

Project Name:

International Occultation Timing Association Winter School (IWS)

Main Purpose:

Based on this project annual workshops (as winter school) will be held around the world and in targeted countries for their amateur astronomers to meet each other and attract them about occultation and TNOs, on behalf of International Occultation Timing Association in collaboration with sections of IOTA.

Timing:

1. These workshops hold as International Occultation Timing Association Winter Schools on February or March each year.
2. Winter school can take from 2 to 5 days based on the facilities of each country.
3. It is recommended to match the holding time with an occultation observation (occultation by the moon or asteroid).

Targeted Country and venue:

1. Next annual venue's country and city among the candidates will declare after the end of each winter school.
2. In each part of IOTA the priority is with the countries which have young population, developing countries or the countries with a large population of amateur astronomers.
3. Any part of IOTA or countries' astronomical societies can offer their proposals to the project manager up to 14 months before holding via e-mail. The timing for the first year and in emergency situations can change.
4. Venues choose with counsel, suggestions, voting and election by the manager's committee.

Managers' committee:

1. This committee includes the [IOTA] Sections' Presidents.
2. The committee will choose a person who is responsible for the project.
3. The committee decides on the choice of venue, dates and selecting the scientific committee.
4. The project managers are responsible for coordination between the committee and the part of IOTA where the program is held.

Scientific Committee:

1. Scientific committee includes those who are chosen as a lecturer each year. Committee's members' names will declare when the host country is determined.
2. Managers' committee determines scientific committee's members for one year and up to the end of the winter school.
3. Instructors choose among the members of the scientific committee, and if it's possible, with a person nominated from the venue's country where IOTA is held there.
4. Timing for winter school will determine by the scientific committee.
5. The duties of the scientific committee include: choosing instructors, to choose detailed topics and coordinate with lecturers about the issues, also choosing projects for the participants during schools and recognition of scientific qualifications in order to present certification to each participant.

Enforcement:

All executive topics and choosing executive director for each winter school will be set and followed by the section of IOTA (and the country) that the winter school will be held there.

Participants:

1. Participants aged between 18 and 30 years old.
2. Participants can be 7 up to 20 people, based on holding facilities.

3. Participants should be known as amateur astronomers and should be familiar with basic concepts of astronomy and observational astronomy.
4. Participants can be from different countries but it's necessary that 50 percent of the participants accept from the host country.
5. Participants should be familiar with the English language or the same specific language, and lectures should be translated for them.

Topics:

1. What is occultation, its variety and its branches
2. Timing
3. Astronomical observations and efficient use of observational tools
4. A good location for a good observation
5. Use applications and Web sites related to astronomical forecasts and reports
6. TNO's
7. Project definition, teamwork and familiarity with different parts of the IOTA

Scientific Certification:

In the cases of doing proper projects during the course by the participants, the scientific certification will sign and present by scientific committee. This certification has the name and the family name, country name, holding date and workshop title, lectures' topics and participants' grades (A, B, C, ...)

After the workshop:

Participants are introduced for the membership at the same section of IOTA that workshop held there, and an invitation will send to the participants from the same section of IOTA. Different parts can have different Approaches. For example, they can create a special department for young members with facilities for the first year of membership, such as lower membership fees. How to attract members and its Terms and conditions determined by the laws of every section of IOTA.

Financial resources:

Financial resources to hold the workshop can be obtained from the following ways:

1. Use of financial resources of IAU OAD
2. Use of local sponsors
3. fees from participants
4. Use of financial aids from different sections of IOTA or its members
5. Use of financial and non-financial resources of UNESCO