

## **The International Year of Astronomy 2009**

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In 1609 Galileo observed wonderful new objects and complex astronomical events. These observations add several orders of magnitude to understanding Nature's amazing reality. Galileo only had started the most important revolution in science: the birth of Modern Science. In 2009 we will celebrate four hundred years of Galileo's observations and discoveries: The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009). The vision of the International Year of Astronomy is to help the citizens of the world re-discover their place in the Universe through the day- and night time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery. All humans should realize the impact of astronomy and basic sciences on our daily lives, and understand better how scientific knowledge can contribute to a more equitable and peaceful society.

In this talk we will present the IYA2009 goals, objectives and the current status of the global organization and planning.