

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Calling Planet Earth - Space Outreach to the General Public (6)

Author: Ms. Behnoosh Meskoob
Istanbul Technical University, Türkiye

REMEMBERING A SPACE DISASTER AS A LESSON BY "INTERNATIONAL ASTEROID DAY"

Abstract

An asteroid hit Chelyabinsk as an alarm to remind us how our Earth is vulnerable towards such space disaster. Currently the main discussion is on how we can communicate with general public about such space disasters as they are very rare and hard to believe it can easily happen to any place on Earth and burn or explode anything in few seconds. Apart from technical aspects of reacting towards this danger, we need to raise awareness and educate public on how to react, how to cooperate in case of probable danger and how to cope with the condition.

In this paper we suggest to submit an "International Asteroid Day" in our calendars on the day of Chelyabinsk event February 15, 2013 in order to remind it annually to general public and emphasize on the importance of having preparation plans and aware people about this natural space disaster. An international call on cooperation and brainstorming is needed to use our knowledge, abilities and awareness raising which can be achieved by the International Asteroid Day. General public require to know what is an asteroid, how an asteroid can be accounted as a threat to our planet and how they can manage the situation in case of probable danger. United Nations can play an important role in strengthening this idea and make it into action for all member states with a universal call on preparation. We will discuss how to reach this aim, how to invite all nations to cooperate and how to submit the International Asteroid Day in all calendars, in remembrance of Chelyabinsk event.