

**SHORT-TERM COURSE ON APPLICATION OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT, SPACE APPLICATION CENTRE (SAC), AHMEDABAD (INDIA), JULY 17-21, 2000**

**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES: 11 (INCLUDING 10 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CENTRE, AND BOTSWANA TECHNOLOGY CENTRE BEING THE S&T – INDUSTRY NETWORK MEMBER)**

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 18**

Considering the need for generating awareness among the planners, policy makers and the impact of satellite communications technology in the national development planning, a short term course on 'Application of Satellite Communication for Development' was organized by the NAM S&T Centre during July 17-21, 2000 at the Space Applications Centre (SAC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Ahmedabad (India) in association with the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and Pacific (CSSTE-AP).

The course was attended by ten member countries of the Centre comprising one participant each from Bangladesh (Mr. Md. Raquib Azam of Bangladesh SPARRSO in Dhaka), Egypt (Dr. Abd El Moneim Youssif Bilal of Cairo University), Indonesia (Mr. Achmadi Surjo of The National Space and Aeronautic Agency LAPAN in Bogor), India (Mr. B.V. Kanthi of the Directorate of Women & Child Development in Bangalore, Mr. K. Laxman, Dr. O.P. Dewal and Mr. Vinod Mago of Indira Gandhi National Open University in New Delhi, Mr. I.F. Magi of D.S.E.R.T. in Bangalore, Mr. H.R. Arya and Mr. J. V. Saxena of the Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, and Mr. Bharat M. Darji of Remote Sensing and Communications Centre in Gandhinagar), Iraq (Dr. Ali Shaban of Iraqi Telecommunications and Post Public Company in Baghdad), Malaysia (Mrs. Siti Aishah Binti Mohd. Said of Malaysian Centre for Remote Sensing in Kuala Lumpur), Mauritius (Mr. Fazal Nubee of the Ministry of Agriculture Remote Sensing), Nepal (Mr. Mahendra B. Shrestha of Nepal Television in Kathmandu), Syria (Dr. Abdul Karim Al Salam of Al-Baath University) and Zambia (Mr. Ndopu Imbuwa of the Department of Science and Technology in Lusaka), and Mr. Suthani Khuwa Mazhani of Botswana Technology Centre in Gaborone, which is the S&T – Industry member of the NAM S&T Centre. Vietnam had nominated their representative, who however could not attend.

The course included introduction to satellite and orbits, principles of satellite communications, applications of satellite based communications and broadcasting, specialized applications in fixed, broadcast and mobile satellite

services, applications of satellite communications for development (case studies), development communications by using TV broadcasting and interactive TV, cyclone warning dissemination system, satellite based information network, and role of media in education and tele-medicine. The programme included field visits and demonstration of satellite communication applications and panel discussion.

The faculty for the course was drawn from the Space Application Centre (SAC) and other centres of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Indian Meteorology Department (IMD), Department of Telecommunications (DOT) of the Government of India, Discovery Communication India, Indian SATCOM Industries and experts in the fields of social science, mass communications, electronic media, information technology etc.

During the inaugural function Prof. B.L. Deekshatulu, Director of Centre for Space Science & Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTE-AP) described the activities of his organization in satellite application and space technologies in which they organize regular long-term courses. Mr. B.S. Bhatia, Director, Development and Communication Unit, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), delivered the keynote address entitled 'satellite communication for development education – Indian experience'. Dr. (Mrs.) Dipti Rustogi, Course Director, introduced the participants and the course contents. Apart from the presentations made by the members of faculty, the participants presented their respective country papers. As part of the course, the participants attended a half-day National seminar on Applications of Satellite Broadcasting held at the Space Applications Centre on July 20, 2000.

At the concluding session Dr. A.K.S. Gopalan, Director of the Space Centre delivered the valedictory address and presented certificates to the participants.