

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

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INSPIRING SPACE-BASED INNOVATIONS THROUGH SPACE OUTREACH IN NIGERIA

Abstract

A core mandate of the Space Education Outreach Programme (SEOP) of the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E) is to inspire young minds towards developing innovative scientific and space-based solutions to the numerous human and environmental challenges. The Programme has designed a variety of activities to foster innovative solutions development, especially towards meeting the goals of the United Nations Global Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development. A critical component is the establishment and support for Space Clubs at the tertiary

education level, where students are engaged in discussions, seminars and hands-on demonstrations. The Space Club of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) have over time developed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) useful in supporting aerial mapping and deployment of agricultural support for farmers in Nigeria. Additionally, the group has successfully developed an environmental metric monitoring device that has the potential of monitoring environmental conditions that could foster growth of disease vectors. Currently, the group is working on the development of a robotic arm. These are products of inspirational talks and charges given through various ARCSSTE-E events. Consequently, the SEOP is working with the management of the Obafemi Awolowo University to institute an OAU Community Space Day, which will be celebrated annually and would bring stakeholders from the University community and friends of the University to discuss Space and its inherent opportunities. The SEOP is also working with the Kwara State University (KWASU) on the establishment of a Space Club and Education Laboratory (SCEL), an initiative that seeks further inspire students into space technology development. The SCEL will be replicated at selected Universities across Nigeria and other English-speaking African countries. The Laboratory is expected to also serve secondary schools students and teachers within the regions they are established. However, inspiring students to innovate for the benefit of humankind is faced with a variety of challenges, especially funding. Consequently, ARCSSTE-E continues to seek for partnerships to fund and support the execution many of its outreach programmes and initiatives. The Centre is therefore open to networking with space-based organisations and enthusiasts to continue to achieve its aims and objectives.