

International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) Olympiad

Year 2009 has been declared as the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009), a global effort initiated by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and UNESCO to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery. This year also coincides with the 400th anniversary of the first recorded astronomical use of the telescope by Galileo.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through Presidential Proclamation No. 1630, which was signed by Her Excellency on 29 September 2008, declared the country's participation in the celebration. A National Organizing Committee (NOC) with membership from several government agencies was subsequently designated by Sec. Estrella F. Alabastro of DOST, to plan and manage events to support the international celebration.

One of these events is the conduct of the IYA2009 Olympiad. The Olympiad will be conducted at two stages: regional and national and at two levels: secondary and collegiate. Prizes will include plaques of recognition and cash (PhP40, 000, PhP30,000 and PhP 20,000 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Team top placers in secondary schools and PhP20,000, PhP15,000 and PhP10,000 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd top individual winners at the college level). Consolation prizes of PhP 1,000 each will be given to the remaining top seven finalists for each level. Expenses pertaining to the regional participation will be borne by concerned schools/individuals while participation to the national competition will be funded by the organizers through the DOST-GIA funded project entitled "Philippine Participation in the 2009 International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009)."

The Regional Elimination will be held simultaneously in seventeen (17) regions of the country on 05 September 2009. The Finals will be held at UP-NISMED, Quezon City on 11 December 2009.

Concerned school officials (for the secondary level) and individual applicants (collegiate level) should register the applications to the office of Dr. Cynthia P. Celebre, Single Point of Contact (SPOC) of the Philippines with the IAU through Fax number 434-2675 or email address: cynthia_celebre@yahoo.com. The deadline for registration is on or before 28 August 2009.

Interested applicants can visit the website www.astronomy2009.ph where more information about the IYA2009 Olympiad can be obtained. Application forms can also be downloaded at the said website. For any queries, please contact Dr. Merle C. Tan, Director of UP-NISMED and Chairperson of the IYA2009 Olympiad at telephone numbers 981-8500 loc. 3901 to 3910, 927-4276 and 928-1563 or through her email address, merle.tan06@gmail.com.

PRISCO D. NILO, Ph. D.

Administrator and Chair, NOC of IYA2009

06August 2009

For more information, call:
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