

Global Astronomy Survey : Guatemala

First submission: Edgar Cifuentes [see human resources section] 13 Feb 2009
SPoC Approved : Yes

1. Professional (Research) Astronomy:

(i) Number of universities offering Astronomy (and their names)

There are no program in Astronomy yet

(ii) Number of universities offering Physics (and their names)

Two

Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (Since 1970)

Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (Since 1981)

(iii) Number of academics who have been trained in Astronomy (ideally with their names and levels of qualification)

No one

(iv) Number of astronomical facilities (observatories, telescopes, etc) and as much detail about each as possible (websites/contact details)

There are one observatory but in an University that not offer astronomy nor physics

"Observatory Christopher Clavius" of Universidad Rafael Landivar

<http://www.url.edu.gt/PortalURL/Contenido.aspx?o=1140&s=45>

(v) Self evaluation (according to the different phases above, how would you rate your country in terms of Professional Astronomy? Please include any other relevant information to motivate your choice.)

Phase four

Physics career actually depends from Engineering School and we are trying to construct and school of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy in the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala trying to recover some physics graduates that are following their PhD in Astronomy

2. Public Understanding of Astronomy:

(i) What governmental astronomy/science outreach programmes for the public take place (co-ordinated either by government departments or national facilities)

"National week of Science Technology and Innovation" is the only one program to promote the science. The National Council of Science and Technology is in charge of this activity

(ii) What non-governmental astronomy/science outreach programmes for the public take place (NGO activities or international programmes that your country is involved in)

I don't know no one

(iii) Comment on the presence of astronomy in the media (TV, radio, newspapers). Is it very prominent? Are there specific programmes on astronomy? Is the media generally willing to publish news on astronomy?

The only regular presence of astronomy in the media is a column review of an amateur astronomer. Occasionally appears some news about astronomy but usually from international agencies. Only now at the beginning of 2009 there some news related with the programmed activities of our national node.

(iv) Comment on the presence of astronomy/science in the general culture of the people. Are there any specific challenges or setbacks? Is astronomy a welcome subject of conversation?

Astronomy is usually absent from the conversations of ordinary people unless he has done some outstanding worldwide media publicity of some astronomical fact. With the advent of peace in Guatemala after 30 years of war have sought to strengthen multiculturalism in Guatemala and because it has been pointed out the great maya astronomical inheritance

(v) Self evaluation (according to the different phases above, how would you rate your country in terms of Public Understanding of Astronomy? Please include any other relevant information to motivate your choice.)

Phase four

3. Astronomy in Schools:

(i) What governmental astronomy/science education and outreach

programmes for schools take place (co-ordinated either by government departments or national facilities)

The National Science and Technology Council (Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología) has two events to promote science to the general public, one is Convergencia where invited Guatemalan scientists working in universities abroad, including astronomers and astrophysicists, to provide a series of lectures to all public, in all universities and in a downtown hotel. The other event is "National Week in and Technology, An event that is aimed at all public but rather a middle-level students, where unlike convergencia is often invite professionals who reside in the country, this event tends to be more directed towards technological lectures, but also have science topics including astronomy

(ii) What non-governmental astronomy/science education and outreach programmes for schools take place (NGO activities or international programmes that your country is involved in)

No one

(iii) Comment on the presence of astronomy in the school curriculum. Is it part of the school curriculum? Is it very prominent? What age groups?

The presence of the astronomy programs is almost non-existent and only appears as part of natural science courses. Is present throughout the program from pre-primary school to the end of the high school

(iv) Comment on the status of astronomy/science in schools. Are there any specific challenges or setbacks? Sufficient number of students studying maths and science? General interest in maths/science/astronomy in schools?

In high school science there are science programs and there is too a Science Olympiad that invites a good number of students, within which awards the best but unfortunately number of students that choose science, as a career, is very limited especially in the areas of physics and mathematics

(v) Self evaluation (according to the different phases above, how would you rate your country in terms of Astronomy in Schools? Please include any other relevant information to motivate your choice.)

Phase four