

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Interactive Presentations (IP)

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THE PROMOTION OF SPACE EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY THROUGH
VARIOUS GROUPS.

Abstract

After several decades of space science, Earth observation, space exploration and space technology, many have come to agree that beyond the challenges of venturing into space; huge investments as well as the risks involved in the space sector, there are also the benefits and success of such investments and research. This is because the study of outer space has made it possible for nations to moderate the effects of weather climatic conditions and pursue sustainable development, security, self-defence, trade, commerce, science and technology, humanitarian assistance and knowledge transfer among other benefits. New States have joined the space sector and are focusing on how to gain further understanding of their environment, prepare for the effects of climate change as well as formulate better policies for sustainable development. In view of the fact that the space programmes of these new entrants are relatively in their formative stages and do not possess complete technical requirements or financial resources, these countries need to make efforts at sensitizing their populace on the benefits of space so they can create awareness, arouse interest and get support from their people; leading to further development in the sector.

Besides looking at the different fora for channeling space education and outreach, this paper seeks to also examine the ways through which these groups can be sensitized to ensure support and greater participation. The paper will discuss ways through which Space education and outreach can be directed towards various groups like children, youth/ undergraduates, women, policy/ decision makers and lesser developed countries. By directing space research and outreach to these groups, it is expected that multiplier effects will take place because the impact will reach a much wider circle, spilling beyond these groups and ultimately resulting in the promotion of space awareness across board. Countries can do this through calls for contribution to international initiatives no matter how little and the establishment of regional space centres that will foster cooperation among them. Kids can be reached through the encouragement of famous astronauts and space-tech experts to emerge as role models to them, educational excursions, research tours, instructional programs, and historical classes for children that could motivate them to aspire more in the fields of science and technology. Youths can be encouraged through the granting of scholarship and internships such as those provided by ESA . Women on the other hand can be reached through the provision scholarships to girls who have excelled and have interest in pursuing careers in Space Research and Technology as well as through the use of female astronauts to advertise about the benefits of going to space or doing Space Research.