

**REPORT OF COMMISSION VI TO THE SAC**  
Monday, 29 September 2008, Glasgow, Scotland

## Commission VI meeting

The Commission VI meeting was held with a full agenda on Sunday, 28 September 2008 and was attended at various stages by over 25 people in total.

## 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 comprised three main sessions:

- Innovating through Technology Spin-in and Spin-off
- Space Expectations - How the Public Views Space Activities
- The Architecture of Space

The latter two sessions are related to Study Group activities.

There was an exceptionally large number of abstracts submitted that filled three high quality sessions, and also provided for full Technical Interactive Session on Space Activity and Society. By the start of the Congress most of the papers, as well as presentations, had been uploaded. One problem was caused by the last minute cancellation of several speakers, especially those from NASA where restrictions had been placed on attendance.

Once again, Commission VI collaborated with Commission III on a two-part joint session called Space Technology and Systems Management: Practices and Tools. Both sessions had a good number of papers, due to several being transferred from session E5.1. There was some confusion as to the placement of these two sessions in the programme and it was decided that Commission VI will not play an active role in their organization in future.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> History of Astronautics Symposium took place, as usual, under the auspices of Commission VI and there was a full complement of papers for the four sessions. This symposium is also related to Study Group activities.

Commission VI members were involved once again in organizing additional sessions in other, non-Commission VI, sessions such as Space Elevators and SETI - again both related to Study Group activities.

An international symposium entitled Less Remote: The Futures of Space Exploration - An Arts and Humanities Symposium, co-sponsored by IAA Commission VI and organised by Arts Catalyst and Leonardo/OLATS, ran in parallel with the IAC. It did not appear to detract too much from attendance at the Commission VI sessions.

## Overview of 60<sup>th</sup> IAC Daejeon sessions

Within the 20<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Space Activity and Society, Commission VI is organizing three main sessions:

- Technology Transfer Trends
- Space Expectations - How the Public Views Space Activities
- The Architecture of Space: New Frontiers of 21st Century Space Architecture and Entrepreneurship for a New Generation of Explorers

In addition, a Technical Interactive Session on Space Activity and Society (which will comprise papers not selected for the main E5 sessions) is also planned.

The History Group will hold four sessions within 43<sup>rd</sup> History of Astronautics Symposium. These sessions relate to Memoirs; Organizational Histories; Scientific and Technical Reviews; and History of Korean Contributions to Astronautics.

Since 2009 will be the International Year of Astronomy, there will also be a joint session organized by IAA Commission VI and the IAF Space Education and Outreach Committee which will cover such topics as the astronomical beliefs and myths of different cultures, the contribution of astronomical instruments and discoveries to spin-offs to benefit society, and the role and place of observatories and planetariums in the local community.

The possibility of holding a cultural symposium, similar to *Less Remote in Glasgow*, is under discussion - Commission VI would once again lend its support to this initiative.

Commission VI members are also involved in identifying speakers for an astronomy outreach public lecture.

## Reports from current Study Groups

### **6.3 Interstellar Message Construction**

The study group has made significant progress in laying the foundation for peer-reviewed consensus recommendations on future directions for work in interstellar message construction. The scope of the project is approximately three times what was originally anticipated and this has resulted in a significant delay in project completion. The SG is proposing a restructuring of the responsibilities of select committee members to address this more comprehensive study. Three books are to be published by 2010 - a full peer review of all essays for one of these volumes has already been completed, and peer review of the other two volumes is expected in the next nine months. Specific recommendations for future research are being gathered, and once peer reviewed, the consensus recommendations will constitute the final product of the study group and will be presented to the Board of the IAA before the Prague IAC in 2010.

### **6.5 Space Arts Database**

A final report on this closed SG was sent to the IAA. The database is available online in three languages and a link to this could be made from the IAA Web pages. It is not practical to publish the contents in book form.

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

The History SG has been very active over the past six months and two sets of recommendations have been made to the IAA - one regarding recommendations for securing and increasing sales of history symposia publications and another on the means of celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IAA in 2010. A significant amount of time was taken up in the Commission VI meeting on the

position of the History SG. The SG would appreciate a formal response from the IAA regarding its proposals by the end of November 2008 (this should be relayed through the Chairman of Commission VI). The publication of a book will take some time and it is vital to start this as soon as possible. If the IAA do not wish to follow the History SG proposals then they must let the members know so that they can turn their attention to other matters.

### **6.8 Space Expectations**

This SG is on track with already over 1700 responses from all over the world due largely to the translations being available in six languages. The plan is to keep the survey going as long as possible, but to finalize it by October 2009 when a formal summary of the Study will be made available. A summary of the study to date was given by Dr. Raitt in a session devoted to the topic in Glasgow (and another is planned for Daejeon). A concentrated effort will again focus on marketing of the survey to some important and global players.

The hosting of the Space Exploration web site, particularly the survey tool, is currently being funded by Arthur Woods, who is also paying the small fees for keeping the Impact of Space Activities on Society web site active. A decision needs to be made as to whether the content of these sites should remain publicly available after the Space Expectations SG is completed. The IAA will be approached to see whether they could be hosted on the IAA web site, possibly under the Commission VI pages.

### **6.9 Architecture of Space**

A set of draft recommendations for various modules (human factors, simulator, tourism, education, commercialization, art) were finalized during the Glasgow IAC and will be presented to the IAA. The discussions will also recommend final product form and content.

### **6.10 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Space-Era Edition of the IAA Multilingual Dictionary**

The effort is continuing to produce a comprehensive, multilingual dictionary (lexicon) of space terms with an expansion of terms defined amounting to some 3.000 in 20 languages - though Arabic is a major omission. The target completion date is Spring 2010. The SG may be closed at the end of 2008 (because the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of space has now passed) with a new Web-based SG being initiated in its place, especially in relation to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IAA.

### **6.11 Space System Engineering Education**

The SG is still in the process of reviewing and listing system engineering capabilities in companies and assessing university education programmes in the field to add to the database. The work of the SG is expected to be completed by November 2009.

### **Status of 3<sup>rd</sup> Space and Society Conference**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Space and Society conference will take place in parallel with the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference on Advanced Space Technologies for the Humankind Prosperity in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine from 15-17 April 2009. The topic is Space: The Human Dimension and a flyer on the conference was included in the IAC delegates bags. The deadline for abstract submission was 31 October 2008, though this has now been extended to 31 December.

### **Relations with IAF Committees**

Concern had been raised about the overlap of several new and existing IAF Committees with Commission VI activities. The Committees are Space & Society, Education & Outreach, and

Space Culturalization - ITACCUS). The Chair of Commission VI (Dr. Raitt) has become a member of all three of these IAF Committees with a view to ensuring a good liaison with Commission VI.

There seems little to be concerned about regarding the IAF Space and Society Committee since their aim seems to be to try and include more societies (space, aerospace, astronomy) from around the world in the IAF activities.

As noted, Commission VI is cooperating with the IAF SEOC committee in organizing a joint session on astronomy and society at the IAC in Korea. The idea of continuing this relationship at other IACs was explored during the week, with both Commission VI and SEOC being in favour. The suggestion that the theme could relate to the commemorative year in question (just as 2009 is the Year of Astronomy) was considered appropriate and the topic of Life in the Universe was tentatively chosen for Prague since 2010 is virtually the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Darwin's birth.

Regarding ITACUS, Commission VI was co-sponsor of the Less Remote Symposium at the Glasgow IAC. In principle Commission VI is in favour of lending its name to similar events, organized by other bodies, at future IACs. One such event, for Prague in 2010, could possibly relate to Water and Space and this idea is being considered.

There were multiple discussions during the Glasgow Congress to refine the relationship between the various IAF committees and Commission VI based upon similar names and responsibilities. All were conducted within an atmosphere of amicability and cooperation.

**David Raitt**  
Chairman, Commission VI