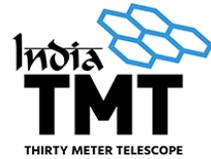




Project: Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)

Dr. Luc Simard, DG, HAANRC, National Research Council of Canada
Designing and Building the TMT: A Story of Science, Technology and People



Abstract:

- The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) International Observatory is a partnership between China, India, Japan, Canada, the University of California and the California Institute of Technology to build a next-generation 30-m telescope with powerful adaptive optics systems and cutting-edge science instruments. It represents a gain of almost 200 times in sensitivity over existing large telescopes. The science cases span the full cosmic timeline from the first luminous objects in the Universe to our own Solar System, and TMT might even yield the first detection of life elsewhere in the Universe. This talk is a story of science, technology and people at the heart of this exciting new telescope.

About the Speaker:

- Luc Simard joined the National Research Council's Herzberg Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Centre in 2002 and is currently the Director General with a staff of over 130 scientists, engineers and support personnel. He obtained his PhD from the University of Victoria in 1996 and his scientific research has been dominated by work with large galaxy surveys. His primary interests lie in theoretical and observational tests of galaxy formation and evolution models. He is also heavily involved in astronomical instrumentation for large telescopes, particularly TMT and SKA as well as the development of software tools and methods for effective data mining of very large datasets. Luc also takes every opportunity to engage in public outreach promoting astronomy.

