Challenge accepted - unlocking the power of virtual events and digital tools for capacity building amongst the global space generation

64th Session of UN COPUOS
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Space Generation Advisory Council
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SpaceGen United was a 9-day virtual event hosted in July 2020

143 Delegates – 53 Nationalities – 50 Subject Matter Experts

100% Online  14 Hours Keynote Speeches  7 Workshops
Bringing value to underserved communities

Benefits of virtual events as a capacity-building tool:

✓ participation cost significantly reduced
✓ no travel limitations resulting from lengthy visa processes for in-person events
✓ baseline cost of hosting event low
✓ opportunity to engage with participants where they are

Virtual events can be leveraged to enable:

✓ global community connection
✓ intercultural awareness
✓ core space-related expertise and professional skills
✓ offering continuity in a time of uncertainty through topical and engaging discussion sessions
The virtual event ‘multiplier effect’

Generating lasting impact beyond the virtual event

Impact through sharing experiences

“During SGU 2020, I was in a remote part of Badagry, Nigeria. I was watching Dan Hart’s Keynote when some kids playing around a field huddled around me and joined in. I then educated them on space science and its uses afterwards”

Oluwakorede, SGU Organising Team Member

Accessible repository of talks

Recognition of attendance

Savri, SGU Delegate sharing her experience on her youtube channel
how would you describe SGU so far?
SpaceGen United Event Mapping

Fostering Engagement
- Virtual Meet and Greet Activities
- Online Space Trivia
- Social Media Cultural Challenge
- Art Showcase and Competition

Developing Expertise
- Workshops with Subject Matter Experts
- Live Q&A sessions
- Keynotes with Sector Leaders
- Panel Sessions on timely topics in the sector

Interactive learning and outcome setting
- Application of media skills to record 3 min video
- Familiarity with virtual work environments and tools
- Collaborating with peers w/t diverse backgrounds
- Tangible production and outcomes
SpaceGen United 2020 Working Groups

Space Exploration

Space Exploration Benefits for Earth-based Industry

Virtual Hackathon - Solving a life indoors

Planetary Defence: Safeguarding Earth

UN COPUOS Simulation

Space, the final frontier

Special Track

3. Good Health and Well-Being

4. Quality Education

5. Gender Equality

9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

10. Reduced Inequalities

11. Sustainable Cities and Communities

16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
SpaceGen United 2020 Working Groups

Space Exploration Benefits for Earth-based Industry

- Identification of space exploration technologies and their potential use on Earth
- Analysis of ways to encourage the spin in/ spin out of technologies and to support innovation

UN COPUOS Simulation

- UN COPUOS simulation held in the frame of drafting a treaty on SRU on the Moon
- International Collaboration as a key to a peaceful and prosperous future

Virtual Hackathon - Solving a life indoors

- Contributing towards SDG 3 through designing apps that use space technology
- 5 distinct solutions were proposed, addressing emerging issues due to the pandemic using space technology

Special Track

- Fostering Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the Space Sector in Support of UN SDGs 5 and 10
- Identification of barriers to entry
- Need to communicate positive values of diversity in the space industry
- Transparency and quantified goals
Main Takeaways

✓ Virtual Events can be inspiring, engaging and informative when deliberate measures are taken to motivate such an environment
✓ Virtual events offer access and training opportunities particularly for underserved communities
✓ There is evidence of such event formats being under exploited and having significant traction and long-lasting when hosted
THANK YOU!

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