

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

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SOCIETY OF WOMEN IN SPACE EXPLORATION COSTA RICA; EMPOWERING AND INSPIRING
COSTA RICAN WOMEN IN THE SPACE AREA

Abstract

In the face of the exceptional growth of the space exploration industry, an unparalleled opportunity arises to forge a more inclusive, equitable, and diverse future in this realm. Recognizing the imperative importance of integrating women and minority groups into these initiatives, particularly at the Costa Rican level, the Society of Women in Space Exploration Costa Rica (SWISE CR) emerges as a driving force for change due to the lack of spaces and groups for women in the space sector generated as a consequence of the gender gap. Is an organization that promotes and encourages women in the multidisciplinary fields of space exploration. Society has various groups worldwide, with a notable presence in the United States. The Costa Rican chapter is currently the biggest of the society worldwide (200 members in total) and we want to provide tools to women in the space area to counteract the gender gap in the industry. In 2019, a group of pioneering women inaugurated the first chapter of the country with the vision of inspiring more women and minorities to actively participate in the space and academic industries. Over the past year, a series of events were organized, including panels featuring prominent female professionals from both the space industry and academia. These events have provided valuable networking opportunities and open discussions about the challenges Costa Rican women are facing in various aspects of space exploration. With the aim of providing opportunities for women interested in space exploration, has settled collaborations with various entities, including educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and space sector companies. This support has been essential to expand the reach of activities and strengthen the organization's impact in the Costa Rican community. In addition to events, society is committed to fostering a vibrant community of space enthusiasts through initiatives such as practical workshops and exhibitions. These activities offer participants the opportunity to establish connections, collaborate, and develop relevant skills for space exploration. Through active engagement on social media, the group continues to generate educational content and promote dialogue, thus expanding its reach and impact both locally and internationally. We work together with different groups in the country to address and solve the issue collaboratively. SWISE Costa Rica aims to improve the social problem reaching more countries in the region and subsequently extending the society worldwide, through several local organizations .