

'Need to promote international co-operation in space'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 27: "There is an urgent need to promote greater international co-operation in Space," said NIAS Chairman K Kasturirangan, while inaugurating the second UN/NASA workshop on 'International Heliophysical Year and Basic Space Science'. The International Heliophysical Year is being commemorated from 2007 and aims at a global study of the sun-heliosphere system. The workshop jointly sponsored by the UN and NASA will help exchange of ideas among experts working to understand processes in the solar atmosphere. Over

200 delegates from India and abroad, including Hans Haubold from the UN, Joseph M Davila and N Gopalswamy from NASA, are attending the five-day workshop. The IHY Programme includes a Science research programme to co-ordinate international projects, instrument programme under which instruments from developed nations will be deployed in developing nations and an outreach programme to disseminate information to the public.

India will build the world's largest 2 metre class solar telescope at a cost of Rs 100 crore. The Indian Institute of Astrophysics

based in Bangalore is in the process of finalising the proposal which will be forwarded to Department of Science and Technology said Director, IIA, S S Hasan on the sidelines of the workshop on IHY. The telescope with a diameter of two metres is proposed to be set up in the trans-Himalayan area close to a lake. It would be operational in 5 years.

"When installed, this will be the world's largest solar telescope," said S S Hasan.

The advantage of having a large aperture solar telescope like this is that it can study micro structures on surface of earth upto 50 kms.