

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
CALLING PLANET EARTH - SPACE OUTREACH TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC (3)

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THE ORGANIZATIONS FOR SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS IN THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Abstract

Korea has short history on the space development compared with the neighboring countries like Japan, China, India and Russia. During the past 20 years, she has focused on developing the space technology of the satellites and rockets under the national space development plan. The KOMPSAT-1, 2 and KSLV-1 are the results of the select and concentration policy of the Korean government.

Due to the heavy mission of developing the hardware oriented space technology, the topic of space education and outreach for the general public has not taken any position in the national space program. But recently, Korean government is now planing the space science outreach program in the detail action plan of mid-long term national space development plan.

This paper introduces and analyzes the organizations performing space education and outreach programs for primary and secondary schools in the republic of Korea

"Young Astronaut Korea(YAK)" is the one of them. This is a non profit organization established to perform space education for the students in 1989 when Korea just started the space development program. "YAK" is the unique group in Korea for space education and outreach activities because it is organized by branches at each schools in the nation and it is much like boy scout and girl scout system. The space science museum and national space experience center which are located near NARO space center in the southernmost part of Korean peninsula are the other ones for space education and outreach program. The NARO space center which is the only launch site in Korea became the center of public interests by showing KSLV-1 launch in 2009 and will be expected to do the key role for space education for the students in the republic of Korea. The national space experience center will perform many mission oriented space education programs for students as the Space Camp in USA does.

This paper introduces the status of the space education and outreach program of each organization and presents the future direction of space education and outreach for the Korean public and students. If these three organizations cooperate each other and develop the systematic programs of space education and outreach for the people, it would prepare the base of growth and progress in future space science and technology in Korea and global community.