

Agenda item 3,

“General exchange of views”

Reports on space education and awareness activities:

Submission by members of Space Education and Awareness Working Group

The attached document is the submission received by 19 November 2008 from Vietnam containing its report on the highlights of formal and informal education relating to space activities in the past year and future plans for educational initiatives relating to space activities.

Report from Vietnam

1. Highlights of formal and informal education relating to space activities

Space Technology Institute of Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology (STI - VAST) is the official representative of Vietnam for activities for education and for awareness and interest increase in space activities. Although this is only the second time that STI had organized international activities in those areas in Vietnam, it received significant support and encouragement from the government, press, schools and a large number of students from all over country. Many activities are held to celebrate the World Space Week from 4 - 10th October every year, and particularly this year, in 2007, as it marked the "50th Space Year".

Education and Development

STI held a short - term training course to teach school pupils how to make water rockets with parachute and to explain the scientific principles involved in water boosted rocket launch. A lot of pupils from primary and secondary schools participated in that training course. In addition, the training course also introduced to the pupils the World Space Week and its significance and activities, as well as briefed them on the history of advances in astronomy and space applications for the betterment of human life and socio-economy.

Water Boosted Rocket Competition

A water boosted rocket competition for the pupils from secondary schools was held with many interesting categories for performance evaluation. Some of those categories include the following:

- Trajectory category: competition in the launch accuracy to make the rocket fall down on target center area.
- Parachute category: competition in the duration of flight to make the rocket stay in the air for the longest possible time.
- Design category: competition to make the most beautiful water rocket with parachutes.

Poster Contest

Vietnamese activities in space education and awareness increase are carried out not only to stimulate academic interest of pupils in science and technology, but also to develop their creativity. For this purpose, STI launched a poster contest with the theme “50th Space Year” and exhibition. STI will choose the most beautiful paintings from many schools to take part in APRSAF Poster Contest to be held in Bangalore, India from 21 to 23 November 2007.

Broadcast

All the activities above were broadcasted on the Education Program of Vietnamese National Television, including those to show in a simple manner how to make and launch the water rockets for children and school boys throughout the country, to receive public support.

2. Future plans for educational initiatives relating to space activities

STI plans to further organize these types of activities in the following years and will try to expand them to cover all the primary and secondary schools in Vietnam. In future, STI will hold training courses for pupils more frequently to provide them with general knowledge about astronomy, space science and technology and their applications. Along with these lectures, some extracurricular activities such as observation of the night sky and planets by telescope will also be organized.