

46. TEACHING OF ASTRONOMY - ENSEIGNEMENT DE L'ASTRONOMIE

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The projects of this Commission are increasingly aimed at the astronomically developing countries. The projects are:

International Schools for Young Astronomers. These are the highest-priority activity of the Commission. They last three weeks, have typically 25 to 35 participants, cover a range of astronomical topics with emphasis on practical training, and are funded by the IAU, UNESCO, and local sources. This report covers three schools: i) La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain, September 1979, participants from Spain, Portugal, Canary Islands and five Latin American countries. ii) Hvar, SR Croatia, Yugoslavia, September - October 1980, participants from Balkan and Mediterranean countries. iii) Helwan Observatory, Cairo, Egypt, participants from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Greece, Portugal, Hungary, China.

Newsletter. It is issued roughly June and December of each year; funding by the IAU started with the December 1980 issue. Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged and should be sent to D. McNally, University of London Observatory, London NW7 2QS, UK. Copies are available free to anyone and to libraries by writing to D. Wentzel, Astronomy Program, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA.

Audiovisual aids. i) The V. M. Slipper Fund of the US National Academy of Sciences made available funds for the free distribution of astronomical slides and related materials to astronomers and astronomy teachers in countries where these items are difficult to obtain. The program was announced by the Commission Newsletter and to respondents of an earlier Project Contratype announcement in the UNESCO Bulletin. ii) The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration has provided on long-term loan six films to be circulated in countries that have little access to such films. Announcement was made in the Commission Newsletter.

Astronomy Education Materials. The 1982 issue will combine materials in all languages into one booklet, with funding by UNESCO. Requests from individuals and libraries should go to D. Wentzel, address above.

Education of Astronomers from Developing Countries. A working group, joint with Commission 38, is formulating possible ways to introduce astronomy to countries with no or little astronomy. Chair: S. Ferraz-Mello, Depto. de Astronomia, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Caixa Postal 30627, 01000 Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Representation at ICSU Committee on Science Teaching. L. Houziaux, Institut d'Astrophysique, Universite de Liege, 4200 Cointe-Ougree, Belgium. It is necessary to stress continuously the many roles that astronomy can assume in the various international teaching projects.

Education sessions at regional astronomy meetings. In 1981 sessions were organized at the meetings in Merida, Venezuela and Bandung, Indonesia. The latter is described in the Commission Newsletter of January 1982.