



Guatemala Friday July 21st, 2023

Mario Galvez, National Coordinator of Guatemala
MOON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (MVA)

Event Report

FORO NACIONAL DE EXPLORACIÓN ESPACIAL EN LA LUNA

(Title in English: National Forum for Space Exploration on the Moon)

International Moon Day – July 20th

Theme of the celebration: “**The New Lunar Journey for Humanity**”

Place: Universidad Galileo – IICTA - 401 Classroom (Auditorium)

Address: 4th Street 7th Avenue, Dr. Eduardo Suger Cofiño Street, Guatemala City 01010

Time: 18:30 to 20:15 GMT – 6 (Guatemala Time)

Hosts:

MVA – Moon Village Association – National Coordinator for Guatemala

AGICE – Guatemalan Association of Space Sciences and Engineering

Total duration of the event: 100 minutes

Language: Spanish speakers

Guests:

No.	Panelist	Institution	Profession	Contact
1	Edgar Castro Bathen	Galileo	Engineer	
2	Rodrigo Sacahuí	USAC-ECFM	Astrophysicist	jrsacahui@gmail.com
3	Alex Rojas	USAC-UMG	Physicist	e.alex.rojas@gmail.com
4	Cecilia Marsicovetere	UVG	Engineer	csmarsicovetere@uvg.edu.gt

Link of the livestream in Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sd-zufaSTdQ>

Description of the event:

The National Forum for Space Exploration on the Moon was an hybrid event hosted in Guatemala, the physical event was in the Galileo University and it was livestreamed in YouTube. The event was for Spanish speakers. The main objective of the forum was to join professionals together and create a conversation related to the New Lunar Journey for Humanity, theme of the International Moon Day celebration. The event had two sessions with different questions to create a debate and a scientific conversation to promote the space exploration in Guatemala. We received the participation of different ages since the youngest with 16 years and the oldest with 75 years of age. This shows the community we are all interested in this events and how to increase the space work in the country. With this event we created a scientific space to share freely any thought or idea related to the new technologies and how can Guatemala work together to be part of the next journey to the Moon.

Total of participants:

26 physical attendees

15 in the livestream



Official program of the event:

1. Introduction (10 mins)

- Welcome words
- International Moon Day
- Presentation of the Biography of the panelists

a. Edgar Castro:

- i. Director of the Research Institute of Earth Sciences and Astronomy. Systems Engineer, Diploma in Astronomy and Basic Astrophysics from the Galileo University. Sky watcher, disseminator, columnist, and astronomy professor. He has published more than 400 astronomy articles in written media and participated in dozens of interviews on radio and television. He is the author of the book: "Curiosities of our universe". He is the co-founder of the Guatemalan Astronomy Association, AGA.

b. Cecilia Marsicovetere:

- i. She is a Mechatronics Engineer and Makerspace Coordinator of the D-Hive at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. She led and worked on one of the modules of the first Guatemalan satellite Quetzal-1 and is currently working in the UVG Aerospace laboratory.

c. Rodrigo Sacahuí:

- i. He completed his undergraduate studies in applied physics at the University of San Carlos de Guatemala. He did his master's and doctoral studies in astrophysics at the Institute of Astronomy-UNAM, Mexico. Later he carried out postdoctoral studies at the National Institute of Space Sciences of Brazil. His studies have been mainly in gamma-ray astrophysics, he conducts research on gamma-ray flashes, short and intense explosions associated with the deaths of massive stars, as well as studies of Blazars, a type of active galaxy. Rodrigo is a member of the Academy of Medical, Physical and Natural Sciences of Guatemala, of the Guatemalan Physics Association, founder and current president of the Central American and Caribbean astrophysics group Alpha-Cen. He has also worked in the dissemination and popularization of science through different conference cycles and is the representative for Guatemala of the office for the dissemination of astronomy of the International Astronomical Union, national delegate of Asteroid Day and co-organizer of the Guatemalan Astronomy Olympics.

d. Alex Rojas:

- i. He studied a bachelor's in applied physics at the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala. There, in collaboration with other undergraduate classmates, he founded the astronomy club, currently called Aq' ab' al. He participated in the first Guatemalan School of Astrophysics, which was taught by professors from NASA and MIT. He completed a diploma in observational astronomy at the Universidad Autónoma de México, where he worked at the 1-meter optical telescope in Tonantzintla, Puebla. Currently, he is a professor at different universities in Guatemala, such as Universidad Rafael Landívar and Universidad Mariano Gálvez. At the latter university, in addition to being a full-time professor, he is the coordinator of the physics and mathematics areas in the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences. He is currently pursuing his master's degree in physics specializing in astrophysics, conducting research on



radiative processes in protoplanetary rings and their detection in the ALMA interferometer. He is a collaborator of the International Astronomical Union, co-founder of Alpha-Cen and has a popular science channel on YouTube called BREAK DE CIENCIA and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Guatemalan Association of Physicists.

2. Question and answer session (70 mins)

7 Questions in total, each answer with 3 minutes of time limit.

A stopwatch was projected on a screen between the panelists and the moderators.

3. Short answers only session (10 mins)

Themes proposed by the hosts, such as: Orbital flights of private companies, Creation of different private sector space stations, Satellites constellation in Earth Orbit and the promotion of the Guatemalan Space Agency.

4. Q/A from audience (10 mins)

5. End of the event / Networking (20:15)

Lessons learned:

- An event of this nature requires a larger space with more time and more participants. Nevertheless, we had a good response and interest from the public.
- Publicity plays an important role in the planning of an event, because without it the scope of the event would be very small.
- The event needs to take into consideration water or coffee break expenses.
- It would be better if we keep inviting space professionals to share their ideas and opinions of the new technologies developed and the future of the Human race on the moon by promoting more events like this forum/conversation.