

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

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THE PAYANKEU MOON CIRCUS: A NEW INNOVATIVE CONCEPT FOR OUTREACH TO THE
WORLD

Abstract

In 2025, the global cooperative Payankeu solar sail will enter the Earth-Moon Challenge and spiral from a 50,000 km Earth orbit to reach beyond the Moon. To hold the attention of the world audiences during one and half year of navigation, Pierre Munoz, a traditional circus manager and Guy Pignolet, a former chair of the educational committee of the IAF came up with the idea of a Payankeu Moon Circus based on two models: Tour de France and Cirque du Soleil. It would be a new type of circus with an innovative and exciting fusion of entertainment, space education, and space business development. The Payankeu Circus will be a travelling circus, with its caravan and its top, featuring a series of shows, live concerts, scientific conferences, and workshops for educators and professionals, all of which would be themed around a control center for the Payankeu mission. The circus will have a state-of-the-art stage and seating area, as well as exhibits and displays that would educate and engage general public visitors of all ages. The shows would be a combination of traditional circus acts, such as acrobats, clowns, and jugglers, as well as more futuristic performances and live concerts, all inspired by the themes of space and exploration. The conferences will feature presentations by experts in astronomy and solar system exploration, discussing latest discoveries and breakthroughs. The workshops would be hands-on, interactive sessions allowing visitors to learn about space science and technology through engaging activities and experiments. The art and science exhibitions would showcase fascinating displays, models of the solar system, and interactive exhibits that will allow visitors to explore the mysteries of space. Following the model of Tour de France, the Payankeu Moon Circus will travel from town to town week after week, involving people in the passion for space and fostering a deeper citizen appreciation for the importance of space exploration, discovery and enterprise. Because of the unique global cooperative nature of the Payankeu sailcraft project, there will be several Moon Circusses running at the same time in parallel on different continents to reflect the world participation in the Payankeu programme. It is a non-traditional and immersive experience platform for people to engage in the space field, and to generate new insights towards the high frontier that could have significant benefits for humanity.