



THE MUNICIPALITY OF DIMITROVGRAD GATHERED THE MOST PROMINENT PHYSICISTS AND ASTRONOMERS FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PLANETARIUM 'GIORDANO BRUNO'

Thursday, 12 May 2022

Dimitrovgrad gathered the most prominent physicists and astronomers from all over the country. The occasion was the 60th anniversary of the first planetarium in Bulgaria - "Giordano Bruno", which is located in Dimitrovgrad.

The series of initiatives and events on the occasion of the anniversary ended with a seminar-discussion on "Planetariums and Observatories in Bulgaria - Past and Future".



Among the participants were Prof. Evgeni Semkov – The Head of Institute of Astronomy at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Evgeni Ovcharov - Head of Department of Astronomy at the Faculty of Physics at Sofia University, Prof. Dr. Sunay Ibryamov - "Physics and Astronomy" Department at the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Shumen, leaders and representatives of all planetariums in the country.

The host of the event, Mr Dimitar Kokotanekov, the Head of Giordano Bruno Planetarium, thanked everyone for the joint work and support, provided by the educational institutions and the local authorities. Greetings, to the audience in the Grosseto Hall, were given by the mayor of Dimitrovgrad Mr Ivo Dimov, the Regional Governor of the District of Haskovo – Mrs Katya Paneva, Mr Ivan Panayotov – a representative of Regional Educational Department. A special congratulatory address from the Minister of Education - Mr Nikolay Denkov, was read to guests. The former longtime Managing Director of the planetarium – Mr Petar Tonchev, was also invited in the hall.

The mayor of Dimitrovgrad addressed the audience with the words: "We may not be the largest planetarium in Bulgaria, but we are the first in the country. Now we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the National Astronomical Observatory Giordano Bruno. We thank to its creators and its leaders, and also the people, who work there. For us, the Planetarium has opportunities for further development".

The Regional Governor Katya Paneva gifted Mr Kokotanekov two tomes of Giordano Bruno to fill his library, wishing him the desire to open new worlds with eyes focused on the universe.

Prof. Semkov greeted the audience and emphasizes the importance of the planetarium for the educational and scientific astronomical community not only in the town, but



also in the country.

The event began with an anthem and a video about the Universe, prepared by second grader Ivelin Stoyanov. Several presentations on the activities of the planetariums in the country, and their promoting of astronomical knowledge among people, were also a part of the forum. Prof. Ovcharov acquainted the participants with the scientific role of Sofia University, the oldest university in Bulgaria, with a retrospective presentation, dedicated to 130 years of astronomical activities.

The significant anniversary of National Astronomical Observatory Giordano Bruno was marked by a series of initiatives, including competitions, digital "walks" around the universe and an exhibition of rare and valuable publications.





