

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
New Worlds - Innovative Space Education and Outreach (7)

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OUTREACH CHALLENGE FOR A NEWLY CREATED SPACE AGENCY

Abstract

The newly created Mexican Space Agency is just one year old therefore it has a long way to go to promote the benefits of space developments to the great public thus we begun to put in place a series of outreach activities to get basic education students to learn about space related studies and for common people to be aware of the every day applications of space technology. We are supporting junior high school clubs of Astronomy, Mathematics and Robotics with great results, we have approached some Science and Technology Museums to know about their space related exhibits and activities to help them with new ideas. We have developed a volunteer based youth program that offers challenging and fun activities that also promote values and provide contact with nature. In the near future we will promote the building of Pong Ball Satellites to be launched to the edge of space by Atmospheric type Balloons. So far the most succesfull program is the Theme Clubs. Every so often there is a big Science Fiesta being organized by different Junior High School's Communities called "Stars and Robotics Night" as an example, where the young students, their parents, relatives and friends get together and share activities developed, organized and carried out by the students such as constelation presentations, climate change, robotics competitions, solar system, star gazing, theatrical presentations, etc. And for Senior high and College students we have seen that preparing a Scientific Payload to be flown to the edge of Space (32 to 39 Km) by balloon is a great activity that gets everybody's attention; enterprises, schools, local government and students for equal.