

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Ignition - Primary Space Education (1)

Author: Dr. Rogel Mari Sese
Regulus SpaceTech, The Philippines, rmdsese@gmail.com

INTEGRATING SPACE SCIENCE EDUCATION INTO THE FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

Abstract

Astronomy and space science is commonly included as part of the educational curriculum as an extra or minor subject. To date, it has not yet been included as a separate subject in the formal educational system on all various levels. In this work, we present the preliminary feedback and assessment of the Space Science Program (SSP) which is currently being pilot tested in the Philippines. The SSP is a full educational curriculum for teaching astronomy and space science to students as part of their basic education. The program is composed of ve (5) different levels: one for pre-school, two for elementary and two for high school. It integrates various materials and programs such as the Universe in a Box, Galileo Teacher Training Program etc. Furthermore, the SSP utilizes various modes of teaching from back-to-basics methods to using ICT tools such as computers and Internet. Upon completion of the pilot testing, we expect the SSP to be also implemented in other schools throughout the country. We also discuss the challenges of instituting a formal astronomy and space science course and the issues that needs to be addressed for an effective and sustainable program.