

Successful Outreach Results of the National Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers: A Global Outreach Template for Our Global Community

UN-18

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Summary

The Challenge: To connect people the world over with the Human Space Technology Initiative (HSTI).

The Solution: A global outreach template adaptable to any target group, subject matter, and country, around the globe!

The Proof: The National Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers

Target Group: Primary and Secondary School Teachers

Subject Matter: Astronomy

Country: Nigeria

Introduction

➤ The National Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers was designed to promote the teaching of Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) by introducing Astronomy, in a simplified and readily comprehensible format, to primary and secondary school teachers in Nigeria.

➤ The Workshop was hosted by the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), and was a collaborative effort comprising many organizations from Nigeria, Costa Rica and the United States.

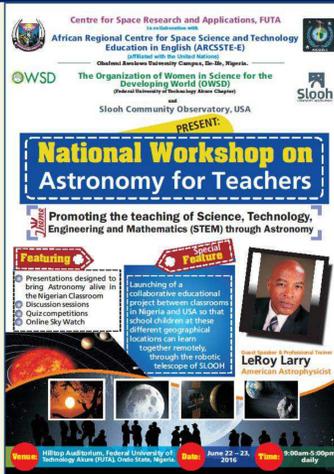
➤ Participants indicated they found the presentations to be educational and entertaining, and were motivated to teach Astronomy in their classrooms.

➤ A quantitative assessment indicated an increase across the board in the teachers' knowledge of Astronomy, in some cases as much as 100%.

➤ Schools located in other regions of Nigeria have requested that a similar National Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers be conducted for them.

➤ Workshops for other target groups such as CEOs and decision makers, and for other subject matter such as Space Life Sciences Education and International Cooperation for Knowledge Sharing and Development, are being considered.

➤ Ghana is requesting that a National Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers be conducted there in the near-term.



1 Obstacles Encountered and Surmounted

- Funding was the major obstacle and constraint because the agencies organizing the Workshop were funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria.
- Interference from local sources.
- The Workshop suffered one postponement, and was in danger of being cancelled altogether.
- The organizers of the Workshop had to use their personal finances for funding, and their own resources for organization and coordination.

Follow-up Activity

➤ Representative schools have requested follow-up guidance and assistance in adding Astronomy to their academic curriculum or as an enrichment program.

From: Oloyede Muhideen <oloyedemuhideen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2016 9:40 PM
To: llarry711@hotmail.com
Subject: OLOYEDE MUHIDEEN ABIODUN, (ISLAMIC REDEEMER MODELS COLLEGE, MODAKEKE, OSUN STATE, NIGERIA).

I, Mr Oloyede Muhideen A., from Islamic Redeemer Models' College, Modakeke, Osun State, Nigeria (latitude: 7.4856 and longitude: 4.5475) science teacher who represented the above named school on astronomy workshop held at Federal University of Technology, Akure ON 22nd & 23rd June, 2016. I hereby informed you that my school has agreed to include astronomy as part of our school curriculum due to the report of the program been given to them. in light of this, I have volunteered to teach the students. the major problem now is how to get the guideline on how to carry out the students along like curriculum, and other materials. Also, I want to inform you that Dr Wumi Alabi has sent some presentations to my mail box. I am looking up to your contribution too. thanks.

OLOYEDE MUHIDEEN ABIODUN.

From: Love Joy <loveandjoygroupofschools@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2016 8:15 PM
To: llarry711@hotmail.com
Subject:

Hello. I'm writing on behalf of Love and Joy Secondary School, Ilesa, Osun State, Nigeria. We attended the workshop on astronomy held at the Federal University of Technology Akure in June, 2016. We already have a space club in our school but we want to incorporate astronomy into the club programs. Please we need your assistance. Thanks.

Omonitan Felicia A
Proprietress.

From: funmi oluwatimilehin <funmilehin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2016 3:21 PM
To: llarry711@hotmail.com
Subject: Re - Follow up on Natioal Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers

I, write on behalf of my school, Arise and Shine Builders Nur/Pry school Oba - Ile, Akure North local Government to express my appreciation to you for organizing the training program. The school is prepared to teach our pupils from Primary four (04) to Primary six (06) astronomy as a subject. This will ensure maximum benefits to all our pupils. Your support in this regard will be highly appreciated. Thank you. Funmi Oluwatimilehin Proprietor

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Margaret <meggfad@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2016 11:19 PM
To: llarry711@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: June 2016 Nigeria Workshop

Dear Mr. LeRoy,
Thank you so much for visiting Nigeria and sharing with us. I am Margaret Fadehan, the head of schools for Fadehan Schools in Ile Ife. We were represented in the workshop held in Akure in June by Lamide Afolabi, a member of our Supervisory Academic Unit. We would want to have the study of Astronomy as part of the enrichment program for our students and would want to have your guidance on same. I am presently downloading the materials you put up on icloud and would appreciate it if our school can be included in the follow up activities being planned. Looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you & God bless.

Margaret

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Proposal presented on 15 June 2016 at the COPUOS 59th Session: "To create a desk office to organize and coordinate HSTI outreach activities on the UN-OOSA platform."

- The office will organize and coordinate the programs in collaboration with Agencies in developing and developed countries.
- The office will address the outreach-related observations and recommendations of the HSTI Working Groups.
- The activities will be derived from the space-related areas in which UN-OOSA is actively involved as contained in the Program on Space Applications.
- The activities will include, but not be limited to, customized space education outreach programs modeled on the global outreach template used for the National Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers.
- Representatives from identified target groups such as stakeholders, decision makers, CEOs, government officials, gender equality, teachers, students, and the general public, will be invited to participate in the workshops.
- The level of the material presented will be commensurate with that of the participants, and will be presented in such a way as to be educational, entertaining, and motivational.

Conclusions

- The successful results of the National Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers emphasize the need to organize and coordinate HSTI outreach activities.
- The obstacles encountered in organizing and coordinating the National Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers emphasize why it is necessary to conduct these activities from the UN-OOSA platform.
- The global outreach template used for the National Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers can be used for any target group, age range, subject matter, level, country, culture, and language, around the globe.
- The most effective and efficient method of implementing the global outreach template is from the UN-OOSA platform.

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to express profound gratitude to the Vice Chancellor and the community of scholars at the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), Nigeria for all the efforts made to ensure that the National Workshop on Astronomy for Teachers in Nigeria was successful.