**INTERNATIONAL WORLDWIDE TELESCOPE GUIDED TOUR CONTEST**

**OVERVIEW:**

WorldWide Telescope (WWT) is a tool that uses real observational data and simulation data for many purposes, such as the demonstration of scientific research results or interactive STEAM education. It has a web portal and a Windows-PC client (recommended for contest use). The worldwide telescope concept originated in 2001; the platform with the same name was launched by Microsoft Research in 2008 and open-sourced in 2015. The management of WWT was transferred to the American Astronomical Society (AAS) in 2016. Learn more and try WWT at <http://www.worldwidetelescope.org>.

WWT Guided Tour Contest (WGTC) is a contest encouraging students, amateur astronomers and anyone interested in astronomy, geography or other related science, to use astronomical and other scientific data through the platform provided by WWT to create Guided Tours. A WWT Guided Tour can cover all topics related to astronomy and other science, including concept teaching, interpretation of science knowledge, data analysis and visualization, storytelling, science fiction and so on. You can see what a WWT looks like at <http://www.youtube.com/c/AASWorldWideTelescope>.

This international contest is based on the successful national contest experiences from China and the United States. In China, a national contest is held every two to three years and has been held successfully four times. The participants increased from 22 students to 254, and more than 120 tours have been uploaded in the 4th contest. The contest and related activities provide a new platform for astronomy education and public outreach. It pushes the potential social influence of astronomy and astronomical data, stimulates scientific interest and technological innovation of students, and cultivates the cooperation and team-spirit of teenagers.

**CALL TO ACTION:**

The first International WorldWide Telescope (WWT) Guided Tour Contest will kick off in the second half of 2021, and the award ceremony is planned in August 2022. The International Astronomical Union’s Office of Astronomy for Development, International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA), American Astronomical Society (AAS) and Chinese Astronomical Society (CAS) will be the host organizers of the contest. This international contest will need regional organizers or a committee to collect tours and select a certain number of excellent tours to submit to the international organizing committee. If you are interested in collaborating on this project, please fill the following form: <https://si3aja0mia0.typeform.com/to/dVo33ju7>