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New Developments in National and International Space Policies and Programmes I (1A)

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YOUTH INVOLVEMENT ON NEAR EARTH OBJECTS BY NEO WORKING GROUP OF SPACE  
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**Abstract**

In recent times there has been a lot of interest in the field of Near Earth Objects on many fronts. The threat of a potential attack they pose on the population, half of which is under 30; it is necessary for the youth of today to research and develop innovative concepts in understanding and exploring Near Earth Objects. A N.E.O working group was created by Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) in 2008 to address the issues regarding N.E.O's and the team has been working hard to address the issues regarding N.E.Os of today. Additionally, the working group uses competitions and outreach projects to encourage students and young professionals to take an active interest in NEOs and raise awareness in the general public. The SGAC Project group have achieved many heights in the field of N.E.O research. Activities are still being sought to get the youth involved in activities and projects on the subject. 1) Asteroid Warning Competition 2010: The competition is organised in order to increase awareness and interest among the student community of today about Near Earth Objects (NEOs). It will engage them into the scientific and technical field of modern concepts regarding NEOs. The aim of this competition is to develop innovative and credible planetary defence solutions. 2) NEO and Planetary Defence – A Film about defending the Earth; is a volunteer made documentary about the current issues surrounding defending the Earth from asteroid and comet impacts. Scientists and astronomers have long worried about the potential devastation that an Impact from space could cause, but recently engineers have been designing realistic missions to stop these natural disasters. In the documentary, international experts give their opinions on how to plan, pay for, build and safely execute a mission to stop an asteroid or comet. 3) Youth Planetary Defence Conference 2011 – The N.E.O Working Group is in middle of organising a one day conference for the students and youth professionals on a international base in order to produce a paper with youth visions for N.E.O issues which would be presented at the Planetary Defence Conference in Bucharest, Romania in 2011. This paper gives an outlook to the activities and work carried out by the NEO Working Group on an international level. The paper also provides results of the activities carried out as well as future project plans in NEO field.