



OFFICE OF ASTRONOMY
FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of Regional Offices Meeting

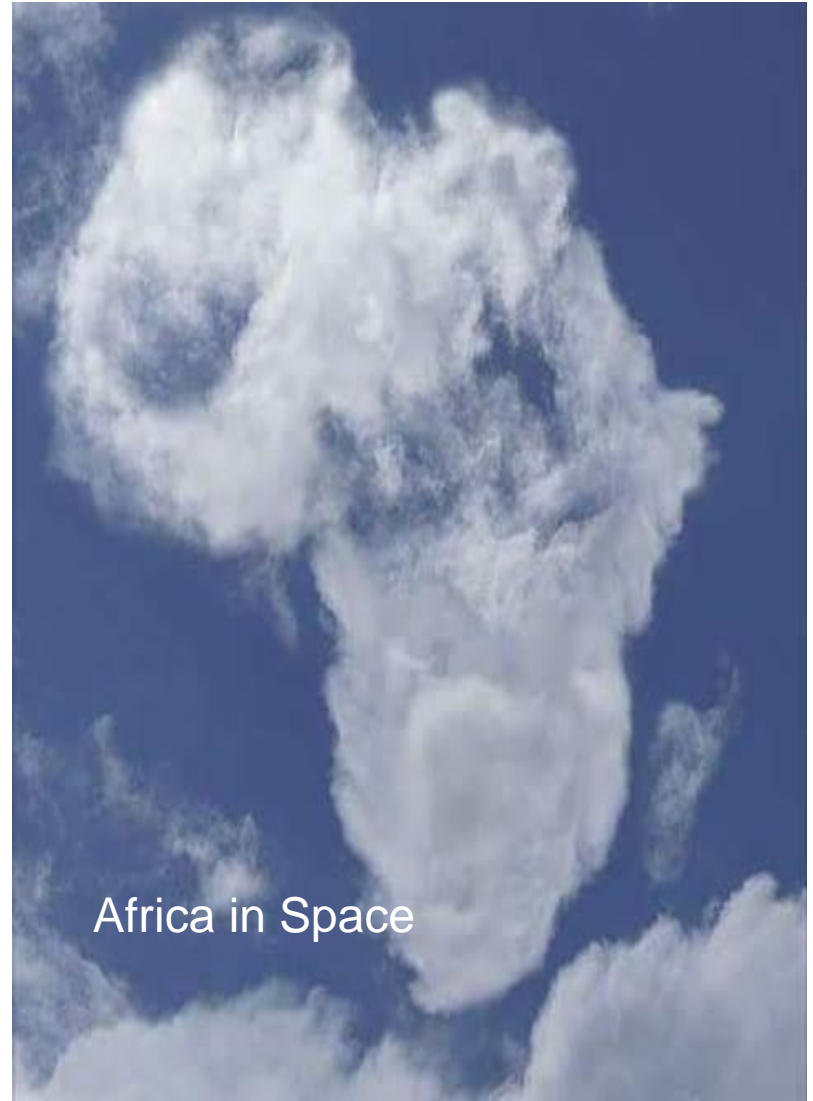
Prof. F.E. Opara, *Director, NASRDA-CBSS*

Dr B.I. Okere, *Regional Coordinator, WAROAD*

2010/12/30 00:00

Outline

- Overview
- The meeting:
 - Participants
 - **part 1:** OAD Steering Committee,
OAD Staff and Regions
 - **part 2:** presentation by Regions
 - **part 3:** African region.



Overview

IAU GA 2015 - WAROAD Agreement signed

Nigerian
Representative



The meeting

- Participants



Meeting with OAD Steering Committee, OAD Staff and Regions

Presentations by

➤ OAD

➤ OAO



Other presentations

Presentation from IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO) with its headquarter at National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ).

Presentation by the Director of South Africa's NASSP Scholarship Board. NASSP offers scholarship to African undergraduate and Postgraduate students.

National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa

OAD Steering Committee

Presentation by Regions



WAROAD Presentation - highlights

- provision of office space for the regional office by CBSS
- installation of K-Band internet service
- setting up a website: www.westafrica@astro4dev.org, which has a french language translator.
- appointment of Steering Committee members, an administrative officer, website/information manager, and Language translator.
- Formation of astronomy/space science clubs in Schools by Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso.



The screenshot shows the website for the West African Regional Office of Astronomy for Development. The header features the IAU logo and the text "West African Region Office of Astronomy for Development". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Activities, Events, Media, Downloads, and Contact, along with a search bar. The main content area is titled "West African Regional Office of Astronomy for Development" and includes the slogan "Astronomy for a better World". The text describes the IAU's role and the OAD's establishment in partnership with the South African National Research Foundation (NRF). It also mentions the mission of the OAD to help further the use of astronomy as a tool for development and lists Regional Nodes and Language Expertise Centres.

IAU West African Region
Office of Astronomy for Development

Home About Activities Events Media Downloads Contact Search this website...

FOCUS AREAS
Universities & Research (TF1)
Children & Schools (TF2)
Public Outreach (TF3)

NETWORK
IAU OAD
Andean Region
Arab World and Arabic Language
East Africa
East Asia and Chinese Language
Portuguese Language
South East Asia
South West Asia
Southern Africa

TRANSLATE TO FRENCH
Select Language
Powered by Google Translate

West African Regional Office of Astronomy for Development

"Astronomy for a better World"

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) is the largest body of professional astronomers in the world and has set up the Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) in partnership with the South African National Research Foundation (NRF). The OAD was officially opened on 16th April 2011 at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) in Cape Town, South Africa. Since then nine regional offices have been established in Armenia, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Nigeria, Portugal, Thailand and Zambia.

The mission of the OAD is to help further the use of *astronomy as a tool for development* by mobilizing the human and financial resources necessary in order to realize the field's scientific, technological and cultural benefits to society.

Regional Nodes and Language Expertise Centres are offices based around the world with similar objectives as the OAD but with regional focus. These offices work closely with the OAD in order to implement the IAU Strategic Plan. "Regions" which they focus on could be geographical (neighbouring countries) or cultural (language or cultural similarities spread over a large geographic region).

WAROAD

- Highlights

- Introduction of astronomy courses in Universities in Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Ghana.
- Setting up astronomy Labs. In University of Nigeria Nsukka.
- Refurbishing of 32 m radio telescope in Ghana, which is expected to begin operation this year.
- Astronomy and Space science outreach activities in Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cot d'Ivoire and Gabon.
- SpaceBus activities in Senegal
- 2016 Annular Solar eclipse in Gabon which is expected to occur in September 01, 2016.
- plan to visit West African countries' embassies in Nigeria to seek their to establish astronomy and space science programmes in their various countries.

African region



The role Astronomy and Space Science shall play in the development of the continent were identified at this meeting.

At the end of this meeting, the African Regional Coordinators resolved to prepare a common proposal to raise funds for their projects



Side Meetings



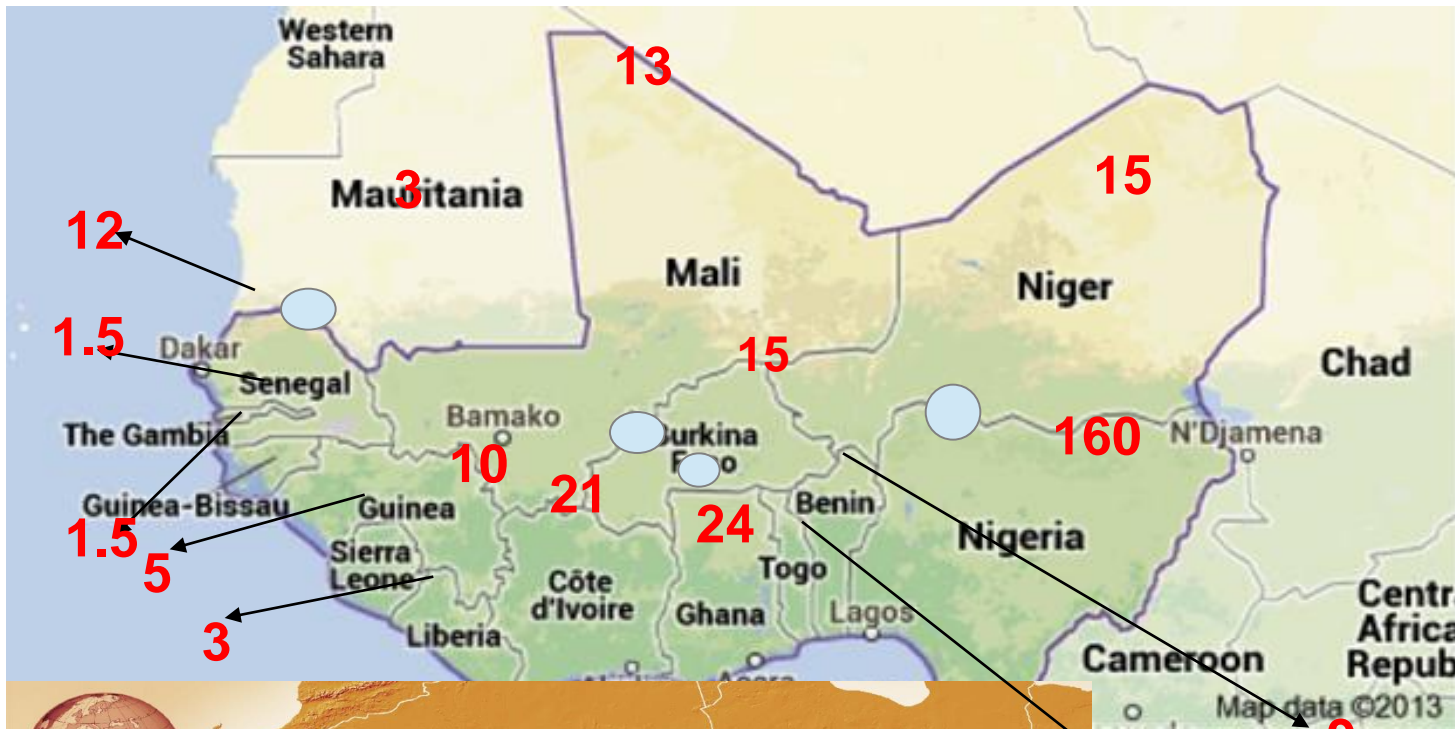
Information

links to pictures and presentations at

<http://www.astro4dev.org/blog/2016/02/28/ia-u-oad-regional-offices-meeting/>



Addendum



○ Node established



English speaking - 5
French speaking - 9

Gabon

Conclusion

- Establishing MoU with Ghana Space Science Institute, which will go a long way to develop our technical staff.
- Sourcing for funds through PPP
- Identifying the various areas of need of our country, astronomy can play important role
- Producing a workable proposal that can be submitted to African Union (AU)
- Helping other countries in West Africa establish Astronomy and Space Science programmes in the institutions in their various countries. This we can be achieved by reaching out to their embassies.

THANK YOU