

TITLE: Astronomy outreach programmes

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The type and extent of Astronomy activities and collaborations among Astronomy groups within the Caribbean region was researched through literature review, interviews and a schools questionnaire. The results of the research were compared with the programmes offered by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and the International Astronomical Union, two leading agencies involved in the promotion of this field. The propagation of astronomy awareness in the Caribbean region especially in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica and Puerto Rico was found to have a good foundation in their identified programmes. Astronomical Societies in the region seem to be linked to the islands which have a campus of the University of the West Indies and usually have their genesis in the Physics departments on these campuses. Other science bodies, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education in Trinidad and Tobago have taken initiatives in the past ten to fifteen years to popularize science and astronomy in the region. Much more work is to be done in the field of astronomy in the region and the collaboration of astronomers and academics regionally and internationally is the best suggestion for the rapid expansion of Astronomy outreach programmes and activities in the Caribbean.