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O47 - Dark and Quiet Skies: An In-House Astronomy Camp for PAGASA Employees

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Dark and quiet skies are essential for astronomical observations, scientific research, and preserving humanity's connection to the night sky. However, awareness of light pollution and the importance of protecting dark skies is often limited, even among employees working within institutions that support meteorology and astronomy. To promote greater appreciation of the night sky and strengthen institutional awareness, the DOST-PAGASA Space Science and Astronomy Section organized an in-house astronomy camp for non-astronomy PAGASA employees held at the PAGASA Tanay Synoptic and Upper-Air Station, Tanay, Rizal. The camp introduced participants to the significance of dark and quiet skies through interactive lectures and hands-on activities focused on astrophotography, guided telescope observations, and discussions on responsible lighting practices. By experiencing dark skies firsthand, participants gained a deeper understanding of how environmental conditions affect astronomical observations and why preserving them is vital for research, education, and public outreach.

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