

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space Culture – Public Engagement in Space through Culture (9)Author: Mr. Michael Ugom
NigeriaFOSTERING PEACE AND UNITY BY INTEGRATING SPACE CULTURE IN SCHOOLS: A CASE
STUDY OF THE IGBO CULTURE**Abstract**

Culture is simply the way of life of a group of people which encompasses food, clothing, and lifestyle. Consciously or subconsciously, culture influences our ways of life and this apparently, poses a corresponding impacts on our environment in the long run. This paper explores the benefits of integrating space science through space education using culture as a gateway or medium. Culture in this context is specific to the Igbo tribe of Southeastern Nigeria, whereby Space Science will be a tool in promoting the Igbo culture and disseminating the message of Peace. The objectives of this paper are to achieve goal number four (4) of the Sustainable Development Goal on Quality Education which entails conventional education as well as incorporating technology to aid the learning process with the hope of ensuring quality education accessible to all. Secondly the objective is also focused on Peace and justice strong institutions, sustainable goal number sixteen (16). In order to ensure an actualization of sustainable development through space culture embedded in space education, the following measures have been taken so far; Training of School students and teachers on basic space science within the local community, inspiring the minds of young school children to basic space science by innovative practical measures such as; using a telescope, igniting the minds of the school children on how space science can be applied in other areas of their lives as well as hosting quizzes and debates on space science. Teachers who turned up in the first workshop, later realized how space can be applied to other subject areas in the school. So far, more than 1,610 high school students were involved in the sensitization. As seen here: <http://iafastro.directory/iac/archive/browse/IAC-16/E1/2/32509/> Nigeria's foremost space agency the National Space Research and Development Agency, Abuja has been doing a lot in space culture and education although, the outreach has been within some North central Nigerian states which includes; Abuja, Niger, Kaduna, Plateau, and Nasarawa states respectively. A partnership will be formed with an annex of the National Space Research and Development Agency, Abuja located in the Southeastern region of Nigeria (Center for Basic Space Science, Nsukka) to forestall proactive measures in bridging the gap between space education and culture of the indigenous Igbo language as veritable tool to educating students and the locals about Space science with the aim of promoting peace.