

World Space Week 2008

World Space Week was declared in 1999 by the United Nations General Assembly, implementing a key recommendation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

The objective of World Space Week is to increase awareness among decision makers and the general public of the benefits of peaceful uses of Outer Space. It encourages greater use of space for sustainable economic development and demonstrates public support for space programs. World Space Week has become the largest annual public space event on Earth. Government agencies, industries, schools, museums, planetaria and other institutions in over 50 nations participate in World Space Week. This week is coordinated by the United Nations with the support of Space Week International Association and local coordinators in many countries. Many organizations and individuals around the world conduct space related events and other educational programs during World Space Week.

Institute of Space Technology, Islamabad organizes World Space Week (WSW) in Pakistan every year. This year, World Space Week celebrations were held at IST from 10th to 16th November comprising series of events to boost the space knowledge in Pakistan. The theme of the week for year 2008 was "Exploring the universe". A number of schools, colleges and universities participated with great zeal. The seven days mega event concluded with the active participation of thirty five (35) institutions from the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. A total of four hundred and eighty five (485) students participated in about twenty five (25) events and competitions among the students from different universities, colleges and schools. Approximately four (04) thousand people witnessed the space awareness events and contributed in sharing the theme of "Exploring the Universe".

The week long celebrations included **Space Technology Awareness Lectures** held at different schools and colleges of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, **Space Technology Awareness walk** at Rawal Lake View Park, **Two-day workshop on Space technology** for students from different schools and colleges, **Astronomy Night**, **Space technology Student symposium** for university students in which research papers were presented on different topics on Space Technology, **Bilingual declamation contests** on humorous as well as serious topics, **bilingual essay and story writing competitions**, **Space Quiz**, **poetry recitation**, **water rocket and Aero modeling competitions**, **painting and poster competitions**, **Space Theatre**, **Space Arts Contest** including cartoons, caricatures, slogans, calligraphy, photography, and space models depicted the marvelous potentials of young students in portraying the theme.