

The International Year of Astronomy in Ireland

M.D. Popescu (1), M. Redfern (2), R. Hill (3) and **D.J. Asher** (1)

(1) Armagh Observatory, College Hill, Armagh, Northern Ireland, (2) School of Physics, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland, (3) Northern Ireland Space Office, Northern Ireland

IYA2009 in Ireland

The Irish node for IYA2009 is running, throughout this year, an exciting programme of events for schoolchildren and the general public. This poster showcases some highlights of our programme, especially the ones with an Irish flavour or related to planetary sciences.

Irish Projects Highlights

Ireland had the first event worldwide in the International Year of Astronomy with an immensely popular live web-cast of the rising sun from the 5,000 year-old burial chamber at Newgrange. Thereafter the official opening of IYA Ireland took place at the country's premier schools science event, namely the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition at the Royal Dublin Society. The popularity rocketed even higher when St Patrick's Day parades in all major cities of Ireland endorsed an astronomy theme (Fig. 1).



Figure 1: IYA in Dublin's St Patrick's Day parade

The list of successful IYA activities is long. To mention just a few, they have included: the *100 Hours of Astronomy* event, a notable highlight with all major amateur astronomy clubs, science centres and observatories participating; UNAWE art projects for young children (Fig. 2); *From Earth to the Universe*, an exhibition of some of the best astronomical images ever



Figure 2: Artwork produced in a UNAWE project

taken (Fig. 3); the Faulkes Telescopes Universe Challenge; and presentations to schools across Ireland involving the latest 3D technology and vivid imagery to illustrate spectacular natural wonders of the universe.

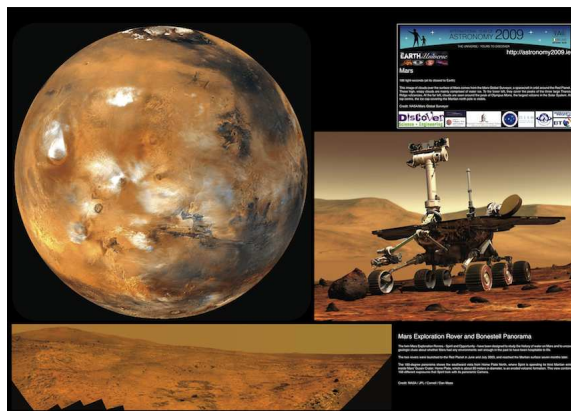


Figure 3: Mars, a poster from the FETTU exhibit

Acknowledgements

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