

## A Conference on “Scientific Frontiers: Serving the Peripheries in Times of Change”

25 September 2015, 8:30 AM

Fr. Francis J. Heyden, SJ Hall

Manila Observatory

Ateneo de Manila Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

The Manila Observatory is a research institution committed to scientific excellence that has been guided by the Ignatian tradition of service to the Filipino people. It was founded 150 years ago, in 1865, as a response to the urgent need to prepare Filipinos against the natural hazards specific to the country. These needs defined its earliest official mandates and ushered in an operational focus on meteorology, seismology, and astronomy.

While its commission and fields of research have evolved throughout history, the present-day Observatory remains deeply involved in the same mission that inspired the Jesuits during the Spanish and American administrations. Thus, in the face of multi-faceted global concerns, the Manila Observatory remains dedicated to responding to the changing needs of the country. At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it finds itself in the midst of a transdisciplinary nexus committed to making transformative contributions to challenging science questions that affect society.

It is in the light of these that the Observatory has established its present Science Agenda in four core areas of research, namely: air quality; regional climate and extreme weather events; upper atmosphere and solid earth dynamics for disaster applications; and integrated risk analysis for disasters and climate change. Realizing the critical importance of interdisciplinarity, these core areas are strategically positioned to address the challenges of sustainable development and poverty reduction through centers focused on advancing its mission across the following areas: remote sensing and ground-based environmental observation and monitoring; climate change, variability, and extremes; disaster risk and sustainable development; and public health and human vulnerability.

The international conference on “*Scientific Frontiers: Serving the Peripheries in Times of Change*” aims to underscore the importance of milestone collaborations fostered in the pursuit of many common goals. Most importantly, however, it aims to serve as a venue for critical conversations that will both advance and enhance a shared science agenda grounded on concerns for our common future. Moreover, it will also highlight the months of commemoration of the Observatory’s first 150 years of service to society through faith and scientific excellence.

### Keynote Speaker:

**Fr. Agustin Udias, SJ**  
Cátedra de Geofísica  
Faculty of Physical Science  
Universidad Complutense  
Madrid



### Resource Speakers:

**Fredolin Tangang, PhD**  
Coordinator, SEACLID/ CORDEX  
Southeast Asia  
Professor, School of Environmental and  
Natural Resource Sciences  
The National University of Malaysia  
Bangi Selangor, Malaysia



**George Mount, PhD**  
Professor Emeritus  
Laboratory for Atmospheric Research,  
Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
Washington State University  
Washington, USA



**Masanobu Tsuji**  
Director, Japan Aerospace Exploration  
Agency (JAXA)  
Bangkok Office, Thailand



**Akimasa Yoshikawa, PhD**  
Principal Investigator  
MAGDAS Project  
International Center for Space Weather  
Science and Education  
Kyushu University, Japan



**Keith Groves, PhD**  
Senior Research Physicist  
Institute for Scientific Research  
Boston College, Massachusetts



**Renato U. Solidum, PhD (TBC)**  
Director, Philippine Institute of  
Volcanology and Seismology  
Philippines

