

(2nd UNISON-Global meeting)

Nigeria/West Africa

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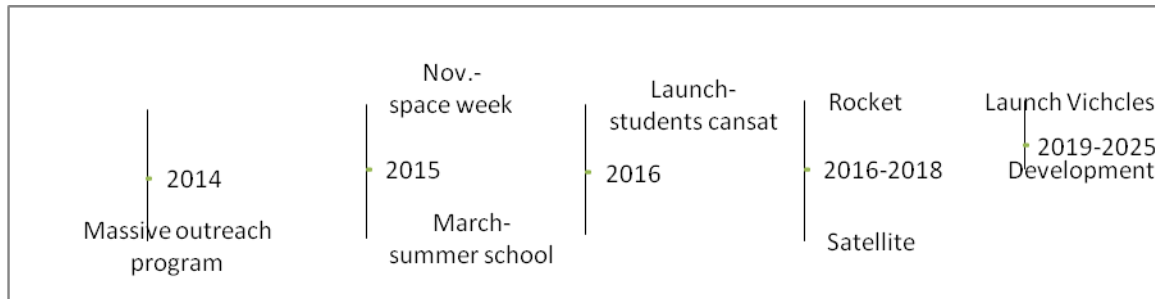
WORK IN PROGRESS

In line with my paper in first global meeting where I stated what we have been doing to promulgate space program in Nigeria, the Centre, African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education have intensified their effort to introduce space program to Nigerian school system, just as the paper stated, their primary focus is on primary and secondary schools because they believed on the slang –“Catch them young, they will be yours forever” the Centre has carried out various outreach program to virtually all the six regions of Nigeria, training teachers and students on space education.

Again, upon my return from first global meeting as the Nigerian student representative, I have been able to conduct various outreach programs to truly ascertain the actual state of space engineering and general space education in Nigerian universities; this is still an ongoing project which I believe shall be completed before the second global meeting. Furthermore, I have met some good number of professors in the field of engineering and physics in some reputable Nigerian universities who are willing to assist introduces some practical space engineering program in some of our schools. More so, my research has shown that few universities have begun to research and build mini CanSat though with some technical deficiency in their operation-this are mainly students, graduates and undergraduates. My finding shows that their work is done outside the academic work. The details of the development so far in this regards shall be further discussed at second UNISON meeting. We have been discussing modalities on the synergy of introducing and establishing UNISON-Nigeria with their institution.

It should also interest you to know that we have begun to build team of students both graduates and undergraduate who will help to champion the formation of UNISON Nigeria which I believe through the help of our regional coordinator and other stakeholder will start by mid next year in line with our roadmap. These groups of students were drawn from Amateur Astronomical Society of Nigeria, and other engineering societies domiciled in our institutions.

UNISEC NIGERIA ROAD MAP (REFERENCED FROM THE PAPER IN THE FIRST GLOBAL MEETING)



It was stated in our plans that this year we shall dedicate ourselves to outreach and sensitization of our universities about UNISEC and her activities and how they (Universities) could benefit from the program. We have strived and are still working on introducing space education into our school systems. It is our wish that by March next year we would organize our first summer school in one of our universities, invites experts to teach us about practical space projects like Can-Sat and others; this will empower the various institutions that participated to go back home and begin their research and development. Again, by November 2015 we shall also establish UNISEC/UNISON in Nigeria during our space week program, where each school will show case and display what they have been during.

EXPECTATIONS

Our expectations are high; we hope to achieve our dreams even though the challenges are everywhere. If we could get some technical assistance in terms of training from the mother body UNISEC/UNISON Japan, it will help accelerate our development because one of our major challenges is technical man power in the field of space engineering in our universities; it will interest you to know that at today no Nigerian university formally offers space engineering as a course both in undergraduate and graduate research work. It therefore, our wish that through collaboration and support in every aspect from UNISEC/UNISON Japan by 2016-2018 should be able to establish satellite and rocket laboratories in some of our universities and should be able again to host the tenth anniversary of UNISON in Nigeria.