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The Astronomy Day in Schools project: linking astronomy, culture, society and daily life, for establishing the new Silk Road

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Abstract

Astronomy Day in Schools (ADiS) is a new project to share practices of astronomy education worldwide. The ADiS is unique in that it has quarterly online meetings, and that it focuses on equinoxes and solstices. This paper describes the launch and development of the ADiS.

Keywords: Astronomy, Outreach, Virtual reality, Visualization

1 Launcg of ADiS

The original ADiS began as one of the IAU100 anniversary. This call was made on the occasion of Mercury's transit across the Sun in November 2019. One of the steering committee members was one of the authors, Paulo Sergio Bretones. PSB was considering the possibility of creating a repository of educational practices in schools after the one-time IAU100 event. The sub-WG of Teacher and Educator Training, which existed at that time, under the WG of Astronomy Education Research & Methods, the Commission C1, took the opportunity to continue the ADiS project, with help in managing website by Saeed Salimpour, as the total solar eclipse would take place in Argentina and Chile in December 2020, and also positioned as a satellite of the IAU symposium 367. The IAU WGs were reconstituted in 2021, and the sub-WG of Teacher and Educator Training was reorganized into a new sub-WG of Astronomy Day in Schools. As an ongoing activity of the WG, a quarterly online meeting began at the March equinox 2021. This was proposed by Iranian Teachers' Astronomy Union (ITAU), and Students International Network for Astronomy (SINA), an association of students in Iran. In parallel, the ADiS website opened in September 2021, kindly hosted by the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) https://adis.narit.or.th/, being managed by Sze-leung Cheung.

Table 1. Summary of the online programs of the ADiS.

Date	Participating countries
19 March 2021	Romania, Bulgaria, Iran, Japan
21 June 2021	Romania, Bulgaria, Malaysia, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Qatar, Iran, Japan
24 September 2021	Iran, Japan
21 December 2021	Iran, Malaysia, Japan, India, Bulgaria, Romania, Spain, Italy, Tanzania, Brazil, Mexico, Thailand
21 March 2022	Round table discussion by the sub-WG members
28 June 2022	Thailand, Romania, Bulgaria, Iran, Japan
30 September 2022	Japan, Thailand, Iran, Bulgaria, Romania, Egypt
23 December 2022	Japan, Thailand, India, Iran, Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, Spain, Brazil, Columbia, Peru
26 March 2023	Romania, Bulgaria, Iran, Thailand, Japan, India
30 September 2023	Japan, Thailand, Iran, Romania

2 Online programs of the ADiS

The quarterly meetings at the time of solstices and equinoxes have been held over Zoom (table 1). The recordings of these meetings are made available on a YouTube channel with English subtitles https://www.youtube.com/@astronomydayinschoolsproje8412

3 Summary

The National Astronomy Education Network (NAEC) network under the Office of Astronomy for Education (OAE) has been very helpful in publicizing our events. A new Silk Road, connecting the entire globe, is needed now more than ever.