

Public and schools learning about the Solar System

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The role of outreach activities is sending proper information straight to the audience. We want to add quality with a view to have a much higher dimension. It is education we are aiming at by the means of outreach activities. Be it spoken, written or read for the public.

That is why we are trying to promote this kind of collaboration between professional scientists and mass media representatives.

First of all, the most important target is the school children and youth people, the day after tomorrow's researchers. Secondly, we do have a very strong motivation for action because of the total lack of astronomy education in the national curricula. The future of the planetary systems education depends on how they understand and perceive the study of celestial bodies.

Knowing the Solar System is important and decisive for understanding and protecting the Earth. We do have within the Solar System some kind of 'celestial teachers' who are lecturing for free even if we are considering environmentally issues. Let us think of Venus and we might have one possible scenario for our native planet if proper action is not taken.

The 'beautiful planet' traps solar radiation in its atmosphere in an exaggerated version of our own Greenhouse Effect.

Moreover, various impacts on celestial bodies may give us another dimension of the future.

The European space missions could be the principal core of fulfilling all of these.

That is the reason for better knowing the Solar System.

Last but not in the least, the paper comes naturally as part of our efforts to celebrate IHY, 50 years of space research, as well as preparing IYA 2009.