

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)

Living In Space - Education And Outreach In Space Life Sciences and infrastructure development for capacity building (7.-A1.8)

Author: Dr. Carlos Gabriel

European Space Agency (ESA), Spain, carlos.gabriel@sciops.esa.int

Prof. Mariano Méndez

University of Groningen, The Netherlands, mariano@astro.rug.nl

Dr. Mathieu Pierre-Philippe

European Space Agency (ESA), Italy, pp.mathieu.news@gmail.com

Dr. Santolik Ondrej

Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Czech Republic, os@ufa.cas.cz

Dr. Randall Smith

Harvard University, United States, rsmith-pcbfp@head.cfa.harvard.edu

Prof. Peter Willmore

University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, apw@star.sr.bham.ac.uk

THE COSPAR CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

Abstract

The COSPAR Capacity Building Program of Workshops and its companion Fellowship Program have been conceived to meet the following objectives: i) to increase knowledge and use of public archives of space data in order both to broaden the scope of research programmes in developing countries and also to ensure that scientists in those countries are aware of the full range of facilities that are available to them, ii) to provide highly-practical instruction in the use of these archives and the associated publicly-available software, and iii) to foster personal links between participants and experienced scientists attending the workshops to contribute to reducing the isolation often experienced by scientists in developing countries. Since 2001 a total of thirteen workshops have been successfully held in different scientific areas (X-ray, Gamma-ray and Space Optical and UV Astronomy, Magnetospheric Physics, Satellite Oceanography, Atmospheric Physics and Water Cycle, and Planetary Science) in nine developing countries (Brazil, India, China, South Africa, Morocco, Romania, Uruguay, Egypt and Malaysia). 13 workshop participants have spent 15 stays in laboratories and universities participating to the COSPAR Fellowship program. We will discuss the modalities of the workshops, the so-far gained experience, and the future including collaborations with other institutions sharing the aim of increasing space research in developing countries.