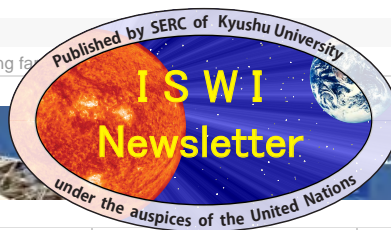




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French don urges Nigeria to boost space weather studies

FRIDAY, 27 JANUARY 2012 00:00 BY CHUKWUMA MUANYA NEWS - NATIONAL

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From 27 Jan. 2012.

A FRENCH university teacher, Prof. Christian Amory Mauzaudier, has identified space weather studies as one of the basic parameters to guarantee safety in the air space and position Nigeria to play a key role in the international space weather initiative.

Mauzaudier, an expert in space weather from the University of Pierre Marie in Paris-France, yesterday at a special presentation on space weather to engineers and scientists at the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), Abuja, said there was need for the nation to acquire more scientific satellites like meteorological satellites for general safety as well as healthy monitoring and performance of its various satellites in the orbit.

In a statement from NASRDA signed by the Head, Media and Corporate Affairs, Felix Ale, Mauzaudier lauded the giant strides Nigeria had recorded in her space programme and described the country as a pride and strategic nation in Africa.

He highlighted studies in movements that could occur in bodies such as the sun, which could lead to emission that might impact negatively on satellite in the orbit.

While calling for routine measurements and deployment of more tools in space sector, the visiting professor also pointed out that Nigeria and indeed the rest of Africa were situated along the magnetic equator and prone to impacts that could affect satellites by changing its position, disrupt navigation and increase solar radiation in airplane among others.

The Director-General NASRDA, Dr Seidu Mohammed, who gave a vivid account of Nigeria Space Road Map said the nation was fully on course in her determination to utilise space applications for the overall benefits of her citizenry.

Mohammed noted that the de-orbited communication satellite was a major experience for Nigeria, saying the agency was leaving no stone unturned in putting in place measures to forestall such occurrence.

In his contribution, a member of international space weather initiative and deputy director in the National Space Research and Development Agency, Dr. Babatunde Rabi, urged the Federal Government to put in place equipment that would give Nigeria proper weather coverage.

Rabi also stressed the need for adequate protection of the Nigeria satellites, emphasising that all activities of man in the global community today were highly dependent on satellites, be it in security, telecommunications or health, among others.

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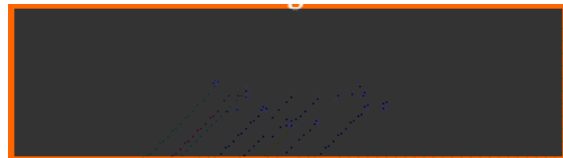
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