Contribution ID: **76** Type: **Oral Presentation**

O20 - 12 Years of the NARIT 10-Inch Dobsonian Telescope Project: From Astronomy School Networks to a Sustainable Astronomical Activity Ecosystem

Tuesday, 24 November 2026 10:45 (15 minutes)

The 10-inch Dobsonian Telescope Distribution Project, initiated by the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (Public Organization) or NARIT, marks its 12th anniversary in 2026, having successfully provided astronomical infrastructure to over 760 network schools nationwide. Beyond the provision of equipment, the project strongly emphasizes knowledge transfer through comprehensive training on telescope installation, operation, and fundamental observational skills. This approach enables educational institutions to effectively integrate astronomy into both classroom instruction and extracurricular activities.

Over the past 12 years, the initiative has yielded substantial outcomes, evolving from a centralized network into self-sustaining regional and provincial sub-networks. These collaborative groups proactively organize public observations of significant astronomical phenomena and conduct fundamental astronomy research projects, such as utilizing total lunar eclipses to observe the parallax of background stars. Furthermore, the network facilitates inter-school resource pooling, demonstrated by joint astronomy camps and active participation in NARIT's Dark Sky Campaign.

The sustained impact and achievements of this growing network are annually showcased at the Conference on Astronomy Activities in Schools (CAAS). This conference serves as a dynamic academic platform for network schools to exchange pedagogical experiences and best practices, while also inviting non-network schools to participate and learn. This paper summarizes the project's developmental milestones, illustrating its successful transformation from basic equipment provision to the establishment of a robust, sustainable, and nationwide ecosystem for astronomical education and public outreach.

Keywords: Dobsonian Telescope, Astronomy School Network, Astronomy Education, Collaborative Learning, NARIT, CAAS

Primary author: Mr THUREE, Khomsan (NARIT - National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (Public Organization))

Presenter: Mr THUREE, Khomsan (NARIT - National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (Public Organization))

Session Classification: Contributor Session

Track Classification: Astronomy Education