



World Space Week 2011 Celebrates 50 Years of Human Spaceflight

October 3, 2011 - This October 4 - 10, organizations across the globe participate in the 12th celebration of the United Nations-declared World Space Week (WSW), the largest annual public space event on Earth. In 2010, 332,000 people across the globe participated in one of 585 reported events in 294 cities in 63 nations. The purpose of World Space Week is to acknowledge the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition.

Among the highlights of this year:

- EADS Astrium employees speaking at schools
- Czech student's flight on a Zero G plane
- International Astronautical Congress and associated events in South Africa
- Special events in Bangladesh supported by the United Nations
- ESA Astronaut Hans Schlegel (Public Talk), Melbourne, Australia
- UN/Vietnam Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits, Hanoi, Vietnam
- Events on Space Technology Awareness For Children, Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xi'an, China
- Space Walk, Punjab, Pakistan
- Discussion on African Youths in Space, Oyo State, Nigeria
- Teachers around the world using space to inspire students

Participants are encouraged to follow a theme, which changes annually. The focus of 2011 is a celebration of 50 Years of Human Spaceflight. The first human spaceflight took place on April 12, 1961, when cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin made one orbit around the Earth aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft, launched by the Soviet space program and designed by the rocket scientist Sergey Korolyov.

The calendar of activities is available at: http://www.worldspaceweek.org/calendar_2011.php

About World Space Week Association

World Space Week Association (WSWA) is a non-government, nonprofit, international organization founded in 1981 and the proud partner of the United Nations in the global coordination of World Space Week. Since 1999, World Space Week takes place every year on 4-10 October and celebrates at the international level "the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition" (United Nations General Assembly). Currently, WSWA has more than 60 WSW National Coordinators. More details at www.worldspaceweek.org

Further details

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