

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY PREPARES TO JOIN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF ASTRONOMY

This year (2019), the International Astronomical Union (IAU) will mark 100 years of existence. In preparation to commemorate the century of existence, IAU in August 2018 announced a globally competitive project termed 100 Hours of Astronomy where ten (10) Bresser Refractor telescopes were awarded for award to the best ten global applicants that presented the best proposals. The competition was organized in collaboration with the Belgian Initiative Sterren Schitteren voor Iedereen (SSVI) and Universe Awareness (UNAWE) <https://www.unawe.org/updates/2018-Telescope-competition/>.

Out of 200 applications from 47 countries, Physics Department at the Faculty of Science and Education, Busitema University emerged as one of the 10 global winners selected to receive a telescope, a great achievement for Uganda. This achievement has placed Busitema University at a global scale as one of the leading institutions in promoting astronomy in East Africa. Dr. Amabayo Emirant Bertillas the Head of Physics Department who is the convener of the event in Uganda received the telescope on 6th December 2018. The telescope that can be used to observe the moon, solar system and its planet; orion nebula and globular cluster will be launched during the celebrations to mark the 100 years of astronomy. The telescope will support astronomy educational activities in schools and among academia as key targets.

In Uganda, the 100 hours of astronomy event will be organized by Busitema University in Tororo District at Lions Park from 10th to 12th January 2019. This event will comprise of activities including; presentations, telescope demonstrations/ group observational activities in order to convey the excitement of physics and astronomy. The facilitators will share knowledge of the universe in ways that inspire, excite, challenge, and inform the public through displays, interactive websites, and a range of print products. The public is hereby invited to attend the event.



Left, the Telescope and Right, Dr. Amabayo Emirant Bertillas assembles the telescope