



## Meet The Office for Young Astronomers:

Itziar Aretxaga (INAOE, Mexico), **International School for Young Astronomers (ISYA)** Director  
David Mota (Univ. Oslo, Norway), ISYA Deputy Director

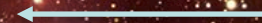


(42nd ISYA, Kunming, China, 2019)





1977 Brazil



## OYA Steering Committee



[isya@eso.org](mailto:isya@eso.org)

Itziar Aretxaga  
(INAOE, Mexico)  
ISYA Director  
2018-2024

David Mota  
(U. Oslo, Norway)  
ISYA Deputy  
Director 2018-2024

Nigar Abbasova  
(U. Oslo, Norway)  
OYA Intern 2021-2022



+

Local Director  
Host country





# International School for Young Astronomers: background

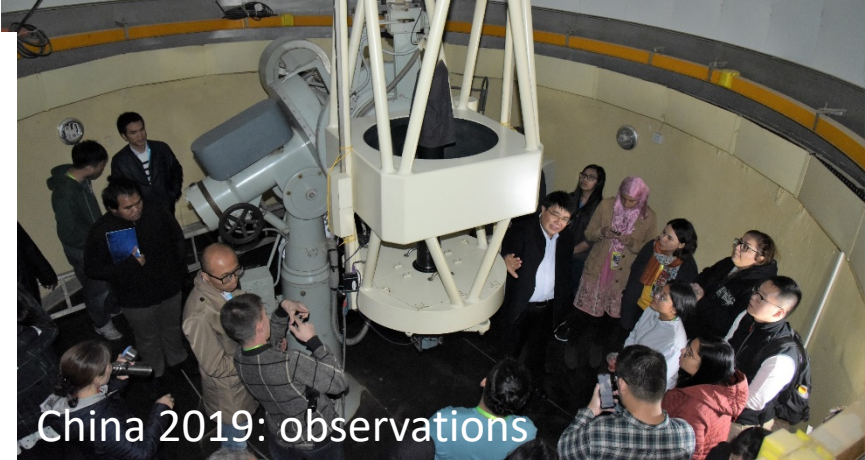
- Organized by IAU since 1967
- Layout: 3-week intensive postgraduate school for parts of the world where students do not have access to a broad up-to-date astrophysics background (mainly, but not exclusively, from astronomically developing countries).
- Target population: isolated MSc to PhD students
- Goal: broaden the participants' perspective on astronomy
- Lecturers: researchers in faculty positions with international career paths, familiar with the region.



## Benefits for students:

- Contact with **international lecturers**: co-supervisions develop, students recruited at lecturer's PhD school,...
- Topics that complement their basic astronomy background.
- Access to **quality notes** on selected basic topics on astrophysics.
- **Practice** with basic bibliographic and virtual observatory tools.
- Some **observational experience**
- Workshops on Career Development and **Mentoring**
- A **network** of fellow students to develop with into the new generation of astronomy professionals in the region
- Awareness of the **opportunities** they can access away from their countries of origin.

**THIS CANNOT BE DONE IN A VIRTUAL  
FORMAT VIA TELECONFERENCE**



China 2019: observations

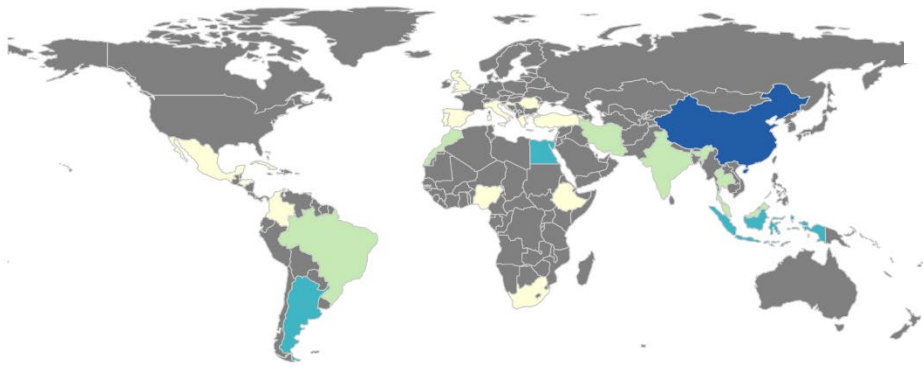


Egypt 2018: data reduction lab



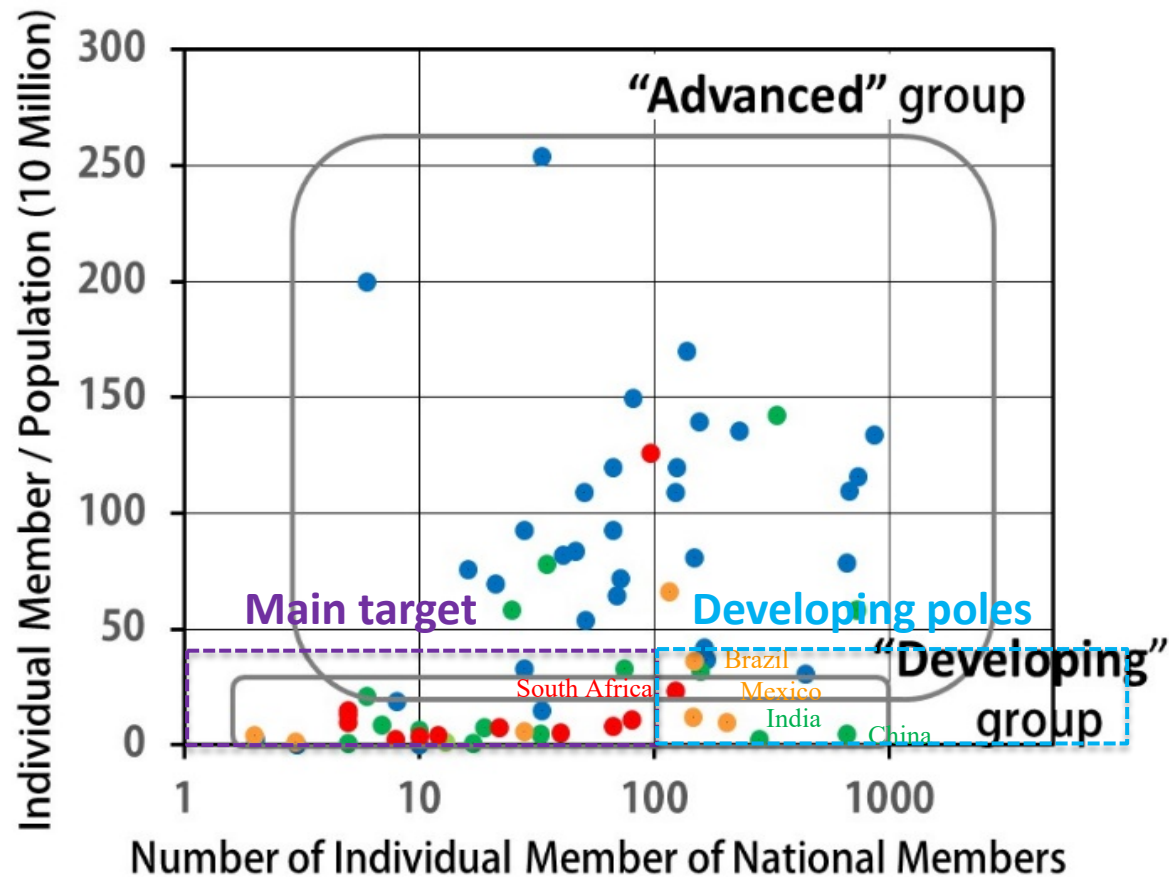
Ethiopia 2017: student presentations





# What is our target population?

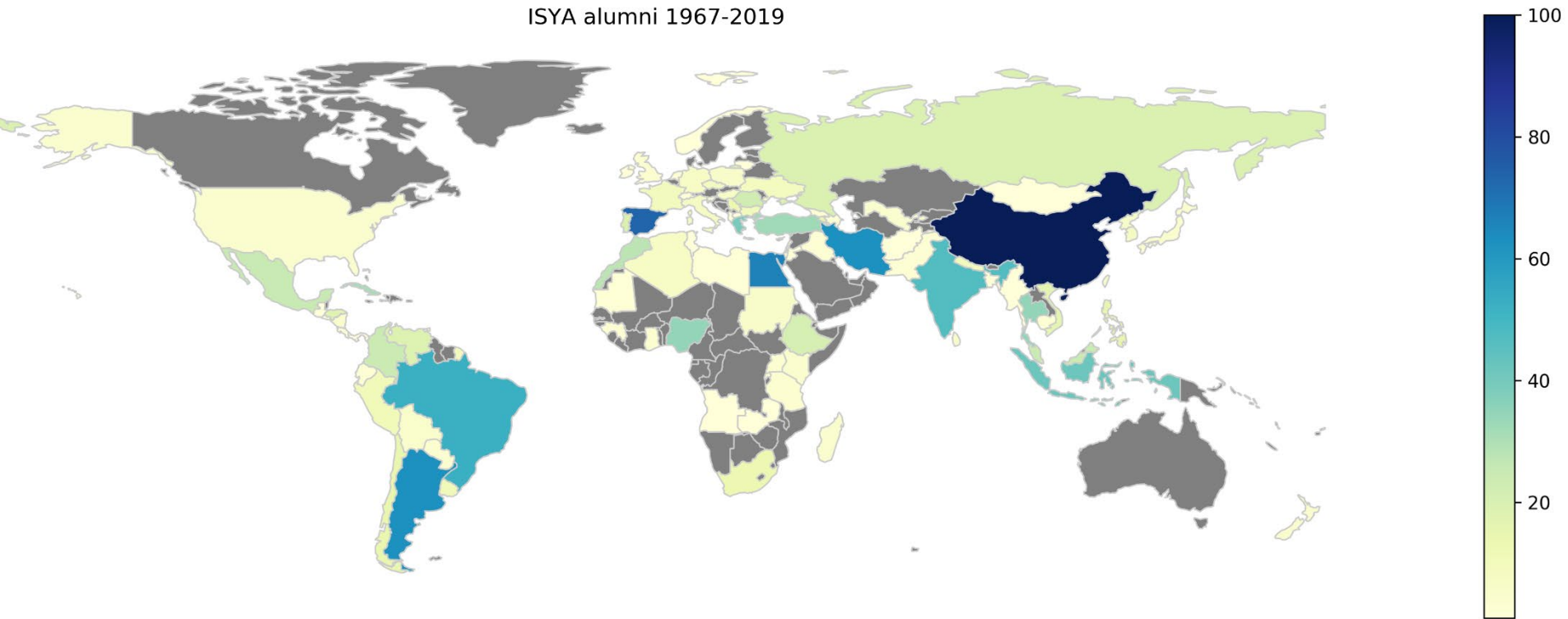
Analysis of IAU Regions : Most of Asian Pacific, Latin American and Mid-East and African regions are included in the “Developing” group



# Distribution of alumni

54 years, 42 schools: 1484 students from 94 countries

ISYA alumni 1967-2019







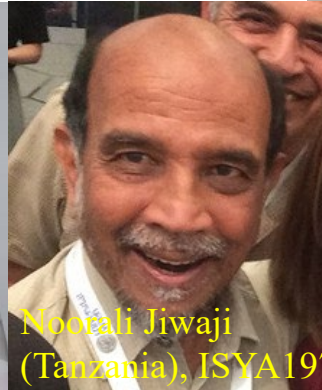
Gloria Dubner (Argentina),  
ISYA1977



Pius Okeke (Nigeria),  
ISYA1978



Francisca Okeke  
(Nigeria), ISYA1978



Noorali Jiwaji  
(Tanzania), ISYA1978



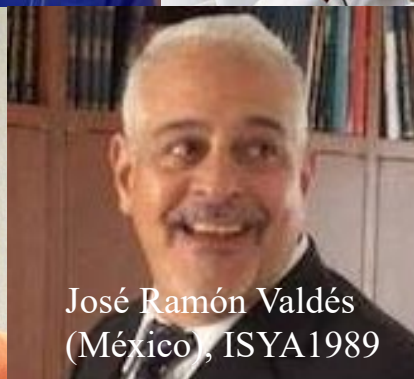
Mónica Rubio (Chile),  
ISYA1979



Jin Zhu (China),  
ISYA1986



Alfonso Aragón-  
Salamanca(UK),  
ISYA1988



José Ramón Valdés  
(México), ISYA1989



Julio Navarro  
(Canada), ISYA1989



Carme Gallart  
(Spain), ISYA1990



Xiaohui Fan (USA),  
ISYA1992



Somaya Saad (Egypt),  
ISYA1994



Habib Khosroshahi  
(Iran), ISYA1997



Fatemeh Tabatabaei  
(Iran), ISYA1997



Nasim Seghouani  
(Algeria), ISYA1999



Kingsley Opkala  
(Nigeria), ISYA1999



Shengbang Qian  
(China), ISYA2001



Prosperity Simpemba  
(Zambia), ISYA2012



Pranita Sappankum  
(Thailand), ISYA2019



Hira Fatima  
(Pakistan), ISYA2019



# Testimonial: Somaya Saad (Egypt)



Some of the most important messages I have received:

**1st Faith, self-confidence**, and training in dealing with and caring by others.

**2nd** Enhance the concept of non-bias towards gender, color or race, and this is one of the most important policies of the IAU, with which our high-end **goals of equality, diversity** and inclusion may achieved.

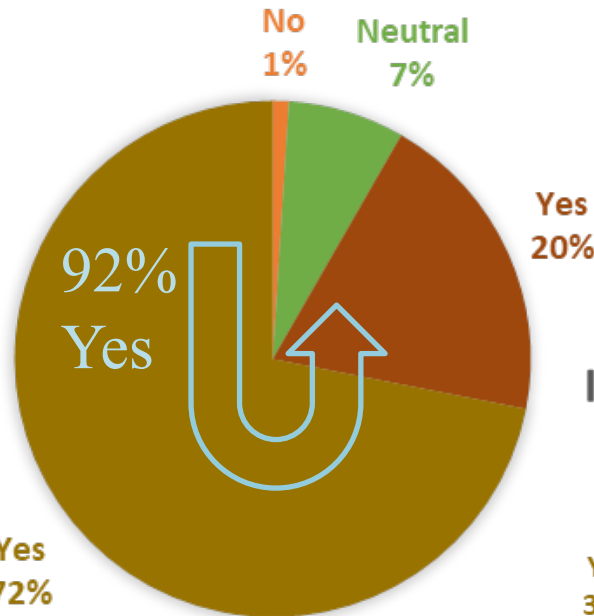
**3rd** I learned that **Youth simply equal to the future** so we have to encourage young people in all parts of the world, especially developing countries, to learn and acquire skills that would be very helpful for a decent start of their scientific and practical life which may help in improving their societies

Prof. Somaya Saad, NRIAG, Egypt ISYA 1994 Egypt alumni  
ISYA 2018 Local Director  
NCA President  
NAEC Team Liason  
NOC Liason

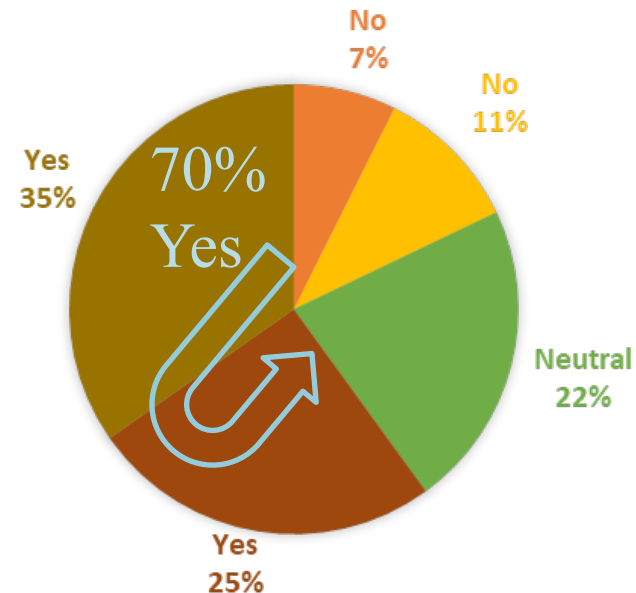
# ISYA feedback survey 1967-2014

- 97 alumni replied to the questionnaire: 50% are members of the IAU
- 90% work in astronomy and 10% work in STEM

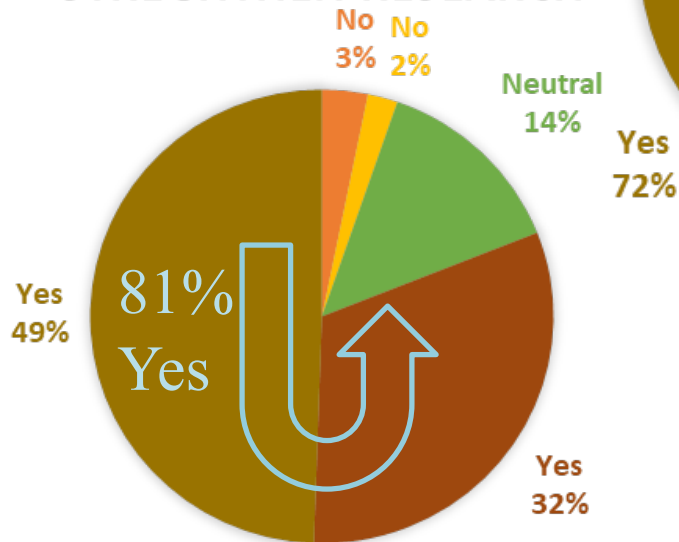
## I BENEFITED



## I DEVELOPED A NETWORK



## STRENGTHEN RESEARCH





# ISYAs: the future

Pending on pandemic development in the regions:

2022: lobbying... anybody out there?

2023: South Africa & Algeria? Postponed from 2020/2021 program

Please email us at [isya@eso.org](mailto:isya@eso.org)

