

Report on the XXVIIth General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union

Matthew Colless
National Committee for Astronomy

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General Assembly Program

The XXVIIth General Assembly was held in Rio de Janeiro over 3-14 August 2009. There were a total of 2434 attendees from 76 countries. The scientific program included 4 invited discourses, 6 major symposia, 16 joint discussion meetings, 10 special sessions and associated events held by the Women in Astronomy and Young Astronomers groups. The General Assembly also sponsored a number of events celebrating the International Year of Astronomy.

Invited Discourses

[ID1](#) The Legacies of Galileo

[ID2](#) Water on Planets

[ID3](#) Evolution of Structure in the Universe

[ID4](#) Do Low-Luminosity Stars Matter?

Symposia

[S262](#) Stellar Populations - Planning for the Next Decade

[S263](#) Icy Bodies of the Solar System

[S264](#) Solar and Stellar Variability - Impact on Earth and Planets

[S265](#) Chemical Abundances in the Universe - Connecting First Stars to Planets

[S266](#) Star Clusters - Basic Galactic Building Blocks throughout Time and Space

[S267](#) Co-evolution of Central Black Holes and Galaxies

Joint Discussions

[JD1](#) Dark Matter in Early-type Galaxies

[JD2](#) Diffuse Light in Galaxy Clusters

[JD3](#) Neutron Stars - Timing in Extreme Environments

[JD4](#) Progress in Understanding the Physics of Ap and Related Stars

[JD5](#) Modelling the Milky Way in the Era of Gaia

[JD6](#) Time and Astronomy

[JD7](#) Astrophysical Outflows and Associated Accretion Phenomena

[JD8](#) Hot Interstellar Matter in Elliptical Galaxies

[JD9](#) Are the Fundamental Constants Varying with Time?

[JD10](#) 3D Views on Cool Stellar Atmospheres - Theory Meets Observation

[JD11](#) New Advances in Helio- and Astero-Seismology

[JD12](#) The First Galaxies - Theoretical Predictions and Observational Clues

[JD13](#) Eta Carinae in the Context of the Most Massive Stars

[JD14](#) FIR2009: the ISM of Galaxies in the Far-Infrared and Sub-Millimetre

[JD15](#) Magnetic Fields in Diffuse Media

[JD16](#) IHY Global Campaign - Whole Heliosphere Interval

Special Sessions

[SpS1](#) IR and Sub-mm Spectroscopy - a New Tool for Studying Stellar Evolution

[SpS2](#) The International Year of Astronomy 2009

[SpS3](#) Astronomy in Antarctica

[SpS4](#) Astronomy Education between Past and Future

[SpS5](#) Accelerating the Rate of Astronomical Discovery

[SpS6](#) Planetary Systems as Potential Sites for Life

[SpS7](#) Young Stars, Brown Dwarfs, and Protoplanetary Disks

[SpS8](#) The Galactic Plane - in Depth and Across the Spectrum

[SpS9](#) Marking the 400th Anniversary of Kepler's "Astronomia Nova"

[SpS10](#) Next Generation Large Astronomical Facilities

Associated Events

[Women in Astronomy Lunch Meeting](#)

[Young Astronomers' Lunch](#)

[Young Astronomers' Consulting Service Office](#)

National Committee Representation

The Australian Academy of Sciences sent 4 representatives to IAU General Assembly business sessions: Matthew Colless (National Member), Warrick Couch and Elaine Sadler (Nominating Committee), and John O'Byrne (Finance Committee).

IAU Officeholders

The main officeholders in the IAU are listed below, and include 7 Australians (underlined).

Executive Committee

Robert Williams	President
Norio Kaifu	President-Elect
Ian F. Corbett	General Secretary
Thierry Montmerle	Assitant General Secretary
<u>Matthew Colless</u>	Vice-President
Martha P. Haynes	Vice-President
George K. Miley	Vice-President
Jan Palous	Vice-President
Marta Rovira	Vice-President
Giancarlo Setti	Vice-President
Catherine J. Cesarsky	Advisor
Karel A. van der Hucht	Advisor

Special Nominating Committee

Robert Williams	Chair
Jocelyn Bell Burnell	Member
Jiansheng Chen	Member
<u>Kenneth C. Freeman</u>	Member
Reinhard Genzel	Member
Patricia A. Whitelock	Member

Ian F. Corbett	Advisor
Theirry Montmerle	Advisor
<i>Finance Sub-Committee</i>	
Birgitta Nordstrom	Chair
Beatriz Barbuy	Member
Kevin B. Marvel	Member
Cyril Ron	Member
Shuang Nan Zhang	Member
<i>Resolutions Committee</i>	
Jocelyn Bell Burnell	Chair
Michel Dennefeld	Member
Brian Warner	Member
<u>Rachel L. Webster</u>	Member
<i>IAU XXVII General Assembly NOC</i>	
Daniela Lazzaro	Co-Chair
<i>Special Activities at General Assembly XXVII</i>	
Edward Guinan	Young Astronomers
<u>Sarah Maddison</u>	Women in Astronomy
<i>Division Presidents</i>	
Dennis McCarthy	Division I
Valentin Martinez Pillet	Division II
Karen Meech	Division III
Christopher Corbally	Division IV
Edward Guinan	Division V
You-Hua Chu	Division VI
Rosemary Wyse	Division VII
<u>Elaine Sadler</u>	Division VII
Andreas Quirrenbach	Division IX
Russell Taylor	Division X
Joao Braga	Division XI
Françoise Genova	Division XII
<i>IAU Representatives to Other Organisations (only Australians listed)</i>	
<u>Raymond P. Norris</u>	Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)
<u>Raymond P. Norris</u>	Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services (FAGS)
<u>John W.V. Storey</u>	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

Statutes and Bye-Laws

The current versions of the IAU's statutes, bye-laws and working rules, including the changes made at IAU GA XXVII, can be found on the IAU web pages at:

- Statutes – http://www.iau.org/administration/statutes_rules/statutes/
- Bye-laws – http://www.iau.org/administration/statutes_rules/bye_laws/
- Working guidelines – http://www.iau.org/administration/statutes_rules/working_rules/

Resolutions

A detailed listing of all the resolutions passed at IAU GA XXVII can be found at http://www.iau.org/static/resolutions/IAU2009_English.pdf ; in summary, the resolutions were:

IAU 2009 Resolution B1 – IAU Strategic Plan: Astronomy for the Developing World

IAU 2009 Resolution A1 – Implementing the IAU Strategic Plan.

IAU 2009 Resolution B2 – IAU 2009 Astronomical Constants

IAU 2009 Resolution B3 – Second Realization of the International Celestial Reference Frame

IAU 2009 Resolution B4 – Supporting Women in Astronomy

IAU 2009 Resolution B5 – Defence of the Night Sky and the Right to Starlight

Membership and Finances

The IAU currently has 68 national members (i.e. countries) and 10142 individual members (including 357 new members).

Australia joined the IAU in 1939, so 2009 was the 70th anniversary of Australia's national membership. The GA approved all 32 Australian applications, giving Australia a total of 262 individual IAU members.

The 2006-09 financial statements for the IAU were formally accepted at the second GA session, which also approved the proposed budget for the next triennium (2009-12), including funding for the IAU Strategic Plan (see IAU 2009 Resolution A1).

The XXVIIIth IAU GA will be held in Beijing on 12-25 August 2012, and the 2015 XXVIXth IAU GA will be held in Honolulu.