3rd Circular of (IOAA-jr 2026)

Updates on Official Program, Reception & Logistics, and Confirmation Items
The 5th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics for Juniors (IOAA-jr 2026)
1–8 November 2026 | Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

The Organizing Committee is pleased to issue Circular No. 3 of the 5th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics for Juniors (IOAA-jr 2026). The event will take place in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand, from 1 to 8 November 2026.

This circular consolidates the latest published programme and practical arrangements for participants, Team Leaders, and Observers. Please review the schedule carefully and follow all instructions provided by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and designated staff. The official website remains the reference point for announcements and updates.

1. List of Pre-Registered Countries

Total: 25 Countries including 23 main teams and 2 observation teams.

Australia	**Bangladesh**	**Bulgaria**	**Canada**	**China**
Colombia	**Czechia**	**El Salvador**	**Estonia**	**Greece**
India	**Italy**	**Lao PDR**	**Lithuania**	**Moldova**
Nepal	**Poland**	**Qatar**	**Romania**	**Sweden**
Thailand	**Ukraine**	**Vietnam**	**Botswana**	**Astrofinders Association**

Pre-Departure Travel Requirements (for international delegations)

All international participants should check passport validity, their applicable Thai visa or visa-exemption requirements, and any transit-country entry requirements well before departure. Visa eligibility varies by nationality and purpose of entry; please consult the Royal Thai Embassy or Consulate relevant to your country.

Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC): Non-Thai nationals entering Thailand must complete the free online arrival card within the 3-day period before arrival, including the arrival date. The official portal is https://tdac.immigration.go.th/. The TDAC is not a visa. Prepare your passport, flight and accommodation details before submission.

2. Important Dates

Participant's Arrival at Ubon Ratchathani	1 November 2026
Welcome Dinner	1 November 2026
Opening Ceremony	2 November 2026
Competition and Activities Period	3 - 7 November 2026
Closing Ceremony	8 November 2026 (Morning)
Participant's Departure from Ubon Ratchathani	8 November 2026 (Afternoon)

For teams planning to arrive before November 1, 2026, or depart after November 8, 2026, please be advised that any accommodation outside the official IOAA-jr 2026 period will be at the team's own expense. Accommodation provided by the organizers, including transfers, is available at €40 per room per night (up to 2 guests per room). Teams arriving early or staying longer are kindly requested to contact the organizing committee in advance so we can assist with the arrangements.





Note: The program is subject to adjustment if necessary due to academic, weather, safety, or operational requirements. Any official changes will be communicated directly to Team Leaders via official IOAA-jr2026 channels.

4. Accommodation & Transfers

- **Accommodation will be arranged as follows:**

Team Leaders and Observers

- **Centara Ubon:** 1–2 November 2026
  355 Jaeramae, Ubon Ratchathani 34000
  Tel.: +66 45 319 556
  Email: cub@chr.co.th
- **Tohsang Heritage Khongjiam:** 2–8 November 2026
  68 Moo 7, Ban Huai Mak Tai, Khong Chiam District, Ubon Ratchathani 34220
  Tel.: +66 81 860 5905
  Email: tohsang@tohsang.com

Students

- **Centara Ubon:** 1–5 November 2026
  355 Jaeramae, Ubon Ratchathani 34000
  Tel.: +66 45 319 556
  Email: cub@chr.co.th
- **Sirindhorn Dam Hotels & Resorts:** 5–8 November 2026
  30 Moo 11, Nikhom Lamdomnoi Subdistrict, Sirindhorn District,
  Ubon Ratchathani 34350
  Tel.: +66 45 366 085
  Email: ksc.villa_srd@egat.co.th

- **Transportation**

Transportation services will utilize high-standard **45-seat coaches** and **10-seat vans** with a focus on safety. Police escorts and emergency medical support (ambulances) will be provided for key routes and events where appropriate.

- **Travel Insurance**

Foreign visitors are not eligible for free medical care in Thailand. In the event of illness or injury, travelers will need to cover their own medical expenses. Therefore, it is highly recommended to purchase travel insurance before arriving in Thailand.

Comprehensive travel insurance should cover:

- Medical emergencies
- Personal injury and accidents
- Flight delays or cancellations
- Damage to personal belongings
- Lost or stolen luggage

To ensure adequate coverage, select a travel insurance policy specifically designed for travel in Thailand, as this will help avoid exclusions or unexpected conditions.

Health, Weather & Personal Preparation

Please bring essential personal medicines in their original packaging and any relevant prescription documents. Participants should prepare for warm or rainy weather, occasional outdoor activities and evening observation sessions. Comfortable closed-toe footwear and suitable rain protection are recommended for activities outside the formal ceremonies.

5. Opening Ceremony (2 November 2026)

- The Opening Ceremony of the 5th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics for Juniors (IOAA-jr 2026) will be held on 2 November 2026 at His Majesty's 7th Cycle Birthday Anniversary Commemorating Building, Ubon Ratchathani University.
- The Organizing Committee is deeply honored that **Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn** will graciously preside over the Opening Ceremony.
- In view of this special occasion, all participants are kindly requested to observe the prescribed dress code, security measures, and ceremonial protocols. Your understanding and cooperation in ensuring the dignity and smooth conduct of the ceremony are greatly appreciated.

Important – Photography and Video Recording

Taking photographs or recording videos is strictly prohibited throughout the Opening Ceremony, regardless of the type of device used. This prohibition applies to all devices, including mobile phones, digital cameras, video cameras, tablets, smartwatches, and any other photographic or recording equipment.

5.1 Dress code for the opening ceremony

(A) Business formal/ Semi-formal

- **Women:** A knee-length dress, dress pants, or a modest skirt with a blouse is recommended. A suit is not required.
- **Men:** Business or smart casual attire is recommended. A suit or blazer is welcome but not required; a tie is optional. A collared shirt with tailored trousers is acceptable. Due to the mourning period, white shirts or dark-colored tones are appreciated.

(B) National costume

- Traditional attire is welcome, provided it is elegant, modest, and appropriate for a formal royal reception.
- If your national attire features bright colors, we kindly ask you to pin a black ribbon on the left side of your chest.

(C) Student uniform

- Students are welcome to wear the school uniform of their choice. Alternatively, formal, semi-formal, or national attire is also permitted.

(D) Special remark

- Please avoid jeans and open-toe shoes. If wearing sports shoes, we recommend choosing understated or dark colors where possible.
- Please note that backpacks and large bags are not allowed in the venue.
- **In line with the current mourning period, we kindly ask that attire follow a black, white, or subdued tone (e.g., white or black shirt with dark trousers or skirt).** Hats and dark sunglasses are not permitted within the ceremony area.



Example of dress codes for the opening ceremony on 2 November 2026

5.2 Student Electronic Device Management

Shortly after the Welcome Night Party, all students must hand over their mobile phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches, and other wireless communication devices to their Team Leaders, as instructed by the LOC.

The possession and use of electronic devices during the competition period must comply strictly with the IOAA Statutes and LOC guidelines.

6. Closing Ceremony (8 November 2026)

Schedule & Departure Notice

- **Before 07:30** – Check out of the hotel and depart for the Closing Ceremony venue (approx. 80–100 km travel distance).
- **10:00–12:00** – Closing Ceremony at His Majesty's 7th Cycle Birthday Anniversary Commemorating Building, Ubon Ratchathani University.
- **13:30 onwards** – Scheduled participant departures.

7. Contact & Official Updates

- General enquiries: ioaajr2026@ubu.ac.th
- Official website: https://ioaajr2026.ubu.ac.th/
- Official Facebook: https://facebook.com/ioaajr2026

Please direct questions and urgent coordination matters to the LOC through the official contact channels. Any changes to the programme or logistics will be communicated through official IOAA-jr 2026 channels.

We look forward to welcoming Students, Team Leaders, Observers, and all IOAA-jr participants to Ubon Ratchathani - the City of Four Lights - to participate in a safe, professional, friendly, and memorable IOAA-jr.

With warm regards,
IOAA-jr 2026 Organizing Committee