Pedro Russo
IYA2009 Coordinator (IAU & ESA/Hubble)

Lars Lindberg Christensen
(ESA/Hubble & IAU)
The International Year of Astronomy

Vision

To help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery.

Celebration

A global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture, highlighted by the 400th anniversary of the first use of an astronomical telescope by Galileo.
• Increase *scientific awareness*.

• Promote widespread *access to new knowledge* and *observing experiences*.

• Empower *astronomical communities in developing countries*.

• Support and improve *formal and informal science education*.

• Provide a *modern image of science and scientists*.

• Facilitate *new networks* and strengthen existing ones.

• Improve the *gender-balanced representation of scientists* at all levels and promote greater involvement by underrepresented *minorities* in scientific and engineering careers.

• Facilitate the *preservation* and protection of the world’s cultural and natural heritage of *dark skies* and *historical astronomical sites*. 
Global Cornerstone Projects

24 Hours of Astronomy

Round-the-clock, round-the-globe event:

- 24 hours of live web casts
- Observing events
- Other activities connecting large observatories around the world.

The Galileoscope

A simple, accessible, easy-to-assemble and easy-to-use telescope that can be distributed by the millions. Ideally, every participant in an IYA2009 event should be able to take home one of these little telescopes. In collaboration with the US National Node.
Global Cornerstone Projects

Cosmic Diary

Professional astronomers will blog in text, images and video about their life, families, friends, hobbies, and interests, as well as their work – their latest research findings and the challenges that face them in their research.

The Portal to the Universe

A comprehensive directory of observatories, facilities, astronomical societies, amateur astronomy societies, space artists, science communication universities, as well as a news-, image- and video- aggregator and Web 2.0 collaborative tools for astronomy multimedia interconnectivity.
Global Cornerstone Projects

**She is an Astronomer**

The aim of the project is to provide neutral, informative and handful information to female professional and amateur astronomers, students and those who are generally interested in the gender equality problem in science.

**Dark Skies Awareness**

IAU will collaborate with the NOAO, International Dark-Sky Association and other national and international partners in dark sky and environmental education on several related themes.
UNESCO and the IAU are working together to implement a research and education collaboration as part of UNESCO’s Astronomy and World Heritage project.

A unique global effort in empowering teachers to exploit the existing astronomical educational resources. The Galileo Teacher Training Programme will create a hyper-network (a network of networks of networks).
Universe Awareness

Universe Awareness (UNAWE) will be an international outreach activity that aims to inspire young disadvantaged children with the beauty and grandeur of the universe.

The Universe from the Earth

The Universe from the Earth is an exhibition that will bring these images to a wider audience in non-traditional venues, like art museums, public galleries, shopping malls and public gardens.
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National Activities

e.g.: Sidewalk Astronomy
Astronomy Olympiads
Open Doors
Star parties
Public Talks
Exhibitions
Stamps
...

[Images of people engaging in stargazing and public talks]
IYA2009 Roadmap

’03-’06
2003: IAU General Assembly in Sidney, AU
2005: UNESCO endorsement
2006: IAU General Assembly in Prague, CZ
2006: IAU EC WG structure set up

’07
February: IYA2009 EC EG meeting
February: SPoCs “kick-off” meeting
August: Secretariat structure set up
August: Fundraising
September: Cornerstone Projects
September: Brochure ver. 2.0
October: CAP2007 conference
December: UN decision

’08
Website version 2
New Brochure release
IYA2009 SPoCs Regional Meetings
Cornerstones Coordinators Meeting
First activities and events

’09
January: Opening Ceremony: UNESCO HQ, Paris, France
Global Events
Global Cornerstone Implementation
Regional Events
National Events
Local Events
August: IAU General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
December: Closing Ceremony: Italy (?)

’10
Evaluation and Follow-up
National Reports
IYA2009 Secretariat Final Report
Make it happen!

Get involved with your National Organisation!

Get involved with one of the Cornerstone Projects!

Involve your projects in IYA2009!
IYA 2009 Secretariat

Hubble European Space Agency Information Centre
Space Telescope-European Coordinating Facility
ESO – Garching – Munich – Germany

Contact:
Pedro Russo
prusso@eso.org