

September 19, 2008

Advisory Committee Briefed on SWF Near-Term, Far-Term Strategy

By Leonard David

The Secure World Foundation held its first meeting of a newly appointed Advisory Committee Meeting, September 8-9.

A full day-and-a-half of staff presentations were given, engaging the advice and assistance of the Advisory Committee in shaping both a short-term and long-term Foundation agenda.



Consultant Dr. Stan Riveles and SWF President Cynda Collins Arsenault during the Advisory Committee meeting. Source: SWF.

Discussions centered on a SWF strategic plan, as well as delving into current and future planned activities, both in the United States and abroad, including communications planning and media outreach.

The Advisory Committee attendees were: **Lori Garver**, The Avascent Group; **Dr. Joan Johnson-Freese**, United States Naval War College; **Dr. John M. Logsdon**, Lindbergh Chair in Aerospace History, National Air and Space Museum; **Dr. Cherilynn Morrow**, Georgia State University; **Dr. Stanley Riveles**, Consultant; **Marcia Smith**, Space

Studies Board, National Research Council; **Richard Tremayne-Smith**, Consultant; **George Whitesides**, National Space Society and **Rachel Yates**, Holland & Hart. **Richard Dalbello** of Intelsat took part by phone.

The remaining Advisory Committee members, **Gerard Brachet**, Aerospace Consultant and **Dr. Patricia Lewis**, Monterey Institute of International Studies, were not able to attend, but are being briefed regarding the meeting and will share their views on the direction and scope of SWF activities.

“The Foundation is off to a very positive start and is already having a global impact. Now it is time to take a step back, understand strengths and weaknesses, and set priorities for the next several years,” noted John Logsdon.

“The agenda of the Secure World Foundation is very much aligned with the next steps towards space security. The Foundation needs to maintain its focus as it increases its already substantial global impact,” Logsdon advised.



Dr. Cherilynn Morrow of Georgia State University and Dr. Joan Johnson-Freese of the U.S. Naval War College discuss the Foundation's vision and strategy. Source: SWF.

News Bits

Secure World Foundation Consultants **Brian Weeden** and **Ben Baseley-Walker** participated in the "Cornell Workshop on Space Security", August 19-20. This event, organized by the Cornell Peace Studies Program and the MIT Technology and Security Group, brought together several leading technical and policy researchers in the space security field. Brian Weeden made presentations on [space situational awareness](#) and the [vulnerabilities in US space power](#) while Ben Baseley-Walker made a presentation on current international space security initiatives. Other participants discussed the January 2007 Chinese anti-satellite test and the February 2008 US interception of USA 193.

* * *

Another [fact sheet](#) has been published by the Secure World Foundation. It answers questions about the [Conference on Disarmament](#).

* * *

SWF will be sponsoring two [World Space Week](#) events at the [University of Colorado Boulder Fiske Planetarium](#) on October 10 and 11. The evening of October 10 will feature a talk by Dr. Dan Baker, Director of the [Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics \(LASP\)](#) and Dr. Cherilynn Morrow, an astrophysicist who will follow Dan's talk with an AstroJazz performance. The morning of October 11 will consist of talks on near Earth objects and asteroid impacts with **Dr. Dan Durda** (Southwest Research Institute), **Dr. Suzanne Metlay** (SWF Operations Director) and **Phil Smith** (SWF Communications Director).



SWF Attends Latin America Space Policy Review

By Leonard David

The Secure World Foundation (SWF) has begun a dialog with the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC)—an important step in efforts to harmonize space policies throughout Latin America.

A number of substantive topics were addressed by attendees that took part in an August 28-29 conference, held in Mexico City, Mexico, convened by Sergio Camacho, Secretary General of CRECTEALC and Jesus Gonzales, Academic Coordinator of CRECTEALC, Mexico. CRECTEALC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and the National Institute for Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics (INAOE) organized the event.

The conference included representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama, Peru, Venezuela, Nigeria and Morocco, as well as the European Space Agency, Brazil's National Institute for Space Research, and the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The meeting laid the diplomatic and procedural elements required to effect progress in the Latin American political environment. A range of discussions took place, including a briefing by Satmex, a leader in providing satellite services to Latin America, and discussions regarding the establishment of La Agencia Espacial Mexicana (AEXA), the Mexican Space Agency.

Important step

“The CRECTEALC conference was an important step in bringing the Latin American space community together to share information and approaches to space education and the development of space capabilities,” said Dr. Ray Williamson, Executive Director of the Secure World Foundation. “This conference helped to close the wide gap of technological capabilities between countries with small or emerging space programs and the established ones.”

Both SWF's Williamson and Ben Baseley-Walker took part in the event, delivering viewpoints on the sustainable use of outer space and space policy development.

Williamson noted that the CRECTEALC gathering served to spotlight a key fact: The growth in the number of countries—both large and small—that are now launching or planning to loft their own satellites.

“That being the case, as useful orbits around Earth become more crowded and space debris proliferates,” Williamson explained, “emerging space states will have to join the international community in contributing to a global effort to maintain the long term sustainability of space activities.”

Williamson explained that in the near-future the global space community will need some sort of a space traffic management system—in order to assure the many benefits that space activities provide to multiple nations.

“The Secure World Foundation is prepared to assist these countries to develop the necessary space policies and operating standards for a space traffic management system,” Williamson concluded.

* * *

Democratic Candidate for President Senator Barack Obama has released his space policy plan, entitled “[Advancing the Frontiers of Space Exploration](#).” It is significantly more detailed than the space policy plans of Republican Candidate for President Senator John McCain (see previous SWF newsletter), though between now and the general election both plans can be expected to grow in detail. Included is language on space security and the need for a space code of conduct and space traffic management.

* * *

Dr. Ray Williamson, Ben Baseley-Walker and consultant **Agnieszka Lukaszczyk** will be attending the [59th Annual International Astronautical Congress](#) in Glasgow, Scotland from September 29 to October 3. A story on this event will appear in next month's newsletter.

* * *

Technical Consultant Brian Weeden will be presenting on the technical feasibility of a civil space situational awareness system at the [International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety](#) from October 21-23. Details of his talk and the event itself will appear in the November edition of the newsletter.