

## **Thai-Asian Astronomy Forum: Awareness raising on astronomy with knowledge exchange & collaboration fostering in Asia**

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The concept of this particular astronomical outreach event includes collaborations among Asian countries that was proposed in APRIM 2014. The Astronomical Outreach Center, National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) in cooperation with its Asian astronomical partners initiated, with East Asian region consisting of NAOJ & Astrobiology center (Japan), Beijing Planetarium (Mainland China) and KASI (South Korea), “Thai-Asian astronomy Forum”. Since 2015 in Chiang Mai city, Northern Thailand, each Thai-Asian event focus on different main topics. For examples, Solar eclipse (Thai-Japanese 2015), Historical astronomy (Thai-Chinese-Korean 2015) and Astrobiology (Thai-Japanese 2016).

The main target audience of these outreach events are high school & university students, teachers and general public. The objectives are dissemination and awareness raising on astronomy in society and knowledge exchange with other Asian countries. These events are divided into 2 sections: astronomy talk and the stargazing. During the talk, speakers from NARIT, together with their counterpart countries presented contents in sub-topics including “Astrobiology” as the main topic in 2016 Thai-Japanese event, in parallel with relevant sub-topics of an overview of astrobiology (Thai side) and exoplanets to lives in the universe (Japanese side).

Meanwhile, stargazing part includes astronomical observation by naked eye and telescopes. The number of participants are continuously increasing since the first event in January 2015 to more than 300 people in the latest event. Furthermore, Thai-Asian Astronomy Forum also received support from foreign studies organizations in Chiang Mai such as Japanese Studies Center and Confucius Institute, Chiang Mai University. NARIT also expects to continue Thai-Asian Astronomy Forum with the talks in other interesting topics and gain more collaborations with astronomical organizations from other countries and territories across East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia such as Taiwan, Indonesia and India in the mere future.