

Dear Members of the IAWN Steering Committee,

In alignment with the vision of the Sharjah Astronomical Observatory (SAO) part of the Sharjah Academy for Astronomy, Space Sciences, and Technology (SAASST) at the University of Sharjah. I am pleased to express our intent to join the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN).

Established in 2015, SAO operates a 0.431-m F/6.9 telescope equipped with an SBIG CCD camera (4096 x 4096 pixels, 9 μm pixel size) offering a resolution of 0.63"/pixel and a field of view of 43'x43'. The observatory is equipped with V, B, R, H-alpha, OIII, and SII filters. Since its inception, we have conducted numerous observations and tracking of asteroids and comets.

SAO is officially registered with the Minor Planet Center (MPC) under the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and operates under the assigned IAU code **M47**. Further details can be found at the following link: <https://www.saast.ae/index.php/observatories/sharjah-optical-observatory>

We have thoroughly reviewed the IAWN Charter and Statement of Intent and fully understand the responsibilities and commitments associated with membership. With our expertise in tracking near-Earth objects (NEOs) and providing observational data, we are well-positioned to contribute meaningfully to IAWN's global efforts in asteroid monitoring and risk assessment

We look forward to contributing to the goals of IAWN in the international efforts in planetary defense and are open for further discussions as needed to ensure our active and constructive involvement.



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