed countries in astronomical sense as well, though by its economic level Armenia is among the developing countries, and it is situated in a region (Middle East) where efforts are needed to develop and promote cultural astronomy. The famous Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO) founded in 1946 made a significant contribution in the fields of research of non-stable phenomena and evolutionary processes in the Universe.

## **Scientific Topics**

- Astronomical heritage of the Middle East
- Ancient Astronomy
- Astronomy in the Middle Ages
- Astronomy in Ancient Cultures
- Ethnoastronomy
- Astronomical Bases of Philosophy
- Religion and Astronomy
- Planetary Gender
- Astronomy in Folklore and Poetry
- Astronomy in Arts
- Astrolinguistics and Astroheraldry
- Astronomical Heritage of modern ages

## **Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC)**

Areg Mickaelian (Armenia, Co-Chair)

Piero Benvenuti (Italy, Co-Chair)

Juan Antonio Belmonte (Spain)

Grigor Brutean (Armenia)

A. César González-García (Spain)

Habib Khosroshahi (Iran)

Stanislaw Iwaniszewski (Mexico)

Alexander Jones (USA)

Giulio Magli (Italy)

J. Mckim Malville (USA)

Sadollah Nasiri (Iran)

Efthymios Nicolaidis (Greece)

Ray Norris (Australia)

Elma Parsamian (Armenia)

Vito Francesco Polcaro (Italy)

Michael A. Rappenglück (Germany)

Clive Ruggles (UK)

Irakli Simonia (Georgia)

Magda Stavinschi (Romania)

Xiaochun Sun (China)

## Local Organizing Committee (LOC)

Areg Mickaelian (Chair)  
Sona Farmanyán (Co-chair)  
Hayk Abrahamyan  
Grigor Brutean  
Gor Mikayelyan  
Gurgen Paronyan

## Organizers

	<a href="#"><u>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Armenian Astronomical Society</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>RA National Academy of Sciences</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>IAU South West and Central Asian Regional Office of Astronomy for Development</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>RA Ministry of Culture</u></a>

## **Preliminary List of the Invited Speakers**

Hamid Al Naimiy (UAE)  
Sinan Alis (Turkey)  
Juan Antonio Belmonte (Spain)  
Piero Benvenuti (Italy)  
Noah Brosch (Israel)  
Grigor Brutean (Armenia)  
Nicholas Champion (UK)  
A. César González-García (Spain)  
Ahmed Hady (Egypt)  
Jarita Holbrook (South Africa)  
Stanislaw Iwaniszewski (Mexico)  
Alexander Jones (USA)  
Awni Khassawneh (Jordan)  
Habib Khosroshahi (Iran)  
Gulchehra Kohirova (Tajikistan)  
Alejandro Martín López (Argentina)  
Giulio Magli (Italy)  
J. Mckim Malville (USA)  
Areg Mickaelian (Armenia)  
Sadollah Nasiri (Iran)  
Efthymios Nicolaidis (Greece)  
Ray Norris (Australia)  
Elma Parsamian (Armenia)  
Vito Francesco Polcaro (Italy)  
Frank Prendergast (Ireland)  
Michael A. Rappenglück (Germany)  
Clive Ruggles (UK)  
Michael Shara (USA)  
Fabio Silva (UK)  
Irakli Simonia (Georgia)  
Magda Stavinschi (Romania)  
John Steele (USA)  
Xiaochun Sun (China)  
Maya Todua (Georgia)  
Lorenzo Verderame (Italy)

## **Registration & Abstract Submission**

The online registration is open from **10 July** till **31 October 2017**. On-site registration will be available during the Conference days as well.

Registration fees:

Early online registration (before 31 August 2017)	250 Euro
Regular online registration (1 September – 31 October 2017)	300 Euro
On-site registration (13-17 November 2017)	350 Euro

Student registration fees:

Early online registration (before 31 August 2017)	150 Euro
Regular online registration (1 September – 31 October 2017)	200 Euro
On-site registration (13-17 November 2017)	250 Euro

The registration fee includes: meeting of all participants at the airport, airport transfers to/from hotels, participants' kits, transportation to/from conference venue to/from hotels, Welcome Reception on November 13, coffee/tea breaks and refreshments on November 13-17, excursion to BAO and Social Dinner on November 15 (40 Euro), a copy of the Conference Proceedings Book (65 Euro), and organizational expenses.

**Abstract submission** is open from **10 July** till **10 September 2017** through our webpage. The typical size of abstracts is 250 words or 1500 characters. Contributed papers and posters will be selected by SOC and the contributors will be notified before 20 September 2017.

## **Support Grants**

The UNESCO provides grants to cover in part the expenses associated with attendance at the UNESCO International Conference "Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East". In particular, the SOC wishes to support qualified scientists to whom only limited means of support are available, e.g., colleagues from economically less privileged countries and the young scientists. Submission of an abstract is a necessary condition for application for a travel grant. The deadline for travel grant application is 31 August.

## **Proceedings**

Authors with abstracts accepted for presentation will be invited to contribute papers to the Conference Proceedings, which will be published as a separate book. Instructions for preparation of the papers will be given later.

## **Important Dates**

<b>10 July 2017</b>	First Announcement with a call for Registration, Abstract Submission, Travel Grant Application
<b>31 Aug 2017</b>	Early Registration and Travel Grant Application Deadline
<b>1 Sep 2017</b>	Opening of Regular Online Registration
<b>10 Sep 2017</b>	Abstract Submission and Hotel Reservation (with reduced rate) Deadline
<b>20 Sep 2017</b>	Notification on the accepted abstracts and travel grant allocation
<b>30 Sep 2017</b>	Second Announcement
<b>15 Oct 2017</b>	Final Submission of Abstracts of the accepted papers
<b>20 Oct 2017</b>	Deadline for Hotel Reservation by the Organizers
<b>31 Oct 2017</b>	Online Registration Deadline
<b>5 Nov 2017</b>	Final Announcement with detailed Program and List of Participant
<b>13-17 Nov 2017</b>	UNESCO Conference “Astronomical Heritage of the Middle East”
<b>31 Dec 2017</b>	Contributions for the Proceedings Submission Deadline
<b>June 2018</b>	Publication of the Proceedings Book

## **Contacts**

<b>Contact Person</b>	Sona Farmanyan
<b>Contact address</b>	Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory (BAO), Byurakan 0213, Aragatzotn province, Armenia
<b>Phone</b>	+374-10-525505, +374-55-911307
<b>Fax</b>	+374-10-580656
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:sona.farmanyan@mail.ru">sona.farmanyan@mail.ru</a>