

Guest Editorial

We are delighted to present the IAU100 special edition of the Communication Astronomy with the Public Journal. For this issue, the IAU100 Secretariat collaborated with the CAP journal to explore the best practices and lessons learnt behind the IAU100 initiative.

The celebration of the International Astronomical Union's 100th anniversary in 2019 engaged millions of people in 143 countries who celebrated the astronomical breakthroughs that have shaped science, technology and culture over the last century as well as the importance of astronomy as a tool for education, development and diplomacy.

While the IAU100 Final Report gives the reader an overview of the bigger picture of the IAU100 initiative, for the IAU100 special issue of the CAP journal our goal was to explore in detail best practices from the IAU100 projects.

From a detailed analysis of the approach and methodology used for the overall coordination of the IAU100 initiative, in this issue, you can also discover the behind the scenes of successful IAU100 Global Projects such as the IAU100 NameExoWorlds and the IAU Above and Beyond exhibition; lessons learnt from the Eddington@Sundy project commemorating the centenary of the 1919 Eddington Eclipse; and reflections from regional/local actions such as the LightSound project that helped communities of visually impaired people in Chile and Argentina to experience a solar eclipse, the Amanar project that shared astronomy with Sahrawi refugees, a workshop for inclusion in Thailand within the framework of the IAU Inspiring Stars project, and dark skies awareness actions around Ireland and Iran.

Despite the IAU100 official ending just eight months ago, due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic around the world, we are in a complete new scenario worldwide for the organisation of large-scale public engagement activities such as IAU100. While we wait to find out what will be the "new normality" in the coming years, we can be sure that networks such as the IAU network of Outreach Coordinators, the coordinators of the IAU100 Global and Special projects and the thousands of organisers of IAU100 grassroots activities around the world, which were fundamental for the success of IAU100, will continue working hard to adapt to the new times and keep engaging their communities with the wonders of astronomy.

The IAU100 Secretariat
Invited Guest Editors for CAPjournal #28

Cover: Pale Blue Dot was the last of IAU100 Global Programs and signalled the end of the IAU100 Celebrations by highlighting the importance of protecting our Earth through tolerance, peace and international cooperation. Credit: IAU / IAU100 / Aneta Magraf-Druc



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