

Sparking New Interest in Children's Minds
—Space Activities for Our Next Generations—

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ABSTRACT

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JSEC) established "Space Education Center" (JSEC) in May 2005 in Sagami-hara City, Kanagawa, Japan.

The establishment aimed to assist young people, in partnership with a lot of likely-minded people, to candle a bright flame in children's hearts, to respect Mother Nature and the lives of all creatures on earth, and to hope for bright future. The aims would be achieved by full use of our attractive space materials, knowledge and techniques acquired through the exploration and use of outer space.

Activities of JSEC have three main pillars:

- (1) Activities to support schools and teachers in their classroom teaching,
- (2) On-site educational activities organized by JAXA using its own programmes mainly for primary and secondary school students, and
- (3) Dissemination of information mainly through JAXA web sites.

In addition to these three pillars, activities in international cooperation to promote space education constitute an important part of JSEC activities. The cooperation includes, for examples, the activities in relation to the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), International Space Congress (IAC), UN/IAF Workshop on the occasion of IAC, International Space Education Board (ISEB), and International Space University (ISU).

This paper describes the outline of JSEC, and summarizes its one-year experience since the establishment.