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(The LPIYA group: common efforts in La Palma during the IYA2009 and Beyond)

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who

Boosted by the 2009 International Year of Astronomy the scientific institutions present at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory on the island of La Palma (Canary Islands, Spain) put a special effort joining together for a series of public outreach events, which will be the seed of a decade lasting collaboration.

Despite funds at their lowest level ever, the coming of the GranTeCan, Magic II and the will (or need!) of rationalization of all Observatories is leading to a new spring for the island (either EELT yes or EELT no).

The LPIYA Group gathers every institution at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, with the objective of organising and coordinating public outreach activities related to the celebration of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 and Beyond, mainly on La Palma.

Circulo de Tránsitos Automáticos Dutch Open Telescope Gran Telescopio Canarias Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes Liverpool Telescope MAGIC Telescopes Mercator Telescope Nordic Optical Telescope Swedish Solar Telescope Telescopio Nazionale Galileo SuperWASP



Around the World in 80 Telescopes. This was a 100-hour, round-the-clock, round-the-globe IYA 2009 event that included live webcasts from research observatories, public observing events and other activities around the world. The LPIYA Group participated in the 'Around the World in 80 Telescopes' webcast, 24-hour live event, with webcasts from the Gran Telescopio Canarias, Swedish Solar Telescope, Telescopio Nazionale Galileo and William Herschel Telescope on the night of 5/4 April 2009.

The Galileoscope. The LPIYA Group promoted the purchase and distribution of a number of Galileoscopes among every secondary schools on La Palma.

The Galilean Nights. The LPIYA Group joined the Galilean Nights 22-24 October, 2009 and invited a group of amateur observers from La Palma to observe the Moon and Jupiter using the finder of the Jacobus Kapteyn Telescope on the night of the 23rd of October. We went through the pages of Galileo's Sidereus Nuncius book and tried to recognize the drawn features of some of the objects.

Astronomy in the Street. This Spanish initiative involved local authorities naming streets, squares, etc. with astronomical terms. On the 14th of August, 2009, the LPIYA Group supported naming a street 'Via Láctea' (the 'Milky Way') in Santo Domingo village, head of the Garafía municipality in which the telescopes are located.

¡Mira qué Luna! was an exhibit which took place from the 28th of November to the 5th of December 2009 in Santa Cruz de La Palma. It was a historical overview of Moon imagination and observations before and after 1609, up to present time, including historical texts from the Brera Observatory in Italy and recent research results and images from the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory. It consisted of panels, videos, talks, music, Moon observations, and even a small library dedicated to the Moon.

All the Pupils in La Palma. The LPIYA Group and the schools on La Palma will work together to bring astronomy to every student aged 14-16, offering a talk, a workshop activity and a visit to one of the telescopes, all by an astronomer working at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory. This project starts in 2010 and it's a big joint effort of every institution, involving more than 20 astronomers.

A Stellar Raffle. The finder telescope of the Jacobus Kapteyn Telescope ideal for naked-eye observations. LPIYA Group organized a 'Stellar Raffle' to help those affected by the La Palma fire in July, 2009. Those who won the raffle were awarded with an observing session using the JKT's finder and could observe the Moon, Jupiter and some deep-sky objects, recalling those first naked-eye observations with a telescope by Galileo.

One University, One Universe. This Spanish IYA2009 project aimed at giving one astronomy lecture in every Spanish university, for both humanities and science students and teachers. The LPIYA Group scheduled two talks in November 2009 to be given at the Centro Asociado de la UNED - La Palma (UNED is the Spanish distance-learning university) in Santa Cruz de La Palma.

what

why

This year 2010 the process of reviewing the International Agreement on the use of Canary Island for astronomical purposes, between Spain and the other Countries, will begin. This is a unique opportunity to envisage the future of the Canary Astronomical Site and Collaboration, and to turn it in a common environment for a proper usage of Northern facilities, following the scientific guidelines of European committees, which draw a possible roadmap.

We are pioneering this coexistence using the public outreach, directed to the people of La Palma Island (being native or accidental tourists) because we think that it is not possible to continue living here without sharing our experience with the other 80000 persons, with whom we share the land and sky. And also feel that a unique face is essential to let us know who we are, joined in a common scientific, and cultural, endeavor.



point your smartphone to LPIYA website
www.lpiya.org



See also A. Rosenberg,
Friday, March 19th 14:00,
TeleAstronomia