

**REPORT OF COMMISSION VI**  
to the SAC, 24 September 2007, Hyderabad, India

### New Commission VI officers and members

The new Commission is in place with a good distribution of members. The Commission VI Study Group chairmen are ex-officio members of the Commission.

The Commission VI meeting was held on Sunday 23 September 2007, with 26 participants.

### Hyderabad sessions and related events

Within the 18<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Space Activity and Society (E5), Commission VI members have organized five sessions for the 58<sup>th</sup> IAC in Hyderabad:

- Innovating through Technology Spin-in and Spin-off
- Space Expectations – How the Public Views Space Activities
- Impact of Space Applications on Societal Issues
- The Architecture of Space; and
- an interactive session on Space Activity and Society.

In addition, Commission VI has collaborated with Commission III on a two-part joint session called: Space Technology and Systems Management: Practices and Tools, and has organized the History Symposia.

The promised attendance for all the above sessions is excellent with virtually all papers and presentations being uploaded.

Commission VI members are also involved in organizing additional sessions in other, non-Commission VI, sessions such as Space Elevators and SETI.

The Commission VI History Group has also organized a Plenary Session on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Space Era.

Following the IAC, there will be a three day Space and Culture Symposium sponsored by the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore and others, co-sponsored by Commission VI. This event carries on the tradition of outreach to the arts and culture community in the IAC host countries, and will include 20 international and Indian presenters.

### Overview of Glasgow sessions and related events

At the IAC in Glasgow in 2008, the 19<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Space Activity and Society coordinated by Commission VI will comprise three main sessions:

- Innovating through Technology Spin-in and Spin-off
- Space Expectations – How the Public Views Space Activities
- The Architecture of Space; and
- an interactive session on Space Activity and Society.

Once again, Commission VI will collaborate with Commission III on a two-part joint session called Space Technology and Systems Management: Practices and Tools. The 42<sup>nd</sup> History of Astronautics Symposium will take place under the auspices of Commission VI.

Commission VI members will also be involved once again in organizing additional sessions in other, non-Commission VI, sessions such as Space Elevators and SETI.

An international symposium entitled Less Remote: The Futures of Space Exploration - An Arts and Humanities Symposium will be co-sponsored by IAA Commission VI and organised by Arts Catalyst and Leonardo/OLATS. It is planned to run in parallel with the IAC.

## Reports from current Study Groups

### **6.2 Education in Space**

... has been terminated.

### **6.3 Interstellar Message Construction**

... is an outgrowth of SETI activities dealt with in Commission I. The group is working aggressively toward completion of the study by March 2008, and a white paper consisting of comments and recommendations will be produced.

### **6.7 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Space Era**

... is a continuation of the History SG activities aimed at publishing the History Symposium papers presented at IACs over the years. This year's publication covers papers related to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Space Era. The goal of the SG is to have a coherent IAA/IAF history programme with publication of an IAA History Series.

### **6.8 Space Expectations**

... is on track with translations of the questionnaire into all six UNESCO languages being available now on the Space Expectations Web site. Translation of the letter announcing the study aims and goals is in process. The plan is to release the survey to the public during SpaceWeek October 4-10 October 2007. The product of the SG is to be an analysis of the survey responses in the form of papers presented in Glasgow and perhaps an executive summary book. Closure of the SG is foreseen for October 2008.

### **6.9 Architecture of Space**

... has been revamped in 2007 with new Chairs and is expected to complete its work by October 2008 with a white paper and possibly a book.

### **6.10 Multilingual Space Dictionary**

... is the continuation of the effort to produce a comprehensive, multilingual dictionary of space terms. The initial release of this publication (volume 1.2a) has been posted on the IAA web site. SG 6.10 seeks to expand the terms defined from 2,600 to 3,000 and the number of languages by seven to 23 in all with a target completion date of spring 2010.

## 6.11 Space System Engineering Education

... This new SG is well underway. System engineering capabilities in five companies have been reviewed and listed. Three university education programmes in the field have been assessed. More companies and universities will be included in the database and analysis. The work of the SG is expected to be complete by November 2009.

### Status of Space and Society Conferences

The first stand-alone IAA Space and Society Conference, organized by Ivan Almar, was held in Budapest, Hungary in March 2005 and the second, organized by David Raitt, was held at ESA ESTEC (Noordwijk) in February 2007.

The third S&S conference was originally planned for Montreal in 2008, although the possibility of holding one in Helsinki was also raised. A discussion among the Commission VI officers noted the fairly small participation at the second S&S, the concurrence of other similar events and the relatively short lead time available to organize a conference that would take place in the spring of 2008. For these reasons it was decided not to hold a S&S conference next year.

On an ongoing basis the plan is to seek other likely events to tie in with. For example, under discussion for April 2009 is a possible collaboration with the conference on Advanced Space Technologies for the Humankind Prosperity in the Ukraine that has Space and Society as one of its themes. This conference is already taking place under the aegis of the IAA. Other possibilities for future S&S conferences include a stand-alone event that would be held in Finland, and an event in Canada that would be part of a major astronautics conference.

### Evolution and priorities for Commission VI

An initiative was launched by Commission VI at the IAC in Fukuoka to define the scope of the Commission and elaborate its priorities. The focus within Commission VI will be on instigating new initiatives within the revised scope, with a broadening of the geographic distribution of involved experts, particularly in the areas of space activities and the development of society and providing the necessities of life.

### Commission VI web site

Commission VI has its own web site that is used as a place for participants to inform themselves about COM VI activities that are chronicled there, to engage in on-line discussions, and to vote on matters pertaining to the Commission.

Speaking of web sites, the members of COM VI strongly urge the IAA to maintain its web site on behalf of the Commissions in a more rigorous and timely manner. Repeated requests for the posting of updated material should not be required. A recent example is the revision of the scope of COM VI that was submitted several months ago, yet to be posted.

As a possible solution - if feasible - COM VI would be prepared to designate one of our members who would be responsible for maintenance of the COM VI information on the IAA site. This person would require administrative access to the COM VI part of the site.

### David Raitt

Chairman, Commission VI