Activities of the IAF
Administrative Committee on
Space and Society

Presentation to 51st COPUOS
Vienna
16 June 2008

Marc Heppener
Chair IAF Space and Society Committee

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION
Connecting Space People
Contents

• Introduction IAF and Space and Society Committee

• IAF Space and Society Committee members

• Priorities for 2008

• Activities in 2008

• Outlook to future activities

• Conclusions and next steps
The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) is an international non-governmental and non-profit organisation. The Federation was founded in London in the framework of the Second International Astronautical Congress (IAC). The IAF founding Agreement was signed on 4 September 1951 by Argentina, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden Switzerland and the UK.

The Federation encourages the advancement of knowledge about space and the development and application of space assets for the benefit of humanity. It plays an important role in disseminating information, and in providing a significant worldwide network of experts in the development and utilisation of space.

The IAF Administrative Committee on Space and Society was established on 19 March 2007 and its first meeting took place in Hyderabad, on 26 September 2007.

The Committee gave a brief presentation at COPUOS last Thursday.
The Mission statement of the IAF Administrative Committee on Space and Society is:

To advise the IAF on desirable activities that will:

- increase the understanding and appreciation of the benefits and importance of space activities for the general Earth population
- enable an open, bi-directional dialogue between the general public, decision makers and actors in the space domain
- enlist the involvement of the IAF member societies as active partners in the above endeavors, being particularly well placed to bring the various stakeholders together
- enlarge the number of professional member societies of IAF
- increase the presence of IAF through member societies in emerging space countries and in geographical areas currently poorly covered by IAF
Marc Heppener
President Netherlands Society for Aerospace (NVR)
Head Science and Applications Division
European Space Agency
SandS Members

• CHAIR
  • Marc Heppener (NL)

• SECRETARY
  • Thomas Bouvet (F)

• MEMBERS
  • Bijal Thakore (IND)
  • Clayton Mowry (USA)
  • David Raitt (UK)
  • Jan Cees Venema (NL)
  • Jean-Daniel Dessimoz (CH)
  • Jim Volp (CH)
  • Kerrie Dougherty (AUS)
  • Lyn Wibgels (USA)
  • Paivi Jukola (FIN)
  • Pedro Russo (P)
  • Sergio Camacho (MEX)
  • Sias Mostert (SA)
  • Werner R. Balogh (A)
General workplan

In general, the Space and Society Committee sees the following categories of activities:

• Information gathering

• Reaching out and connecting people

• Supporting innovative space applications

• Communicating

• Raising support
For 2008 two priorities have been defined.

The first priority is to improve communication lines between our committee and the other IAF Member Societies. We will do this by:

- Present ourselves in a letter to the IAF Member Societies, and ask for feedback through a simple questionnaire on what they expect from us and whether they are willing to contribute to our activities.
- Ask the IAF bureau to help increase the communication between the Federation and its Member Societies, through:
  - A regular item on the main page of the IAF website, where different Member Societies can introduce themselves (‘Meet our Societies’)
  - A dedicated area on the IAF website dedicated to the Member Societies, which can be used as discussion forum, directory of expertises and interests, etc.
Priorities and workplan for 2008

Our next priority is to help new Member Societies to be set up, in particular in areas where the IAF is underrepresented or where space assets can bring significant assets to society as a whole. Here we want to follow the following approach:

- Obtain from the IAF secretariat a demographic overview of current Member Societies
- Analyse this list and select key regions/countries of importance. Develop through our own Committee members and with the help of other on-going activities (IAA Space and Society committee, CLIODN, Education, Young Professionals, UNOOSA) a directory of people active in that area and define an approach to get them coordinated and set up a local Society.
- Offer advice and support to new Societies, either with the help of existing IAF Member Societies (‘adopt a region/country’), or through special IAF facilities.
- Present our Committee at the June 2008 COPUOS meeting.
- Organise a dedicated session at the IAC for the participants in the preceding UN-IAF workshop. Objectives of this would be to allow those participants to consider organisation in their own country, meeting existing IAF Member Societies, and thus facilitate a permanent follow-up to the workshops. A date for this session will be advertised on the IAC Website.
Activities for 2008

- Increase membership of our Committee, to improve representation and geo distribution.

- Questionnaire to IAF Professional Society, asking for information and support.

- Coordination with relevant other bodies (IAF CLIODN, Education Committee and SGAC, IAA Space and Society, UNOOSA, etc.)

- Presentation to COPUOS

- Special session and panel presentation at IAC Glasgow

- Defining action plan for next years
Outlook to future activities

Following the general outline of our activities, a series of ideas has been developed for future activities. These include:

**Reaching out and connecting people**
- Supporting/promoting local activities related to space, astronomy, climate, etc.
- Bridging the last-mile gap. Connecting remote areas/villages to space infrastructures available in the neighbourhood.
- Empowering people by local education or discussion groups using space tools.

**Supporting innovative space applications**
- Use IAF member societies to start a global web-based think-tank for developing such innovative ideas. Set up annual prize for best idea.
- Set up a system of micro-credits, funded by IAF members, to support local business based on or using space assets.
- Making available simple and cheap tools to provide remote areas with relevant space information for education or development.

**Raising support**
- Approach IAF member societies, Space Industries and Space Agencies for funding or in-house support for SandS activities.

None of these ideas have been approved or adopted, nor is the list complete. Support from the IAF Member Societies is the distinguishing factor and key to success.
Conclusions and next steps

• The International Astronautical Federation established in 2008 an Administrative Committee on Space and Society

• Key objective is to enlist the support of the IAF Member Societies to help increase the awareness and benefits of space activities

• This first year of activities is focused on information gathering and communication with potential shareholders

• Taking the view that all interests or needs are best recognised at local level, the Committee also intends to stimulate further organisation of space activities by facilitating individuals or institutions to set up new IAF societies

• Activities for future years will be developed in bi-directional dialogue with interested parties

• You are all invited to participate to this dialogue, either directly, or at the IAC in Glasgow.