

Contributed Talk //

Astronomy for Development



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Africa has amazing potential through its geographic advantage of dark skies. Astronomy activities on the African continent have burgeoned through various developments in terms of infrastructure and human capacity through investments by government and various institutions in Africa and from across the world over the last two decades. This vibrant community of astronomers continues to grow, supported by the African Astronomical Society (AfAS), which was relaunched in 2019. AfAS strives to play an essential part in astronomy in Africa by coordinating the network of astronomers, promoting astronomy research collaborations, encouraging astronomy study and applications, and advising government stakeholders on astronomy-related policies. The Society takes steps to guarantee that Africa sustains an astronomical environment that is stable and capable of supporting knowledge-based economies. More evidence of the rapid growth of astronomy in the continent can also be seen through the winning of the bid to host the mid-frequency component of what will be the world's largest radio telescope, the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), and hosting for the first time on African soil the International Astronomical Union General Assembly (IAU-GA) in 2024. This contribution will summarise the projects and activities across the continent in terms of Science, Education, Development and Outreach and how the African community is coming together, working towards a shared vision to build a legacy beyond the IAU-GA2024.