

In the spirit of the theme of the ceremony, bearing the ambitious title, *Beyond 2009*, this survey of past activities and events was not intended as a nostalgic collection of memories, but instead as a solid base for future enterprises in public outreach of astronomy and science in general (see the logo in Figure 2). Many of the projects of IYA2009 will continue in the following years either unchanged or in a slightly changed form; several other initiatives significantly helped to pave the way for a network of researchers and educators focused on the communication of astronomy, especially in developing countries where a strong astronomical community is not yet present.

#### ESO's presence at the ceremony

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 has been a global celebration of the four centuries of revolutionary discoveries achieved through the use of the telescope. Ever since Galileo's very first observations of the sky with a more powerful tool than the human eye, the in-

struments used by astronomers have changed and evolved ceaselessly. Looking further, Roberto Gilmozzi from ESO gave an extensive overview of astronomy after the IYA2009, focussing on the telescopes of tomorrow and particularly on the European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) which will become "the world's biggest eye on the sky". Along with a description of the main science drivers that led to the concept of extremely large telescopes, such as the search for Earth-like exoplanets and for the first stars and galaxies that formed in the Universe, Gilmozzi's talk highlighted how telescopes have grown in dimensions ever since Galileo's time and how the E-ELT, with its 42-metre primary mirror, would be a natural extension of this time-honoured tradition. The revolutionary design of this outstanding observatory and the timeline of the projects were also presented, followed by a look at the distant future, and the possible projects astronomers are planning even beyond the ELTs.

Although the main part of IYA2009 is over, it leaves an important legacy for

the worldwide astronomical community including an impressive network for the future with ESO education and public outreach at its focal point.



Figure 2. Beyond IYA Logo. The logo of Beyond IYA, the signature that labels the legacy projects continuing after 2009.

## In Memoriam Karin Horn-Hansen

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Karin Hansen, as she was known at ESO, was born in Lyngby in Denmark and began work in the Personnel Department in July 1991 where she was involved in the recruitment process and health insurance. In 1993 she moved to Finance Services and in 1997 became secretary to the Head of Administration. She moved to the Office of the Director General in September 2007 where she continued to act as the contact point at ESO for all

matters related to Council. Karin was known for her excellent performance, complete reliability and high motivation, carrying out the complex and demanding tasks in support of Council, the Finance Committee and senior management, always maintaining excellent relationships with her internal and external contacts. She was diagnosed with a serious illness in mid-2008, but seemed to recover and returned to ESO part-time in the spring of 2009 and was married in June. Unfortunately the illness returned, and Karin passed away peacefully on 29 December 2009. She was a remarkable person, and will be remembered with great affection by many.

