IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Enabling the Future: Developing the Space Workforce (5)

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IMPACT OF ARCSSTE-E'S CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN SPACE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION WITHIN THE ANGLOPHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Abstract

The African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E) located at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, established over twenty five years ago has provided postgraduate training in Space Science and Technology (SST) for English speaking African countries. Within the framework of its mandate to build capacity in core areas of Space Science and Technology (SST) applications, the Centre offers Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) programme, Master of Technology (M.Tech) programmes as well as short courses in six (6) thematic courses namely, Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS), Satellite Communications, Satellite Meteorology and Global Climate, Space and Atmospheric Science, Space Law, and Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS). The Regional Centre mandate covers twenty-five (25) Member States including Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Rwanda and Nigeria. From the commencement of the postgraduate diploma programmes in 2000 to date, about Six Hundred and Seventy-Three (673) participants from seventeen African countries have so far been trained. Furthermore, a total of One Hundred and Eighty-One (181) participants have graduated from the joint Masters programme in various aspect of SST. The Centre has successfully deployed an online platform which has allowed a number of short courses to be delivered across various sectors of SST across the mandated region. The Centre through the platform has provided capacity development to hundreds of participants. These efforts had resulted in positive impact on the region in the utilization of space Science Technology. The resultant effect has been demonstrated as outlined in several successfully executable projects by participants which is capable of: combating insecurity; settling communal clashes and boundary disputes; curbing oil theft and infrastructural vandalization; aiding effective town planning and service delivery; and seamless annexation and management of natural resources. The paper therefore highlights several strategic efforts, experiences and knowledge gained in the training, and capacity development in long and short term forms across the Anglophone countries to ensure the utilization of Space Science and Technology for sustainable development across the countries specifically in the utilization of Earth observation data and satellite communication.