

Report on Space Education and Awareness

Working Group (SEA WG)

Presentation by the Co-Chairs of SEA WG

Dr. D.M.Chung*

Prof. T.Kubota**

* Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, VIETNAM

**Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, JAPAN

Country Reports on Space Education and Awareness Activities

Presentations from 9 countries

- Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam;

Written Reports from 6 countries

- Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam;

Activities for primary and secondary school students and teachers

Poster Contest(1/2)

- 3rd Poster Contest was held under the theme “Wonders of the Universe” for children between 8 and 11 years old.
- WG agreed to continue the Poster Contest, in 2009; the theme should be related to International Year of Astronomy (IYA), preferably the same as the theme to be announced for the World Space Week 2009.

Poster Contest (2/2)

- WG agreed to develop a calendar for 2009 using the posters submitted for this year's Poster Contest 2008, to contribute to the global celebration of the International Year of Astronomy in 2009;

Water Rocket Event (1/2)

- 4th Water Rocket Event will be held 13-14 December 2008, Ha Noi, Vietnam, with the participation of 32 students from 10 countries;
- WG agreed to continue the Water Rocket Event in conjunction with APRSAF-16 for students between 12 and 16 years old, and to have a demonstration of advanced water rocket launch competition for high-school and pre-college students.
- WG agreed to promote the use of the on-line forum, "Water Rocket Wiki site", among teachers and educators to exchange information and education materials to further promote water rocket activities for educational purposes.

Water Rocket Event (2)

- WG agreed to jointly develop promotional materials (leaflet, brochure or on-line pod casting) to present background, educational benefits and success stories in promoting water rocket activities in order to seek for sponsorship.

Space Education Seminar/Forum

- WG agreed to convene APRSAF space education seminars/forums in developing countries for students and teachers of primary and secondary schools in cooperation with UNESCO.
- WG agreed to hold the next APRSAF Space Education Seminar should be held in Sri Lanka in 2009.

International Year of Astronomy (IYA)

- WG agreed that the results of the activities undertaken by various countries in the region for IYA should be reported at its next meeting and made available on its web site.

Joint educational initiatives for university and graduate students and young professionals

- WG noted with interest various GNSS education and training opportunities offered by NavSAS (Italy), e.g. courses sponsored by ISMB and UN/OOSA and collaborative projects between Europe and Asia, benefiting many APRSAF countries.
- WG agreed to continue to promote CanSat activities for university students and to work toward organizing an APRSAF international CanSat workshop, to exchange experiences and information on teaching methods and materials relating to CanSat.
- WG reviewed the status of the participation of APRSAF countries in CSSTE-AP and concluded that the recommendation of APRSAF-14 to fully utilize CSSTE-AP had been fully addressed in its work and that further actions to be undertaken, if any, might be better addressed in other working groups of APRSAF.

Collaborations among space scientists and engineers and educators

- VSSEC and Ecolinc of Australia had developed with JAXA a hands-on, education program, “*Frogs in Orbit*”, integrating biology, ecology and physics for secondary school students and distributed CD-ROM to WG participants.
- English version of JAXA-developed Teaching Guides for “*Science of Flight*”, to teach primary and pre-school students, was distributed to WG participants and expressions of interest to translate the materials into other languages.

New and innovative funding sources to support space education activities

- WG agreed to share, at its next meeting, the experiences, including success stories as well as challenges faced, among its members in applying to various funds and sponsorship opportunities and compile a list of available funding opportunities.

SEA WG Recommendations to the Plenary

1. Call upon all countries that participate in APRSAF to support the efforts made and activities undertaken through APRSAF to enhance the understanding among young people at all education levels and school teachers of space science and technology and their applications as well as their links with our lives;
2. Agree that the regional space education efforts undertaken by APRSAF should continue to expand to include various activities and contribute to global initiatives undertaken in areas relating to space education and awareness increase, such as the celebration of the World Space Week each year and the International Year of Astronomy, in 2009;
3. Agree that it is important to promote inter-regional cooperation by, among other things, sharing concrete examples of the successful, joint regional initiatives undertaken by APRSAF in the area of space education with other regions such as Latin America and Africa.