

CAP Conferences Working Group

Annual Report 2016

Report for the period August 2015 to October 2016.

IAU Commission C2

WG2 Communicating Astronomy with the Public Conferences

Chairs:

- Sze-leung Cheung
- Oana Sandu

Members:

- Lars Lindberg Christensen
- Dennis Crabtree
- Pamela Gay
- Kevin Govender
- Kaz Sekiguchi
- Jin Zhu
- Thierry Botti
- Doris Daou
- Helen Sim
- Marios Karouzos

In the first part of 2016, the CAP Conferences Working Group focused on the organisation of [the Communicating Astronomy with the Public Conference in Medellin, Colombia](http://www.planetariomedellin.org/cap2016/english-version/). (<http://www.planetariomedellin.org/cap2016/english-version/>) The Working Group acted as Scientific Advisory Committee of the conference, while the chairs were also involved in the overall organisation of the conference. 150 professionals from 24 countries registered for the conference. 8 bursaries were offered.

The programme included: 6 keynote talks, 26 plenary talks, 71 talks in parallel sessions, a panel discussion, an unconference slot, 26 posters and, for the first time ever, 12 workshops. Special attention was given to networking activities.

From the 47 responses (about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the participants) in the evaluation survey we concluded:

- Workshops — a first ever programme item — were highly regarded as the most important activity (average ranking 7 out of 9), while the talks and posters had an average ranking of 5 out of 9 and 3 out of 9 respectively.
- The general impression of the statistics reflects a similar behavior (participant background, impression on the conference, views on their interests) as with the previous CAP meeting, but a slightly younger average age of the audience, and also with more first-time participants.
- We intended to decrease the “activity report” type of talks without any lessons learnt. There were still many of these talks, but statistically less people commented on this than in the previous CAP.

After CAP2016 concluded, The Working Group opened [a call for hosting CAP2018](#). The Group defined an improved set of criteria for selecting organisations. The evaluation process was further improved by introducing a formula for evaluating factual criteria. 8 countries submitted a first proposal with 6 of them selected for the second and final evaluation stage. Japan was selected as the winner and the first announcement will be made in December 2016.

Sze-leung Cheung
Tokyo
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