

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

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PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANDEAN REGIONAL OFFICE OF ASTRONOMY
FOR DEVELOPMENT

Abstract

The countries in the Andean Region (Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) represent a common language block in South America. They share similar social conditions and goals for scientific development. The astronomical development in each of these countries can be efficiently achieved through regional cooperation. With the leadership of Chile and Venezuela in aspects of professional astronomy and Colombia for public outreach, it is possible to develop strategies to strengthen the professional research, education and popularization of astronomy in the Andean region. This development effort requires the commitment and shared effort from different institutions. An Andean Regional Office of Astronomy for Development (ROAD) can serve this goal. It will strengthen ongoing collaboration efforts, create channels of communication and develop new strategies to exchange knowledge and human resources in the region. Teaching Astronomy in Schools. Creation of astronomy groups and clubs in primary and secondary schools, replicating examples of projects already implemented in Colombia, Venezuela and Chile working together with Regional and Education Secretaries. Such groups would be part of a network of students interested in astronomy, astronautics and space sciences.