

Participatory Exploration for Inspiration and Education (12)
Educating the Next Generation (2)

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THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP NETWORK AND THE
UTILISATION OF SPACE FOR EDUCATIONAL INSPIRATION ACROSS THE GLOBE**Abstract**

The International education business Partnership Network, the IPN, has , over the past years been building upon the success of the Scottish Space School , (which was presented at the IAC in Korea), and opening up opportunities from as far apart as Canada, Finland and South Africa. The utilisation of space for the purposes of inspiring young people in STEM as subjects and ultimately as careers, is now built into the fabric of the IPN's bi-annual international conferences the next of which is in Durban , South Africa in September 2012. In addition the IPN organises learning weeks for educators , visiting JSC and other space related activities in Houston , Texas. The IPN is working with many organisations in many countries to deliver and support classroom learning using space. The basis of these programs is the success of the Scottish Space School , of which this author is a founding member. This success is well documented and it has been running since January 2002. Much statistical research has been put in place for this including STEM subject uptake and increased career choice in these areas. There has been many hundreds of young people who have participated in trips to the school in Houston as well as many teachers. The testimonies of young people and of teachers for the international programs can be viewed on the IPN's web site , www.iebpn.net. The IPN has involved astronaut speakers at 3 of our last bi-annual conferences , including Michael Foale and Chris Hadfield and our key note speaker for the 2012 conference is astronaut Benjamin Alvin Drew. The IPN program for teachers and students titled 'Space-Education's final Frontier?' can also be viewed at [iebpn](http://iebpn.net) web site. It is our intention to take this program to as many of our member countries as is possible to spread the word of the previous success and to embed the utilisation of space for the benefit of education and young people across the world. Our presentation will offer delegates the opportunity to hear about the success of the Scottish Space School while learning about the newest developments and the plans to further internationalise the program. Delegates will also find out more about participating in IPN space related events including international conferences like Durban 2012.