

## Vainu Bappu is IAU chief

NEW DELHI, Aug. 24 (UNI) — Dr. M. K. Vainu Bappu, Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, has been elected President of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) for the term 1979-82, at the General Assembly of IAU at Montreal last night.

This is the first time in the history of the IAU that the presidentship has gone to Asia and particularly to India, according to an official announcement here today.

Dr. Bappu was vice-president of the IAU during 1967-73.

Dr. Bappu has made major contributions in the sphere of magnetic fields of sunspots, wolf rayet stars and cometary physics.

He set up the astro-physical planetary at Kavalur and has built a strong group of technical optics which makes high grade mirrors for astrophysics works.

He is a recipient of the Don-hoe Comet Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (1949) and the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Physical Sciences (1970).

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