

The ASEAN Astronomy Camp (AAC) 2025

Thursday, 4 September 2025 10:45 (15 minutes)

The ASEAN Astronomy Camp (AAC) 2025, was Designed to enhance astronomical learning and cultural exchange among youth aged 15-19 from across the ASEAN region. It also aims to stimulate interest in astronomy and science careers, which can inspire youth to pursue these fields and to provide a valuable opportunity to promote cultural exchange and grants access to astronomical resources and facilities in other regions. This helps young individuals to learn about and respect diverse backgrounds. Crucially, it also serves to build valuable international networks and relationships among participants, potentially leading to future collaborations. This year, the camp attracted significant international interest, receiving 317 applications. A total of 42 participants were selected from over 11 nationalities across Asia, including Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, and Japan. The camp took place from March 11-14, 2025, at the Princess Sirindhorn AstroPark in Chiang Mai and Doi Inthanon, renowned as one of Thailand's best stargazing locations. Apart from many engaging activities, participants had the unique opportunity to visit advanced astronomical observatories and laboratories, among the most sophisticated in Southeast Asia. and NARIT's advanced engineering and innovation laboratories at the AstroPark headquarters. This allows for the participants to explore their interest along with learning of many other career options related to astronomy. A core highlight of the camp was the cross-cultural exchange, where diverse young participants shared their astronomical fascination and built friendships under Thailand's night sky. This unique opportunity to learn and connect over shared scientific interests also empowered participants in their personal discovery journeys. The camp atmosphere was vibrant and dynamic; despite language differences, participants quickly formed bonds, developing communication skills, forging new friendships, and gaining novel experiences through a rich variety of astronomical activities.

The ASEAN Astronomy Camp (AAC) 2025 was more than just an astronomy camp, It was a long-term investment in nurturing the next generation of astronomy leaders from the region to the global stage. It stood as clear proof that astronomy has the power to connect people across cultures, ignite curiosity, and propel lifelong learning into the future.

keyword: AAC 2025, ASEAN, International

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Session Classification: Oral Presentation

Track Classification: Extracurricular Astronomy Activities