IAA Study Group 6.7
50th Anniversary of the Space Era 2007

Information Note No 4

A very best 2006 to all Friends of the IAA History Community!!!

1. The History Symposium in Fukuoka

The IAC IPC has now published the presentation overview from the Fukuoka congress. Out of a total of 1161 papers in the programme 68% were presented. Out of the 32 % not presented 17% was a ’no show’!

Our history symposium with 24 scheduled papers is right on the average of the congress with 16 presented papers (67%). Not so good was the fact that 25% of the papers were ‘no shows’, only 2 official withdrawals! This is a relative high ‘no show’ figure, and a problem not in advance knowing if an author will come or not. Hope we can improve on this for Valencia and the years to come.

2. Russian Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Sputnik 1

The tentative planning for the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary in the Russian Federation has been made available by the Russian Academy of Sciences, Executive Space Bureau. It turns out that a number of anniversaries and international congresses will fall within a relative short time. The RAS has prepared following schedule:

- Academic course of lectures on cosmonautics dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Academician S.P. Korolev (Moscow, January 2007);
- International seminar on space methods application to the study of human health problems and potentially dangerous and catastrophic phenomena with the help of universal micro-satellite platforms (Tarussa, Kaluga area, 2007);
- International space forum “Space and the future of Mankind” (Moscow, 2007);
- Scientific course of lectures in memory of K.E. Tsiolkovsky; “Space for peace and Progress” (Kaluga, 2007);
- Scientific course of lectures in memory of K.E. Tsiolkovsky dedicated to the 150th Anniversary of the scientist and to the 50th Anniversary of the First Artificial Earth Satellite Launch (Kaluga, September 2007);

The last symposium is the one, which is directly comparative to the activities planned by the History Study Group for the IAC 2007 in New Delhi. If we have a direct overlap is not quite clear. The RAS has forwarded the proposal of these symposia/congresses to the Federal Government of Russia for formal approval. Until then we have to wait for confirmation and more details.
3. **Russian Member of the IAA History Study Group**

The Russian Academy of Sciences, Executive Space Bureau, has now appointed as successor of Viktor Sokolsky, Prof. Viktor V. Glushkov, Deputy Director on Scientific Research of the Institute of History of Sciences and Technology named after S. I. Vavilov. Prof. Glushkov’s address is as follows:

Institute of the History of Science and Technology  
named after S.I.Vavilov  
Russian Academy of Sciences  
Staropansky pereulok, 1/5  
109012 MOSCOW  
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Phone: (+7 495) 921-80-61  
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4. **Planning for the “50th Anniversary of the Space Era”, New Delhi 2007**

The inputs of the Working Sheet No 2 (Type of Concept) action have been evaluated and the recommendations/conclusions are summarised in Attachment 1.

**The main remaining issues are:**

1. **How to best and clearly distinguish between the Plenary Event and the Symposium Session 1.**
2. **Find veterans to participate in the Plenary and preferably also with a presentation in Session 1.**

As for item 1 the titles could be:  
**Plenary:** 50th Anniversary of the Space Era  
**Session 1:** The International Geophysical Year, Sputnik 1 and the Space Race.

Item 2 is more difficult to solve, but first we have to find out who is still alive (in particular in Russia), and then we have to find some means for financial support to some of the potential attendees. A delicate matter will also be to find chairpersons and moderators.

**May I ask each and every one of you to carefully study the summary note of the results from Working Sheet No 2 and get back to me in the next 10 days with your additional comments, questions, additions and recommendations! In particular I need your inputs for the two items discussed here above.**

These results will form the basis for the Proposal for the 2007 IAA History Symposium and the separate proposal for a Plenary Event during the 2007 IAC.

The draft Proposal for the Programme Committee of the 41st IAA History Symposium in New Delhi 2007 is to be distributed with this Information Note No 4.

5. **History Session 2006 in Valencia, preparation**

Pending the information on abstracts, it would be good to hear who will be able to come to the IPC in Paris on March 22-23, 2006.
ATTACHMENT 1

RESULTS OF WORKING SHEET NO 2: TYPE OF CONCEPT

Part A: Session 1 “50th Anniversary”

1. Title of session:
   - 50th Anniversary of the Space Era, or
   - IGY, Sputnik and the Start of the Space Race,

   Note: It is important that the title is selected such that it can be clearly distinguished from the History Plenary (see B below).
   Thus the second alternative “IGY, Sputnik and the Start of the Space Race” for the session 1 preferred (?).

2. Detailed topics of session:
   - International Geophysical Year
   - Sputnik 1
   - The Space Race

3. Invited or Solicited Papers:
   - Invited papers (only if we can find sponsor. See below.)
   - Solicited papers (we scout for papers but must not pay)
   - Use Call for Papers

4. Type of Papers:
   - Political decision-making papers
   - Programme history
   - Self-biographical presentations

5. Possible Sponsors for ev. Cost:
   - IAC LOC, IAA or IAF

6. Which Pioneers from IGY, Sputnik 1, or Explorer/Vanguard Programmes are still alive?
   - Rechtin (RF), Georgiy Grechko (RF), B. Chertok (RF),
   - Ernst Stuhlinger (US, Explorer 1), James van Allen (US, Explorer 1 and IGY), John Glenn (US), Fred Durant (US)
   See also Note 2.

7. Length of Presentations:
   - Longer (ca 30 minutes) and 5-6 papers
8. Session Chairs:
   O IAA History Group: Fred Durant, Fred Ordway, an Agency Past- President,
   O RF Respresentative: Prof V.V. Glushkov (TBC)!!

9. Special (small) organising group?
   O Yes!!
   O Names: Prof. V.V. Glushkov (RF), Fred Ordway (US), Fred Durant (US), ??????

10. What Items have been overlooked above?
    O International cooperation in tracking satellites leading to involvement of many countries.

**Part B: History Plenary Session at IAC 2007**

1. Invite high-level speakers from that time? Names?
   O YES!!!!
   O Names: Sergey Khrushchev (RF), Roald Sagdeev (RF), Boris Chertok (RF)
     Susan Eisenhower (US), John D. Eisenhower (US), Fred Durant (US), Arthur C. Clark (Sri Lanka), Ernst Stuhlinger (US),
     Van Allen (US), R. Seamans (US), Asif Siddiqi (US)
     See also Note 2.

2. Individual presentations or “verbal history”
   O Presentations/lectures and Moderated verbal history event.
   O Moderator?

3. The topics (overlapping with Session 1)?
   O International Geophysical Year,
   O Sputnik 1,
   O The Space Race,
   O US Reactions to Sputnik 1,

4. How to differentiate Session 1 of History Symposium from Plenary Session?
   O This Plenary is more personal and political decision-making. Focusing Plenary more on Sputnik 1. Plenary could also emphasise many visual aids for the presentations.
   **Note:** To segregate from session 1, a title like “50th Anniversary of the Space Era” as should be preferred.
5. How many persons?
   O 3-5

6. Potential Chair Person(s)
   O High ranking Indian person, Ed Stone and Jim Zimmermann, Fred Durant, Karl Doetsch, Michel Collins

7. Sponsors for ev. Cost?
   O IAC LOC, or IAC Outreach Programme

8. Separate Organising Group
   O Yes!

9. Publication in Proceedings?
   O Yes

Part C: Additional Comments and Remarks (Quotations from WS responses)

1. Our Indian colleagues must understand that they have been very lucky and have to pay for the opportunity we are offering them. I would be happy to be in their position in Valencia. This is a plus to the New Delhi IAC if they know how to manage it. We should try in first instance to have them paying for both session and Plenary Event. As a minimum to pay for the Plenary Event.

2. I would suggest that the speakers be able to present at least the Soviet and U.S. views. Of course, priority would be to anyone who is still alive from that time. I do not know who is, and is able to travel, etc. But there are two family members who I know could present fascinating histories of that time: Susan Eisenhower (the President's granddaughter), and Sergei Khrushchev, both of whom are in Washington. In addition, Susan Eisenhower's husband is Roald Sagdeev, and even though he does not go all the way back to Sputnik, he was in the heart of the space science program for decades, and is a fascinating speaker. There are people who have studied and written a lot about the period and I think could add to the story. One is Asif Siddiqi. Fluent in Russian, he has been reading all of the recently declassified documents from the Soviet program, and has come up with a fascinating analysis of who was really racing whom. It is original research. He has written a two-volume study of this topic (Sputnik and the Soviet Space Challenge) in addition to articles. He might be able to come on his financial steam, perhaps not for a plenary presentation, but our history session.
3. I will mention some other people who could give an interesting Western perspective, I will still think about people in Russia (may visit a scientific friend in Novosibirsk next year), and here they are, but they are all very old, although I think they are still in good health:
- Sir Bernard Lovell, UK, who’s Jodrell Bank observatory revealed some first information about Sputnik; he will be 94 in 2007, but I recently saw him given an interview on television, so I think he could be a most interesting candidate
- Brig. Gen. John S D Eisenhower, son of President Eisenhower and his assistant at the White House at the time of Sputnik; he is still active and publishing
- Robert Seamans, former NASA top official who was involved in the space programme in 1957
- James Van Allen, who will be 93 in 2007, but who would be a most interesting personality to have at the IAC

As you see I am thinking of people beyond the strict "space community" who could give interesting comments with respect to Sputnik; you could talk to former intelligence officials, policymakers, as well as aerospace people. I am sure Marsha Freeman mentioned, of course, Roald Sagdeev and his wife, a granddaughter of Eisenhower. I don't know if she mentioned the son of Nikita Khrushchev, who now lives in the USA and who was a rocket engineer at the time.

4. BTW, while I'm all in favour of the Plenary, another idea has occurred to me that might be an interesting alternative (if funding becomes a major problem) and one that could easily be offered as an Outreach event. We have here an occasional series of TV debates referred to as “Hypotheticals”, where a moderator (a very witty, incisive and savvy Queens Counsel) presents a string of rapid fire scenarios on a particular topic to a panel of experts in subjects relevant to the topic, requiring them to provide comment on a particular hypothetical situation. He then leads the discussion/debate in various ways be throwing in additional hypothetical situations that stem from previous comments. These shows are extremely interesting and intellectually stimulating. If a panel of IAF/IAA experts could be put together with a suitable experienced moderator of the right calibre to discuss/debate a “hypothetical” scenario from space history (e.g.: what if the US had launched the first satellite-how would the Space Race have been different? Would it have occurred?) the result could be both entertaining and educative and much less expensive than a plenary (if only the moderator had to be brought in if there wasn’t anyone suitable locally)