

COSPAR (The COmmittee on SPace Research)

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The COmmittee on SPace Research (COSPAR), frequently considered as "International Union of Space Sciences", was established by the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) in October 1958 to continue the cooperative programmes of rocket and satellite research successfully undertaken during the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58. The ICSU resolution creating COSPAR stated that the primary purpose of COSPAR was to provide the world scientific community with the means whereby it may exploit the possibilities of satellites and space probes of all kinds for scientific purposes, and exchange the resulting data on a cooperative basis. Therefore, COSPAR is an interdisciplinary scientific organization concerned with progress on an international scale of all kinds of scientific investigations carried out with space vehicles, rockets and balloons. COSPAR's objectives are carried out by the international community of scientists working through ICSU and its adhering national academies and international scientific unions. Under the rules of ICSU, COSPAR ignores political considerations and considers all questions solely from the scientific viewpoint.

COSPAR has 8 scientific commissions and several panels:

Commission A Space Studies of the Earth's Surface, Meteorology and Climate

Commission B Space Studies of the Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System

Commission C Space Studies of the Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets Including Reference Atmospheres

Commission D Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Planetary Magnetospheres

Commission E Research in Astrophysics from Space

Commission F Life Sciences as Related to Space

Commission G Materials Sciences in Space

Commission H Fundamental Physics in Space

The main event of COSPAR is biannual scientific assembly, where usually more than 2000 scientists gather from all over the world. In Japan, COSPAR activity is supported by Science Council of Japan.

Keywords: space sciences, international collaboration, scientific satellites, balloon experiments, solar system explorations, microgravity experiments