The COSPAR Capacity Building Programme: today and tomorrow
Carlos Gabriel - ESA/ESAC, Madrid, Spain

What is COSPAR?
The Purpose of COSPAR, by its Charter from the International Council for Science (ICSU), is “to promote at an international level scientific research in space, with emphasis on the exchange of results, information and opinions, and to provide a forum, open to all scientists, for the discussion of problems that may affect scientific space research. The objectives of COSPAR are to be achieved through the organization of scientific assemblies, workshops, publications, or any other media.”

Main aim of the COSPAR CBP:
- To foster/maintain/save scientific excellence in developing countries through encouraging scientists in developing countries to use scientific data from space missions.
- Programs increasingly influenced by gender.
- Encouraging a “leadership” role for women (the workshops most often held by women).
- Expanding into all space science areas along the years.
- The processes/results needed in a different way in different areas.

COSPAR activities:
- Service to the International Space Science Community
- Scientific Assemblies
- Scientific Workshops
- Outreach
- Science to Society Communication
- Scientific Cooperation and Panels
- Publication and technical readiness
- Education and Outreach
- Of Assembly year:
  - Service to Developing Space Program

The History so far
- Almost all Science Commissions of COSPAR represented in the programme
- 2002 “students”
- >300 different lecturers; some lecturers in 2+ (a few up to 12) workshops, and all for free!
- >350 fellowships awarded
- Almost all developing regions in the world have been served
- > 1.4 M€ from COSPAR (in 2018: 0.46 M€)

How effective are we promoting science in developing countries?

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A key in the success of the CBP is the strong engagement in it of internationally high ranked scientists as well as of the space agencies ESA, NASA and JAXA, which offered an opportunity to improve the activities, especially in the way of evaluating the impact the Programme is having in development countries.

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