

TOWARDS UNISEC-NIGERIA, THE JOURNEY SO FAR

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ABSTRACT

Space education in Nigeria started with the inception of the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in English (ARCSSTE-E), a UN affiliated Centre and also one of the activity Centres of the Nigeria Space Agency; the National Space Research and development Agency (NASRDA). ARCSSTE-E's mandate is to educate all English speaking Africa countries on Space, its benefits to man and how they can participate in it through her Postgraduate Diploma program and series of space education outreach program to schools.

UNISEC-Nigeria idea was proposed by the Nigerian representative in during a meeting held before the first Nano Satellite symposium at Kitakyushu Japan. In view of that, we have successfully trained some students from different Universities on various areas of space systems development (Rockets, Robots and small Satellite) using Cansat as a model as well as the lessons learned during the CLTPs we participated. As a result of this training, University Students have developed prototype of a Cubesat as a test bed for the technology. Some have also participated in a contest- "Microsoft Imagine Cup" and won awards using Cansat developed by their institution.

In a way to further promote and encourage space system development, ARCSSTE-E has intensify her space education programs towards the tertiary institutions as part of their extra curriculum activities via the space clubs established in those Universities to encourage the students to better understand and take up challenges in this field

This paper presents a detailed description of this contest "Microsoft Imagine Cup" and various prototyped systems developed by some institutions. It will also present a draft structure of UNISEC-Nigeria concept, organizations that will be involved to facilitate her activities, the prospect and how UNISEC-Nigeria can bring all Universities together.