



APRIM2026 Third Circular: 12th January 2026

Asia-Pacific Regional IAU Meeting (APRIM2026) Hong Kong 4th - 8th May 2026 <https://aprim2026.org/>

Advancing global frontier research and cross-regional collaboration in astronomy, astrophysics, and space science - hands across the Asia-Pacific under the IAU

Important Updates:

- 1. Due to high demand and enquiry**, the abstract submission system has been *reopened. It will now remain open until 25th February 2026, the same day as early bird registrations close.*
- 2. Space Sustainability – this theme has been elevated to a full parallel meeting** - *Addressing challenges from satellite mega-constellations and space debris with discussions on international policy, interference mitigation, orbital ecosystem viability and the serious impacts on optical and radio astronomy*
- 3. Astronomy Public Outreach and Education –***There is now also a full half-day specialist communication forum event added (stay tuned for further details)*
- 4. Radio, mm and sub mm astronomy –** *There is now also a full half-day specialist SKA event added (stay tuned for further details)*

APRIM2026 Dates: 4-8 May 2026

Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), Hong Kong SAR

Registrations open: <https://aprim2026.org/registration/> (early-bird closes 25th February)

Revised Key Dates for APRIM 2026

- 25th February 2026 – Abstract submission deadline
- 25th February 2026 – Earlybird registration deadline
- 15th March 2026 – Deadline for visa assistance requests
- 4-8th May 2026 – Official conference dates

Conference Highlights:

- **Distinguished Plenary Speakers:** Plenary sessions will feature six laureates of the Nobel, Shaw and Gruber prizes and other eminent speakers, covering transformative discoveries across multiple disciplines.
- **Strong Scientific Programme:** Nine thematic tracks will be presented, including a new theme of space sustainability now elevated to a full parallel meeting based on interest and importance. This builds on the outcomes of the IAA-LSR Space Debris and Sustainability Conference held at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in December 2024 (<https://ssconf.space/>).

- **Forum to Establish Regional Collaborations:** APRIM offers excellent opportunities for delegates to forge partnerships across the Asia-Pacific and to promote scientific exchange and interdisciplinary cooperation.
- **Global Recognition:** Organised under the IAU, APRIM2026 is arguably the largest astronomy conference in the Asia-Pacific.

APRIM2026 welcomes participation from a broad spectrum of communities:

- **Scientists and Researchers:** Share research findings and build collaborations.
- **Educators and Outreach Professionals:** Advance public engagement and STEM education.
- **Students and Early-Career Scholars:** Connect with leading experts and explore academic pathways.
- **Engineers and Technical Experts:** Discover innovations at the intersection of science and technology.
- **Policy Makers and Institutional Representatives:** Join critical discussions on space sustainability and science policy.

Plenary Speakers (in alphabetical order):

- **Prof. Matthew Bailes** (Shaw Prize Laureate in Astronomy 2023, Swinburne, Australia); *Discovery of fast radio bursts*
- **Prof. Tamara Davis** (Professor, The University of Queensland Australia)
- **Prof. Yang GAO** (Director of Centre for AI Robotics in Space Sustainability, Co-director of Space Science and Technology Institute, HKUST)
- **Prof. Reinhard Genzel** (Nobel Laureate, 2020, MPI Germany); *Discovery of the supermassive black hole at the centre of our Milky Way.*
- **Prof. Luis C. Ho** (Director, Kavli Institute, Peking University, China); *Observational astronomy*
- **Prof. Hyesung Kang** (Pusan National University, South Korea); *Contribution: Cosmic rays research; IAUGA 2022 National Organizing Committee chair*
- **Prof. Victoria Kaspi** (Shaw Prize Laureate 2021, Canada) *Understanding Magnetars*
- **Prof. Shri Kulkarni** (Shaw Prize Laureate 2024, Caltech, USA); *Time-domain astronomy.*
- **Prof. Max Pettini** (Gruber Cosmology Prize 2025, Cambridge, UK); *Contribution: Fundamental measurements of deuterium abundance and the baryon density of the universe.*
- **Dr. Sarah Pearce** (SKA-Low, Australia); *Low frequency radio astronomy*
- **Prof. Laura Perez** (New Horizons Prize in Physics 2024, University of Chile) *Planetary system formation*
- **Prof. Brian Schmidt** (IAU President-Elect, Shaw Prize Laureate 2006, Nobel Laureate, 2011, ANU, Australia); *Accelerating universe discovery*
- **Prof. Ildar Shaikhislamov** (Russian Academy of Sciences); *Exoplanetary atmospheres*

Key Themes at APRIM2026

APRIM2026 will feature nine thematic tracks reflecting the latest scientific priorities and regional interests:

1. **Astronomy Public Outreach and Education** Regional programmes for engaging students and the public through lectures, digital media, and observatory sessions, with a focus on STEM inspiration and science literacy. *Added note: There is now also a full half-day specialist communication forum event (stay tuned for further details)*
2. **Galaxies, AGN and the High Redshift Universe** Investigations into galaxy formation and evolution in the early universe, including challenges posed by James Webb Space Telescope data and the epoch of reionisation.
3. **High Energy Astrophysics** Studies of black holes, neutron stars, and supernovae, with emphasis on X-rays, gamma rays, cosmic rays, neutrinos, and gravitational messengers.
4. **Gravitational Wave Astronomy** Latest results from LIGO and next-generation detectors, offering new insights into compact object mergers and extreme astrophysical phenomena.
5. **The Life Cycle of Stars and Their Planets** Advances in stellar evolution, planetary nebulae, supernova remnants, the interstellar medium, and extrasolar planetary systems with implications for life beyond Earth.
6. **Radio, mm and Sub-mm Astronomy** Highlights from facilities such as SKA and FAST, recent surveys, and breakthroughs in interferometric techniques across radio wavelengths. *There is now also a full half-day specialist SKA event added (stay tuned for further details)*
7. **Astronomical Surveys and Time Domain Astronomy** Developments in wide-field optical surveys, spectroscopic missions, and time-variable sky studies, with emphasis on the LSST era.
8. **Upcoming Astronomical Facilities** Scientific potential of future mega-infrastructures including ELT, GMT, Roman Space Telescope, and Xuntian.
9. **Space Sustainability – note this theme has now been elevated to a full parallel meeting - Addressing challenges from satellite mega-constellations and space debris, with discussions on international policy, interference mitigation, and orbital ecosystem viability.**

Stay Updated

Conference updates, session details, and speaker announcements will be published in due course on the official website: <https://aprim2026.org/>. Join us in Hong Kong in May 2026 as we celebrate the frontiers of discovery in astronomy, astrophysics, and space science—and strengthen the bonds of global scientific collaboration.

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