

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

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NEW METHOD FOR FINDING MICRO-METEORITES BY PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONALS

Abstract

According to an article that was published in the journal Nature in 1996, every day an average of nearly one hundred tons of meteor dust sit on the floor. Finding these micro-meteorites, because of their small size, is not easy. Most of them fall into the sea that is no longer accessible, or spread on dry land so separating them from dirt, dust particles and other components is impossible. Roofs of houses and buildings that have remained untouched and abandoned for a long period of time, are areas which are likely to find micro-meteorites. In this paper with given this assumption, in collaboration with a team of researchers and a number of scientific societies and schools, we implement a comprehensive national plan in Iran as "A meteorite on the roof". Through this project, students and the general public sweep the roof of the school building with a clean magnet and collected samples are delivered to the project secretariat. Suspected examples after screening, are reviewed for further evaluation by a team of geologists in geology and geochemistry equipped laboratories. If suspected samples would be meteorites after the results of experiments, micro-meteorites will be delivered to the explorer after providing certification and academic evaluation. In addition to having scientific achievements in this project, due to the large number of students and general public to participate in a scientific project and the cooperation of various groups of university students in screening suspected samples, the project can be one of the most comprehensive scientific and outreach projects in different levels of society. In this paper, authors are sharing the guidelines for the implementation of these projects in other countries by providing the scientific achievements of the "meteorite on the roof" project and based on achieved experiences in the country.