# Galaxy Forum Singapore
**Saturday 9 March**  
**9.00 am – 12.30 pm**  
**Science Centre Singapore**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>08:45-9:15</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Main Entrance Science Centre Singapore</td>
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| 09:15-9:30  | **Welcome address** Assoc Prof Dr. Lim Tit Meng  
Science Center Singapore                     |                                               |
| 09:30-9:50  | **ILOA 21st Century Galaxy Education, Exploration and Enterprise** Steve Durst International Lunar Observatory Association |
| 09:50-10:10 | **Astronomy, Calendar and Society**  
Dr. KK Cheong  
The Astronomical Society of Singapore        |                                               |
| 10:10-10:30| **NUS Astronomy Activities and Research**  
Assoc Prof Dr. Phil Chan  
National University of Singapore               |                                               |
| 10:30-10:50 | **Tea break with light refreshments**  
Sponsored by ILOA                              |                                               |
| 10:50-11:10 | **Significance of Universe and Cosmos System in Muslim Consciousness** Mr. Noor Isham Sanif  
Madrasah Al Irsyad Al Islamiah, Singapore      |                                               |
| 11:10-11:30| **Astronomy in Indonesia and SEA: Present Status and Vision for Future Development** Dr. Chatief Kunjaya  
Dept of Astronomy, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia |
| 11:30-11:50 | **NARIT: Developing Galaxy Science / Astronomy in Thailand and ASEAN**  
Boonruksar Soonthornthum, Pairash Thajchayapong  
NARIT, Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand |
| 11:50-12:30| **Panel Discussion, Q&A**                                                                     |                                               |
| 12:30       | **End of Programme**                                                                         |                                               |
Talk Synopses and Speaker Bios

ILOA 21st Century Galaxy Education, Exploration and Enterprise
Steve Durst, International Lunar Observatory Association

The ILOA is an interglobal enterprise incorporated as a non-profit in Hawaii to advance human knowledge of the Cosmos through observation from our Moon. We are actively developing and participating in 4 missions to the Lunar surface. Since 2008, we have also been building a global series of Galaxy Forums, free public events designed to advance Galaxy Awareness / Galaxy 21st Century Education in the classroom and general community. Selected experts present on relevant topics with educators, astronomers, entrepreneurs, students and interested community members in attendance. Interactive panel discussions follow and efforts are made to integrate local perspectives and traditional knowledge. Galaxy Forums have been held in Silicon Valley, Canada, China, India, Japan, Europe, Africa, Hawaii, Kansas and New York. The program is expanding to Southeast Asia, South America and Antarctica in 2013-2014.

Steve Durst is the Founding Director of the International Lunar Observatory Association (ILOA), and also the editor and publisher of the Space Age Publishing Company. He is an active advocate and supporter of Space and Lunar Enterprise, and 21st Century Galaxy Education.

Astronomy, Calendar and Society
Dr. KK Cheong, The Astronomical Society of Singapore

Singapore is a multicultural society. This is reflected in the official annual public holidays in Singapore. There are eleven annual public holidays in Singapore. Three of them are secular (namely, New Year’s Day, Labour Day & National Day). The remaining eight are cultural, racial or religious holidays (consisting of two Chinese, two Muslim, two Christian, one Buddhist and one Hindu/Sikh). Most of the cultural, racial or religious holidays are movable festivals, in that they do not fall on a fixed date in the Gregorian calendar. This talk will describe how the application of astronomy and calendrical science is manifested in the way Singaporeans go about their everyday lives.

Dr KK Cheong was formerly the Asst Chief Executive, Education Programmes, Science Centre Singapore before his retirement. He initiated the formation of TASOS, the first astronomy club in Singapore and has facilitated the growth of astronomy clubs in many schools and polytechnics in Singapore. Dr Cheong is also co-author of ‘A Skybook to the Tropics’ published in 2009.
NUS Astronomy Activities and Research
Assoc Prof Dr. Phil Chan, National University of Singapore

We will outline Astronomy activities and the Astrophysics program offered in our Physics Department at the National University of Singapore, NUS. Current astrophysics related research conducted in NUS will also be introduced.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phil Chan teaches astronomy and astrophysics at the Department of Physics, National University of Singapore, and has won numerous awards for teaching excellence.

The Significance of Universe and Cosmos System in Muslim Consciousness
Name: Mr Noor Isham Sanif, Madrasah Al Irsyad Al Islamiah, Singapore

This sharing discusses about the significance of the universe and cosmos system in the Muslim consciousness. The presenter will share how the Muslims' daily and other rituals are determined by the position of the earth, sun and moon, and how the new moon sighting continues to be an eventful exercise for the Muslims in determine its lunar calendar.

Mr Noor Isham Sanif is the Principal of the Madrasah Al Irsyad Al Islamiah, Singapore.

Astronomy in Indonesia, Present Status and Vision for Future Development
Chatief Kunjaya, Department of Astronomy, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia

Indonesia has a long history of Astronomical research and education. A "big" observatory has been in operation since 1928 and higher education in astronomy exists since 1951. Beside research and education, activities among astronomical communities in Indonesia include public outreach by the Bosscha Observatory and amateur astronomers clubs, Lunar Crescent observation, Astronomy Olympiad etc. Future astronomy-related projects includes development of satellite and spacecraft launching facilities in Morotai island and development of other observatory in Timor island. The cooperation among astronomical institution in South East Asia has been promoted through South East Asian Astronomy Network (SEAAN) and South East Asian Young Astronomers Collaboration (SEAYAC).

Dr. Chatief Kunjaya is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Astronomy of the Institute of Technology, Bandung, Indonesia. His areas of research include galaxy and cosmology, Solar System science, and stellar physics.

Developing Galaxy Science/ Astronomy in Thailand and ASEAN
Boonrucksar Soonthornthum and Pairash Thajchayapong, NARIT, Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand

In this presentation, it will be focused on the roles of Thailand in supporting the 21st Century Galaxy Science and Astronomy in Southeast Asian countries. The "National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT)" has been developed under the Ministry of Science and Technology since 2008 with its vision in becoming one of the leading organizations in astronomy in Southeast Asia. During the past 4 years after its establishment, NARIT has developed several standard astronomical
infrastructures and human resources in Astronomy to support the national and international astronomical activities. To support galaxy science in advancing the 21st century education, NARIT take significant roles in supporting education and public awareness in Galaxy Science and Astronomy nationwide. In 2012, NARIT has been selected by the "International Astronomical Union (IAU)" as the "Southeast Asia Regional Office of Astronomy for Development (SEA ROAD)" to extend its mission and more collaboration in Galaxy Science and Astronomy to Southeast Asian countries. Information technology and remote telescope operations have been adopted at NARIT to support the vision of the 21st Century Education. It is expected that Thailand will take a major role toward the future development of Galaxy Science and Astronomy for ASEAN Community.

_Boonrucksar Soonthornthum is the director of the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT). He is also an active member of the International Astronomical Union._

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**Meteorites Exhibition – March 2013**

The Chelyabinsk meteorite which landed in Russia on 15 February 2013 raised curiosity and fear. Come and see what meteorites are at our exhibition, which will run through March 2013, and learn about other landings and near-misses! Our Meteorites Exhibition consists of 6 posters and samples of meteorites housed in showcases. Test your powers of observation and guess the weight and/or type of meteorites displayed. Get it right and you may win a prize!