



**INTERNATIONAL  
ACADEMY  
OF ASTRONAUTICS**

**PRESS - RELEASE**

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## **Dr. Madhavan Nair elected new President of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)**

The International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), has elected as a new President Dr Madhavan Nair, India, who was Vice-President Scientific Activities of the IAA during the last four years. Dr. Nair will be inducted on October 11th, 2009 during the general assembly of the IAA in Daejeon, South Korea.

The IAA is an honorary society with an action agenda. The Academy has a strong scientific program this year with about 16 standalone conferences around the world. The International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) is an independent organization of distinguished individuals elected by their peers for their outstanding contributions to astronautics and the exploration of space. The IAA has both its independent studies (35 in preparation and 4 published since January) and conferences and collaborates with others partner societies. Although the IAA has many connections to other similar organizations, it is distinctive as the only international academy of elected members in broad area of astronautics and space. IAA membership consists of individuals who have distinguished themselves in one of the fields of astronautics or one of the branches of science of fundamental importance for the exploration of space. Full members are elected for life, while corresponding members are eligible for full membership after two years, but retire after five years. IAA membership today totals about 1200 members from 85 countries.

The Academy was founded in 1960 by the leaders among the early space pioneers and enjoyed to have successively as Presidents: Theodor von Karman, Frank Malina, Stark Draper, George E. Mueller, Michael Yarymovich and Edward Stone. The election of Madhavan Nair to the post of President of IAA is significant as he is the first Indian expert in space to become President of IAA.

Dr. G. Madhavan Nair is currently Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Secretary, Department of Space of Government of India. He started his career as Avionics Project Manager in the first Indian launch vehicle project. His most significant contribution is to design, develop and operationalise Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) of India. He held various responsibilities in ISRO including Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (largest Centre of ISRO) and Director of Liquid Propulsion System Centre. He became Chairman, ISRO in 2003, and has 25 successful missions so far during this tenure. He is conferred with high level Civilian Awards of India, namely, 'Padma Bhushan' in 1998 and 'Padma Vibhushan' in 2009. He was awarded honorary Degrees of Doctor of Philosophy/ Doctor of Sciences by 14 Universities in India.

The Nominating Committee will announce the results of elections of the new Board of Trustees on October 11th, 2009.