

WSW 2009 REPORT

The space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) of Pakistan organized a number of events and activities to celebrate World Space Week 2009 in Pakistan's two largest cities Karachi and Lahore as well as some rural areas in the South of the country.

The salient activities are listed as under

- 1- Inauguration ceremony
- 2- Panel discussion on the theme of WSW 2009
- 3- Sky Simulation show at Planetarium
- 4- Space awareness lectures for school teachers
- 5- Space awareness programme for school students
- 6- Quiz competition amongst students
- 7- Declamation contest amongst students
- 8- Model making competition among students
- 9- Poster making competition amongst students
- 10- Sky observation through telescope
- 11- Family fair

Inauguration Ceremony

The Inaugural Ceremony of World Space Week 2009, organized by Pakistan Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) was held on Monday 05 October 2009 at National Center for Remote Sensing & Geo Informatics (NCRG), SUPARCO, Karachi and at Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park, Lahore simultaneously.

Dr Peerzada Qasim, Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural ceremony in Karachi and Dr Riaz Suddle, Member Space Electronics (SE) presided over the ceremony in Lahore. Dr Peerzada Qasim lauded the efforts made by SUPARCO, saying that the national space agency is doing an admirable job particularly in the applications of satellite technology for the social and economic development of the country.

Around 500 teachers, students, representatives of public and private sector organizations & delegates attended the ceremony. The event was covered by the print as well as electronic media which helped create interest in the WSW 2009 events and activities in general public.

Panel Discussion

The Inaugural ceremony at National Center for Remote Sensing & Geo Informatics (NCRG), Karachi was followed by a Panel discussion on the theme of World Space Week 2009 "Space for Education". Professor Dr Shakeel Farooqui, Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Karachi, hosted the discussion.

The following panelists participated in the discussion.

Member Space Application & Research, Mr Imran Iqbal; Director Space and Atmospheric Science (SPAS), Dr Badar Munir Khan Ghauri; Director Remote Sensing and GIS Application (RS & GIS), Mr Javed Ali; General Manager Paksat, Mr Amir Hussain; professional medical practitioner, Dr Malik; Prof Naval Engg University, Dr Suhail Zaki Farooqui; and former Chairperson Science Association of Pakistan (SAP), Ms Farah Huma.

The panelists discussed about, and answered queries on issues related to space promotion initiatives in Pakistan, SUPARCO's services in satellite based resource management, hazards monitoring & space sciences, tele-education, and tele-medicine.

Students from universities, colleges and schools, asked a number of questions regarding different applications of space technologies

Sky Simulation

From 06 to 09 October 2009, sky simulation shows, lectures, presentations and space-related movies were arranged for students at a Planetarium run by Pakistan International Airlines in Karachi. Around 800 students of various public and private schools participated in the program.

Space awareness lectures for school teachers

A number of space awareness lectures were given to science teachers from public and private schools at National Center for Remote Sensing & Geo Informatics (NCRG), Karachi on 07 October 2009. The lectures included topics on Our Sun in space, Introduction to Satellites, Orbits, Types and their Applications and Use of Space Technology for Telemedicine in Pakistan.

Space awareness programme for school students

A special Space Education Bus equipped with state-of-the-art multimedia equipment and various other instructional facilities along with a team of four scientists was sent on a four day tour from 6 – 9 October 2009, to schools in rural areas as well as suburban areas of Karachi to deliver lectures and show space related documentaries to the students.

Scientists gave lectures on the following subjects.

- a) Our Earth, Changing of Seasons, Day and Nights
- b) Hubble Telescope
- c) Our Solar System
- d) Galaxies

- e) Stellar Evolution
- f) Theory of Stars
- g) Black Holes
- h) Stars and Planets
- i) The Universe
- j) Rockets
- k) Space Shuttles
- l) Satellites and their types
- m) Earth's Atmosphere.

About 1200 enthusiastic school students who get very little opportunities for such knowledge benefited from these lectures and documentaries

In Lahore, a team of three scientists went to different schools of the city during the week. Space related documentaries were shown and lectures were delivered at the school premises. Open discussion on space applications were also held among students and experts. About 1500 school students and teachers benefited from these lectures and documentaries and discussions.

Quiz Competition

A quiz competition was held at National Center for Remote Sensing & Geo Informatics (NCRG), Karachi on 06 October 2009 in which more than 100 students from various schools participated. Specially developed space information booklet had been given to the students a week ahead of the competition to prepare for the quiz. Finals of the quiz competition were held at the space family fair on 10 October 2009.

Declamation Contest

A declamation contest was held at National Center for Remote Sensing & Geo Informatics (NCRG), Karachi on 08 October 2009 and at SRDC Lahore on 10 October 2009. Students from various schools presented their arguments on the theme of World Space Week 2009 “**Space for Education**” suggesting greater emphasis on usage and application of space technology for education of the masses and increasing literacy rate in Pakistan. They also suggested that space technology information should be incorporated in the educational

curriculum of Pakistani schools. Finals of the quiz competition were held at the space family fair on 10 October 2009.

Model making competition

Model making competition was held at National Center for Remote Sensing & Geo Informatics (NCRG), Karachi on 10 October 2009 and at Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park, Lahore on October 05-06, 2009. This was an excellent opportunity for students to make physically their imagination about space. Students enthusiastically explained their models with detailed scientific background to the visitors who appreciated the students work and their zeal.

Poster making competition

Poster-making competition was held at Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park, Lahore on 05-06 October 2009. The colorful display of posters relating to various disciplines of space sciences were much appreciated by all visitors.

Sky observation

Sky observation show was arranged on 10 Oct 2009 at Space Application & Research Centre, Karachi. In Lahore, SUPARCO in collaborating with Khwarizmi Science Society mounted their three telescopes during the space family fair in Lahore. A very large number of people including students observed the planet “Jupiter” and its four revolving moons through SUPARCO’s telescope.

Space Family Fair

The WSW 2009 celebrations in Pakistan culminated by a Space Family Fair on 10 October 2009 at National Center for Remote Sensing & Geo Informatics (NCRG) and on 05-06 October 2009 in Gulshan-e-Iqbal park in Lahore. Apart from the colorful fun activities at the fair, SUPARCO organized stalls providing information about different applications of space technologies. Model-making competition and finals of the declamation and quiz competitions were also held

at the fair. Highlights of the event were the space-related documentaries, Telemedicine Unit and its working and demonstration of water rockets.

Towards the end of the event, prizes and souvenirs were distributed among winners and runners-up of different competitions held during the week.