

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
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ASTROBUS ETHIOPIA: ENGAGING ETHIOPIAN YOUTH IN SPACE SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY

Abstract

AstrobusEthiopia is a mobile astronomy outreach program that is carried out by driving a motor vehicle to different regions in Ethiopia. Inspired by the success of the 2017 AstroBus Ethiopia project, the Ethiopian Space Science Society conducted part 2 of the project taking astronomy into the remote regions in Ethiopia.

In this round, the Astrobus Ethiopia went to the northern region of Ethiopia, visiting 9 cities including Addis Ababa, Fitcha, Debre Markos, Bahir Dar, Debre Tabor, Gonder, Axum, Mekelle, and Woledeya traveling for 10 days, from Dec 7- 16, 2019, from cities to cities to inspire, educate and connect the next generation of Ethiopian in space. The Astrobus team is composed of a group of scientists (25 in number), who are astrophysicists, scientists, artists, and innovators who have brought several programs that allow students to learn, experiment and build projects. The program included talks and discussions on astronomy and practical observation, innovative workshops, a series of practical exercises involving robotic cars, smartphone sensors, and robotic programming. Over the 10 days, the Astrobus project manages to reach out to more than 7,000 students from 45 different schools in the region.

The paper will share the Astrobus experience, impacts, and lessons learned. As it provides an excellent opportunity and methodology to reach out to the general public in a creative and inspiring way, using astronomy activities as a tool.