

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)

Lift Off - Secondary Space Education (2) (2B)

Author: Dr. Mofoluso Fagbeja

National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), Nigeria

Dr. Ganiyu Agbaje

National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), Abuja Nigeria, Nigeria

Mr. Lami Ali-Fadiora

African Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), Nigeria

Mr. Lukman Alage

African Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), Nigeria

Mr. Mustafa Oloko-Oba

African Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), Nigeria

Mr. Joshua Akinfenwa

African Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), Nigeria

Ms. Oluwatosin Akinwale

African Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), Nigeria

Mr. OLUSOJI NESTER JOHN

African Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), Nigeria

Ms. Funmilayo Erinfolami

African Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), Nigeria

Mr. Samuel Fatile

African Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), Nigeria

Mr. Leye Salu

African Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), Nigeria

Mrs. Oluwatoyin Morakinyo

African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English, Nigeria

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION IN SPACE THROUGH SPACE OUTREACH IN NIGERIA

Abstract

African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E) consistently ensures the propagation of space education awareness through seminars and outreach workshops. In February 2017, the Centre organised a Zonal Space Education Workshop with the theme, "Space for All: Creating Awareness and Inspiring Students" for secondary schools in North-Central Zone of Nigeria at CS College, Ilorin, Kwara State. Over 300 secondary school students and science teachers drawn from 32 public and private schools participated in the workshop, which enlightened the participants on various aspects of Space, including definition and characteristics of Space and its environment; human activities about space exploration; careers available for Space enthusiasts; and hands-on sessions on the principles of launching rockets into space. Through the deployment of questionnaires and quiz, assessments of the interests of the participants, including gender classification, in Space have been carried out. The results of the assessments will further support the advocacy of the Centre for the importance of including space-based education in schools' curriculum in Nigeria, and to further encourage the successes recorded in girl-child education. The overall strategy adopted for the implementation of the Workshop

was such that concerned schools, participating teachers and key education administrators within the zone took ownership of the workshop, thereby ensuring the success of it. This strategy, which involved series of discussions, meetings, and mini demonstrations to heighten the interests of administrators, would be adopted for other workshops to be carried out by the Centre. This paper provides details report on the planning and execution of the Space Education Workshop, the activities, assessments of the participants and the critical observations from the assessments. The paper also highlights the key strategies being employed at ensuring the sustainability of the efforts of ARCSSTE-E, and the lessons learnt from the program, going forward.