

Events during the International Year of Physics in South Africa

At the SASOL SciFest in March and the National Science Week in May, particular attention will be given to secondary learners, while a conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the South African Institute of Physics in July will focus on everyday uses of physics. The South African Post Office will issue a special postage stamp to mark this occasion.

Museums, planetariums and science centres will also take part in the programme with specific projects to be announced by the end of March.

Some 150 international physicists will gather in Cape Town in October for the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics conference. The conference circuit will culminate in the World Conference on Physics and Sustainable Development in Durban at the end of October.

To demonstrate that physics can be fun and is an essential part of everyday life, projects like the development of a physics board game, a travelling lecture on *physics in film*, and an interactive exhibition on the *physics of toys* will be presented.

A learners' competition where the winners will be able to attend the official opening in November of South Africa's Large Telescope (SALT) in Sutherland in the Northern Cape – the culmination of the South African celebrations of the IYP2005 – is being envisaged. SALT and its twin installation in Texas, are among the biggest optical telescopes in the world.

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