

Some thoughts for enhancing functions and activities of the AOGS meeting

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The AOGS meeting has been getting more and more vibrant and attractive in recent years thanks to the great efforts and leadership by the executive committee members and the section presidents and vice presidents in the past and present. As one of the members in the section of solar and terrestrial sciences (ST), I have observed successful development of the AOGS community. It would be my honor if I could contribute to it as the president of the ST section.

Reviewing the records of the past meetings, I find the number of poster presentations was much less than the number of oral presentations in each year. Since the number of oral presentation should be limited logistically, one possible way to increase the number of participants is to increase the number of poster papers. To attract a larger number of participants, it is necessary to make the poster sessions more attractive especially for students and young scientist who may not have much chance to have oral presentations. We may think of a larger number of student poster awards so that the awards become more feasible and attractive for students who would need some awards in their CV. Currently the number of awards per section is specified as one award minimum per section and 1 additional award for every 20 student posters, while much smaller numbers of awards were selected in recent years in the ST section: 2 awards out of 130 posters in 2018, 1 award out of 63 posters in 2017, and 5 awards out of 182 posters. The entry to the student poster competition seems to be very limited. The requirement to upload digital posters for entry to the competition well in advance may be a difficult thing for students working on their projects until the last moment.

I can also imagine the difficulty in choosing good poster papers within a limited period of time. We may need to reconsider the rules and criteria of the student poster awards. I would suggest to give one award for every 10 student posters. By increasing the opportunity of the student poster awards, we would need to find good and dedicated referees for the competition. One possibility is to appoint senior scientists as judges for the student awards. In appreciation of their tasks, we may offer senior discount of the registration fee. We also give them a special distinction attached to the registration badge. By giving these honorary distinction, the senior scientists would be more encouraged and motivated in participate in the meeting.

It is also necessary to increase the number of sessions for oral presentations. The session proposals should be encouraged by inviting active young scientists to propose and organize new sessions. Attention should be paid to making the sessions truly international by appointing a few additional co-conveners for each session from different countries. Young scientists should be interested in having the experience and responsibility of session conveners as their early career contributing to the AOGS community.