

Exhibition

« **Eclipses, Astronomy & Science** »

Libreville, October 01st – November 05th, 2013

Preliminary :

From November 14th to 18th, 1999, the first African Summit on Science and New Technologies was held in Libreville (Gabon). One of the recommendations formulated in the youth session report emphasized the need for “ *the creation of Centres of excellence in the fields of Science and New Technologies*” In his opening address, Dr. Cheick Modibo Diarra from NASA - back then - recalled that “ *The african youth constitutes an important pool of potential researchers who could go far beyond the present generation.*” The exhibition hereafter described will be a highlight for the public and is intended to transform itself into a mobile one, targeting major cultural and educational entities in Gabon.

About the event

From October 01st to November 05th, 2013, we are organizing an exhibition about Astronomy, Space Science & Sciences. This exhibition will serve as an additional platform for the astronomy & space science workshop scheduled for October 28th – November 04th, 2013. Mobile star gazing units will run in parallel to the exhibition.

The Coordination

This organizing committee is not a centralized structure, but rather a functional network of partners associated for the success of this event and the after event. The [Gabonese Space Agency](#) chairs the organizing committee.

Small Workshops

Following is a brief description of the intended small workshops targeting mainly the large public and to be hosted by a leading cultural centre in Libreville:

Video room (recommended duration: 30 minutes)

Room dedicated to the projection of multimedia material from NASA, European Space Agency (ESA), South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), Centre National d' Etudes Spatiales (CNES).

Exhibition

- Posters about the Solar System, astronomy & its techniques, space science and their applications; Eclipses and their observations.
- Shows in a mobile planetarium : 1 planetarium is expected;
- Observations of the Sun: 5 telescopes (204 mm), 10 solarscopes.
- Nighttime observations: 5 telescopes Celestron 204mm & 4 telescopes Meade ETX 90mm.

Workshops

Pedagogical sessions of introduction to the solar system using properly scaled models. The goal being to give every participant a good perception of aspects like the shape, the size, the density of Earth with respect to the Sun and other planets of the solar system, as well as basics of the dynamics of our solar system.

Public Talks

- The New Cosmos
- Astronomy in Africa: Past, Present & Future
- The SKA: A chance for Africa & Gabon
- *Bokudu*: An animistic cosmology. Challenges & perspectives

Brainstorming sessions with invited Educators on ways forward for a better use of astronomy and space science for education

Quizzes ;

How to build : A refractor; a sundial; a simple sextant; a simple water rocket

How to become a professional Astronomer/Space Scientist in Africa : Presentation of Astrophysics and Space Science-oriented postgraduate studies in Africa, as well as existing and future careers in Astrophysics and Space Science in Africa.

Partners : The key for success !

All partners involved in the exhibition share the ambition of bringing their contribution to the development of science education and literacy for the betterment of Life in Gabon and beyond.

PERSPECTIVE

The exhibition could become the **Astronomy & Sciences caravan**: a mobile exhibition targeting educational structures (elementary & secondary schools, Universities, administrations). The intended final version would be the "*Great Starry Night*" – to set as an annual event – drawn from the same annual event held in France. This could entrench a stronger tradition of astronomy literacy that could be taken further with the establishment of an **Educational Centre for the Sciences of the Universe** in Libreville (Gabon).