

SRI LANKA ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION PRESS INFORMATION NOTE

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Sri Lanka Astronomical Association

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Partial Solar Eclipse

DATE: 26 January 2009

Event: Partial Solar Eclipse Observing Session (public)

VENUE: Arpico Super Center, Hyde Park Corner (Car Park)

TIME: 02:00pm – 04.00pm

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

CAUTION: Never look directly at the Sun!

Never look at the Sun through binoculars or telescope unless you have the proper filters!

A partial solar eclipse will be visible to Sri Lanka today (Monday, January 26, 2009) from 2:03pm to 4:12pm (in Colombo, times in other cities will vary slightly).

A public observing session has set up by the Sri Lanka Astronomical Association as a program for International Year of Astronomy 2009.

Monday January 26, 2009

From 2:03 PM to 4:12 PM in Colombo

Maximum at 3:12 PM 17.1% of Sun will be obscured

Public observing sessions

Watch Partial Eclipse from the Car Park of the Arpico Super Center in Hyde Park Corner, Colombo. Entrance from Union Place.

Other information

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon, during its monthly trip around the Earth, happens to line up exactly between the Earth and the Sun, so that it casts a shadow on the Earth. But because of the Sun's large diameter, the shadow consists of two regions. The innermost cone of total darkness is called the umbra (latin for "shadow"), and it is projected in the center. Anyone in this central area will observe the total eclipse, because the Sun will be temporarily obscured by the Moon.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Sri Lanka Astronomical Association - <http://aalk.lakdiva.net/>

International Year of Astronomy2009 - Sri Lanka - <http://aalk.lakdiva.net/iya2009>

International Year of Astronomy2009 - <http://www.astronomy2009.org/>

Eclipse info - <http://www.mreclipse.com/>

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Ceylon Astronomical Association which was founded in June 1959, (later known as Sri Lanka Astronomical Association) and now revived as the Astronomical Association of Lanka (AALK) is a not-for-profit association founded by Sir Arthur C. Clarke and late Herschel Gunawardene.

It is for the purpose of pursuing the study of astronomy and promoting the education of astronomy and related sciences. The revived Association's goals would include usage of internet to carry research on astronomy and related sciences among university students and others.

International Year of Astronomy 2009

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has launched 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) under the theme “**The Universe, Yours to Discover**”. IYA2009 marks the four hundredth anniversary of the first astronomical observation through a telescope by Galileo Galilei. It will be a global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture, with a strong emphasis on education, public engagement and involvement of young people, with events at national, regional, and global levels throughout the whole of 2009. IYA2009 has been endorsed by UNESCO, which recommended it for adoption by the United Nations.

The IYA2009 activities will take place locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. National Nodes in each country have been formed to prepare activities for 2009. These Nodes establish between professional and amateur astronomers, science centers and science communicators in preparing activities for 2009. More than 140 countries are already involved.

Sri Lanka Astronomical Association acts as the National Node for IYA2009.