

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sub: Invitation to 10th IOAA, Bhubaneswar, India, December 9 – 19, 2016.


On behalf of the organizers of the 10th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) to be held in Bhubaneswar, India from December 9 to December 19, 2016, I have the pleasure of inviting your country's delegation for participating in this event.

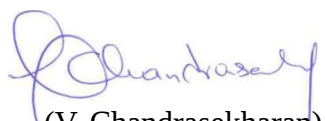
A delegation should consist of a maximum of 5 students of your country, who are in secondary / higher secondary schools and are less than the age of 20 as of June 30, 2016, and a maximum of 2 accompanying team leaders, who will be the members of the International Board for the event. More detailed requirements for the participating team are given in the first circular attached with this letter. Additionally, Scientific Observers (up to a maximum of 4 persons) may also be part of the official delegation. Scientific Observers may attend International Board Meetings but without rights of voting and discussion. We will also welcome a guest team from country consisting of 5 more students and at least one leaders. For more details pertaining to 10th IOAA please visit <http://www.ioaa2016.in>

As an established custom of the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics, primary delegation of each participating country consisting of maximum 5 students and 2 leaders can register without any participation fee. Each Scientific Observer and each member of the guest team (if any) is required to pay the registration fee of USD 1000. The organizers will provide local hospitality, which includes accommodation, meals and transportation related to the Olympiad during the event. Local hospitality will begin on December 9, 2016 (check-in after 1400 hrs) and end on December 19, 2016 (check out before 1200 hrs). For general information and rules about the IOAA, please visit <http://www.ioaa2016.in/ioaa-statutes/>

Welcome to the 10th IOAA! We hope the event will be an enjoyable experience for all participants. We will appreciate your acknowledging receipt of this invitation letter.

With greetings and with best regards,


(Subhasis Basak)
Convener, 10th IOAA 2016


(V. Chandrasekharan)
Director, NISER

Encl: First Circular, 10th IOAA

FIRST CIRCULAR

10th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics,
Bhubaneswar, India, 9 – 19 December 2016

Dear Colleagues,

National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) is honoured to organize the 10th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) to be hosted by India in Bhubaneswar from December 9 to December 19, 2016. Prof. V. Chandrasekharan, Director, NISER is the Chair of the 10th IOAA National Organizing Committee. Dr. Subhasis Basak of NISER is the Convener and Dr. Aniket Sule of HBCSE(TIFR), Mumbai is the co-convener of the 10th IOAA. The 10th IOAA is financially supported by the Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Department of Science and Technology and Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India.

Invitation

On behalf of the Organizing Committee we have the pleasure of inviting your country to participate in the 10th IOAA. The International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics is the most prestigious international competition in the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics for secondary school students. Its aim is to promote excellence in Astronomy and Astrophysics among young students and encourage friendship and collaboration between students and teachers of different countries of the world. NISER looks forward to welcoming all the participants from across the world to the 10th IOAA.

Requirements for the Participating Teams

According to the IOAA statutes, each team will comprise up to five students and two delegation leaders. The contestants shall be students of secondary / higher secondary schools. Students who have finished their school graduating examinations in the year of the competition can be members of the team. The age of the contestants should be less than twenty years, as of 30 June, 2016. The delegation leaders must be selected from scientists or teachers, capable of solving the problems of the competition competently. Normally each of them should be able to speak English.

Each team is required to submit documents to the organisers, proving the age of the contestants and their school attendance certificate / year of school graduation.

Scientific Observers and Guest Teams

Each participating team may be accompanied up to four Scientific Observers. Scientific Observers may attend International Board Meetings but without rights of voting and discussion. Any country can also bring a second team from the country as a guest team. Requirements for the guest teams will be same as the main teams. However, leaders of the guest team are not members of the international board and may attend International Board Meetings but without rights of voting and discussion.

Fees

As an established custom of the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics, main team of each participating country does not have to pay any registration fee. Each Scientific Observer and each member of the guest team (including students) is required to pay the registration fee of USD 1000.





10th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics 2016

9th to 19th December 2016

Local Hospitality

The organizers will provide local hospitality, which includes accommodation, meals and transportation related to the Olympiad during the event. Transportation will also include pick up and drop at the Bhubaneswar Airport (Airport Code: **BBI**). Local hospitality will begin on December 9, 2016 (check-in after 1400 hrs) and end on December 19, 2016 (check out before 1200 noon). International travel will be borne by the participating delegation. Students will be accommodated in NISER students hostels. Leaders and Observers will stay in a hotel located elsewhere in the city. The details of the hotels will be communicated in our next circular.

Registration

An online Registration Form will be available on our website after May 10, 2016. Participating delegations are requested to confirm their participation and provide other details asked for in the Registration Form. The last date for registration is August 10, 2016. However, as some of you may not have sufficient information by this date you can request an extension by sending us an email specifying the date by which you will be able to finalize your registration. However, please note that an early registration is advisable for smooth and timely processing of visa.

Visa

Please be aware that participants from your country may require Indian visa to travel to Bhubaneswar. The procedure for visa, including biometric data collection may take considerable time (in some cases up to a month after approval from ministry). Please check with the relevant Indian Embassy about the application procedure at the earliest. We recommend that you apply for conference visa for the purpose of IOAA 2016, however please confirm this with the Indian Embassy / Consulate in your country.

Information related to Indian Visa can be found at : <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/>

Information and Contacts

Circulars and all relevant information are put up on our website at <http://www.ioaa2016.in> which will be updated regularly.

For any information/queries, please contact :

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