

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Virtual Presentations - IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (VP)

Author: Dr. Norilmi Ismail
Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia

SPACE CONNECT: ENGAGING YOUNG GENERATION THROUGH SPACE OUTREACH

Abstract

Most of space education initiative in Malaysia focuses on space science and astronomy. The Space Connect is a movement initiated by a group of student from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) to reach the underprivileged student in the rural areas to encourages their interest in Science, technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through hands-on activities based on the space technology. By using the tagline of “Empowering Youth for Brighter Future”, the Space Connect conducted three sub-events: Space Tour, Mega Space Connect and Global Space Connect every year since 2018. The Space Tour program is a one-month event where 29 schools have been visited by the volunteers which sum up to 1400 students in total up to April 2020. This event was held for approximately 6 hours per school and consist of several educational activities such as Space Talks and Educations, Rocket Design and launch and CanSat workshop. The climax of this program is the Mega Space Connect, the festival-like one-day event where the exhibition and space-related competition was conducted to attract the local student and public around USM to get involved and exposed them to space technology. The competition includes the water rocket competition and flying the space experiment using High Altitude Balloon for secondary school, a drawing competition for primary school and space exhibition for the public. Finally, the last event of Space Connect called Global Space Connect had been conducted and designed for the volunteers of Space Connect to get exposure to global players of the space industry. They have been brought to space-related company and agency in Thailand and Japan. Space connect program was an initiative to spread the love for STEM education, has embarked the new spirit in the kids to learn more about the outer space and inspires the volunteers to work in the space industry. The main lesson from this event is everyone has the right to get an advanced education, especially in the space field and should be given the opportunity to involve in the space industry.