

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Interactive Presentations - IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (IP)

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SUSTAINABILITY OF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS: A CASE STUDY OF
BAHRAIN'S NATIONAL SPACE SCIENCE AGENCY (NSSA)

Abstract

As the world keeps changing due to technological advancement of the fourth industrial revolution, the importance of focusing on future sciences is also increasing. Hence, it is vital to continue inspiring kids and youth in new innovative ways to learn more about space, its applications and technologies in order to elevate their interest to pursue degrees in STEM fields in the future. There has been many efforts and different disciplines applied in this field whether through educational institutions, space agencies or governmental entities, some in which it involved creating school curriculums, implementing interactive sessions such as arts and DIY (Do It Yourself) videos and other means. Some of these activities (if not most) had a spontaneous effect and lacked the momentum of continuation of its impact. One of the most notable examples of an activity that started small but its impact has been amplified is the National Space Science Agency (NSSA) experience in partnering with Kallman Worldwide Inc. (Kallman), an international institute, where the later has awarded several scholarships to gifted students from selected countries around the world (Kingdom of Bahrain was one of the selected countries) to attend space camp programs in the United States. In this particular case, the space camp program didn't have an impact on the awarded students only, it moved further to inspire one of the students' schools to participate in the Space week by conducting for the first time ever a Space-related school exhibition emphasizing on space and astronomical facts via building various sized models utilizing everyday recycled materials (such as coffee capsules and pillow stuffing), thus, engaging different students in the process of establishing this exhibition and teaching them about space, innovation and recycling. The plan was to keep this exhibition for a week, but due to its gained reputation by press, media, parents and ministry of education, it was kept for more than 4 months where students from other schools were able to visit and interact with this exhibition in an attempt to inspire other schools to have similar innovative and creative activities. This paper will showcase how NSSA implemented the international joint program, monitored and evaluated its progress and impact through feedback received, and measured its success having the school exhibition's journey as an example in addition to highlighting how a spark can raise the bar of outreach activities to be a valuable tool to spread awareness in a sustainable manner.