

International Year of Astronomy 2009: Various Activities in Indonesia

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Abstract. The year 2009 has been declared by United Nations as the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009). It is a world wide event to celebrate four centuries after Galileo point his telescope to the sky for the first time. Since that time, astronomy, and science considerably develop. Today many people could enjoy the beauty of the universe through telescopes in many places such as observatories, planetarium, science center, or by joining an astronomy club. Even since last year, many astronomical activities have been conducted to bring the universe down to earth. More than 150 countries in the world participate in IYA2009, including Indonesia. Various activities in Indonesia will be described in this paper. This involves schools and universities, observatory, planetarium, and astronomy clubs to give a glimpse of the universe to the public.

Keywords. IYA2009

1. Introduction

The year 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009), a global celebration of astronomy and its contribution to societies, under the theme “Universe, yours to discover”. IYA2009 marks the 400 years of Galileo first time to point his telescope to the sky and change the worlds perspective on science. and set a new era of modern astronomy. Since that time, many new discoveries has been made, new technologies has been developed. Time went by, 400 years has passed, now astronomy societies celebrate the moment that changes human perspective. IYA2009 has strong emphasis on education, public engagement and involvement of young people through events around the world. Since the very first day of 2009 until now, many events have been made and thousand of people have been involved. In Indonesia, various activities has been made to celebrate the IYA2009. Thousands of people could enjoy the beauty of the night sky and many others become interested on astronomy.

2. Vision

Everyone should realize the impact of astronomy and other fundamental sciences on our daily lives, and understand how scientific knowledge can contribute to a more equitable and peaceful society. IYA2009 activities are taking place locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. National Nodes in each country are running activities throughout 2009 which will establish collaborations between professional and amateur astronomers, science centres and science communicators. IYA2009 Indonesia nodes also share the same vision to engage Indonesian public and raised their awareness on astronomy, especially with the fact that many false information have been spread among people about certain celestial effects.

Table 1. Various Activities of IYA2009 in Indonesia (not complete)

Months	Some Activities (not exhaustive)
January	Dawn of IYA2009 (Jakarta and Bandung) Cosmic Diary IYA2009 Opening Ceremony Annular Solar Eclipse in Lampung, Jakarta, Anyer, Carita (01/26/09)
February	Partial Lunar Eclipse
March	Beauty Without Border
April	100 Hours of Astronomy SUN day as part of 100HA
May	Launched of IYA2009 Indonesia Stamps Launched of Indonesia Mobile Observatory /IMO Training for Astronomy Olympiads
June	Romantic Music at Kerkhoven Seminar at Italian Cultural Centre 2012 Talk Show by HIMASTRON
July	Bobo Science Fair Total Solar Eclipse at Shanghai 1st Bandung International Summer School of Astronomy
August	National Science Olympiads in Jakarta Science Camp 2009 by FOSCA Lunar Crescent Observation
September	Lunar Crescent Observation
October	Romantic Music at Kerkhoven Part 2 World Space Week Galilean Nights Conference of The Indonesia Astronomy & Astrophysics Solar Telescope Launched
November	World Science Day by Science Club/FOSCA/HAAJ/UNESCO Space Essay Competition by LAPAN World Space Week celebration and festival in Madania Telescope workshop for teacher

3. Activities in Indonesia

In Indonesia, we have various activities conducted by observatory, planetarium, science center and astronomy societies throughout the country with the purpose to bring universe down to earth. It is the time for astronomer to come to public. It raises awareness among public too. From class room to football field, all activities aim to give a glimpse of the universe to public.

During IYA2009 in Indonesia, many astronomy clubs have been involved in many activities to celebrate and share the knowledge of astronomy to the public. From small event to big event, we could reach public attention to have curiosity on astronomy.

The target is not only to astronomy enthusiast but also to those who never heard of astronomy before. From public observation to astronomy essay competition, we get positive response from Indonesian public. This is a good sign of astronomy development in the future.

In Indonesia various activities were conducted by Bosscha Observatory, Jakarta Planetarium, National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN), UNawe Indonesia, PP IPTEK, Langitselatan, Jakarta Amateur Astronomy Society, Jogja Astro Club, Aceh Astronomy Club, Jakarta Forum of student science club, and various astronomy and science club at schools, primarily in Java, Sumatera, Sulawesi, and Kalimantan. List of various



Figure 1. Dawn of IYA with FOSCA in Jakarta. Credit: FOSCA.



Figure 2. Annular Solar Eclipse, January 26th, 2009 in Lampung with langitselatan. Credit: langitselatan

activities in Indonesia is presented in Table 1 which obviously does not represent an exhaustive list.

Some selected pictures from activities during IYA2009 in Indonesia are also presented in Fig. 1 to Fig. 7) .



Figure 3. Making a sundial. Credit: FOSCA



Figure 4. IYA2009 Indonesia Stamp. Credit: Pos Indonesia

4. Result

IYA2009 in Indonesia has raised curiosity among public on astronomy. Public also get the right information on astronomy and how to join astronomy club if they are interested on astronomy as hobby. Astronomy education also becomes widely spread through workshops and competition such as astronomy olympiads, and astronomy essay competition.



Figure 5. Romantic Music at Kerkhoven Part 2



Figure 6. Bandung International Summer School of Astronomy 2009. Credit: Bandung-issa

5. Conclusions

The celebration of 400th years of Galileo first time to point his telescopes to the sky give us a chance to open the door of astronomy for public especially in Indonesia. The people engaged to astronomy through various events, such as star party, olympiads, workshop, story telling, games, and etc. All of this is a first step to give public the right information



Figure 7. Crescent Moon Observation. Credit: Evan I. Akbar

and knowledge about astronomy, as well as to raise their interest on various subject on astronomy.

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