

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Enabling the Future - Developing the Space Workforce (5)

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PROFESSIONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND INSIGHTFUL: INTERNATIONAL SPACE UNIVERSITY
ADELAIDE CONFERENCE'S WEB DELIVERY FOR INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT FROM ALL
CORNERS OF THE SPACE COMMUNITY

Abstract

The International Space University ('ISU') ISU Adelaide Conference includes a two-day program bringing together the research and education sector, industry, government and the general public to discuss how space can solve humanity's challenges on earth. The 2021 edition of the Conference emphasised international collaboration among the Asia-Pacific region's space activities. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions and concerns, the planning committee committed to adapting the program to an online delivery, while also improving on the Conference's value.

The 2021 program incorporated several interactive activities which allowed input and discussion among the delegates and experts. These activities included thematic break out rooms and country-themed discussions based among Asia-Pacific. In order to maintain the importance of conference networking, the program also ran a dedicated meet and greet activity to facilitate connections as a substitute for physical networking.

Day one of the conference focused on introducing the space ecosystem of the Asia-Pacific. After the official opening by the Head of the Australian Space Agency, a first of its kind Asia-Pacific space agency panel discussed how policy supports commercial opportunities in the region. The following start-up activity further introduced delegates to the range of emerging capabilities within the region. Separate to the online program, a small VIP welcome reception allowed sponsors, ISU representatives and the Australian space community to come together in a COVID-safe way in the conference's host city of Adelaide in South Australia. Day two of the online program used interactive activities to go into greater depth on the Asia-Pacific's space ecosystem. The paper provides an overview of this innovative approach to online conferences.

The conference's planning committee, entirely comprised of volunteers, have begun a retrospective

process to improve on the few shortcomings identified in the preparation and execution of this first of its kind online event. These lessons and, other challenges in preparing and carrying out the conference, are discussed in the paper.

The 2021 edition of the ISU Adelaide Conference proved innovative and successful with attracting its wide-ranging target delegation from all corners of the space sector. The range and quality of experts contributing to the program allowed an innovative online experience while respecting quality in realising the conference's objectives. The paper will also consider the way forward for the 2022 session and how hybrid conference models can be incorporated into space events.