

The 24th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-24)

Space Education Working Group (SEWG)

Concept Note

1. Background and Objective of SEWG Activities

The goal of the Space Education Working Group (SEWG) is to develop a talented future workforce through space education activity. Our actions are intended to shape the futures of not just the children of the Asia-Pacific region, but of those all over the world.

In every place and culture on Earth, children love the natural world and look at life with wonder. They take pleasure in nature's blessings, and stand in awe in the face of nature in all its power. Children may ask what lies beyond the stars they see, or how to overcome environmental crises. In the 60 old years that humanity has been exploring space, doing things in space has increasingly become an integral part of our lives. Today, we have numerous players in aerospace, hailing from a range of countries and industries, seeking to broaden humanity's horizons, dreaming of a more prosperous future.

The Space Education and Awareness WG was established at the 8th session of the APRSAF in 2001, changing its name to the Space Education WG in 2014. The working group has been actively pursuing a variety of programs in close collaboration with educators from the Asia-Pacific region, in service of a goal: to encourage young minds to see the world through a larger, more cosmic perspective, and channel the spirit of the seeker, the adventurer and the maker to make a contribution to the global community, to become a part of the solution to the ills that plague today's society.

The SEWG has three major programs, held concurrently with the annual meeting of the APRSAF. The first program is the Poster Contest that is

open to children aged between 8 and 11. Its aim is to encourage the imagination, through that year's space-related theme; the theme for the next Poster Contest is generated and selected at the WG's annual meeting. Delegates to the annual meeting of the APRSAF are encouraged to vote for the best poster. The SEWG's second program, the Water Rocket Event, is for students aged 12 to 16, and consists of a water rocket competition and cross-cultural activities. Because water rockets can be constructed from common materials such as plastic bottles, plastic sheets and plasticine, it is an ideal way to study the principles of rocketry as well as engineering. A great deal can be learned through the process of designing, building, and launching, then making modifications to improve performance. The program also gives students an opportunity to interact with different cultures and further understand their own background. And the last program, the Educator Workshop, provides a valuable opportunity for educators to gather and trade experiences, insights and achievements from their own space education activities. The aim is to enhance the quality of teaching, nurturing the kind of next-generation talent capable of true innovation. Additionally, the WG holds its Space Education Seminar for Educators once a year to promote space education within the region, organized in close collaboration with the host agency to meet the specific needs of the host country. The WG considers it important to make the seminar both participatory and practical, so that attendees can incorporate what they learn into their everyday curriculum.

2. Results of SEWG Activities at APRSAF-23

See Recommendations adopted at APRSAF-23:

https://aprsaf.org/annual_meetings/aprsaf23/recommend.php

3. Draft Agenda

- (1) Opening of the session
- (2) Adoption of the agenda
- (3) General exchange of views on space education
- (4) Joint educational activities for educators and young people
 - a. Water Rocket Event
 - b. Poster Contest
 - c. Space Education Seminar for Educators
 - d. Other activities
- (5) The results (progress report) of the previous Space Education Seminars for Educators, presented in panel format by WG representatives.
- (6) Sharing of teaching materials, with the greater aim of enriching space education
- (7) Other business