

UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS

# Report on World Space Week 2008

*Prepared in cooperation with World Space Week Association*



UNITED NATIONS



ST/SPACE/44  
Office for Outer Space Affairs  
United Nations Office at Vienna

# **REPORT ON WORLD SPACE WEEK 2008**

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## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Summary of participation	2
3	National Summaries	3
3.1	Algeria	3
3.2	Bangladesh	3
3.3	Cuba	4
3.4	Czech Republic	4
3.5	Ethiopia	5
3.6	France	5
3.7	India	5
3.8	Italy	6
3.9	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6
3.10	Malaysia	6
3.11	The Netherlands	7
3.12	New Zealand	7
3.13	Pakistan	7
3.14	Republic of Korea	7
3.15	Romania	8
3.16	Russian Federation	8
3.17	Slovakia	9
3.18	Spain	9
3.19	Thailand	9
3.20	Turkey	9
3.21	United States of America	10
3.22	Venezuela	10
3.23	Viet Nam	11
3.24	Zambia	11
4	United Nations	11
4.1	Children and Space	11
5	Private Sector Participation	12
5.1	Astrium	12
5.1.1	France	12
5.1.2	Germany	13
5.1.3	United Kingdom	13
5.1.4	Spain	13
6	Organization	14
6.1	World Space Week Association	14
6.2	National Coordinators	15
7	Sponsors	16



# 1 Summary

World Space Week, October 4 to 10 annually, was declared in 1999 by the United Nations General Assembly in response to a recommendation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). The goal of World Space Week (WSW) is to celebrate the contribution of space science and technology to the good of humankind. Its dates commemorate two key events:

- October 4, 1957 – Launch of the first artificial Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, opening space for exploration
- October 10, 1967 – Entry into force of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

World Space Week 2008 dramatically grew beyond the previous year's celebration which marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Space Age. Highlights included the following:

- Over 550 events reported in 63 nations
- Reported attendance of nearly 400,000 people and media coverage reaching over 50,000,000
- U.S. Presidential candidate Barack Obama issued a World Space Week statement
- 1,000 model rockets were launched by students in 23 cities across Europe
- Space agencies holding World Space Week events included NASA and ESA
- Aerospace companies demonstrating support included Astrium and Hamilton Sundstrand

The theme of WSW 2008 was "Exploring the Universe."

Consisting of synchronized outreach and education activities by many organizations, United Nations-declared World Space Week reaches a mass audience each October 4-10 through attendance and media coverage. The benefits include:

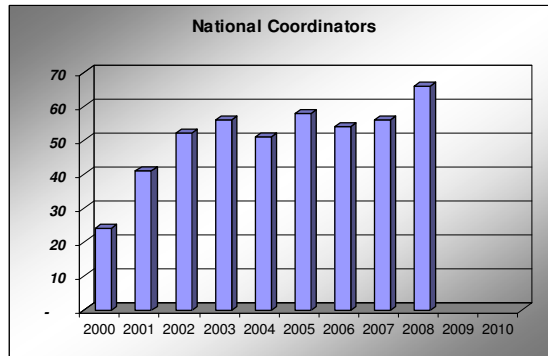
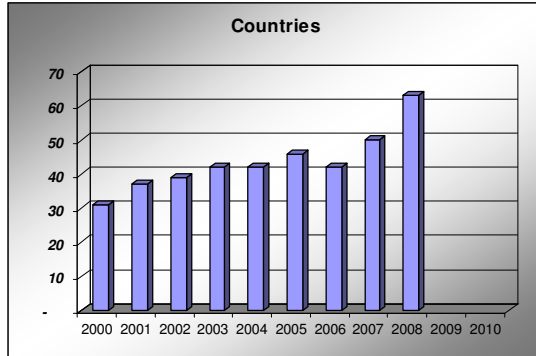
- Building the workforce of tomorrow by inspiring students
- Visibly demonstrating public support for space programs
- Educating the public and government leaders about the benefits of space activities
- Promoting institutions which are involved in space
- Fostering international cooperation in space outreach and education

This report was prepared in cooperation with World Space Week Association, a non-government organization which supports the United Nations in the global coordination of World Space Week. For further information, please visit [www.worldspaceweek.org](http://www.worldspaceweek.org) or contact [admin@worldspaceweek.org](mailto:admin@worldspaceweek.org).



## 2 Summary of Participation

The section summarizes the scope of United Nations-declared World Space Week globally and in participating states. The following figures illustrate the growth of this event from 2000 to 2008.



### 5 countries with the greatest number of programs

Czech Republic	105
Romania	79
Turkey	65
USA	60
Pakistan	23

### 5 countries with the greatest reported attendance

Turkey	243,806
Pakistan	35,800
Mexico	31,684
Romania	10,441
Republic of Korea	10,000

### 5 countries with the greatest reported media impressions

Philippines	25,000,000
Turkey	21,772,353
Bangladesh	5,000,000
Vietnam	1,000,000
Pakistan	425,050

Country	Events	Attendance	Impressions
Algeria	2	-	-
Argentina	2	50	-
Australia	5	65	1,000
Austria	3	70	50,000
Bangladesh	1	5,000	5,000,000
Belgium	2	330	10,100
Bolivia	1	200	2,000
Brazil	3	255	-
Bulgaria	19	3,007	16,500
Canada	2	-	-
China	1	-	-
Colombia	5	300	1,000
Cuba	1	-	-
Czech Republic	105	4,608	401,169
Denmark	1	-	-
Ecuador	4	103	-
Ethiopia	2	400	-
Finland	1	150	-
France	12	3,010	51,500
French Guiana	2	150	1,500
Germany	11	990	22,530
Greece	2	28	-
Haiti	1	-	-
Hungary	5	370	7,700
India	19	2,312	15,817
International	3	100	-
Ireland	1	-	-
Italy	4	-	-
Japan	1	100	1,000
Kuwait	1	-	-
Macedonia	1	11	3
Malaysia	2	40	-

Country	Events	Attendance	Impressions
Mauritius	1	20	-
Mexico	1	31,684	63,698
Namibia	1	-	-
Netherlands	2	-	-
Nigeria	6	1,830	5,200
Oman	1	700	400
Pakistan	23	35,800	425,050
Peru	3	690	20,000
Philippines	4	9,074	25,000,000
Poland	1	-	-
Portugal	5	950	5,000
Republic of Korea	1	10,000	10,000
Romania	79	10,441	139,430
Russia	6	970	1,000
Slovakia	16	1,393	-
South Africa	4	-	-
Spain	12	3,200	123,500
Sweden	1	-	-
Switzerland	4	3,100	146,000
Syria	1	-	-
Tanzania	1	-	-
Thailand	1	-	-
Trinidad & Tobago	1	-	-
Tunisia	1	-	-
Turkey	65	243,806	21,772,353
UK	13	1,029	-
Uruguay	4	330	200,048
USA	60	9,325	149,905
Venezuela	1	12	50
Vietnam	7	1,265	1,000,000
Zambia	2	106	8,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>387,374</b>	<b>54,651,703</b>



### 3 National Summaries

This section contains summaries of World Space Week 2008 from a number of national coordinators. The full details and results of the many hundred WSW 2008 activities in all 63 participating nations can be viewed via the on-line calendar at [www.worldspaceweek.org/calendar\\_2008](http://www.worldspaceweek.org/calendar_2008).

#### 3.1 Algeria



World Space Week was celebrated this year with enthusiasm in the Constantine area in particular. This included several lectures on space and astronomy, an exposition of space-related material and space art, and live radio coverage.

The main activities of World Space Week were centered around the annual National Salon in Popular Astronomy. The annual National Salon in Popular Astronomy, which is held yearly to coincide with World Space Week, started this year after the Ramadhan. It consisted of a large astronomy exhibition and a series of lectures and workshops for the benefit of the public and the astronomy community nationwide. It aims at bringing astronomy and space science to the people.



This year saw wider participation from associations from abroad. In particular, we had the participation of the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences from Jordan, the Societe Astronomique de France, Association Jeunes-Science from Tunis, and participations from Greece, Iran, Namibia, Bahrein, Kuwait, and others. In addition, State and national institutions dealing with space and astronomy were present at the fair, as well as amateur astronomy associations and clubs from all over the country.

As in previous years, the Expo saw also the participation of the various national agencies working on space and space-related activities, such as ASAL (L'Agence Spatiale Algérienne), the

CNTS (Centre National des Techniques Spatiales) from Arzew, the CRAAG (Bouzaréah), the ONM (L'Office National de la Météorologie), the ENNA (Entreprise Nationale de la Navigation Aérienne). Furthermore, several astronomy clubs and associations from all over the country prepared exhibit stands, with large representation from the Centre, the south and the east of Algeria.

World Space Week received excellent coverage in the media, both in the written press and on radio and TV. A large number of national newspapers, both in Arabic and French, picked up our communiqué. This included extensive coverage by various radio stations: the national radio station, "La Chaine 3", broadcasted a report on the event. Cirta FM, the local Constantine radio station, ran advertisement spots free of charge starting two weeks prior to the Salon in addition to an on-the-spot coverage and made an extensive live coverage throughout the Fair.

#### 3.2 Bangladesh

Celebration of World Space Week 2008 was held at Enayetpur. Activities included a Space Art Contest, Air Rocket and Balloon Rocket Contests, and Sky Observation Camp. Thousands of school students from different areas of Bangladesh participated in a colourful Rally from Balur Math wearing Badges and Caps. The students hoisted banners, posters and rocket models in their hands and strolled on the streets of Enayetpur, assembling at the premises of Mohakash Bhavan. There, the Students participated in a Space Dance, Space Narrations, a Space Quiz, and a Space Debate amongst other activities. The Science Museum, Dhaka, arranged a special Space Quiz and offered Prize Bonds to the successful Contestants. Teachers and guests delivered lectures, encouraging students to study

Space Science. The celebration ended around 3pm after the distribution of prizes to successful contestants, which were mainly books on Astronomy and Space Science. A total of 27 schools participated in the Celebration of World Space Week-2008 at Enayetpur.



Most of the leading newspapers in Bangladesh covered the news prominently. Furthermore, ATN Bangla, the leading TV Channel in Bangladesh, telecast the Celebration of WSW-2008 which helped us to obtain maximum publicity. ATN Bangla is the most popular TV Channel for 250 million Bengali speaking people around the world.

### 3.3 Cuba

The serious affectations Cuba suffered by the action of the hurricanes Gustav and Ike did not allow the World Space Week celebration to develop as in previous years. Nevertheless, it was developed with success: 16 reports from different scientific institutions of the country were presented in the Jimaguayú Hall in the National Capitol on October 9, 2008 at the VII National Workshop "The Outer Space and its Peaceful Use".

### 3.4 Czech Republic

In the year of the 30th anniversary of the first space flight of a Czech cosmonaut (Vladimír Remek, 2.3.1978, Sojuz28), the Czech Republic participated for the seventh time in World Space Week. Highlights included the following:

- Almost one hundred dissemination and popularization events were organized by several dozen institutions and individuals which demonstrated a big interest in WSW in the Czech Republic. It was also proof of public interest in the use of space technology.
- There were 75 activities held for the general public and school children – lectures, exhibitions, observations of satellites and ISS overflies, observatories and planetariums programmes for children and adults, and space day programmes in schools. Over 4,500 visitors participated in all of the activities organized by 24 institutions.
- During WSW, five newspaper articles introduced the ideas and goals of WSW and of the WSW programme in the Czech Republic (Newspapers: Dnes, Valasky denik, Pardubicky denik, and Hradecky denik).
- The WSW program and its goals were introduced to the public by 16 nation-wide and local radio stations (broadcasting stations: Czech Radio Praha, Czech Radio Pardubice, Czech Radio Hradec Kralove, Czech Radio Leonardo, Radio HEY) and on one TV programme (Czech Television station)
- Many WSW events were organized at primary and secondary schools all over the Czech Republic. They were in the form of discussions, exhibitions, lectures, articles in school magazines (printed and web-based) or presented on wall-newspapers. Information for pupils and students was not only about the history of cosmonautics but also emphasized cosmonautics as a developed scientific field which they could sooner or later join.

- A number of school competitions winners were awarded small promotion presents provided by the Czech Space Office (paper models, bookmark, pads, sticks, etc.).
- The biggest part of WSW popularization activities was held at observatories, often in cooperation with local schools. This included a number of lectures, discussions, and exhibitions to the general public which were prepared by professional, semi-professional, and amateur organizations.
- Other active participants in WSW were associations related to space technology and astronomy, such as the Czech Astronomy Society and the Kosmo Klub.
- The Mars 2008 Expedition long-term project, designed for students who are interested in cosmonautics and modern sciences, was finished during WSW. This involved 210 applicants and 10 finalists.

### **3.5 Ethiopia**

World Space Week was celebrated for the first time in Ethiopia in 2008. We celebrated in two high schools in the capital city, Addis Ababa. Even though we had funding problems and had to be limited to only two high schools, the events were successful. During the days of 4 – 7 October, students and teachers of St. Joseph were involved in the celebration of WSW. We performed various activities including film shows, poster sessions, and hands-on activities. We used materials obtained from an IHY-2007 workshop held in Addis Ababa and posters obtained from the WSW organizers.

### **3.6 France**

France celebrated World Space Week 2008 with 12 reported events around the country. Highlights included the following:

- GIFAS, the French aerospace industry association, commemorated its centenary with an exhibition on avenue Champs Elysées in Paris, including display of WSW posters.
- Bordeaux and Toulouse joined locations across Europe in launching hundreds of student-built model rockets on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Community of Arian Cities. In Toulouse, the Deputy Mayor attended the launch.
- Astrium held four events in France as part of its European World Space Week celebration as described in section 5 of this report.
- In Essonne, over 300 pupils of Lycée de Mennecy attended a lecture by Leopold Eyharts of his flight to integrate the European module Columbus to the International Space Station. Some 90 pupils attended a conference by Jacques Patenet of CNES on UFOs. At the Université du Temps Libre, 100 people attended “Notre système solaire est-il une exception dans l’Univers”, presented by Marc Ollivier from CNRS.
- In Strasbourg, the International Space University held a Space Movie Night for students.

### **3.7 India**

World Space Week in India was celebrated with enthusiasm throughout the length and breadth of the country. The week started well before the stipulated date of 4th October when on 3rd October, an international workshop of astrophotography and image processing was held in New Delhi. Participants and speakers from Astronomers Without Borders and the Earth at Night joined the start of the WSW 2008. Various activities were held ranging from the Display of Space Mission Models, audio visual presentations, telescopic observations, information on forthcoming space missions of other countries, SPACE art competition for kids, to SPACE fairs which involved young minds exploring the facts about space sciences and astronomy by experiencing the functioning of models and simulations.



In Delhi, around 110 schools took part in the WSW functions. The celebrations and activities all over the country were extended well beyond the 4th to 10th of October. Art competitions and the Space Fair were covered by the electronic as well as print media, on the national channels as well as national newspapers. Ahmedabad, Tamilnadu, Hyderabad, Chennai, Vardha, Mumbai and Punjab are among few cities and states where World Space Week was celebrated. Images of the events have been uploaded to the new Flickr website of WSW images gallery by the respective organizations. Indian Planetary Society, Astronomy Club Ahemdabad, Science Popularisation Association of Communicators and Educators proactively worked for the promotion of astronomy activities during the week. WSW acted as a precursor to the coming IYA2009 as most of the schools and masses got to know about the big year in astronomy and India geared itself to the International Year of Astronomy. India is eagerly awaiting and planning for the WSW 2009.

### **3.8 Italy**

Italy participated in World Space Week for the fourth time. As in previous years, ODISSEOSPACE was the main organizer of Italian participation. Various educational programmes and lectures were planned and organized for the general public during the World Space Week period, which were attended by hundreds of participants. In total, more than 1000 participants attended the lectures, especially young people from primary and high schools and their interest is an encouraging indication for the future.

Science laboratories were held in various schools. The topics covered dealt with "Math and Astronomy", "Exploring the Universe", "A Trip to Space" (based on building and launching of water rockets), "The Universe through the Hubble Telescope": combined activities with high school students searching for images on space exploration, attending conferences and observing the sky (planets, the ISS and different satellites around the Earth) through telescopes. Lectures were held on such topics as "The Space we live in"; "The International Space Station: a research space lab"; "Satellites: brief history, systems, missions"; "The Milky Way and other galaxies". The conferences involved several elementary, middle and high schools in Lombardy and Piedmont.

World Space Week was promoted in the press and media, as well as on the ODISSEOSPACE website ([www.odisseospace.it](http://www.odisseospace.it)) and on the websites of the schools involved, and included information about the results achieved to celebrate this important anniversary.

### **3.9 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

The Association for Technical and Technological Education (ATTE) - Bitola of the FYR Macedonia took the initiative to organize WSW events in Macedonia.

In 2008, ATTE started organizing the astronomical societies and various high school and primary school teachers in Macedonia to come together and celebrate WSW. ATTE organized local events, presenting posters and literature with space themes and technological achievements. It was decided to create and coordinate a nationwide event in 2009 where students, teachers and space enthusiasts will join a week of events throughout the country.

### **3.10 Malaysia**

This year, World Space Week was celebrated on 10-21 October, jointly with the First Anniversary of the Malaysia Astronaut Programme. In conjunction with this event, the National Planetarium had allowed free admission for all visitors. As a result, approximately 9000 visitors came and joined the activities conducted there. WSW 2008 posters were also distributed to astronomy societies and academic institutions in Malaysia. These activities were aimed at promoting WSW awareness among the public and generally space awareness to all citizens.



Apart from its daily operation, the National Planetarium allowed special visits to its observatory, normally open to researchers only. A series of talks by scientists and by the second astronaut candidate were also organized. It aimed

at sharing information and knowledge on Malaysia's space programme. Night sky observations were also held for the public during the talk series using mobile telescopes.

An educational competition named National Space Challenge was successfully organized during the 12-day celebration by the National Space Agency and the Ministry of Education. In the competition, 10-year-old students in two groups represented their respective states. The programme content was selected and coordinated in such a way as to nurture and inspire space awareness as early as possible.

### **3.11 The Netherlands**

About 50 space enthusiasts visited the new building of Dutch Space in Leiden on October 9 to be inspired by some of the foremost Dutch experts on planetary exploration: Rolf de Groot from the National Space Research Institute SRON, Tanja Zeegers from the University of Utrecht and Wim van Westrenen from the VU Amsterdam University. This event took place during World Space Week during which the successes of space research and applications are celebrated. The Netherlands Society for Aerospace NVR served as the Dutch national point of contact for the World Space Week.

### **3.12 New Zealand**

World Space Week was celebrated in New Zealand with numerous activities in the classroom and in the communities. Teachers at primary, intermediate and college levels spent the term prior to World Space Week exploring different units on space. During World Space Week, parents and community members were invited to schools to see students' work and projects. In Auckland, the Stardome Planetarium coordinated Space Week activities for students during their holiday programme.

### **3.13 Pakistan**

SUPARCO, which has organised WSW activities for the last four years, saw increasing support of students, sponsors and media coverage. In 2008, SUPARCO transferred some of these activities to the academia so that eventually these awareness programmes are run by educational institutions as they are in a better position to reach students at the grass-roots level. Due to Ramadan, WSW was celebrated this year in November.

In Karachi, these celebrations were organized by SUPARCO, University of Karachi and PIA Planetarium from 28 October – 8 November 2008. In Islamabad, WSW 2008 was celebrated from 10 – 16 November with the Institute of Space Technology spearheading the celebrations. This included the inauguration ceremony, planet watch at the University of Karachi, awareness lectures and documentaries, seminar, poster competition, and sky simulation and telescope shows.

WSW celebrations in Islamabad included lectures, a workshop on space technology, a Space Week Walk, space technology symposium, essay and story writing competition, declamation contests, painting competition, water rocket and aero modelling competitions, astronomy night, and space family fair.



### **3.14 Republic of Korea**

For whole family participation in World Space on October 10, Young Astronauts Korea held "Exploring the Universe" to commemorate it at the Expo-Park in Daejeon. There were free programmes and other family events such as a space suit experience or photo zone and an air bounce.



Young Astronauts Korea carried out an on-line event entitled “Absolute Conquest Have Guess Words in World Space Week.” We celebrated the first human in space, generating interest all over the country and disseminated the existence and meaning of World Space Week by those events.

### 3.15 Romania

The Romanian Space Agency has coordinated the celebration of the World Space Week in Romania each year since 2000. The Romanian participants have enthusiastically embarked on the quest of “Exploring the Universe” with their imagination, the theme of this year’s WSW. The age range of the participants has been very diverse – from kindergartners who helped bake stellar cookies in Oradea, to a pensioner who built a model airplane/rocketship in Bazna.



WSW events took place in many cities and villages throughout the country. In the city of Cluj-Napoca, host of several space-related events, high school students “occupied” a street and transformed it into a “Solar System Boulevard”. The imagination of the participants was boundless, events ranging from space-themed chalk drawings on the streets of Romanian villages, to Space Carnivals, to water-rocket launches and to movie projections. It is most remarkable that most of the event organizers were women, and this is entirely due to their sheer enthusiasm.

### 3.16 Russian Federation

Highlights of World Space Week in the Russian Federation were:

- “Space Decade” - Scientific and Technical Seminar for Students in Aloushta, Crimea, organized by the Moscow Aviation Institute.
- Scientific conference “Sputnik-1 as a breakthrough for the humankind” in Kabardino-Balkaria. The Conference was conducted by the Kabardino-Balkarian branch of the all-Russian Aerospace Association “Soyuz” together with the Regional Center for Youth Education under the auspices of the Ministry of Science and Education of Kabardino-Balkaria. A total of 120 participants took part in conference events.
- The “Exploring the Moon” round-table, held at the Bauman Moscow State Technical University, was conducted by the Youth Space Center of the Bauman Moscow State Technical University in cooperation with the Moscow Space Club. More than 150 students participated.
- The Amber Space Festival organized by the Kaliningrad Planetarium involved over 200 high school students and teachers. Twenty-six scientific projects were presented and there was an exhibition of astronomical drawings created by junior school students.

### **3.17 Slovakia**

Slovakia celebrated World Space Week 2008 more actively in comparison to previous years. Since last year, the popularity of spaceflight in Slovakia has positively increased. Observatories and planetariums as well as regional centres for education, centres of leisure activities, and schools participated in the activities of World Space Week 2008. Most of the events consisted of public lectures and exhibitions. Information about World Space Week was released through one of the most read newspapers in the Slovak Republic, the „SME“ Daily. During World Space Week 2008, at least 16 public and school events were organized by 10 institutions in eight Slovak towns and had a total attendance of 1,393 people. We believe that celebration of World Space Week in our country will grow in popularity in the future.



### **3.18 Spain**

The fourth celebration of WSW in the Canary Islands was organized by local groups, such as the Spanish Mars Society, the Elder Museum and STARS, performing a full programme of conferences, workshops and courses. An exhibition on Space activities was displayed at the San Sebastian Planetarium, under the aegis of INTA and Kutxa. As a closing day event, more than 50 youngsters participated in a workshop lead by LEEM to build and launch their own rockets.

Commemorating the 10th anniversary of its creation, the Community of Ariane Cities programmed several events to be simultaneously performed at each of the 23 European cities members of the group. Argenton, Barcelona, Castelldefels, Cerdanyola, Madrid, and Viladecans were the CVA Spanish towns which celebrated WSW 2008. About 3,000 people, most of them students, participated in various commemorative activities.

INTA released the new edition of the national wide competition “Space and Daily Life”. Supported by an increasing number of organizations and industries, this activity is becoming an outstanding reference to promote scientific vocation among young students.

Several newspapers issued news item on WSW, while some TV and radio stations recalled this celebration to their audiences. The event was also promoted in advance via spreading WSW official posters among public entities, science and technology museums, schools and educational centres. WSW 2008 was widely announced in several websites of Spanish organizations, industries, and universities, offering links to relevant international space stakeholders such as UNOOSA and WSW Association.

### **3.19 Thailand**

GISTDA successfully organized the celebration of the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Space Age in Thailand with a memorable launch of 250 PET-bottled rockets at noon on 4 October 2007 at Vachirabenjatat Park. The event also promoted the launch of THEOS: Thailand's first remote sensing satellite, which was launched into a 822-km sun-synchronous orbit on 1 October 2008.

The activities included displays of space paper models, exhibitions of THEOS, and an astronomy exhibition by the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand. Posters and educational materials were distributed to the participants.

### **3.20 Turkey**

World Space Week in Turkey was a great success, thanks in great extent to the support of TURKSAT and its President and CEO Dr. Ozkan Dalbay. Key results included:

- National universities of Turkey provided excellent support, as evidenced by the increase in attendance by university students.

- There was an intensive participation from Governmental organizations such as; Ministry of Transportation, the Telecommunications Council, Directorate of Turkish Radio and Television and Directorate of Education Technologies.
- A portable planetarium was used in 64 different activities organized for WSW 2008 Turkey. Two special movies, “The Space Elevator” and “Saturn”, were prepared and showed to the children.
- Pictures drawn by students, in the scope of WSW 2007 Turkey activities, were used to prepare models to be distributed during WSW 2008.
- The most attractive stand in this year’s CeBIT Eurasia Fair 2008 in Istanbul was TURKSAT’s portable planetarium. Huge lines of people were there to experience this wonderful event.
- Reaching millions of people nationally and internationally, TRT Radio aired an interview of WSW national coordinator Adnan Celik regarding the aim of WSW and WSW 2008 Turkey activities.
- The State of Karabuk was one of the greatest participants in WSW 2008 with 3500 students were involved at the state level.



A striking fact was the top-level support and contribution of some public corporations. Senior leaders who visited WSW activities included the Minister of Transport and Communication and his advisors, Minister of Youth and Sports, President of Information and Communications Authority, President of Turkish Radio and Television Corporation, President of Education Technologies, and Authorities from The Office of the Prime Minister.

### **3.21 United States of America**

The celebration of United Nations-declared World Space Week 2008 was unusually strong this year. During his campaign for President, Barack Obama issued a statement on October 5, noting that the United States joins more than 50 nations around the world in celebrating World Space Week. His opponent, Sen. John McCain, also issued a World Space Week statement. For the first time, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration reported several events in the on-line WSW event calendar. Overall, 60 events were reported in 19 states plus Puerto Rico. In keeping with the credible, grass-roots nature of WSW, the events were of diverse character, including educational activities for youth, planetarium events, and public forums on space militarization. World Space Week was coordinated by the Space Enterprise Council of the United States Chamber of Commerce.



### **3.22 Venezuela**

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Astronomical Research Group of Simon Bolivar University held an activity to celebrate World Space Week 2008. This event was coordinated by Ana Alexandra Pérez in representation of the Space Generation Advisory Council. She began the activity with a short presentation about this celebration and how space technologies have had an incredible impact in our day lives and how they have been increasing over the last years. After the



presentation, all of the members and space enthusiasts went to the campus garden of the University and started the astronomical observation with their Meade LX-200 telescope.

### 3.23 Viet Nam



In Hochiminh (HCM) City, posters of WSW 2008 were distributed to more than 20 universities and high schools. On October 5, WSW was held in HCM City and with help from the Institute of Technology, hundreds of science lovers from within the city and nearby regions gathered for the celebration. A water rocket competition was organized for high schools teams providing them the chance to demonstrate their passion to conquer the Universe. On October 10, the Hanoi Astronomy Society conducted a seminar about WSW 2008 at Hanoi University of Pedagogy. Many professors of the Vietnam Society of Astronomy and

hundreds of youths were invited to the seminar. The Vietnam Amateur Club of Astronomy also organized group conversations about WSW in some universities. In Danang, the Polytechnics Astronomy Club with help from the Vietnam Society of Astronomy opened the "Sky Lantern Fly Night" on Oct 4 and "Starry Night" on Oct 5. This two-night festival attracted nearly a thousand students. WSW was also held in classes on a small scale plan in Pleiku, Phan Thiet, Khanh Hoa and Thanh Hoa. WSW 2008 is a milestone in spreading out the annually-held WSW event in Vietnam. Many means of communication and media such as nationwide newspapers and TV channels were used to promote the WSW events.



### 3.24 Zambia

World Space Week in Zambia included a public lecture at Copperbelt University and a Basic Space Science Seminar for High School Physics Teachers in Lusaka. The purpose of the seminar was to prepare high school physics teachers for World Space Week celebration. Twelve schools from different parts of the country sent teachers to participate in the seminar. Among many activities, the delegates received a guided tour of the newly installed University of Zambia Magnetic Observatory. At the end of the seminar, the delegates made a commitment to organize activities in their respective schools for World Space Week celebrations. It was the first time that Zambia had participated in World Space Week activities.



## 4 United Nations

The United Nations promotes space education and outreach through participation in the celebration of UN-declared World Space Week. Each year the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) organizes or participates in coordination of the activities of the World Space Week.

### 4.1 Children and Space

The United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) in Vienna, in cooperation with the Austrian Space Forum, invited over 100 primary school children to visit the Vienna International Centre (VIC) to learn about outer space and test drive a prototype Mars rover, developed by Universities in Austria. About one hundred students, aged 6 to 10 years, had the opportunity to drive the Dignity Rover (Mars Rover) on a simulated surface of the planet Mars while watching their teachers dressed up as astronauts walk on the surface of the planet Mars. Steering the Mars vehicle using tele-presence was clearly one of the favourite activities of the children. They also enjoyed the multimedia presentation by the Austrian Space Forum on Mars exploration and the AustroMars Expedition. By visiting the permanent space exhibition of UNOOSA students also learned about satellites,

rockets and spaceships and admired the rock from the Moon. By the end of the programme, a majority of the children wanted to be astronauts.



Photos: United Nations Information Service (UNIS)

## 5 Private Sector Participation

### 5.1 Astrium

A special topic in this year's report is Astrium's participation in World Space Week 2008. This is of particular interest as it demonstrates how a major aerospace company has chosen to participate boldly in this annual event. Throughout the week, over 110 presentations were given to more than 3,000 wide-eyed and enthusiastic young pupils throughout France, Germany, the UK and Spain. Wherever Astrium staff was deployed, they took armfuls of genuine hardware for the children to touch and explore, models of satellites and launchers for them to see, films to watch and 'hands-on' activities.

#### 5.1.1 France

Nearly 50 Astrium employees from Bordeaux, Les Mureaux, Toulouse and Vélizy sites got involved, visiting children in infants schools, primary schools and right up to sixth form level. More than 80 classes, comprising 2,000 pupils in total, were given the space experience: discovering how space affects our daily lives and understanding the challenges of working in the space domain. Some learnt about specific engineering roles in the space industry – and may perhaps be inspired to go on and do the same themselves one day. Everyone who took part was pleasantly surprised by the children's interest in the subject of their existing knowledge and of the dozens of questions asked ranging from the different types of jobs in the space industry, to the future of our Sun and how to launch a rocket.



Astrium employees also took part in the space week organised by the French aeronautical association (AAAF) in Saint Aubin de Médoc near Bordeaux, where they spoke to pupils during the exhibition or were members of the jury given the task of selecting the best 'space' story written by secondary school students. In Toulouse, employees also took part in the 'Scientilivres' event which was this year given a special space focus.

In Paris, a 1:5 scale model of Ariane 5 took centre stage on the Champs-Élysées roundabout as the centenary of the French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS) was marked by an

exhibition, attended by two million visitors, which also featured models of a number of other Astrium products.

### 5.1.2 Germany

In Germany, about 10 schools and universities were visited by Astrium employees. Using films and PowerPoint presentations basic explanation of the solar system were delivered to pupils, and simple physics was used to explain things such as gravity, centrifugal force and air resistance. To give the children a better idea of the size of the Ariane rocket, local comparisons were used such as its height against that of the steeple near the school.



### 5.1.3 United Kingdom



In the UK hands-on activities took precedence as an Astrium team involving 30 people spent the whole week with school children and the general public at the Intech Science Centre and Planetarium in Winchester. Taking over a prominent area of the ground floor of the building, the Astrium area was a constant source of frantic activity and excitement as children made their own cardboard satellites in exchange for an Astrium giveaway. Bridget, the Mars rover, attracted many questions and admiring glances, while the inventive and hardworking Science and Engineering Ambassadors presented a specially-designed Astrium planetarium show entitled 'To Infinity and Back'. For many, the highlight of the visit was watching the egg-lander

exercise where the children constructed a landing vehicle that would protect its egg 'payload' when launched from a great height over the first floor balcony. The children excitedly cheered, clapped and booed as their respective eggs either landed intact or became scrambled on the specially constructed 'Mars' landing area on the floor below. The activity was declared a favourite by everyone. About 10 school visits also took place in the Portsmouth and Stevenage areas.

### 5.1.4 Spain

About 15 Astrium Spanish volunteers organised several events, visiting schools and hosting site visits. In Madrid, which is due to take over the chair of the Community of Ariane Cities (CVA) in 2010 and whose city council is keen to raise the awareness of the organisation along with the importance of the aerospace industry, the mayor's office helped organise a micro-rocket launch contest. The launch took place at the outdoor amphitheatre in the Tierno Galvan Park following a workshop attended by 18 students from the Alameda de Osuna and Barrio de Bilbao secondary schools. Sixteen rockets were constructed, each approximately 30cm in height, complete with fins, a parachute landing system, and powered by a miniature rocket engine. The rocket that climbed the highest when launched was the winner and was determined by a precise measuring system using a pipe, a protractor and a plumb bob! Finally, 'Twee Pie' was declared as the winning rocket, having reached a height of 112m, and was built by a team from IES Alameda secondary.



## 6 Organization

The United Nations-declared World Space Week is coordinated via a three-level structure. At the global level, it is coordinated by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs with support from the World Space Week Association, described in section 6.1. At the national level, it is coordinated by World Space Week National Coordinators listed in section 6.2. The actual events and other programmes of World Space Week are held by a myriad of participants which are shown in the on-line calendar at [www.worldspaceweek.org/calendar](http://www.worldspaceweek.org/calendar).

### 6.1 World Space Week Association

World Space Week Association is a non-government organization devoted completely to the promotion and coordination of UN-declared World Space Week. The Association's services include the development and support of the global network of national coordinators, preparation and distribution of educational and promotional materials, maintenance of the World Space Week website and publication of this annual report. World Space Week Association is a nongovernmental, non-profit, non-membership organization governed by a distinguished Board of Directors from more than 20 nations, as listed below. Volunteer leaders are depicted on the next page.

#### Board of Directors World Space Week Association

Sergio Camacho  
Chairman

*Former Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs*

George Abbey, *James Baker Institute*  
Ade Abiodun, *Past Chair, UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*  
Buzz Aldrin, *Astronaut*  
Oleg Alifanov, *Moscow Aviation Institute*  
Ali Al-Mashat, *Consultant*  
Anousheh Ansari, *Prodea Systems*  
Alvaro Azcárraga, *Sener*  
Larry Bell, *Sasakawa International Center for Space Architecture*  
Yolanda Berenguer, *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*  
Elod Böth, *Hungarian Space Office*  
Gerard Brachet, *Former chairman of the United Nations Committee on Outer Space (COPUOS)*  
Thongchai Charupatt, *Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA)*  
Karl Doetsch, *International Space Consultants*  
Kerrie Dougherty, *Powerhouse Museum*  
Art Dula, *Heinlein Prize Trust*  
Jeff Faszczka, *Hamilton Sundstrand*  
George French, *Space Education Initiatives*  
Luo Ge, *China National Space Administration*  
Raimundo González, *Ambassador of Chile (retired)*  
Max Grimard, *EADS*

Tom Hanks, *Actor*  
Miguel Hernandez, *Hernandez Engineering*  
Loretta Hidalgo Whitesides, *Yuri's Night*  
Raza Hussain, *Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO)*  
Michel Laffaiteur, *Consultant*  
Victoria Maiorova, *Moscow Bauman State Technical University*  
David Markham, *Lockheed Martin Commercial Launch Services*  
Yasunori Matogawa, *Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)*  
Elon Musk, *SpaceX*  
George Mueller  
Bill Nye, *The Science Guy*  
Misuzu Onuki, *Aerospace Business Consultant*  
Tuken Omarov, *Astrophysical Institute Observatory*  
F. R. Sarker, *Bangladesh Astronomical Society*  
Tania Sausen, *National Institute for Space Research (INPE)*  
Michael Simpson, *International Space University (ISU)*  
Courtney Stadd, *Capitol Alliance Solutions*  
Richard Tremayne-Smith  
Chris Welch, *Kingston University*

## 6.2 National Coordinators

World Space Week National Coordinators serve a crucial role, promoting and coordinating World Space Week in their respective states. This function is performed by committees, organizations, or individuals who volunteer and are approved by World Space Week Association. A current list of National Coordinators appears in the table below.

Country	First Name	Last Name	Organization
Afghanistan	Ahmad	Shah	SGAC
Algeria	Jamal	Minouni	Sirius Astronomy Association
Antarctica	Nick	Greene	McMurdo Station
Argentina	Viviana	Bianchi	Oficina Gemini Argentina
Australia	Jennie	Young	Arndell Anglican College
Austria	Guadrin	Weinwurm	Österreichisches Weltraumforum
Bangladesh	F.R.	Sarker	Bangladesh Astronomical Society
Bolivia	Rodolfo	Zalles	Observatorio Astronomico Nacional
Brazil	Tania Maria	Sausen	INPE
Bulgaria	Veselka	Radeva	Observatory and Planetarium
Cameroon	Hubert Foy	Kum	Space General Advisory Council
Canada	Jason	Clemen	Canadian Space Agency
Chile	Fernando	Mujica	Aeronautical Engineer
China	Yang	Junhua	Chinese Society of Astronautics
Colombia	Beatriz Elena	Hernandez Rua	Voz Infantil- Hola Juventud, WYESR-Colombia
Cuba	Loudres Palacio	Suarez	Instituto de Geofisica y Astronomia
Czech Republic	Thomas	Pribyl	Czech Space Office
Denmark	Jesper	Jørgensen	SpaceArch
Ethiopia	Bekele	Tujuba	
Finland	Paivi	Jukola	Finnish Astronautical Society
Ghana	Kwaku	Bonsu	Ashanti Space Agency
Greece	Zoulias	Manolis	National Observatory of Athens
Hungary	Előd	Both	Hungarian Space Office
India	C B	Devgun	World Space Week India Coordinating Committee
Iran	Parviz	Tarikh	Iranian Space Agency
Israel	Tal	Inbar	Israeli Space Society
Italy	Adriana Linda	Parlatini	Odisseospace
Japan	Kazuya	Fushimi	Japan Space Forum
Kazakhstan	Gulnara	Omarov	
Kenya	Peter	Njuguna	Mbaruk Ecology Centre
Kuwait	Maryam	Aljoaan	
Libya	Hadi M.	Gashut	Libyan Center for Remote Sensing and Space Science
Macedonia	Aleksandar	Stefanovski	Association for Technical and Technological Education
Malaysia	Azreena	Ahmad	National Planetarium
Nepal	Dambaru Ballab	Kattel	Nepal Academy of Science and Technology
Netherlands	Erik	Laan	TNO Science & Industry
New Zealand	Yvonne	Bouma	
Nigeria	O.O.	Jegede	African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education
Norway	Kolbjørn	Dahle	Andoya Rocket Range
Pakistan	Arshad	Siraj	SUPARCO
Panama	Azael	Barrera	
Peru	Rolando	Villanueva	Asociacion Peruana de Astronomia
Philippines	Ester	Ogena	Science Education Institute
Poland	Adam	Ustynowicz	Spaceweek Poland, Committee on Space Research
Portugal	Manuel Matos	Lopes	Universidade de Lisboa
Republic of Korea	Gi-Joong	Kim	Young Astronauts Korea
Romania	Marius-loan	Piso	Romanian Space Agency
Russia	Victoria	Maiorova	Bauman Moscow State Technical University
Singapore	Dr. Sarita	Dara	Aerospace Physiology & Human Factors
Slovenia	Orest	Jarh	Technical museum of Slovenia
South Africa	Peter	Martinez	SAAO
Spain	Alider	Cragnolini	Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial
Sri Lanka	Bosco Godwinraj	Lawrence	United Nations Youth & Student Association
Switzerland	Rudolph	Meiner	PUSH Foundation
Tanzania	Castory	Ntullu	TAYEN
Thailand	Pitan	Singhasaneh	Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency
Trinidad & Tobago	Hollis	Sankar	Corinth Teachers College
Turkey	Adnan	Celik	TURKSAT AS
UK	Sotira	Trifouki	Space Educational Council
Ukraine	Sergey	Gerasymchuk	NSAU
Uruguay	Fernando	Gimenez	Comision Tecnica Espacial de Uruguay
USA	Kenzie	Swift	Space Enterprise Council, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Uzbekistan	Yunir	Gataullin	Tashkent Research Institute of Space Engineering
Venezuela	Ana Alexandra	Pérez	Space Generation Advisory Council
Vietnam	Tuan	Nguyen Anh	Hochiminh City Amateur Astronomy Club
Zambia	Prosper	Simpemba	Astronomers Without Borders

## 7 Sponsors

This section recognizes those organizations that supported the global coordination of World Space Week 2008 through their generous voluntary support for the World Space Week Association.

Affiliates are organizations which support the goals of World Space Week and provide annual financial support to World Space Week Association. Affiliates can reach decision makers behind World Space Week, including government space agencies, and industry, and get their messages to the public, youth, and media around the world. Additional sponsors are associated with specific programs of the Association. Funds are used with great efficiency to promote and organize the largest annual public space event in the world.

Organizations are invited to sponsor World Space Week Association by completing the form at [www.worldspaceweek.org/affiliate\\_application](http://www.worldspaceweek.org/affiliate_application) or by contacting [admin@worldspaceweek.org](mailto:admin@worldspaceweek.org).

Benefits <u>Marketing Your Organization to World Space Leaders</u> <u>Advertising to the Global Space Industry and Public</u> <u>News and Products about World Space Week</u>
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### 2008 World Space Week Affiliates



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**Bangladesh Astronomical Society**

AMERICOM Government Services

Cimarron Software Service

Futron Corporation

LeFiell Manufacturing

## World Space Week Awards Reception

World Space Week Association recognizes its sponsors at the annual World Space Week Awards Reception. The fourth annual Reception took place on March 3, 2009, at the Cosmos Club in Washington. In addition to recognizing World Space Week Association's global sponsors, this event recognized special achievements in space outreach.



At the Reception, the Association presented Space Outreach Achievement Awards to several key leaders who have excelled in space outreach throughout their careers:

- Lori Garver, President of Capital Space
- William Gerstenmaier, NASA Associate Administrator for Space Operations
- Edward Weiler, NASA Associate Administrator for Science
- Bill Nye "The Science Guy"

Providing the keynote address was former astronaut Frank Culbertson of Orbital Sciences Corporation. The World Space Week Awards Reception was proudly sponsored for the second year in a row by Hamilton Sundstrand.

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*The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA)  
is responsible for promoting international cooperation  
in the peaceful uses of outer space and assisting  
developing countries in using space science and technology.*



**World Space Week**

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