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Motivating Astronomy Education through Dark Sky Initiative on Design Thinking and Social Innovation Experiential Learning

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In the context of Asia, where urbanization and light pollution pose significant challenges to astronomy education, innovative approaches are crucial for engaging students and fostering environmental awareness. This presentation showcases the ASTROx project, an interdisciplinary initiative that integrates dark sky education into science curricula through design thinking and social innovation. Led by the student dark sky team, ASTROx addresses real-world issues by leveraging outdoor classrooms, experiential activities, and hands-on experiences to raise awareness about urban light pollution. By focusing on community-based projects, students develop essential skills in science communication and advocacy, promoting the preservation of dark skies. This approach not only enhances astronomy education but also tackles regional challenges such as energy efficiency and environmental conservation, providing a model for sustainable and engaging classroom activities across Asia.

Primary author: SIT, Exodus Chun-Long (IAU NAEC and Co-NOC Hong Kong, China)

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