



APRIM2026
May 4 - 8, 2026, Hong Kong
2026 Asia-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting



LSR

Laboratory for
Space Research

APRIM2026 Final Announcement

Asia-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting (APRIM2026)

Hong Kong 4th to 8th May 2026

"hands across the Pacific under the IAU"

Advancing global frontier research and cross-regional collaboration in astronomy, astrophysics, and space science

Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC): <https://www.hkcec.com/en>
Registrations remain open: <https://aprim2026.org/registration/>

We warmly welcome all delegates to the beautiful, global city of Hong Kong during APRIM2026. We have 290 contributed talks, 50 invited talks and 16 plenary talks across 9 themes (A01 to A09). This includes those in the special A09 Space Sustainability parallel conference. We are hosting delegates from 37 different countries.

The full program is now available here: <https://aprim2026.org/schedule/>

Key Program highlights:

- Opening Ceremony and Special Shaw Laureate plenary session, Monday May 4th from 09:00 AM to 12:30 PM
- Main APRIM2026 conference: Themes A01-A08: 4-8 May; 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM at HKCEC but with Wednesday 6th May a half day from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
- Space Sustainability Conference (theme A09): A 2.5-day full parallel conference in Convention Hall C on 4-8 May; 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. See: <https://ssconf.space/>
- The Square Kilometer Array Office (SKAO) special session: Tuesday 5 May, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Convention Hall B
- Centre for Space Utilization (CSU), CAS, China special session under SSC2: Tuesday 5 May, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM Convention Hall C. Under CSU we also include an International Academic Salon for Young Scholars on Space Science and Applications a young scholars forum in L2 room 228 on May 6th 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM)
- Hong Kong Astronomy Outreach Convention: A special parallel meeting on Sunday 3rd and Wednesday 6th May, HKCEC, Convention zone L2, rooms 221-230
- An IAU endorsed inclusion in science communication workshop on Wednesday May 6th from 2pm to 4pm in convention L2 room 228



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The main exhibition hall will also present a broad range of interesting exhibitor booths representing national observatories, institutes, academic publishers, science education and various relevant companies

Conference Highlights:

- **Distinguished Plenary Speakers:** Plenary sessions will feature five laureates of the Nobel, Shaw and Gruber prizes, and other eminent speakers, covering transformative discoveries across multiple disciplines.
- **Strong Scientific Programme:** Nine thematic tracks will be presented, including a special parallel conference on space sustainability. This builds on the outcomes of the IAA Space Debris and Sustainability Conference held at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in December 2024 (<https://ssconf.space/>).
- **Forum to Establish Regional Collaboration:** APRIM offers excellent opportunities for delegates to forge partnerships with institutions across the Asia-Pacific and for scientific exchange and interdisciplinary cooperation.
- **Excellent associated activities both social and cultural**

Special APRIM Social events:

- Welcome reception, free for all delegates, on Sunday 3rd May 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Pier 1929, Wan Chai, HK. See: <https://pier1929.hk/>
- Combined Victoria Harbour APRIM Cruise and Conference Dinner for delegates and partners with world class jazz band: Tuesday 5th May 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Please book your seats here: <https://www.eventbrite.hk/e/aprim-2026-harbour-cruise-and-conference-dinner-tickets-1984521117083> (not to be missed – book now)
- A large “world premiere” art installation within the main exhibition hall of HKCEC on the theme of the Universe from celebrated Chinese-American artist Bing Yi (see: <https://www.inkstudio.com.cn/artists/75-bingyi/>). The works are in Hong Kong Indigo Blue ink – a first career departure in her oeuvre from Black ink.
- A “world premiere” performance of “Symphony of the Universe”, a specially commissioned classic music 10-piece symphony by award winning composer Shirley Choi on Thursday 7th May, 2026, 7:00-8:00 PM. Please book your seats below: <https://www.art-mate.net/en/doc/93813>

APRIM2026 welcomes participation from a broad spectrum of communities:

- **Scientists and Researchers:** Share research findings and build collaborations.
- **Educators and Outreach Professionals:** Advance public engagement and STEM education.
- **Students and Early-Career Scholars:** Connect with leading experts and explore academic pathways.
- **Engineers and Technical Experts:** Discover innovations at the intersection of science and technology.
- **Policy Makers and Institutional Representatives:** Join critical discussions on space sustainability and science policy.



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Plenary Speakers (in alphabetical order):

We are honoured to announce the following distinguished plenary speakers for APRIM2026:

- **Prof. Matthew Bailes** (Shaw Prize Laureate in Astronomy 2023, Swinburne, Australia); **Contribution:** *Discovery of fast radio bursts*
- **Prof. Tamara Davis** (Professor, The University of Queensland Australia)
- **Prof. Yang GAO** (Director of Centre for AI Robotics in Space Sustainability, Co-director of Space Science and Technology Institute, HKUST)
- **Prof. Luis C. Ho** (Director, Kavli Institute, Peking University, China); **Contribution:** *Observational astronomy*
- **Prof. Hyesung Kang** (Pusan National University, South Korea); **Contribution:** *Cosmic rays research; IAUGA 2022 National Organizing Committee chair*
- **Prof. Victoria Kaspi** (Shaw Prize Laureate 2021, Canada) **Contribution:** *Understanding Magnetars*
- **Prof. Shri Kulkarni** (Shaw Prize Laureate 2024, Caltech, USA); **Contribution:** *Time-domain astronomy.*
- **Prof. Max Pettini** (Gruber Cosmology Prize 2025, Cambridge, UK); **Contribution:** *Fundamental measurements of deuterium abundance and the baryon density of the universe.*
- **Dr. Sarah Pearce** (SKA-Low Telescope, Australia); **Contribution:** *Low frequency radio astronomy*
- **Prof. Laura Perez** (New Horizons Prize in Physics 2024, University of Chile) **Contribution:** *Planetary system formation*
- **Prof. Brian Schmidt** (IAU President-Elect, Shaw Prize Laureate 2006, Nobel Laureate, 2011, ANU, Australia); **Contribution:** *Accelerating universe discovery*
- **Prof. Ildar Shaikhislamov** (Russian Academy of Sciences); **Contribution:** *Exoplanetary atmospheres*

These plenary speakers will showcase some of the most remarkable achievements in contemporary astronomy, astrophysics, space science, and cosmology. Stay tuned for further announcements.



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Public access to the conference exhibition space is available for Wednesday to Friday afternoons

Key Themes at APRIM2026

APRIM2026 will feature nine thematic tracks reflecting the latest scientific priorities and regional interests:

A01. Astronomy Public Outreach and Education Regional programmes for engaging students and the public through lectures, digital media, and observatory sessions, with a focus on STEM inspiration and science literacy.

A02. Galaxies, AGN and the High Redshift Universe Investigations into galaxy formation and evolution in the early universe, including challenges posed by James Webb Space Telescope data and the epoch of reionisation.

A03. High Energy Astrophysics Studies of black holes, neutron stars, and supernovae, with emphasis on X-rays, gamma rays, cosmic rays, neutrinos, and gravitational messengers.

A04. Gravitational Wave Astronomy Latest results from LIGO and next-generation detectors, offering new insights into compact object mergers and extreme astrophysical phenomena.

A05. The Life Cycle of Stars and Their Planets Advances in stellar evolution, planetary nebulae, supernova remnants, the interstellar medium, and extrasolar planetary systems with implications for life beyond Earth.

A06. Radio, mm and Sub-mm Astronomy Highlights from facilities such as SKA and FAST, recent surveys, and breakthroughs in interferometric techniques across radio wavelengths.

A07. Astronomical Surveys and Time Domain Astronomy Developments in wide-field optical surveys, spectroscopic missions, and time-variable sky studies, with emphasis on the LSST era.

A08. Upcoming Astronomical Facilities Scientific potential of future mega-infrastructures including ELT, GMT, American Roman Space Telescope and the Chinese Xuntian Space Telescope.

A09. Space Sustainability Addressing challenges from satellite mega-constellations and space debris, with discussions on international policy, interference mitigation, and orbital ecosystem viability via a full parallel conference.



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Stay Updated

Conference updates, session details, and speaker announcements will be published in due course on the official website: <https://aprim2026.org/>

More Information

International Astronomical Union

The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** brings together more than 13,000 professional astronomers from 85 countries. Its mission is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects through international cooperation.

Quotes

Professor Quentin Andrew Parker, Director of the Laboratory for Space Research and SOC and LOC Chair of the APRIM2026 Organising Committee:

“APRIM2026 is a vital platform to showcase the rising prominence of the Asia-Pacific region in astronomy and space science. Through this conference, we aim to foster cross-regional research collaboration, inspire the next generation of scientists, and advance our understanding of the deep structure and evolution of our Galaxy and the universe.”

“We are deeply honoured to host this landmark event in Hong Kong, and look forward to welcoming participants from across the Asia Pacific and around the world to this vibrant international city as we explore the mysteries of the cosmos together.”

Professor Willy Benz, IAU President:

We are delighted to welcome you to the next IAU Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in Hong Kong. Join us to discover the significant contributions that the Asia-Pacific region has made to astronomy, explore the latest advances in pioneering studies, listen to presentations by leading experts and connect with the world's top researchers.

Contacts

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2026 Asia Pacific Regional IAU Meeting Program Outline Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong SAR China

4-May (Monday)	Time	Convention Hall - ABC	Theatre-1	Theatre-2	Convention Hall - A	Convention Hall - C
Session 1	9:00-10:30	Opening Ceremony				
Session 2	11:00-12:30	Shaw Prize Session				
Session 3	14:00-15:30	A08	A03	A02	A05	A09 SSC2
Session 4	16:00-18:00	A08	A03	A02	A05	A09 SSC2
5-May (Tuesday)	Time	Convention Hall - B	Theatre-1	Theatre-2	Convention Hall - A	Convention Hall - C
Session 1	9:00-10:30	A06	A03	A02	A01	A09 SSC2-CSU
Session 2	11:00-12:30	A06	A03	A02	A01	A09 SSC2-CSU
Session 3	14:00-15:30	A06 SKAO	A03	A02	A01	A09 SSC2
Session 4	16:00-18:00	A06 SKAO	A03	A02	A01	A09 SSC2
			Grand Dinner			
6-May (Wednesday)	Time	Convention Hall - B	Theatre-1	Theatre-2	Convention Hall - A	Convention Hall - C
Session 1	9:00-10:30	A06	A04	A02	A01	A09 SSC2
Session 2	11:00-12:30	A06	A04	A02	A01	A09 SSC2
Session 3	14:00-15:30					A09 SSC2
Session 4	16:00-18:00					A09 SSC2
7-May (Thursday)	Time	Convention Hall - B	Theatre-1	Theatre-2	Convention Hall - A	Convention Hall - C
Session 1	9:00-10:30	A06	A03	A02	A07	A05
Session 2	11:00-12:30	A06	A03	A02	A07	A05
Session 3	14:00-15:30	A08	A03	A02	A07	A05
Session 4	16:00-18:00	A08	A03	A02	A07	A05
			Shirley Choi Concert			
8-May (Friday)	Time	Convention Hall - B	Theatre-1	Theatre-2	Convention Hall - A	Convention Hall - C
Session 1	9:00-10:30	A08	A03	A02	A07	A05
Session 2	11:00-12:30	A08	A03	A02	A07	A05
Session 3	14:00-15:30	A08	A03	A02	A07	A05
Session 4	16:00-18:00	CLOSING				

Code	Topic	Date	Time	Room	Other Important Events
A01	Astronomy Public Outreach and Education	3 May, 2026	9:00-18:00	S221-S230	Hong Kong Astronomy Outreach Convention
A02	Galaxies, AGN and the High Redshift Universe	6 May, 2026	9:00-18:00	S221-S230	Hong Kong Astronomy Outreach Convention
A03	High Energy Astrophysics	6 May, 2026	9:00-12:30	S228	CSU Young Scholars Forum
A04	Gravitational Wave Astronomy	6 May, 2026	14:00-15:30	S228	IAU Workshop on Inclusion in Science Communication
A05	The life cycle of Stars and their planets	6 May, 2026	16:00-17:30	S228	OASA Space Biz
A06	Radio, mm and sub-mm astronomy				
A07	Astronomical Surveys & Time Domain Astronomy				
A08	Current Larger and Upcoming Astronomical facilities				
A09 SSC2	Parallel meeting: Space Debris & Sustainability Conference #2				
A09 SSC2-CSU	Special session by Centre for Space Utilization, CAS China				
A06 SKAO	Special session by Square Kilometer Array Office				
IAU-ISC	IAU Workshop on Inclusion in Science Communication				
HKAOC	Hong Kong Astronomy Outreach Convention				

Local Organizing Committee,
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<https://aprim2026.org/>
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