The 22nd Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-22)

Space Education Working Group (SEWG)

Concept Note

1. Background and Objectives of SE WG Activities

Space has been an important part of human civilization. Throughout human history, the quest for knowledge of the universe has led humankind to learn more about where we have come from and where we stand, and to expand our imagination about where we are going.

Activities in space have increasingly become an essential, integral part of our human life. Benefits derived from space applications have transformed the way we look at our environment and our planet, the way we communicate and interact with each other, and the way we move from one place to another, dramatically increasing the safety, security, accuracy, predictability and convenience of our daily lives.

In spite of the increasing number of evidences for the usefulness of space science and technology for society, appreciation by the general public of their importance is still limited. Efforts should be continued to educate people about the usefulness and importance of space science and technology. Applications of space science enhance the quality of our lives and support the sustainable development of our society.

For young people, space activities provide a source of interest, imagination, and inspiration. Attractive space education materials can spark intellectual flames in the minds of young people: not only in science and technology but also in many other aspects of human activities. Effectively used, examples of past achievements and efforts to overcome challenges in the use and exploration of outer space can motivate young people to pursue excellence in whatever they do and help them understand both how important and how rewarding it is to work together with many others to serve society.

It is with such conviction that the Space Education and Awareness WG (now called the Space Education WG) was established in July 2001, at the 8th session of APRSAF, with the aims of i) effectively using space materials to enhance education for young people; ii) providing education and training opportunities for educators and young people in space science and technology; and iii) contributing to enhancing mutual understanding among countries in the region through exchange opportunities for educators and young people.
2. Results of SEA WG Activities at APRSAF-21

See the attached recommendations adopted at APRSAF-21.

3. Draft Agenda

(1) Opening of the session
(2) Adoption of the agenda
(3) General exchange of views on space education
(4) Joint educational activities for educators and young people
   a. Water rocket activities
   b. Poster contest
   c. Other activities
(5) Discussion about enhancing space education opportunities for the future hosts of APRSAF
(6) Discussion about ways to spread and integrate space education domestically, and associated obstacles
   a. Cooperation with international entities
   b. Use of information technologies
(7) Enrichment of space education through sharing of teaching materials
(8) Other matters