



Chasing the Stars

Webcast on the Total Lunar Eclipse

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Photograph of the total lunar eclipse taken by the Observatory at Cape D'Aguilar.



The Observatory's webcast team prepares its astronomical equipment in order to film the eclipse at Cape D'Aguilar.

The total lunar eclipse on 8 October was the second episode of a tetrad eclipse,* following the first one that occurred on 15 April. A special feature of this lunar eclipse was that it was already in progress after moonrise, with the total eclipse beginning soon afterwards. As the eclipse took place at dusk, the elevation of the moon was relatively low, which meant that the event was best observed at places with an unobstructed view of the horizon to the east. To allow more members of the public to view this astronomical phenomenon, the Hong Kong Observatory joined hands with the Hong Kong Space Museum, Ho Koon Nature Education cum Astronomical Centre and Po Leung Kuk Ngan Po Ling College to conduct on-site observations at Cape D'Aguilar, Sai Kung, Tai Po and To Kwa Wan on the night of the eclipse and set up a live webcast of the event on its website. Although the eclipse was occasionally blocked by clouds, the webcast team was able to film the key episodes of the lunar eclipse, including the 'middle of eclipse', the 'end of total eclipse' and the 'moon leaving umbra', at these four locations.

* "tetrad" is a term for describing four consecutive total lunar eclipses with an interval of six full moons (six lunar months) with no partial eclipses in-between. The next episode will occur on 4 April 2015, when it will also be visible in Hong Kong, and the last will take place on 28 September 2015.

You can watch highlights of the Joint Webcast of the Total Lunar Eclipse at

<http://youtu.be/wqA4Niuqg4A>.

