

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

Author: Dr. Danielle DeLatte
United States, ddelatte@alum.mit.edu

Ms. Angela D. Peura
United States, angela.peura@gmail.com

Mr. Robert Johanson
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States, rtjohanson@gmail.com

Ms. Ayako Ono
Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan, a.ono@med.tohoku.ac.jp

Dr. Kenneth Wong
University of Tokyo, Japan, ken.wong@ipmu.jp

Ms. Mayuko Mori
University of Tokyo, Japan, mori@astron.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Mr. Thilina Heenatigala
Japan, thilinah@elsi.jp

Ms. Michelle Eggers
Japan, michelle.nicole.eggers@gmail.com

Dr. Elizabeth Tasker
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), ISAS, Japan, elizabeth.tasker@jaxa.jp

TAKING SPACE CAFE GLOBAL

Abstract

Engaging the public in the wonders of space is easier with a drink. Since 2011, monthly interdisciplinary space talks have been held at bars in Washington, DC and around the world. Events in Tokyo followed in 2016 and in Luxembourg and Brussels in 2018. More recently, Montreal and other cities are joining their ranks. As the original concept, International Space University (ISU) Space Cafe in DC, became a global series, it rebranded as Space Cafe Global. Each event features one or more space experts in a casual setting like a bar. The talks and panels provide opportunities for the public to interact with space professionals and for those in the industry to network with their peers. By focusing on core outreach ideas and leaving room for local expertise to flourish, Space Cafe Global has become a positive force for communicating space science, astronomy, engineering, policy, mission development, art, and business to an interested public. Diversity has been a driving force, particularly in Tokyo, which neared gender parity of speakers (45% female) from December 2016 to February 2019. Here, lessons are shared for adopting an interdisciplinary space outreach event for global audiences.