

2018 International Dark-Sky Association Dark Sky Defender Award



Dr Jason Chun-Shing Pun (left) and
Dr Chu-Wing So (right) of
HKU Department of Physics



(From Left to Right): Mr Kenric Kattner (IDA
Board member); Dr Chu-Wing So (HKU);
Mr Sze Leung Cheung (IAU);
Mr Scott Feierabend (IDA Executive Director)

2018 IDA Award Ceremony:

Dr Chu-Wing So of HKU Physics traveled to Snowbird, Utah, USA to attend the IDA Annual General Meeting to attend the award ceremony for The Dark Sky Defender Award on November 11, 2018.

2018 IDA Dark Sky Defender Award:

During the Annual General Meeting of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) held in Snowbird, Utah, USA on November 11, 2018, Dr Jason Chun-Shing Pun and Dr Chu-Wing So of the HKU Physics Department, along with Mr Sze Leung Cheung of Office of Astronomy Outreach of the International Astronomy Union, received The Dark Sky Defender Award 2018 of the IDA. The award was given to individuals and organizations "in appreciation and recognition of their exceptional efforts to promote and advance the mission and programs of IDA to preserve night skies by promoting quality outdoor nighttime lighting to reduce light pollution and its environmental impacts."

Established in January 2015, the Global at Night – Sky Brightness Monitoring Network (GaN-MN) is a multinational project for long-term monitoring of night sky conditions around the world. Night sky brightness data are continuously collected throughout the night with Sky Quality Meter – Lensed Ethernet (SQM-LE) and are instantly disseminated to provide a real-time snapshot of the global light pollution conditions. The network currently comprises 34 stations operating in 11 countries/regions in Asia, Europe and Africa. Over 60 million individual NSB data entries have been collected as of January 2019. This huge NSB database allows for studies of temporal and geographical variations of light pollution and their correlations with various natural and artificial factors. The data collected provide the scientific backbone in our efforts to contribute to dark sky conservation through education to the general public and policy makers.

The co-organizers of GaN-MN are the Office of Astronomy Outreach of the International Astronomy Union, The University of Hong Kong, the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan and the Globe at Night. The project is supported by the University of Hong Kong Knowledge Exchange Impact Project Scheme.

The HKU Light Pollution research team webpage is at <http://nightsky.physics.hku.hk/>

Details of the 2018 IDA Dark Sky Defender Award can be found at <http://darksky.org/international-dark-sky-association-announces-2018-award-recipients/>