

## 1<sup>st</sup> Circular the 5<sup>th</sup> IOAA-jr 2026

### Dear Members,

We are delighted to invite you to the 5<sup>th</sup> International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics - Junior (IOAA-jr2026), which will be hosted in Ubon Ratchathani, THAILAND, from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2026 (arrival) to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2026 (departure). The event will bring together young minds from across the globe to engage in collaborative learning and friendly competition.

This year's Olympiad is jointly hosted by **The Promotion of Academic Olympiad and Development of Science Education Foundation (POSN)** under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra, together with **Ubon Ratchathani Province, Ubon Ratchathani University (UBU), and the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT)**.

A significant inspiration behind organizing the IOAA-jr 2026 is the celebration of the **72<sup>nd</sup> birthday anniversary of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2027**. Her longstanding support for education and the promotion of scientific knowledge has profoundly influenced generations of students across Thailand, nurturing future thinkers, innovators, and leaders.

**The circular below contains important details regarding timelines, team composition, fees, and other relevant information.**

### Important Dates:

Pre-registration opens:	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
Pre-registration closes:	<b>20<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
Main Registration opens:	<b>20<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>
Main Registration closes:	<b>30<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>
Opening Ceremony of IOAA-jr 2026:	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026 – 09.30 AM- 12.00 PM</b>
Closing Ceremony of IOAA-jr 2026:	<b>8<sup>th</sup> November 2026 – 10.00 AM - 12.00 PM</b>

### Team Composition and Fees:

- **Main teams:** This initial phase focuses specifically on Main Teams. There will be fees for main teams of up to 5 students and 2 team leaders. The fee for main teams will be 500 EUR per person.
- We are preparing for 30 Main teams and may accept/accommodate guest teams for this edition of the competition provided that we have available space (The fee for Guest teams will be 1,000 EUR per person).
- **Observers:** Each observer is required to pay a registration fee of 1,000 EUR per person.

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### Pre-registration:

You can complete the pre-registration process through the following link:

<https://forms.gle/XFkMrZv1wj9VFjAj6>

- **Deadline for pre-registration is 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**
- **Note that students' names are not required at this stage.**

### Accommodation and Logistics:

- All participants will be provided full accommodation and meals during the event (1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2026).

#### Access

**All participants are kindly requested to arrive in Ubon Ratchathani no later than 18:00 on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2026.**

- **By plane:** Flight services from Bangkok to Ubon Ratchathani International Airport (UBP) operate from two main airports:

Code ICAO	Code ICAO	Airport name	Airline name	Duration
VTBS	BKK	Suvarnabhumi Airport (THAILAND)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thai Airway</li> <li>• Thai Vietjet Air</li> </ul>	1 h 15 min
VTBD	DMK	Don Mueang International Airport (THAILAND)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thai AirAsia</li> <li>• Thai Lion Air</li> <li>• Nok Air</li> </ul>	1 h 10 min

**All the participating teams arriving in Ubon Ratchathani by plane will be welcomed at the UBP Airport and then driven to the hotel for accommodation.**

- **By train:** For those traveling by train, services from Bangkok to Ubon Ratchathani Railway Station are provided as follows:

Train	Departure		Arrival		Duration
<b>Special Express No. 23</b> (CNR sleeper; overnight train)	<b>Krung Thep Aphiwat Central Terminal</b>	21:05	<b>Ubon Ratchathani Railway Station</b>	Next day 6:40	9 h 50 min
	<b>Don Muang Station*</b>	21:20			
<b>Special Express No. 21</b> (day train)	<b>Krung Thep Aphiwat Central Terminal (BANGKOK)</b>	06:10	<b>Ubon Ratchathani Railway Station</b>	14:00	7 h 50 min
	<b>Don Muang Station*</b>	06:25			

\*Skywalk connection from Don Mueang International Airport

**All the participating teams arriving in Ubon Ratchathani by train will be welcomed at the railway station and then driven to the hotel for accommodation.**

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### Important Notice on Visa Application for IOAA-jr 2026 Participants:

Although **nationals from 93 countries and territories** are entitled to visa exemption when entering Thailand, such exemptions apply only for purposes related to tourism, business engagements, urgent assignments, or ad-hoc work.

Therefore, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of IOAA-jr 2026, Thailand strongly recommends all participants to apply for a Courtesy Visa (CY), in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

**For more details, please kindly visit <https://thaievisa.go.th/>**

### Travel Insurance:

**The organizers will provide Personal Accident Insurance covering only injuries resulting from accidents for all foreign participants during the event period (1–8 November 2026).**

However, please noted that for any other illnesses or medical conditions not caused by an accident, travelers will be responsible for their own medical expenses. Therefore, it is highly recommended to purchase comprehensive Travel Insurance before arriving in Thailand.

#### Comprehensive travel insurance should cover:

- Medical emergencies
- 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.

### Further Information:

Details about the program and venues will be updated on our website <https://ioajr2026.ubu.ac.th/> which is currently available. For any queries, please contact us at [ioajr2026@ubu.ac.th](mailto:ioajr2026@ubu.ac.th).

We look forward to welcoming you to Ubon Ratchathani, THAILAND for an unforgettable celebration of science and friendship.

With warm regards,



**Prof. Dr. Siriporn Jungsuttiwong,**  
Chair, Local Organizing Committee  
IOAA-jr 2026