

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

SPACE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

 **World Space
Week** OCTOBER 4-10

WORLD SPACE WEEK 2023

SPACE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Concept by Mia Platužić, Artwork by Bayda Edali

世界空間週，10月4日至10日
أسبوع الفضاء العالمي، 4-10 أكتوبر
SEMAINE MONDIALE DE L'ESPACE, 4-10 OCTOBRE
SEMANA MUNDIAL DEL ESPACIO, 4-10 DE OCTUBRE
ВСЕМИРНАЯ НЕДЕЛЯ КОСМОСА, 4-10 ОКТЯБРЯ

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A visual representation of all events registered on World Space Week's calendar in 2023.

WORLD SPACE WEEK 2023 RESULTS SUMMARY

World Space Week Association (WSWA) is delighted to present the 2023 report of UN-declared World Space Week (WSW), an annual celebration held October 4 to 10, the world's largest space event. WSW is celebrated by thousands of organizations around the globe which get greater impact through synchronization of space education and outreach. The result is greater public understanding of space and inspiration of students.

In 2023, the WSW theme was "Space and Entrepreneurship" to underscore the pivotal role of entrepreneurship in space. Aerospace industry, space agencies, schools, and other passionate participants organized a record over 16,000 reported events in 83 countries during WSW. Indeed, WSW 2023 was a monumental educational and inspirational endeavor on a grand scale.

As the global coordinator of WSW, WSWA encouraged participation, shared knowledge, provided promotional materials, tracked events, and reported on this worldwide celebration.

7

CONTINENTS

83

COUNTRIES

16,548

EVENTS

10,000+

EVENT ORGANIZERS

63

NATIONAL COORDINATORS

16M

TWITTER IMPRESSIONS



World Space Week 2023, Mongolia

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LETTER FROM THE HONORARY CHAIR

Dear Space Colleagues,

It was a true honor and joy to serve as Honorary Chair of World Space Week 2023 celebrating “Space and Entrepreneurship.” As you know, this theme particularly is close to my heart. I have dedicated my career to entrepreneurship and inspiring the next generation to dream beyond the possibilities of today.

Through entrepreneurship, space today is accessible to anyone with the right skills and drive. I was thrilled to see World Space Week grow so much this year. The number of reported events increased to over 16,000 from over 11,000 last year. And we saw such a rich diversity of participation all over the globe on seven continents, from schools, space industry, government space agencies, astronomy clubs, and many others.

You need only see the children’s faces in the pictures of this report to see how space captivates and inspires our next generation.

As my term as Honorary Chair draws to a close, I call on the space industry to continue to use World Space Week each year to efficiently promote your space visions and messages to an ever-growing global audience. Let’s continue this great momentum to help inspire new generations of space enthusiasts, future engineers and our explorers of tomorrow. Together, let’s ignite a love for space and kindle curiosity in young minds across the globe.

Thank you so much for supporting me as 2023 Honorary Chair.

Eren Ozmen

CHAIRWOMAN AND OWNER,
SIERRA NEVADA CORPORATION



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the remarkable journey of the WSWA throughout 2023, it is with immense pride that I introduce this annual report. The year embraced a theme close to our hearts: "Space and Entrepreneurship".

In 2023, with more than 16,000 events reported, we witnessed an unparalleled surge in visionary ideas and practical initiatives to promote the domain of space entrepreneurship. This annual report stands as a testament to the collective efforts, tireless dedication, and unwavering commitment of individuals and organizations worldwide.

The stories contained within these pages are not merely statistics or achievements; they highlight the results of collaboration towards a shared vision, and the pivotal role the WSWA's network played in spot-lighting space as an environment ripe for more entrepreneurial growth and exploration.

I extend my deepest appreciation to our coordinators, partners, sponsors, supporters, and the entire global community who have contributed their expertise, resources, and passion to make this year a resounding success.

Alma Okpalefe

WSWA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

2023 was another record-setting year for World Space Week, with an unprecedented over 16,000 events reported.

I am so grateful for the participation of so many in the global space and education sectors in this event.

I am humbled to think how World Space Week was first celebrated in 2000 with some 100 events in 33 nations and how it has grown to today's scale. It has been such an honor and joy to have played a role in this growth and to see the ever-increasing impact of World Space Week on public space awareness and student inspiration.

2024 will be the 25th anniversary of World Space Week. I call on all supporters and participants to achieve an even greater celebration that attracts not only massive attendance but global media coverage. You deserve the attention for all that you have done, and by working together on this synchronized, coordinated effort we can boldly increase its positive impact on society.

Thank you, and I hope that you enjoy this report of the biggest space event on Earth.

Dennis Stone

WSWA PRESIDENT

WORLD SPACE WEEK 2023

SPACE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Every year, WSWA's Board of Directors selects a theme for WSW guide the focus of events worldwide. The theme is a tool for event organizers, encouraging them to incorporate it into their activities and promotional materials, and for teachers to inspire students.

This year's theme, "Space Entrepreneurship," aimed to highlight the intersection of space technology and business ventures. Through this lens, WSW 2023 encouraged a global audience to learn about the role of entrepreneurial endeavors in the space sector.

This theme prompted various activities, discussions, and workshops, providing a platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to learn, engage, and envision the business aspects of space exploration.



WSW 2023 MEDIA COVERAGE



WSW'S GLOBAL IMPACT



In 2023, the World Space Week Association celebrates a remarkable year with a shift in our participation metrics to a per-capita basis, a change driven by our desire to ensure a fair and inclusive representation of all countries, regardless of their size. This more equitable approach aims to recognize the passionate efforts of smaller nations and level the playing field, allowing for a broader celebration of global commitment to space exploration.

This year, we reached a milestone with over 16,000 events registered in 83 countries. Notably, this methodological change has introduced first-time top ten entrants like Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Oman, and France, reflecting their enthusiastic participation. Additionally, the inclusion of first-time participant Rwanda highlights the expanding reach of World Space Week, bringing new voices and perspectives into the space community.

WSWA congratulates these countries and all participants.

Rank	Country	Number of Events	Population	Events Per Million
1	Saudi Arabia	6,780	36,947,025	183.51
2	Ireland	435	5,073,377	85.74
3	Pakistan	7,836	240,485,658	32.58
4	Croatia	113	4,008,617	28.19
5	Oman	28	4,679,749	5.98
6	Romania	111	19,892,812	5.58
7	Azerbaijan	29	10,412,651	2.79
8	Spain	102	47,519,628	2.15
9	Bulgaria	14	6,687,717	2.09
10	France	96	64,827,636	1.48

2024 THEME: SPACE & CLIMATE CHANGE

WSWA selected 'Space and Climate Change' as the WSW 2024 theme. This recognizes the unique and pivotal role that space plays in understanding and addressing climate change challenges.

For centuries, humanity has looked to the stars for guidance and inspiration. Now, as we face the pressing issue of climate change, space provides us with indispensable tools and perspectives. Satellites orbiting Earth offer critical insights into climate patterns, tracking changes in temperature, ice cover, forestation, and ocean currents. These eyes in the sky are essential in monitoring and predicting weather events, assessing environmental changes, and ensuring that our responses to climate challenges are informed and effective.

Advanced Earth observation systems not only gather data on global warming but also help in disaster management, agricultural planning, and the conservation of biodiversity.

In 2024, WSW will highlight the innovations and collaborative efforts in space technology that contribute to understanding and mitigating climate change. Through a series of events, discussions, and educational programs, we call on the global space community to showcase how space technology empowers us to protect and nurture our home planet.

Join us in celebrating "Space & Climate Change" and be part of a global movement that recognizes the vital role of space in securing a sustainable future for our planet.



Senior experts and policymakers convened in Kigali to explore the impact of space technologies on sustainable development goals at the inaugural Rwanda Space Week Conference. This event marks Rwanda's first official participation in WSW.



During WSW 2023, young astropreneurs gathered for Malaysia's first-ever space conference for youth, JAX - Junior Astropreneur Exchange, supported by Catalyst2030.

NATIONAL REPORTS

In 2024, we are pleased to reintroduce National WSW Reports, providing summaries from national coordinators about their respective country's WSW 2023 celebrations. This section aims to highlight the diversity and impact of activities conducted across the globe under this year's theme, fostering a deeper understanding of global engagement in space science and exploration. Additionally, it serves as an acknowledgment of the exceptional dedication and effort of our national coordinators. Their work is instrumental in making World Space Week a success, bringing the wonders of space closer to people around the world and inspiring the next generation of space professionals. Through these reports, we celebrate their contributions and the significant role they play in expanding our global space community.



WSW 2023 NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: ZIMBABWE





*"The combination of immersive virtual reality experiences and engaging quiz competitions made the WSW program an unforgettable experience for students and teachers alike."
Timothy Kuhamba, WSW Zimbabwe National Coordinator*

Fostering Education, Inspiration, and Connection

The Zimbabwe National Geospatial and Space Agency (ZINGSA) celebrated World Space Week 2023 from October 4th to 10th, focusing on spreading awareness and education in space science and technology across various educational institutions.

Through their outreach to 30 schools across four provinces, ZINGSA not only educated and inspired students about space science but also identified crucial educational needs. The agency found that while A-level students were studying Geographic Information Systems (GIS), there was a gap in teachers' expertise in this area. This realization underscored the need for better teacher training in GIS.

Responding to this need, ZINGSA decided to take proactive steps. They planned to collaborate with teachers across ten provinces, offering comprehensive training and support in geoinformation science. This initiative aimed to equip educators with practical skills in data analysis, spatial visualization, and geospatial technology, thereby enhancing the educational experience for students. This strategic move highlights the essence of World Space Week, aligning with our mission to "educate, inspire, and connect," by not only sharing knowledge but also empowering educators to be effective channels of this knowledge.

National Reports Highlights



Coordinated by Nepal Astronomical Society (NASO), WSW celebrations in Nepal brought space closer to communities across the country, from the remote areas to urban centers. NASO successfully conducted various programs, reaching more than 2,500 individuals.

A WSW event in Syria, tailored for children with special needs, incorporated astronomy and space science education through interactive games, music, and artistic activities, demonstrating that the joy and wonder of space are accessible to all.



World Space Week Ireland team launched a unique video resource, which illustrated the connections between space, art, and Ireland's scientific heritage, inspiring activities across classrooms and homes nationwide. Utilized by over 2,500 participants, the initiative highlighted the educational and creative potential of integrating art with space exploration.



AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan's World Space Week activities, coordinated by Natavan Hasanova of Azercosmos, strategically utilized the overlap with the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2023.

Highlighted Events:

Live Radio-connection with ISS: A first of its kind in the South Caucasus event at Baku European Lyceum allowed students to directly interact with astronaut Andreas Mogensen on the ISS.

Space Industry Talks: An event at Baku Engineering University with D-Orbit's Stefano Antonetti provided insights into space technology and innovation, capturing the attention of engineering students.

Radio and TV Engagements: A radio talk-show on ASAN FM featured Natavan Hasanova discussing WSW's significance, reaching over 1.3K listeners. Additionally, a TV appearance on CBC International with Prof. Pascale Ehrenfreund highlighted women's roles in space technology.



BULGARIA

Bulgaria's World Space Week activities, coordinated by Veselka Radeva of the Naval Academy, focused on various events across the country, of which most notably is their unique approach related to the connection between the sea and space.

Highlighted Events:

Sea and Space: A unique event at the Naval Academy allowed students to learn more about space entrepreneurship, underscoring the synergies between marine and space sciences.

Asteroid Hunters: At the Naval Academy, students participated in a hands-on session using astronomical software for asteroid detection.

GREECE

In Greece, World Space Week 2023, led by Maria Polychrou at the English Drama Microschool, took a unique approach to science education by blending astronomical concepts with creative arts.

Highlighted Event:

Astronomy and Arts: Over the course of a week, 120 students aged 3.5 to 13 engaged in activities such as star gazing through telescopes, drama games, storytelling, star constellation hunting, and a theater play.



HONG KONG - CHINA

Hong Kong's observance of World Space Week 2023 engaged audiences through events that bridged aerospace innovation with educational outreach, organized by WSW National Coordinator Dennis Li.

Highlighted Events:

Aerospace Technologies Seminar: This seminar brought together leading figures, facilitating insightful exchanges on the advancements and cultural impact of aerospace technology.

Exploring Aerospace with Tomorrow's Innovators: A presentation to hundreds of eager primary students highlighted the last three decades of the Chinese aerospace industry.



HUNGARY

Hungary demonstrated its dedication to space exploration during WSW 2023 with a notable event supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, emphasizing the country's active participation in space science and technology.

Highlighted Event:

Day of Space Research: This workshop in Budapest at the National Media and Infocommunications Authority attracted space professionals and enthusiasts. Dr. Orsolya Ferencz, Hungary's ministerial commissioner for space research, delivered a message highlighting Hungary's increasing involvement with the European Space Agency (ESA) and the anticipated HUNOR astronaut program. The event was covered by several national online publications.



INDIA

India's participation in WSW 2023, under the leadership of Sachin Bahmba, highlighted the nation's vibrant space culture and educational outreach through a series of engaging events.

Highlighted Events:

India's Biggest World Space Week Celebrations: Hosted at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad, this flagship event spanned a week of diverse activities, including the inauguration of Space Week, interactive sessions on space applications like navigation, education, and agriculture. The event featured expert talks across various Regional Science Centers, culminating in a valedictory session that showcased model displays, elocution competitions, and prize distributions.

ISRO'S WSW Celebration: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) units, including the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU), and the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), came together to celebrate World Space Week in Thiruvananthapuram. Inaugurated by MP Shashi Tharoor, the event celebrated India's recent achievements in space exploration, notably the Chandrayaan-3 mission's successful landing on the lunar south pole and the historic Mars orbiter mission, Mangalyaan.

IRAQ

Iraq celebrated World Space Week 2023 with an array of events across the country, with the National Coordinator of Iraq, Eyad Khailany, noting a rise in interest and participation in astronomy events.

Highlighted Events:

Galactic Gaming and Cosmic Craft: In Erbil, adults were treated to a unique combination of space-themed games and crafts, alongside guest talks from the local astronomy community.

Solar Safety and Observation: A special lecture in Baghdad, conducted in partnership with local astronomical experts, focused on the effects of solar radiation on health and safety, complemented by direct solar observations.



IRELAND

Ireland celebrated World Space Week 2023 with remarkable participation across the country, under the leadership of Rob O’Sullivan of Blackrock Castle Observatory. The week featured a broad spectrum of events from educational initiatives in schools and libraries to public lectures and interactive workshops, all designed to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of space among the Irish public.

Highlighted Events:

MTU Space Open Day: Munster Technological University hosted an open day that became a focal point for space and astronomy outreach, drawing an audience of hundreds. Featuring astronomy shows, lectures, and musical performances, the event underscored Cork’s increasing role in the space sector, with the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork and the President of Munster Technological University marking its inauguration.

Space Week TU Dublin: This initiative offered a plethora of STEM activities and workshops, facilitating conversations between the public, STEM professionals, and researchers about space science. With activities like the Mars Rover Challenge, it attracted more than a 1,000 participants.

LEBANON

Lebanon witnessed a diverse array of activities, orchestrated by National Coordinator Nour Harika, aimed at sparking interest in space science across various age groups and disciplines.

Highlighted Events:

Open Ceremony at Kaley Coffee, Beirut: The event featured specialist speakers such as Maroun Habib on astronomy's history in Lebanon and Dr. Alain Khayat on the latest space exploration missions. The night concluded with an astronomy-themed trivia quiz, distributing astronomy gifts from Sky Optics to winners.

“Out of this World” Book Exhibition: Organized by the Balamand Astronomy Club, this exhibition displayed a rich collection of astronomy and space science books, attracting students across disciplines and sparking scientific discussions.



MONGOLIA

The Dudu Children’s Museum, under the coordination of Munkhtsetseg Ganbold, spearheaded World Space Week 2023 celebrations in Mongolia with unparalleled enthusiasm, marking its second year of participation with events that reached beyond the capital to 12 provinces.

Highlighted Events:

World Space Week Mongolia 2023: This flagship event, attracting over 47,157 attendees, included activities such as hands-on workshops where children created rockets and "Rosetta" satellites, parachute tests, and planetarium viewings. Noteworthy attendees included dignitaries such as the Minister of Digital Development and Communication, the U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia, and the UNICEF representative, emphasizing the event's significance.

Space Networking 2023: The event that took place at the Embassy of the United States of America in Mongolia, provided a platform for networking among Mongolia's aspiring space scientists and entrepreneurs, highlighting the growing interest in space exploration and its potential to drive innovation and economic growth.

The impact of World Space Week in Mongolia was profound, with activities reaching over a million people through social media, thanks to the collaboration of media partners, organizations, and dedicated volunteers.

NAMIBIA

World Space Week 2023 in Namibia, under the leadership of Benyamen Nathanael from the National Commission on Research, Science, and Technology (NCRST), marked an ambitious expansion in the country's engagement with space science. This year's celebration was signified by the plans of establishment of a dedicated committee to guide future initiatives.

Highlighted Events:

National World Space Week Workshop: This workshop drew more than a 100 participants to explore Namibia's Space Science and Technology Policy. Presentations covered satellite technologies, environmental monitoring, and the policy launched in 2021, aimed at bolstering Namibia's space science capabilities.

Mobile Planetarium Shows: In a significant collaboration, the NCRST partnered with the University of Namibia and the Africa Millimetre Telescope Project to present mobile planetarium shows.



NEPAL

Coordinated by Nepal Astronomical Society, World Space Week celebrations in Nepal brought space closer to communities across the country, from the remote areas to urban centers. NASO successfully conducted various programs, reaching more than 2,500 individuals.

Highlighted Events:

Diverse Activities Across Provinces: Events spanned all seven provinces, including lunar eclipse observations, educational programs on basic astronomy, solar observations, speech and art competitions, and the Space Apps Challenge, reaching out to various communities.

Community Engagement and Support: NASO's initiatives received local government support, demonstrating the growing recognition of space science's potential to inspire and educate in the country. Events like the outreach program in Sri Lanka village in the Koshi region highlighted the community's enthusiasm for space science, leading to further support for space-related activities.

NIGERIA

The African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E) orchestrated events aiming to bridge space science with economic ventures, highlighting the space industry's potential for diverse engagement and problem-solving.

Highlighted Events:

Space and Entrepreneurship Presentations: Insightful talks were delivered on the theme, encouraging students to envision space beyond traditional perspectives and consider entrepreneurship within the sector. Notable space entrepreneurship examples were discussed, alongside educational pathways into the space industry.

Practical Demonstrations and Hands-On Activities: The event featured a drone operation demonstration and a creative session where students constructed mock satellites, fostering hands-on learning and creativity in space science applications.



PAKISTAN

WSW 2023 in Pakistan, orchestrated by the Pakistan Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), marked another year of nationwide enthusiasm and educational outreach in space science and technology. SUPARCO, serving as the national coordinator since 2005, successfully leveraged its network of academia, science societies, and various institutions to host a plethora of event. SUPARCO's strategic planning led to an unprecedented engagement level during WSW-2023, with over 8,000 events reported across Pakistan, reaching hundreds of thousands of participants.

Highlighted Events:

Inauguration Ceremony: WSW 2023 festivities kicked off with a grand inauguration ceremony in Karachi, setting the tone for a week of immersive space-related activities around Pakistan.

Best Space School Contest: SUPARCO spearheaded the "Best Space School Contest," a national competition inviting educational institutions to engage in space-themed activities. Schools across Pakistan were recognized as the "Best Space Schools" for their efforts in organizing a diverse range of space-related activities.

PORTUGAL

Portugal's World Space Week 2023, under the coordination of Cláudio Filipe Vieira Gomes, unfolded with various space-themed activities, bringing the cosmos closer to the public and schools across various regions, including the Azores, Gouveia, Moimenta da Beira, Paredes, and Madeira island.

Highlighted Events:

Espaço, Empreendedorismo e Observação da Terra: The national kick-off ceremony featured talks focusing on space, entrepreneurship, and Earth observation, attracting a significant audience in Ponta Delgada, Azores.

O Universo vem aos Açores: A public and interactive exhibition at the Shopping Centre Parque Atlântico, including a module demonstrating the basics of a radiotelescope operation, developed by University of the Azores students.



ROMANIA

Romanian Space Agency and the European Space Agency through the ESERO Romania initiative, these events were designed to ignite the curiosity of the K-12 demographic and beyond.

Highlighted Events:

“The Benefits of Outer Space for Humankind” Competition: Coordinated by the Grigore Cerchez Technical College in Bucharest, this event expanded its reach to 25 out of Romania’s 41 counties, engaging thousands of participants. The competition emphasized the synergy between space sciences and entrepreneurship, drawing projects from across the nation.

Health and Space Conference: Carol Davila University for Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest hosted this conference, focusing on the health challenges faced by astronauts in zero-gravity environments and highlighting the crucial role of space science in medical research.

SOUTH AFRICA

Space Week South Africa 2023, hosted by the Future African Space Explorer's Stem Academy, was a significant event aimed at fostering innovation, collaboration, and exploration in space science and technology. The event attracted more than 300 attendees, including students, teachers, professionals, and enthusiasts.

Highlighted Event:

Interactive Hands-On Activities and Exhibitions: Attendees engaged in hands-on activities led by experts, providing practical insights into space-related fields. Exhibitions by companies like Newspace Systems, CubeSpace ADCS, Bresser-Futurama, Simera Sense, and ScienceStars showcased cutting-edge projects and research.



SYRIA

World Space Week 2023 in the Syrian Arab Republic was a celebration across various governorates including Damascus, Lattakia, Hama, Mysiaf city, Tartus, and Homs. Coordinated by the Syrian Astronomical Association and various local teams, the events attracted a wide audience, including school students, college students, and the general public, who participated in a variety of activities designed to ignite curiosity and expand knowledge about the universe.

Highlighted Events:

Astronomy, Space Sciences and Languages for Kids: At the Syrian Astronomical Observatory, an event specifically designed for school children integrated astronomy education with English language learning. The children engaged in observing the sun through the observatory's telescope equipped with solar filters, while all explanations and interactions were conducted in English.

National TV Episode - Eye on The Universe: A special TV program dedicated to World Space Week was aired on the educational National Syrian TV, presented by Dr. Mohammed Alassiry. This episode served to educate the general public and children about the significance of World Space Week, its history, and the various activities organized across Syria to commemorate this global event.

UNITED KINGDOM

WSW 2023 in the United Kingdom, led by British Interplanetary Society (BIS), showcased a dynamic array of activities and events. BIS led the coordination, facilitating a week filled with educational sessions, interactive exhibitions, and insightful conferences across the country.

Highlighted Events:

Re-inventing Space Conference 2023: Held in Liverpool, this conference served as a platform for discussing "The Evolving Architecture of NewSpace," aligning with the World Space Week theme of "Space and Entrepreneurship." It attracted professionals from industry, academia, and government to explore future space capabilities.

KS2 Space Rocket Competition: In Newport, young students engaged in a science rocket model competition, showcasing their creativity and interest in space exploration through the development of model rockets.



UNITED STATES

WSW 2023 in the United States, prominently featured by the Space Foundation, unfolded a series of innovative and community-centric events. Space Foundation led the charge in orchestrating diverse activities ranging from concerts and eclipse viewings to educational workshops, thereby enriching the public's engagement with space science and technology.

Highlighted Events:

Space City Soundscapes: Hosted at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, this unique organ concert drew music from iconic space-themed films and featured 'Apollo' by James Whitbourn, celebrating NASA's Apollo 8 mission through music. The event captivated around 100 attendees, showcasing the intersection of space and art.

Lights Out: Solar Eclipse: Space Foundation Discovery Center celebrated the Annular Eclipse with public viewing, workshops, and live music, accentuating community involvement in space phenomena. The event, attracting approximately 630 participants, highlighted the anticipation for the upcoming 2024 Total Solar Eclipse, fostering a deepened communal interest in celestial events.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

World Space Week Association is an international non-government organization which is registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in the United States. It is led by an esteemed Board of Directors comprised of volunteer global space leaders. Implementing the Association's programs are volunteer officers, a small staff, and supporting volunteers around the globe.

The mission of WSWA is to strengthen the link between space and society through public education, participation, and dialogue on the future of space activities, using UN-declared World Space Week, October 4-10 annually, as a focus.

WSWA works year-round to encourage the space and education sectors to hold events during WSW. The result is the largest network of space-supporting organizations on Earth taking part in this annual event. WSWA supports these organizations and a global coordinator network with services designed to maximize the visibility and impact of WSW. The Association works with educators, the space industry, space agencies, and other organizations to advocate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education by inspiring students during WSW. WSWA also encourages the use of WSW to involve the public in space activities and to encourage people around the world to express their passions for space.

One of the oldest space advocacy organizations in the world, WSWA has permanent observer status in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), is a member of the International Astronautical Federation, and is supported by numerous global sponsors and partners.

World Space Week Association:

- Supports the UN in the global coordination of World Space Week, 4-10 October annually
- Expands World Space Week and its impact on education and society
- Is volunteer-managed and funded through voluntary contributions
- Is a non-profit, non-government organization founded in 1981
- Takes no positions on space policy to ensure that WSW is open to all

ACHIEVEMENTS



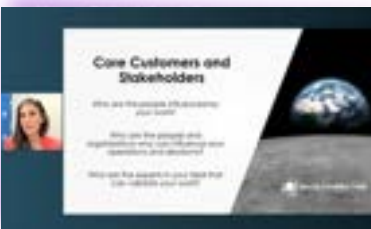
Coordinated the global celebration of WSW 2023, during which reported 16,548 events in 83 countries were organized by thousands of participants.

Selected 11 new National Coordinators, bringing the total number to 63, to coordinate the celebration of World Space Week in their countries.



Selected the theme for World Space Week 2023, Space and Entrepreneurship, and created a poster that was distributed worldwide to raise awareness.

Participated in COPUOS, delivering key remarks and hosting a reception, fostering dialogue and collaboration in the space community.



Launched workshops in partnership with Space Foundation on space entrepreneurship, culminating in a panel at the International Astronautical Congress in Baku.

Launched the 'Postcards to Space' project in partnership with Pakistan's SUPARCO, distributing postcards to children for a journey aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard flight.



HIGHLIGHT: SIERRA NEVADA CORPORATION

In this highlight, we feature the visions of this year's Honorary Chair, Eren Ozmen, a pioneering entrepreneur driving the future of space exploration.

Space Innovation Through Entrepreneurship

To me, space has always been the final frontier, a place where dreams can become reality. Space exploration generates endless possibility and limitless opportunity for business, research, space tourism and more.

I remember listening to the first moon landing decades ago on the radio as a young girl, and getting goosebumps on my arms. Today, it is an honor to be one of the entrepreneurs fueling space innovation in ways that will have a lasting impact on humanity.

Space exploration isn't about fulfilling a dream – it's critically important for humanity's future. Solving challenges in space also helps solve challenges here on Earth. We are building options for people to travel, to work, and to live in space. This will also help with issues we face on Earth: overcrowding, a warming planet, and even resource scarcity. Ultimately, space exploration means preserving our home planet through green technologies.

Many people are just discovering how much reliance we have on space to maintain our daily life communications, financial transactions, navigation, weather prediction and monitoring climate change are all possible because of advancements in space technologies.

Sierra Space, a commercial space company in the SNC family of companies, is building a reusable spaceplane - Dream Chaser - that will bring runway landings back. Its maiden launch is set for 2024, and I believe that we will see a day when space travel and exploration is just as common as airline travel. But there is a lot of work to be done before that happens.

My husband Fatih and I are passionate about opening up possibilities for space exploration, especially for the next generation. That's why I was so honored when World Space Week Association asked if I would be the honorary chair for this year's WSW focusing on Space and Entrepreneurship. We know the next generation will lead the way to the next chapter of innovations. It is through events like World Space Week that we will ignite a passion for space in our future scientists and explorers.

Thank you to the World Space Week Association for encouraging more than 16,000 events across the world this year during World Space Week. I commend the Association for the tireless work they do to bring people together across the globe, inspire young minds and to engage businesses and entrepreneurs to lead developments in this critical sector.

Eren Ozmen

CHAIRWOMAN AND OWNER,
SIERRA NEVADA CORPORATION

POSTCARDS TO SPACE

In 2023, WSWA embarked on an inspiring journey with the 'Postcards to Space' project, in partnership with Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and in conjunction with Blue Origin's Club for the Future.

As part of our continuous efforts in space education and public engagement, we initiated this project by distributing specially designed postcards to Pakistani children. These postcards, supported by SUPARCO's Space Education & Awareness Drive (SEAD), serve as a canvas for young minds to express their visions of the future in space. Each postcard, decorated with imaginative artwork and ideas, is collected for a remarkable trip aboard a future New Shepard suborbital space flight. Upon their return, these postcards will bear a unique "Flown to Space" stamp, and will be returned to the students.

As we look forward to 2024, WSWA is committed to continuing and expanding 'Postcards to Space' initiative, piloted in Pakistan, to other countries, further strengthening our dedication to inspiring the next generation and enhancing our role in public engagement in space science.



SPACE ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOPS



Watch the workshops here [➔](#)

In 2023, to underscore the importance of the WSW 2023 theme, WSWA and the Space Foundation collaboration featured a sequence of workshops designed to equip aspiring space entrepreneurs by focusing on both the technological and commercial facets of the space sector. The initiative commenced with a workshop on identifying opportunities and innovating within the space ecosystem, followed by an session focused on strategic planning, securing funding, and avoiding common entrepreneurial errors. The last workshop aimed at marketing strategies, understanding the competitive landscape, and crafting compelling value propositions was also part of the series. These educational sessions were made available globally via YouTube.

The effort culminated in a dynamic panel discussion at the International Astronautical Congress in Baku, Azerbaijan, in October 2023. Moderated by Kelli Osborne from the Space Foundation, with contributions from Natavan Hasanova of Azercosmos and Dennis Stone of WSWA, this panel facilitated deeper engagement with the space entrepreneurship community through discussions and a Q&A session, providing ample networking opportunities with industry experts and peers.

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