

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Lift Off - Primary and Secondary Space Education (1)

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UNDERTAKE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC'S SCIENTIFIC QUALITY
-HOPE-1 SMALL SATELLITE, A SPACE SCIENCE EXPERIENCING PROJECT FOR YOUTH

Abstract

This paper is about Hope-1 space science experiencing project for youth. Hope-1 is China's first small satellite developed for space science popularization among the public, particularly among young people. This project is jointly organized by Chinese Society of Astronautics and Youth Center of China Association for Science and Technology. The project has two major purposes: to establish a platform of popularizing space science among young students by involving them into participating in the whole project and inspire them to be enthusiastic about space science; to guide space professionals to integrate the awareness of science popularization into their scientific research and development.

Hope-1 small satellite has three missions, including carrying out scientific test designed by young students, taking space photos and setting up an amateur space radio station. The satellite has three features: first, young students are the main clients of the satellite and they will not cover the cost of RD, so it is a charity satellite; second, the satellite is small-sized with multi-functions, so high reliability is required; and third, the project will produce a profound social influence.

From planning, researching and developing to launching, the project takes three years to be completed. During the whole process, many space-related enterprises, institutes and organizations represented by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation have given their full supports. Thousands of young Chinese students experienced events designed around the project, such as visiting satellite launching site, establishing on-line moon base and participating in research and development of the satellite. Over 600,000 radio amateurs also participated in the project. In October, 2009, Hope-1 was launched successfully and all targeted missions are realized.

Hope-1 small satellite is an important breakthrough of China's space popularization program. It demonstrates that NGO could play a role of bridge to inspire young people to love science and improve the public's scientific qualities. The project also shows that enterprises could undertake their social responsibility by rewarding the society with their efforts to promote and popularize science among the public, particularly among young people. NGO and enterprises work together will put a solid and permanent foundation for a nation's scientific and technological progress and innovation.