

Abstracts of Poster Papers

Abstracts of poster papers relevant to this section of the Special Session are presented below.

Astronomy in Cuba: Practice and Trends. An Effort to Develop a Non-Formal Education Programme

Oscar A. Pomares, Institute of Geophysics and Astronomy, Havana, Cuba

In recent years, a daily increasing movement of non-professional astronomers has become the center of development for astronomy, a subject practically absent now from the national education system in Cuba. A key role in this movement has been played by the professional staff of the Department of Astronomy of the Institute of Geophysics and Astronomy. A direct outcome of this joint effort with amateurs is the research on meteors and comets, presented at two national and one international scientific meetings.

The opening last year of the “Palacio de las Ciencias” in the main building of the country, “El Capitolio Nacional”, the participation in of professional astronomers in lectures and workshops for the general public, and their participation in prime-time TV and radio programs open a way for the growth of astronomical knowledge among the Cuban people.

Two national meetings gathering together professional and non-professional astronomers have been held already. Future work in the NEOs international campaign is foreseen. Practice and trends of astronomy in Cuba clarify views of our future in the oldest natural science.

Astronomy Educational Activity in Jordan

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Throughout the last three millennia the area of Jordan, as part of the Arab World, has a rich history in the foundation and development of astronomy. Jordan today is pro-active in developing community programmes of education. I will describe the outreach programmes and community participation that I experienced during my attendance in Jordan at a conference timed to coincide with the Leonid Meteor Storm of November 1999.