

**Galilean Nights Event ID: gn1,018**

**Number of telescopes: 4**

**Number of organisers: 8**

**Number of attendees: 500**

**Event Report:**

Galilean Nights - "Ali Kuşçu Event"

AKAT (Ali Kuşçu Astronomy Society)

24.10.2009, St. Sophia, Sultanahmet, İstanbul

We celebrated "Galilean Nights" in Sultanahmet on 24th of October Saturday evening. This event was dedicated to Ali Kuşçu, who was an mathematician and astronomer and teacher at St. Sophia Medresesi (University) in 15th century in İstanbul.

As a group, we have placed our telescopes exactly in front of "Muvakkithane" building of St. Sophia. "Muvakkithane" is a small building built for time calculations, a time keeper's room. It was very important for Islamic world because of praying times.

Besides his books about astronomy and researches, Ali Kuşçu had made 3 sun dials in İstanbul, 2 of them on the surface of Fatih Mosque minaret, the third one is in the courtyard of St. Sophia. Ali Kuşçu's first work which he had given to the Ottoman Emperor Fatih Sultan Mehmet was "Ay Risalesi" (Shapes of Moon)

On Galilean night, we had four telescopes as AKAT and we observed moon, Jupiter and Galilean Moon's of Jupiter. AKAT volunteers, their friends and hundreds people from different countries passing by St Sophia square joined the event.

As we all watched the night sky, in front of "Muvakkithane", where Ali Kuşçu probably worked, we were observing the stars from the same point as he studied them.

We explained the people facts about 2009 Astronomy year and Galileo, from a historical place that was once host to Ali Kuşçu.