

Report on Space Education and Awareness

Working Group (SEA WG)

Presentation by

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Country Reports on Space Education and Awareness Activities

Presentations

- Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam;

Written Reports

- Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam;

Activities for primary and secondary school students and teachers

Poster Contest

- 2nd Poster Contest under the theme “50 Years in Space”, the same as the one for this year’s World Space Week, for school children at the age between 8 and 11 years old;
- As for the theme for the next Poster Contest, in 2008, agreed that the main theme should be “Wonders of the Universe.”

Water Rocket Event

- Third Water Rocket Event: 23-24 November, Bangalore, India -24 students from 11 countries;
- Agreed to continue the Water Rocket Event within the framework of APRSAF for students at the age between 12 and 16 years old;
- Noted the on-going discussions to organize the next Water Rocket Event in Vietnam in conjunction with APRSAF-15;
- Make more education materials such as a leaflet available for teachers and educators in the languages spoken by their students to further promote water rocket activities for educational purposes;
- Make further efforts to draw media attention to seek for sponsorship;
- Organize an international water rocket workshop in 2008 for teachers and educators;

Space Education Seminar/Forum

- Agreed to convene space education forums and seminars in developing countries for students and teachers of primary and secondary schools in cooperation with UNESCO.

International Year of Astronomy

- Agreed that all interested countries should consider organising activities in the area of astronomy toward the celebration and report to the Working Group at its next meeting in 2008 on their activities.
- Considered that the exchange of educational materials and teaching methods in the area of astronomy would be important in enhancing education in astronomy in the region
- Submit to the Secretariat the educational materials available and information on the teaching methods used in their countries for circulation to the members of the Working Group through its web site

Possible joint educational initiatives for university and graduate students and young professionals

- Agreed to carry out within the framework of APRSAF, the CanSat activities and the GSN project as introduced by JAXA;
- JAXA Space Education Center jointly organized with UNISEC the International CanSat Workshop (23-24 February 2007, Tokyo) and ten countries from Asia and the Pacific participated in the Workshop.
- Agreed to organize a training seminar within the framework of APRSAF for trainers to teach CanSat activities and requested JAXA Space Education Center to keep its members informed of the progress made in organizing such a seminar.

Collaborations among space scientists and engineers and educators

- Agreed that efforts should be made to encourage collaborations with space experts and educators, to enhance educational activities in the area of space science and technology.
- Conduct a survey in Asia and the Pacific on the efforts made by teachers particularly in developing countries to promote space education activities and on integration of space-related subjects into the education curricula;
- Encouraged the members of the Working Group to provide display or models or educational materials for the Space Science Exploratorium to be established at Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies (ACCIMT) for school children and the general public;
- Agreed that interested members should contribute to develop database of space terminologies in multiple languages in the project undertaken by the International Astronautical Academy .

SEA WG Recommendations to the Plenary

1. Promote educational activities through the Space Education and Awareness Working Group to further stimulate interest of primary and secondary school children as well as university and graduate students in and increase their awareness of space science and technology and their applications.
2. Encourage the exchange of education materials and teaching experiences in enhancing education using the outputs yielded by space activities and addressing space-related subjects, taking into account the need to make more materials available in the languages spoken in Asia and the Pacific to better meet the needs of the countries in the region.