

## PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL PLANETARIUM MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MOSTI)

## WINNER FOR TELESCOPE FOR ALL 2021 PROGRAMME

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 JULY 2021 – The National Planetarium today announced that Malaysia was listed as one of the winner of the Telescope for All 2021 project from 12 telescopes provided through the International Astronomical Union (IAU) global outreach project. The recipient of this Bresser 90/1200 refractor telescope is **Mr. Vadivelan A/L Sinnasamy, a science teacher from Sek Jenis Kebangsaan** (Tamil) Jugra, Kuala Langat, Selangor.

Mr. Vadivelan has managed to draw attention to the world through his essays to open up opportunities for the underserve community to own a telescope to attract students to astronomy and to study the stars and space objects.

The telescope to be received by Mr. Vadivelan donated by BRESSER is equipped with a digital camera, eyepiece and solar foil. He can record the observed images using a digital camera and share them with the community online throughout the period of the pandemic. The telescope can also be used to observe the moon, the major planets and its satellites in the solar system. Apart from that, this telescope can also detect bright space nebula (Mesier Object) such as Orion Nebula, globular clusters and binary stars.

The programme Telescope for All 2021 project was launched simultaneously worldwide under the leadership of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), Office of Astronomy Outreach (OAO) in collaboration with Stars Shine for Everyone (SSVI), Leiden

University/Universe Awareness (UNAWE), National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) and BRESSER.

The **National Planetarium** as the National Outreach Coordinator (NOC) on behalf of Malaysia in collaboration with the National STEM Center and Universe Awareness Malaysia has launched the Telescope for All 2021 project at the National level from 3 to 24 May 2021 virtually. The program aims to cultivate and expand the interest of Malaysians in the field of space science, while promoting equal opportunities to pursue a career in the field of space science. A total of 172 entries were received and of that number, only 38 entries were shortlisted for international judging. The criteria for the competed proposal must contain high creativity, effective impact on the community, the selected community (underserved community) and must have sustainability (sustainability) for the continuity of the project.

The list of the **12 best Telescope for All program proposals** that have successfully received a telescope is as below:

- 1. Telescopes for All in Afghanistan, Kayhana Astronomical Group, Afghanistan
- 2. Telescopes for All in Botswana, Machana Satellite School, Botswana
- 3. Tomorrow's Stars (Astros do Amanhã), Leva Ciência Institute (Instituto Nacional Leva Ciência INALC), Brazil
- 4. Telescopes for All in Ghana, Tetteh-Ocloo School for the Deaf, Ghana
- 5. Namma Telescope, Open Space Foundation (OSF), India
- 6. Telescopes for All in Iraq, Freelance, Al-Muthanna University (Lecturer), Iraq
- 7. Telescopes for All in Jordan, Jordanian Astronomical Society (JAS), Jordan
- 8. Telescopes for All in Malaysia, SJKT JUGRA School, Malaysia
- 9. Telescopes for All in Mauritius, Hindu Girls' College Astronomy Club, Mauritius
- 10. Evening Meetings With Astronomy, Grupa Edukacji Astronomicznej na Czarnej Hucie (The Black Ironworks Astronomical Education Group), Poland
- 11. Telescopes for All in Samoa, Tiapapata Art Centre, Samoa
- 12. Telescopes for All in Timor Leste, Knua Sentrál ba Prátika Siénsia no Matemátika (KSP), East Timor

For more information, the public can visit the website <u>https://www.iau.org/public/telescopecollaboration</u>/ or the Official Facebook of the National Planetarium.



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