

October 22, 2008



Agnieszka Lukaszczyk presents at the 59th International Astronautical Congress in Glasgow, Scotland. Photo: B. David.

From Bagpipes to Boosters – Space Authorities Gather for Global Space Discussions

An impressive roster of space experts from around the world met September 29-October 3 in Glasgow, Scotland—all attending the 59th International Astronautical Congress (IAC).

Taking part in the IAC were Secure World Foundation (SWF) personnel: Dr. Ray Williamson, Executive Director; Agnieszka Lukaszczyk, Space Policy Consultant; Ben Baseley-Walker, Legal and Policy Consultant and Leonard David, Research Associate. Ms. Lukaszczyk presented “[The](#)

[Role of Space-related NGOs in Capacity Building](#),” a paper co-written with SWF executive director Dr. Ray Williamson. The paper was presented during the session on “Space Policies and Programmes of International Organizations.”

From technical presentations to leading discussion groups, SWF issues were addressed during the IAC.

This year’s IAC was themed “From Imagination to Reality” and was organized by the British Interplanetary Society. An array of high quality technical discussion and debate on important space policy issues were spotlighted during the Congress. The venue attracted world space agency representatives, commercial and industrial firms involved in space business, as well as scientific associations and legal experts.

A variety of workshops were also held during the IAC, with SWF personnel taking part. Of particular interest was the 18th United Nations/International Astronautical Federation discussion on integrated space technology applications, geared to managing potentially hazardous events.

Other technical sessions attended by SWF staff included space debris, policy and regulation questions in the protection of the environment of celestial bodies, as well as legal and policy discussions regarding the weaponization of space and deliberations regarding space law.

Space Deterrence Focus of Workshop

The [Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies](#) held on September 22-23 a Space Deterrence Workshop, convening experts from military, civilian and industrial circles.

A full-day of deliberation centered on review of deterrence theory, space domain-contemporary and future operating environments.

Held in Colorado Springs, the meeting assembled some 50 participants that focused on a preliminary assessment of deterrence theory/concepts within the space domain. Also, workshop attendees reviewed alternative approaches to securing the space domain. SWF Research Associate, Leonard David, took part in the meeting.

The workshop was led by Ambassador Roger Harrison, Director of the Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies, with headquarters at the [U.S. Air Force Academy](#), Colorado.

Secure World Foundation Sponsors World Space Week Events

SWF sponsored several events supporting World Space Week in the Boulder, Colorado community. On October 10, Dr. Dan Baker, Director of the [Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics](#), gave an insightful talk on international cooperation

News Bits

[Project Ploughshares](#) released its [Space Security 2008](#), a report that flags the increasing threats to space security due to anti-satellite weapons and space debris. It points out that it is in all nations’ self-interest to safeguard use of the space environment, but there is a widening impasse on how to do this. The **Secure World Foundation** is a key partner in the publishing of this report.

* * *

Secure World Foundation Technical Consultant **Brian Weeden** attended the 2008 [Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance Technologies Conference \(AMOS\)](#), September 16-19. This annual conference brings together the top researchers and leaders from academia, industry, and the military to present new research and the latest developments in optical and space surveillance technology. Brian presented a [poster paper on sun-synchronous zoning](#).

* * *

Another [fact sheet](#) has been published by the Secure World Foundation. It answers questions about the [International Traffic in Arms Regulations \(ITAR\)](#).

* * *

Dr. Andy Aldrin, Director of Business Development and Advanced Programs for **United Launch Alliance**, presented his talk on *International Cooperation and ITAR: Paths Forward* at the October installment of SWF’s [Space Security Lunch Series](#).

* * *

The **U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence** has issued a report on [Challenges and Recommendations for United States Overhead](#)

in space sciences at the [University of Colorado Boulder Fiske Planetarium](#). Following Dr. Baker's talk, Dr. Cherilynn Morrow performed as both musician and teacher with [AstroJazz](#), a unique ensemble of jazz musicians dedicated to educating the public on space. Dr. Morrow flew in from [Georgia State University](#), where she is a professor of physics and astronomy. Dr. Morrow is also a member of the [SWF Advisory Committee](#).

The following day, also at the Fiske Planetarium, SWF sponsored several talks on potentially hazardous asteroids (PHAs), especially those with a high probability of impacting the Earth. What are these objects? Where are they? Once found, what can we do about them? These were just a few of the questions tackled by Dr. Dan Durda of the [Southwest Research Institute](#) and Bob Arentz of [Ball Aerospace](#). SWF Operations Director Suzanne Metlay and Communications Director Phil Smith also gave a talk on how the international community is dealing with the subject.

China Space Mission: Stage Set for Greater International Space Cooperation

China successfully launched the Shenzhou 7 piloted space mission on September 25, a voyage showcasing that country's increasing space prowess—but a flight that also signals the opportunity for enhanced U.S.-China cooperation in space.



Astronaut Zhai Zhigang performs China's first spacewalk during the Shenzhou 7 mission. Photo: CCTV

The Shenzhou 7 mission carried a crew of three, with a major task of carrying out China's first spacewalk. Chinese space officials view this flight as a prelude of things to come, including the construction of their own space station in orbit.

"This launch reminds us that China is well on its way to developing a robust, all around space program. When seen in the context of China's rapid advances in the field of Earth observations and space science, this event takes on even greater meaning for the rest of the world," said Ray Williamson, SWF Executive Director.

Williamson added that it is ever more important for the United States to establish much closer scientific ties with Chinese space and earth scientists. "This event also underscores the need for China to take a much more active role in working with the international community to secure the long term sustainability of space activities for all countries."

Cooperative space arrangements between the U.S. and China, as with the U.S., Russia and the European Union—especially on civil space missions—is an ideal way to balance the playing field by building trust and respect, noted Phil Smith, SWF Communications Director.

"Cooperative ventures in space, especially but not limited to civil space activities, hold the promise of spreading cost burdens, increasing trust and goodwill, welcoming partners who otherwise could not participate on their own, and producing a fertile basis for negotiating agreements on more sensitive issues," Smith observed.

[Architecture](#), part of which highlights use of commercial space sector assets. A minority party comment to this report, in part, points out: "It is our view that the report is incomplete, insufficiently rigorous and fails to fully analyze the serious problems we face."

* * *

[Asteroid deflection: Planning for the inevitable](#) is authored by former shuttle astronaut, **Tom Jones**. This treatment can be viewed for free from the [American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics \(AIAA\)](#) magazine, *Aerospace America*.

* * *

A September report on [Department of Defense](#) nuclear weapons management, indicated that Air Force oversight of its nuclear mission had atrophied since the Cold War. The report was commissioned by Defense Secretary **William Gates** in the wake of two incidents in which nuclear material went astray. The report recommended a new MAJCOM to handle nuclear weapons. The report also said the Air Force's grand vision to use technology to dominate air, space and cyberspace resulted in neglect of the nuclear mission.

* * *

[China's Strategic Modernization - Report from the International Security Advisory Board \(ISAB\) Task Force](#), published by the **U.S. State Department**, carries a number of references to China's space assets and emerging capabilities.

* * *

High-resolution satellite imagery and the conflict in South Ossetia is the subject of a recent [report](#) by the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights Project**.