



 College of Science and Technology
INGSA2024 Public Lecture
 Science of the infinitely small to the infinitely large – what are the impacts on society
 Friday, 3rd May, 2024
 2h to 4h PM
 UR-CST (Nyarugenge Campus)
 School of Architecture & Built Environment

Within the framework of the inclusion perspective of the INGSA2024 Conference, the University of Rwanda, in collaboration with INGSA, will be organizing a public lecture. This event will align with the overarching theme of the conference and to encourage curiosity and interest of the general public in science and research.

The theme for this public lecture will be to present the wide range of research fields and possibilities and its impact on society. This is proposed to be done through two scales - from the human perspective (exploration of planet earth from the Arctic to the Antarctic) and the infinitely large (science of the universe)..

Kevin Govender
 Director: International Astronomical Union (IAU), Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) – South Africa

Bernard Voyer
 A renowned explorer, mountaineer, and inspirational speaker who shares his experiences worldwide- Canada

MORE DETAILS: bit.ly/4aLWXDT

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INGSA2024 Public lecture – Science of the infinitely small to the infinitely large – what are the impacts on society

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BACKGROUND

The International Network for Governmental Science Advice (INGSA) will be holding its flagship international conference in Kigali, Rwanda on 1-2 May 2024. The main conceptual topics of this conference are: transformation, expanded evidence and inclusion. Please refer to

the Concept note of the conference for further information. https://ingsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/INGSA-2024-concept-note_website.pdf

Within the framework of the inclusion perspective of the Conference, the University of Rwanda, in collaboration with INGSA, will be organizing a public lecture. The aim of this public lecture is to align with the overarching theme of the conference – Inclusivity- and to encourage curiosity and interest of the general public in science and research.

The theme for this public lecture will be to present the wide range of research fields and possibilities and its impact on society. This is proposed to be done through two scales - from the human perspective (exploration of planet earth from the Arctic to the Antarctic) and the infinitely large (science of the universe).

Expected mobilization of 200 participants including students, academic staff, researchers from UR, and representatives from public institutions such as Rwanda Atomic Energy Board, Rwanda Space Agency, NCST, Meto Rwanda, and research institutions, AIMS, ICTP/CST, Centers of Excellences.

The panel will be moderated by: **Dr. Ignace Gatare**, Principal, UR, College of Science & Technology

Panelists will be:

- **Kevin Govender**, Director: International Astronomical Union (IAU), Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) – South Africa
<https://www.africanastronomicalsociety.org/kevin-govender/>
- **Bernard Voyer** – Explorer and mountaineer – Canada -
<https://www.bernardvoyer.com/en/biography/>

Structure of this lecture

The public lecture will be divided in two sections. The first section will allow for the two panelists to make a presentation explaining their scope and the type of activities pertaining to their scale with their specific expertise. The second section of the panel will include questions from the moderator as well as from the public to promote an interactive discussion.

Proposed Agenda – 2 hours

Arrival of participants

Introduction and welcome – URwanda – 5 mins

Presentation of the intent of the lecture and the two panelists – Moderator – 10 mins

Presentations from the two panelists (order tbc) – 20 mins each (40 mins total)

Discussion and questions from the moderator and the public – 55 mins

Conclusion – Moderator – 10 mins

Kevin Govender Biography

Kevin is the Director of the Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD), a partnership between the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the South African National Research Foundation (NRF). Here he has overseen the establishment of 11 regional offices and language centres around the world, as well as an annual call for proposals that has supported over 200 projects targeting audiences in over 100 countries. He has facilitated the establishment and growth of the African Astronomical Society and currently serves as an ex-officio member of their Executive Committee. He currently chairs the organising committee of the triennial IAU General Assembly taking place from 6-15 August 2024 in Cape Town (the first time in Africa). Kevin also serves in various roles including member of the executive of the South African Astronomical Observatory; Governing Board of the International Training Centre in Astronomy under the auspices of UNESCO; Working Group on the South African National Astrotourism Strategy; Steering Committee of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development, etc. With an experimental nuclear physics background and experience from many community development initiatives in post-apartheid South Africa, Kevin was previously named one of the Mail & Guardian's Top 200 Young South Africans, received the National Science and Technology Forum's Science Communicator award, and in 2016 was jointly awarded the Edinburgh Medal, together with the IAU, for "the creation and practical establishment of the Office of Astronomy for Development, which integrates the pursuit of scientific knowledge with social development for and with those most in need".

Bernard Voyer (O.C., C.Q., M.S.M., Ph.D. (Hon.), F.S.G.R.(C.), Ch.L.H. Biography

Bernard Voyer is a renowned explorer, mountaineer, and inspirational speaker who shares his experiences worldwide. His achievements span the three poles of the Earth, highlighting his determination and resilience in the face of extreme challenges. Notably, he reached the North Pole in 1994, the South Pole in 1996, and stood on the summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, in 1999. In 2001, Bernard Voyer completed a world tour by climbing the highest peak on every continent.

His outstanding career has been recognized with numerous honours and tributes: Officer of the Order of Canada, Knight of the Ordre National du Québec, and Knight of the Légion d'honneur in France.

He has received five honorary doctorates from Canadian universities and the prestigious Gold Medal from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

He consistently remains committed to supporting youth and the preservation of nature through various engagements, such as serving as Governor of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, Chairman of the council of the Ordre national du Québec, Co-Chairman of the council of the Order of Montréal, and Vice-Chair of the Canadian Foundation Dialogue des Cultures. He was ambassador for Les Offices jeunesse

internationaux du Québec (LOJIQ) and a board member of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

Bernard Voyer serves as the Honorary Consul of Nepal, a board member of the Leaders' Circle of Laval University and is part of the Trebek Advisory Committee for scientific research in the Canadian Arctic. His dedication to exploration and conservation has left an indelible mark on the world that extends far beyond mere adventure.