



Speaker Biographies

World Space Forum December 2020

WELCOMING AND HOUSEKEEPING

Mr. Markus Woltran - Programme Officer, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

KEYNOTES AND SETTING THE SCENE: "SPACE FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE"



Mr. Eng. Mohammed Nasser Al Ahabbi - Director General, United Arab Emirates Space Agency

Dr. Al Ahabbi is the Director General of the UAE Space Agency and played a key role in its establishment. He leads the Space Agency team managing ambitious projects in the national space sector such as scientific and educational satellite projects in collaboration with various stakeholders. Dr. Al Ahabbi played a key role in the establishment of the National Space Science and Technology Center at the UAE University. In addition he is a board member to numerous national, regional and international entities as well as serving on other national committees. Dr. Al Ahabbi led the establishment of the Arab Space Cooperation Group which was formed in the UAE in 2019 and includes 14 Arab countries. Internationally, he serves as the Vice President for Global Membership Development of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia in Jordan affiliated to the United Nations. Dr. Al Ahabbi holds a PhD in Communications Engineering and a Master's degree in Optical Communications, University of Southampton, UK. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering from University of California, USA.



Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo - Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

After graduating from Astrophysics and Space Physics from the University "La Sapienza" in Rome, Italy in 1984, Ms. Di Pippo joined the Italian Space Agency (ASI) in 1986. Her responsibilities ranged from earth observation to automation & robotics, science and human spaceflight and in 2002 she took up duty as Director of the ASI's Observation of the Universe. From 2008 to 2011, she served as Director of Human Spaceflight at the European Space Agency (ESA), before returning to ASI to lead the European Space Policy Observatory at ASI-Brussels until March 2014, when she was appointed Director of UNOOSA.



SESSION ONE: "SPACE FOR HUMANITY"

Mr. Jorge Del Rio Vera - Scientific Affairs Officer, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Ms. Veronika Vashchenko - Deputy Representative, UNICEF Kazakhstan

Veronica Vashchenko is a Deputy Representative at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in the Republic of Kazakhstan and leads the development and management of UNICEF programmes in the country. Previously, she headed the UNICEF Communications in Kyrgyzstan being in charge of developing the organization's information strategy, attracting resources and partners, and conducting information campaigns. In addition, she acted as Head of UNICEF Area Office in Osh to facilitate the

implementation of organization's programs in the southern regions of Kyrgyzstan and cooperation with local authorities, public organizations and international partners. From 2013 to 2015, Veronika Vashchenko also worked with UNICEF in Rwanda, Azerbaijan and its headquarters in New York in the framework of certain projects, including the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly.



Mr. Alex Wong - Senior Strategy Advisor and Lead, Giga Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

In Alex role as Senior Strategy Advisor to the Director of the Telecommunications Development Bureau at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs), he is also co-leading Giga, a joint project between ITU and UNICEF to connect every school to the internet, and every young person to information, opportunity, and choice.

Prior to joining the ITU, Alex has worked in both the private and not-for-profit sectors. From 2018-2019, he served as President of CG/LA Infrastructure. From 2000 to 2018, Alex was a member of the Executive Committee at the World Economic Forum, an international organization for public private cooperation with a mission to improve the state of the world.



Mr. Davide Petrillo - Executive Director, Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC)

Davide has a M.Sc. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Padova (Italy). His professional experience brought him to London (UK) as a Business Manager for Alten Ltd and previously in Milano (Italy) as a Business Analyst for Accenture, global management consulting company that provides strategy, consulting, technology and operations services. Previously, he was the Team Leader of FELDs Experiment selected by the European Space Agency (ESA) for the Drop Your Thesis! 2014 programme. FELDs tested a tethered

electromagnetic soft docking technology in microgravity conditions at the Drop Tower of the Centre of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity (ZARM) in Bremen, Germany. Davide joined SGAC in 2016 and has been appointed as part of the 3rd E-SGW organizing team, the SGC 2018 organizing team specifically focused on the organization and management of the Special Track "Bridging the Space Divide" Working Group, Space Generation Congress 2019 Deputy Manager (Washington D.C., USA) and Space Generation Congress 2020 Manager (Dubai, UAE).



Mr. Hamed Munther Odeh - Vice President, Strategic Global Business Development Yahsat

"Connectivity, an enabler of Development"

Hamed Odeh is the VP in the Global Strategic Business Development team at Al Yah Satellite Communications Company, Yahsat, the UAE based Satellite Communications Company. Yahsat provides multipurpose satellite solutions (government and commercial) for broadband, broadcast, and communications use across the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Central and South West Asia. In his current role, Hamed oversees the Global Business Development activities across Yahsat coverage in Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Brazil. Hamed works on developing complete eco-systems to expand Yahsat's reach into the different markets within our footprint and increase revenues in the government and enterprise domains such as such as energy, health, education, and connecting communities. Hamed works very closely with governments and humanitarian organizations to support their emergency response efforts in addition to their community development engagements.



Ms. Zainab Azim - Co-Founder of G.I.V.E and Youngest Member of Virgin Galactic's Future Astronaut Program

Zainab Azim, currently a university student, is an inspirational speaker and mentor who is dedicated to empowering young women to pursue STEM fields and space exploration. As an activist, Zainab passionately advocates for equal access to education for girls and women around the world. She is the Co-Founder of G.I.V.E. (Global Initiative and Vision for Education), which aims to provide access to quality education, especially in STEM, in addition to innovating a holistic 21st century educational model based on neuroscience, psychology, and learning science research to foster the creativity, curiosity, character, and innovation needed for solving the issues facing our world, instead of conformity. Zainab is also the world's youngest Future Astronaut to fly with Virgin Galactic, allowing her to fulfill her dream of exploring space while inspiring young women to fulfill their own. Zainab uses her platform to inspire and mobilize the global community

SESSION TWO: "SPACE FOR THE PLANET"

Ms. Nathalie Ricard - Programme Officer, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Ms. Fatima Al Shamsi - Acting Head of Space Regulations and Policy Section -United Arab Emirates Space Agency

"UAE Efforts towards Space and Sustainability"

Fatima creates policies and strategies that shape the path towards reaching our dreams in outer space, and works to implement them in a way to ensure that we walk on this path with determination and courage, looking forward to our bright future. She is interested in developing the space sector's role in supporting the UAE's knowledge based economy. At the UAE Space Agency, she heads the Space Regulations and Policy section, and contributes to the Space 2030 Agenda of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in order to achieve the accessibility and sustainability of the space environment and economy.



Mr. Simon Jackman - Senior Innovation Fellow, University of Oxford

“AI for Planetary Stewardship”

Dr Simon Jackman is a Senior Innovation Fellow at the University of Oxford and a member of the Regional Growth Team at the Satellite Applications Catapult in Harwell, UK. Simon works across the University developing partnerships, initiatives and projects with the space and environmental sectors. He has recently led the establishment of the ESA_LAB@Oxford, a bilateral partnership initially focussed on collaborating in Artificial Intelligence, Photonics, Business Innovation and Quantum Computing. Simon has a background in biotechnology, developing solutions for pharmaceutical and environmental applications. He has led the development of three spin-out companies, has run a national network of environmental businesses and researchers developing new innovations and has worked in government as the Head of Innovation for the UK's environmental science funding organisation. Whilst in government, he led on partnerships developing climate services for the UK and saw the emerging opportunities around space and environmental data coupled to complex modelling for a range of applications. He moved back to Oxford six years ago to lead on this area and has been developing new programmes, especially focussing on AI for space.



Mr. James Parr - Founder & CEO, Trillium Technologies, Founder, Frontier Development Lab (FDL)

James is Founder and CEO of Trillium Technologies - a specialist technology consultancy focused on tackling grand challenges, such as Obesity, Planetary Defense (Asteroids, Comets), Space Situational Awareness (SSA), Lunar Exploration, Sustainability, Climate Change, Disaster response and Bushfires. James is also Founder of FDL Europe in partnership with ESA and the University of Oxford and FDL US in partnership with NASA and the SETI Institute. FDL has successfully demonstrated that structured interdisciplinary problem solving, sprint methodologies, radical collaboration methods and partnering with commercial organisations is a powerful amplifier in applying AI to the science and technology goals of space agencies. In 2020, an FDL was established in Australia with the Australian space agency tackling bushfires. Over the past five years, FDL has created ML workflows for comet detection, mapping the Moon's resources, flood prediction, post-disaster damage assessment from space, super-resolution of the Sun's magnetic field, asteroid shape modeling and co-operative robotics.



Mr. Christian Briese - Managing Director, Earth Observation Data Centre for Water Resources Monitoring

“EODC Earth Observation Data Centre”

Christian Briese received his diploma (2000) and Ph.D. (2004) both with honours at the Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien), Austria with a focus on geometric modelling based on laser scanning. In 2011 he successfully completed a university course at TU Wien on the topic of Executive Management for Engineers. He was working in many projects funded by the Austrian Science Fund and is winner of the Ressel Prize of TU Wien (2005). From 2001 till 2016 he was researcher at TU Wien. In 2003 he was a visiting scientist at the TU Delft, The Netherlands. From 2004 to 2010 he collaborated in the Christian Doppler Laboratory “Spatial Data from Laser Scanning and



Remote Sensing". From 2010 to 2014 he was additionally employed by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection & Virtual Archaeology, Austria. Since 2014 he is managing director of the newly founded EODC Earth Observation Data Centre for Water Resources Monitoring GmbH, Austria.



Mr. Frederic Bretar - DNO/DA - Space Climate Observatory, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)

Frédéric Bretar is chief engineer for bridges, water and forests and head of the Space Climate Observatory project for the Center National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES). He was an algorithm researcher at the Institute for Geographic and Forestry Information (IGN) for several years and then joined the French Consulate General in Shanghai and Hong Kong as a diplomat.

SIDE EVENT: "THE FUTURE OF SPACE EXPLORATION"

Mr. Niklas Hedman - Chief, Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Mr. Omran Sharaf - Project Director of the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM), Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)

Omran and his team are responsible for developing, launching, and operating the Hope Probe, the spacecraft of the mission. Omran has worked on the project from its initial conception and developed all the necessary capabilities and partnerships at MBRSC, effectively transitioning the organisation from one that focused on earth observation satellites to one that develops interplanetary exploration missions. An experienced electronics and systems engineer, who trained in the US and Korea, Omran was responsible for developing and implementing the Command & Data Handling Subsystem (C&DH) for the DubaiSat-1 high resolution LEO imaging satellite. Prior to EMM, Omran was Director of the Programs Management Department at MBRSC, which was responsible for defining new strategic programs, the project management office and the product and mission assurance functionalities of the Centre. Omran earned his Master's in Science and Technology Policy from the Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), South Korea, in 2013.



Mr. Michael Gold - Acting Associate Administrator for the Office of International and Interagency Relations, NASA

Prior to joining NASA, Mr. Gold was the Vice President of Civil Space at MAXAR Technologies, and was also General Counsel for the company's Radiant Solutions Business Unit. Additionally, Mr. Gold spent 13 years at Bigelow Aerospace where he established the company's Washington office, oversaw the launches of its Genesis 1 and 2 spacecraft, and received a team award from NASA for his contributions to the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module. Mr. Gold has been appointed to and held leadership positions on a wide variety of Boards and Federal Advisory Committees. In 2012, Mr. Gold was appointed Chair of



the COMSTAC as a whole and he continued to serve as Chair until he joined NASA in 2019. Moreover, in 2018, Mr. Gold was appointed to the NASA Advisory Council ("NAC") by Administrator Jim Bridenstine. Mr. Gold served as the first Chair of the NAC's Regulatory and Policy Committee until joining NASA in the following year.



Ms. Pascale Ehrenfreund - President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and Research Professor, Space Policy Institute, Elliott School of International Affairs George Washington University

"The future of space exploration -an international endeavour"

Next to being a Research Professor of Space Policy and International Affairs, Pascale Ehrenfreund is also the President of the International Astronautical Federation IAF and Chancellor of the International Space University ISU. For over three decades she contributed as Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator and Teamleader to ESA and NASA astronomy and planetary missions as well as experiments in low Earth orbit and on the International Space Station. Pascale Ehrenfreund was the Chair of the Executive Board of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) between 2015-2020 and the President of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) from 2013-2015. Pascale Ehrenfreund holds a Master's degree in Molecular Biology, a Ph.D. in Astrophysics, and a Master degree in Management & Leadership. The asteroid "9826 Ehrenfreund 2114 T-3" bears her name.



Mr. Christian Lange - Head (acting), Exploration Strategic Planning, Space Exploration Canadian Space Agency (CSA)

"Canada's Space Exploration Activities"

Dr. Christian Lange is the Head of the Space Exploration Strategic Planning group of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), which is responsible for planning Canada's participation in future national and international space exploration missions. This includes directing the development of science, technology, and mission roadmaps; pre-mission advanced concept studies; providing leadership within CSA to the conceptualization and enablement of commercialization related to space exploration; and directing coordinated global exercises with international partners. Dr. Lange is a CSA representative to the International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG), a voluntary, non-binding coordination forum, presently composed of 25 space agencies. With the transition of the ISECG Chair to the CSA in Sep 2020, he currently leads the ISECG activities. He is also the co-chair of ISECG's Technology Working Group. Christian Lange has been with the Canadian Space Agency since 2001, where he started his career as a post-doctoral fellow and subsequently worked for several years as Robotics Researcher in multibody system dynamics before shifting his focus to strategic planning activities. Christian Lange has master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Rostock, Germany and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Technology, Graz, Austria.



Ms. Athena Coustenis - Director of Research, CNRS, France, Chair, COSPAR Panel on Planetary protection

"Planetary protection: coordination in international efforts"

Dr Athena Coustenis is Director of Research with the French Center for Scientific Research at Paris Observatory, specializing in Astrophysics and Planetology. She contributes to the development of space missions and analyzes the acquired data to investigate the atmospheres and surfaces of planets, satellites and exoplanets. She is currently the Chair of the European Space Agency's Human Exploration and Science Advisory Committee (ESA-HESAC), of the COSPAR Panel on Planetary Protection and of the Science evaluation committee of the French National Center for Space Studies (CNES-CERES). She is also a member of several other international advisory bodies of ESA and NASA. Her production record includes about 230 scientific papers and 600 presentations.



Mr. Ken Hodgkins - President, International Space Enterprise

Throughout his 40 years in government service, Mr. Hodgkins has been a driving force for multilateral and bilateral initiatives focused on improving transparency, predictability, interoperability, resiliency and the safe and responsible use of space. Mr. Hodgkins worked in the National Environmental Satellite and Data Service's International Relations Office (1980-1986) and the Department of State's Office for Space and Advanced Technology, where he was Director from 2007-2020. During his tenure in State, he was the United States Representative to the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. He was a key figure in the development of U.S. national space policies and directives and diplomatic initiatives to sustain the use of the International Space Station and move human activity from low Earth orbit to the Moon through the Gateway and Artemis programs.



Mr. Peter Martinez – Executive Director, Secure World Foundation

"High Road or Load Road: Where are we headed in the space arena?"

Dr Peter Martinez is the Executive Director of the Secure World Foundation. He has extensive experience in multilateral space diplomacy, space policy formulation and space regulation. He also has extensive experience in capacity building in space science and technology and in workforce development. Prior to joining SWF, from 2011 - 2018 he chaired the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities that negotiated a set of international consensus guidelines to promote the safety and sustainability of space operations. In 2012 and 2013 he was South Africa's representative on the United Nations Group of Government Experts on transparency and confidence-building measures for space activities. From 2010 - 2015 he was the Chairman of the South African Council for Space Affairs, the national regulatory authority for space activities in South Africa.

SPECIAL EVENT: "ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NEW ROUND OF KIBOCUBE"



Ms. Hazuki Mori - Expert, Space Applications Section, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Mr. Takeshi Hikihara - Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna

Mr. Takeshi Hikihara joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in 1982. In his career, he held posts of Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, Assistant Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat, Ambassador, Director-General, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Lao PDR and has his current post since 2019.

Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo - Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Mr. Koichi Wakata- Special Advisor to Director General, Astronaut, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

Dr. Koichi Wakata received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from Kyushu University. Selected as an astronaut candidate in 1992, from 1992 to 2016 he worked at NASA Astronaut Office and served in duties including Chief of Space Station Operations Branch, instructor astronaut for robotics, EVA and CapCom. He served as Chief of JAXA Astronaut Group (2010-2012), JAXA ISS Program Manager (2016-2018), JAXA Vice President for Human Spaceflight and Exploration (2018-2020), and is currently serving as JAXA Senior Advisor and Astronaut. He flew in space four times on Space Shuttle, Soyuz, and ISS and served as a crewmember of STS-72, STS-92, STS-119, STS-127, ISS-18/19/20, ISS-38/39, Soyuz TMA-14, and TMA-11M. He served as the first Japanese ISS Commander in 2014 and accumulated 347 days in space. He is assigned on an ISS Expedition scheduled for launch in 2022.

SESSION THREE: "SPACE FOR ECONOMY"

Ms. Veronica Cesco - Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Mr. Naser Al Rashedi - Director of National Space Policy and Regulation, United Arab Emirates Space Agency

Naser Al Rashedi started his professional career as a Telecom Planning Engineer at the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRA). He soon became responsible for development and coordination of national, regional and international policies regulating information communication technology. Between 2007-2012, He was appointed as the UAE official representative in Geneva at the UN Organization, so called the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), during which he held several key leadership positions at a number of regional and international committees dealing with crucial matters relating to international ICT



policies. In 2012, he joined the National Electronic Security Authority as a Manager where he addressed several strategy and regulatory cybersecurity issues at the National Policy & Planning Department, later promoted to Sr. Manager. In May-2015, he was appointed as the Director of National Space Policy and Regulation at the UAE Space Agency. His current role includes developing and maintaining national policy, strategy and regulations for the UAE space sector. In February 2017, he graduated from the UAE-PMO Program for Chief of Happiness & Positivity focusing on UAE Federal Entities. In March 2018, in addition to his role policy and regulations, he was assigned to oversee the Space Education Program. In October 2019 he was assigned as Director of UAE NewSpace Program.

Ms. Elodie Robin - Head of Gothams-Hub71 defence and aerospace accelerator program



Passionate about Industry, Elodie supported the business development of industry leaders for 15 years, mainly in Africa and Middle East. For 9 years, she covered several positions, from handling industrial partnerships for the Africa region, based in Morocco to head of partnerships and innovation for Middle East region, in Dubai. She joined the Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit, a joint initiative by the United Arab Emirates Government and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) about the future of industry, as director for partnerships. She joined Starburst in 2019 to support the Abu Dhabi accelerator program. She owns a Master of Management from ESCP Europe business school in Paris and a Master of Business Administration from UCM in Madrid.

Mr. Luca del Monte - Head of Industrial Policy and SME Division, European Space Agency (ESA)



Mr. del Monte is currently responsible for the ESA Space Economy Pole of Competences focussing on the development of Innovation Policy, the new Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) concepts, and the socio-economic-environmental impact assessment. He has a proven track record of years of highly intense and successful strategy development and policy coordination experience in international and institutional context which resulted in launching new initiatives and programmes valued some hundreds millions euro. He also has several years of extensive experience in conception and project management of innovative high-tech security space systems for peaceful purposes.

Ms. Jenni Tapio - Chief Specialist, Space Law, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland



Jenni Tapio holds the position of a Chief Specialist with a special focus in Space Law, representing the Finnish Government at the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) in all its Committees, and acting as the Head of Delegation for the Legal Subcommittee. Ms. Tapio is the Finnish delegate for the European Space Agency (ESA) International Relations Committee. Prior to joining the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, Ms. Tapio was employed for 15 years in the private sector specialising in Technology, Telecommunications, Satellites and Space law, most recently as an attorney-at-law at Bird & Bird Attorneys, and previously as an In-house Legal Counsel for Airbus Defence and Space, and Nokia Corporation.



SESSION FOUR: "SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN SPACE"

Mr. Ian Freeman - Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Mr. Fahad Al Mheiri - Acting Executive Director - Space Sector, United Arab Emirates Space Agency

Fahad Al Mheiri is the Acting Executive Director of the Space Sector at the UAESA and oversees the UAESA contribution to overall space sector growth. Fahad drives the Agency's strategic objectives with regards to Space Missions and Policy through local and international collaboration and partnerships, focusing on the core pillars of industry growth and academia development with over 30 projects funded by the UAESA currently being coordinated to drive sustainable growth in the sector. This includes high level oversight of matters related to the Emirates Mars Mission, which will see the Hope Probe orbiter launch to Mars in 2020 and the Arab Space Cooperation Group's 813 Hyperspectral Satellite in 2024. As Acting Executive Director for the Policy and Regulations department, Fahad supervises the ongoing development of policy and regulations for the national space sector, as well as coordinating with international bodies and agencies. He chairs both internal and external committees, most notably the 2030 UAE Space Sector Strategy and several international coordination groups. Before joining the UAE Space Agency, Fahad was the Executive Director of Business Development at the Emirates Defense Industries Company (EDIC), a holding of 16 local defense companies, where he chaired various Boards and was a member of the Board of Directors of several subsidiaries. During his time at EDIC he oversaw other elements of the holding, becoming the Acting CEO of Bayanat LLC, Acting CEO of EDIC Technical Services, and Director of NIMR's Projects, Sales and Marketing Division.



Mr. Moriba Jah - Associate Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics, University of Texas at Austin

"Enabling Queries and Assessments of UN Anthropogenic Space Object Registration with ASTRIAGraph"

Moriba Jah is the director for Computational Astronautical Sciences and Technologies (CAST), a group within the Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin. He is also the Lead for the Space Security and Safety Program at the Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law. Moriba came to UT Austin by way of the Air Force Research Laboratory and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory prior to that, where he was a Spacecraft Navigator on a handful of Mars missions. Moriba is a Fellow of multiple organizations and has served on the US delegation to the United Nations Committee On Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS), is an elected Academician of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), and has testified to congress on his work as related to Space Situational Awareness and Space Traffic Management.



Mr. Arfan Chaudhry - Head of International Policy, UK Space Agency

On joining the Civil Service as a trainee Accountant and undertaking a range of finance appointments he qualified as a Management Accountant. Following a number of operational and policy roles in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) he joined UK Trade & Investment in August 2008 as Assistant Director Support to Business and was responsible for delivering the strategy of industry engagement to ensure focused UK Government support for exports. In July 2013 he joined the Regional Directorate with specific responsibility for building and developing export opportunities in the Americas. In September 2016 Arfan led a team that delivered policy, operational, personnel, logistics, and governance support to the MoD's overseas Operating Bases. In May 2018 he joined the UK Space Agency as the Head of International Policy, responsible for developing the Agency's policy for international interventions and establishing effective relationships across Whitehall and strategically prioritising our international engagements both in Europe and globally according to the benefits to the UK. He also leads a team that conceived and delivers HMG's export strategy for space whilst ensuring space interests are adequately captured in wider Government bilateral relationships and trade agreements in a post EU exit context.



Mr. David Draper - Deputy Chief Scientist, NASA

"Lunar Sustainability"

In this role, Dr. Draper represents the agency's strategic science objectives and contributions to the national and international science communities. He also serves as an advisor to the NASA Administrator and other senior officials on agency science programs, strategic planning, science policy, and the evaluation of related investments. His expertise helps NASA plan to develop a sustainable presence on the Moon and take what is learned to send astronauts to Mars. He most recently served as the manager of the Astromaterials Research Office, part of the Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science directorate at the NASA Johnson Space Center. In this role, Draper led a team of planetary scientists specializing in the study of samples from other worlds to determine how the solar system formed and evolved to its present state. Draper graduated from Humboldt State University in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in geology. In 1991, he earned a Ph.D. in geological sciences from the University of Oregon.



Mr. Yao Jianting - Deputy Director General of Department of International Cooperation, China National Space Administration (CNSA)

Yao Jianting, Deputy Director General of China National Space Administration (CNSA) International Cooperation Department, was born in 1964, graduated from Harbin Institute of Technology with Bachelor and Master's degrees. He started his career as engineer in China Academy of Space Technology (CAST), responsible for the Quality & Reliability Assurance of space components in 1990. In 1996, he started serving as PA Engineer of Sino-1 satellite, then Vice General Manager in Satellite company of CASIC. In 2005, he served as Deputy Division Director of CNSA International Cooperation Division, then promoted as Vice General Manager in Beijing Institute of Spacecraft Environment Engineering in 2008, Deputy Director General of AIT Center of CNSA in 2017. He was appointed as Deputy Director General of CNSA International Cooperation Department in September 2020.



Mr. Jonathan Hung - Executive Chairman of Singapore Space and Technology Limited (SSTL)

Mr. Hung is Executive Chairman of Singapore Space and Technology Limited (SSTL), Singapore's lead, industry organisation focused on developing the space technology industry. SSTL was previously Singapore Space and Technology Association (SSTA, estd. 2007), which he served as Founder and President. His international work experience includes management roles with the Rheinmetall-Contraves Group, CAE Inc., ST Engineering Electronics and Flex, where he's credited for establishing and leading their successful Advanced Innovation Centre in Asia. Earlier in his career, Mr. Hung was in government service as Centre Director for Middle East & North Africa Operations at the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB). Whilst at HQ EDB, he handled portfolios in aerospace, marine/offshore and super yacht sectors. In particular, he led the development of the space incubator unit that is presently EDB's space office. Jonathan graduated Magna Cum Laude from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, double majoring in Aerospace Science and Aviation Business Administration.

CLOSING SESSION

Mr. Markus Woltran - Programme Officer United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Mr. Christian Weissenburger - General Director, Federal Ministry Republic of Austria, Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

Mr. Weissenburger entered the federal service in 1987. His career at the Federal Chancellery took him through the human resources and legal departments to the position of office manager of the State Secretary for the public service. Weissenburger then worked from 1995 to 1997 as office manager of the Federal Minister of the Interior and from 1997 to 1999 of the Federal Minister of Science and Transport. From 2003-2020 he was Head of Section I / Coordination in the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT). Since 2020, he is Head of Section I / Coordination and interim head of Section III "Innovation and Technology" in the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK).

Mr. Mohammed Al Ahabbi - Director General, United Arab Emirates Space Agency

Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo - Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)