

66th International Astronautical Congress 2015

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Calling Planet Earth - Space Outreach to the General Public (6)

Author: Prof. Christer Fuglesang
KTH, Sweden, christer.fuglesang@esa.int

INCREASING IMPACT OF ASTRONAUT VISITS TO SCHOOLS BY EARLY PREPARATION,
EXEMPLIFIED BY “COMMUNITY DAYS” OF THE ASE PLANETARY CONGRESS INSPIRED BY
SPACE

Abstract

The Association of Space Explorers (ASE) organizes the annual “ASE Planetary Congress”. This year (2015) the congress takes place in Sweden, 20-27 September with the theme name *Inspired by Space*. In addition to give astronauts and cosmonauts from all over the world a forum to meet and discuss, there are several open technical sessions with a mixture of speakers by ASE members and distinguished guests. However, the most important part of the Planetary Congresses are the “Community Days”, when the participating astronauts and cosmonauts split in small groups and visit schools, universities and other public places. In Sweden about one hundred astronauts are expected to participate and during two half-days around one hundred schools will get visits by space fliers who will share their experiences and enthusiasm with many thousands of pupils and students. The schools prepare many months in advance for the visits, e.g. by “challenges” that are published on websites. Teachers are invited to special briefings. This talk will present the preparations for the ASE congress Inspired by Space Community Days that were done in order to optimize the impact of visiting astronauts and cosmonauts, and detail the outcome, which took place only a few weeks before IAC2015. The presenter is the head responsible for the *Inspired by Space* congress.