



Education and Public Outreach for International Lunar Missions

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This presentation provides an overview and update of existing programs and new opportunities for international collaboration on education and public outreach (EPO) associated with lunar missions. All cultures of the world have powerful relationships to the Moon, whether in terms of traditional naked-eye observing, or modern exploration, or both. The upcoming, international suite of lunar missions presents an extraordinary opportunity to engage a broader world-wide audience in the exciting science and technology of lunar exploration through international cooperation in associated EPO efforts. The core content of this presentation is based on the results of a breakout session on International EPO, convened as part of a NASA Working Group meeting to identify opportunities for international cooperation in lunar exploration (November 2006, Honolulu, Hawaii). The EPO breakout session included representatives (or EPO partners) of NASA's LRO mission, Japan's SELENE mission, India's Chandrayaan mission, and China's Chang'E mission. Italian and Russian representatives were also present. Session participants discussed opportunities for building cooperative EPO programs in collaboration with existing international infrastructures such as the International Heliophysical Year, the International Year of Astronomy, the Planetary Society's emerging International Lunar Decade, the International Planetarium Society, the GLOBE program, Hands-On Universe, and the EPO efforts of scientific professional societies. Representatives of successful EPO programs associated with prior lunar or Mars missions also raised the possibility of formally extending their efforts to a broader world-wide audience using the new lunar data that will be obtained (e.g. ESA's SMART-1 mission and NASA's Mars missions).