

The UN Programme on Space Science & Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific

Karl Harmsen

The UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS) was set up by the UN General Assembly in 1959. The UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna, Austria, acts as the Secretariat to the UN-COPUOS. Currently some 65 States participate in the UN-COPUOS.

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications was established in 1971 on the recommendation of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-I) that took place in Vienna, Austria in 1968. The Programme is implemented through UNOOSA.

Mission of the UN Space Applications Programme is to enhance the understanding and subsequent use of space technology for peaceful purposes in general, and for national development, in particular, in response to expressed needs in different geographic regions of the world.

On 11 December 1990 The UN General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the UN-COPUOS that: "... the United Nations should lead, with the active support of its specialized agencies and other international organizations, an international effort to establish Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education in existing national/regional educational institutions in the developing countries."

On 6 December 1995, the United Nations General Assembly, endorsed the Regional Centres initiative and recommended that: "... these Centres be established on the basis of affiliation to the United Nations as early as possible and that such affiliation would provide the centres with the necessary recognition and would strengthen the possibilities of attracting donors and of establishing academic relationships with national and international space-related institutions;."

The Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education (CSSTEAP), Affiliated to the UN, was established on 5 November 1995. The core educational programmes of CSSTEAP consist of M.Tech. programmes (9 months PG course plus 1 year research project) in:

- ? Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems
- ? Satellite Meteorology & Global Climate
- ? Satellite Communications and Global Positioning Systems
- ? Space and Atmospheric Sciences

As of Oct 2003, a total of 521 students from 29 Asia-Pacific countries have participated in CSSTEAP courses and workshops: 280 in PG courses and 241 in short courses and workshops.

[Full paper not available](#)