

November 19, 2008



Tommaso Sgobba, President of the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS) presents a commemorative marble sundial to SWF's Brian Weeden (center) for conference co-sponsorship of this year's IAASS meeting, held October 21-23 in Rome, Italy. SWF's Weeden organized three space traffic management sessions, as well as a panel discussion on the technical feasibility of international civil space situational awareness, or SSA. Photo: IAASS.

The [Secure World Foundation](#) was a sponsor of the meeting, with SWF's Brian Weeden organizing three space traffic management sessions, as well as a lively panel discussion on the technical feasibility of international civil space situational awareness, or SSA.

Dr. Ray Williamson, SWF's Executive Director, served on the program committee as a co-chairman of the IAASS meeting.

Weeden points out that until now SSA has generally only been talked about in a military context. "SSA is extremely important for military space, but there is a significant need for SSA in civilian space as well."

Increasingly, it is commercial and civil satellites which are being placed into orbit, SWF's Weeden said, and the nations and companies that operate them need to have the awareness to be able to operate them in a safe and sustainable way.

"This SSA system needs to work in an international context, much the same way as aviation does. But very few companies and States have the resources to fund and operate their own SSA network," Weeden observed.

Much of the data needed for a civilian SSA system is already being collected by various actors, from scientific institutions to multinational companies to backyard satellite observers.

"The difficulty is in breaking down the barriers between these disparate sources, making the different types and sources of data compatible, and distributing it in such a way as to protect the rights and privacy concerns of the different sources. It's definitely a challenge, but so far we haven't come across any insurmountable technical barriers," he added.

SWF's Weeden foresees a system where commercial entities and States voluntarily pool their SSA data—with information then made available to all participants.

"Our goal is to bring more participants into this system and expand it into other congested and high-value areas of Earth orbit, such as Sun-synchronous orbit," Weeden adds. "Eventually, such an international, civil SSA system might form the foundation for a global space traffic management system."

To view the IAASS program, go to: <http://www.congrex.nl/08a11/programme.asp>.

Global Discussion— Civilian Space Traffic Management

Work is now underway to begin blueprinting a civilian space situational awareness system—a step toward global space traffic management.

This prospect was addressed during the [International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety \(IAASS\)](#) meeting, held October 21-23 in Rome Italy. This international setting brought together 500 specialists from America, Europe, Russia, and China, all addressing the meeting's theme: "Building a Safer Space Together."

News Bits

The upcoming Space Shuttle launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida has a very special cargo item: the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#). The Declaration, properly protected in space-proof packaging is slated to reach the International Space Station. Once onboard, it will be stored on a permanent basis inside the European Space Agency's (ESA) Columbus multidisciplinary space laboratory—now attached to the sprawling space complex.

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood", states Article 1 of the Declaration. The UDHR was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at the Pala is de Chalet in Paris on December 10, 1948. Now some 60 years later, the UDHR is ready to take a journey into space.

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The [Union of Concerned Scientists \(UCS\)](#) issued a revised backgrounder dated October 31: [China Takes Another Step Forward in Space](#). The UCS document notes that China and the United States appear to be locked in a confrontation in which the United States sees Chinese progress in space as potentially threatening, and China sees U.S. security concerns as part of a conspiracy to blunt Chinese progress and justify U.S. steps toward space dominance.

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[Space Security and Defense - Critical Initiatives, Programs & Plans](#) is to be held December 8-9 in Las Vegas, Nevada at the MGM Grand Las Vegas. Topics range

Arms Race in Space—Report Underscores Economic Impact

A just-issued report spotlights the economic impact of an arms race in space, calling for changes in U.S. space policy.

[Space, Security and the Economy](#) has been issued by [Economists for Peace and Security \(EPS\)](#). It focuses on the Bush administration's outer space policy that asserts the right to deny any nation access to space if its actions are "perceived" to be hostile.

This policy, the report explains—together with other actions such as withdrawal from the [Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty](#) and the ongoing development of weapons intended to attack objects in space—could lead to the deployment of weapons in space. Furthermore, if the U.S. positions weapons in space, other nations are likely to pursue the same action and spur an arms race in space. No one, the report concludes, can prevail...and all stand to lose in an arms race in space.

The newly issued report is both highly significant and timely, noted Cynda Collins Arsenault, President of the Secure World Foundation.

"Understanding the key role that space already plays in our lives, as well as its impact on our economy, is a first step in working towards developing solutions for the secure and sustainable use of space," SWF's Arsenault said. "We can no longer seek solutions in isolation in our interconnected world but must rely on globally agreed upon measures."

[Space, Security and the Economy](#) underscores other negative consequences from an arms race in space, such as impacting the scientific and commercial uses of space. In particular, private investors are unlikely to place additional resources at risk in a vulnerable area of potential military conflict, the report observes.

The report calls for changes in the policy of space dominance, greater transparency in military space spending, and detailed information about government and commercial space activities.

Among other consequences would be negative effects on the economy and the growing scientific and commercial uses of space. In particular, private investors are unlikely to place additional resources at risk in a vulnerable area of potential military conflict.

The newly-issued report is sponsored by the Arsenault Family Foundation. To view the report, go to: <http://www.epsusa.org/publications/papers/spacesecurity.pdf>.

Humans in Outer Space – Interdisciplinary Odysseys

[Humans in Outer Space—Interdisciplinary Odysseys](#) is the first in the newly established series "Studies in Space Policy", which is edited by the [European Space Policy Institute \(ESPI\)](#) and published by [SpringerWienNewYork](#).

SWF's Agnieszka Lukaszczyk—also an Executive Officer of the [Space Generation Advisory Council](#)—is co-editor of this volume. The new publication is based on a conference ESPI jointly organized with the European Science Foundation with the support of the [European Space Agency](#) and the Austrian government in October 2007 in Vienna.

Lukaszczyk coordinated and managed this particular conference—the first comprehensive trans-disciplinary dialogue on humans in outer space.

This dialogue, now contained in the book, goes further than regarding humans as better-than-robot tools for space exploration. It investigates the human quest for odysseys beyond Earth's atmosphere and reflects also on the implications of finding extraterrestrial life.



Photo: JAXA.

from National Space Policies and Strategies: Needs, Missions & Opportunities to Operationally Responsive Space & Situational Awareness and Space Control: Protection, Prevention & Negation. SWF's Technical Consultant, **Brian Weeden** will be presenting on the subject of space deterrence.

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[NASA and South Korea have signed a joint statement](#) of intent identifying potential interest in cooperation in civil space and aeronautics activities. The discussions may also include the **International Lunar Network**, an ongoing multilateral initiative to establish a robotic network on the surface of the Moon; the **Global Exploration Strategy**, a dialogue involving fourteen international space agencies for enhanced international cooperation in space exploration; and the **International Space Exploration Coordination Group**, a multilateral effort to coordinate space exploration activities among government space agencies.

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A special space policy panel was convened on October 30 at the [University of Colorado Boulder](#) to address civil, commercial, scientific and military space strategies. Panel members included **Phil Smith** of Secure World Foundation, **Dr. Robert Zubrin** of the [Mars Society](#), and **Dr. Dave Klaus** of [BioServe Technologies](#). A range of topics were addressed, including NASA funding – should it be adjusted or changed? What smaller missions should have priority for science exploration? Will space turn into a military zone or a constantly growing junkyard of space debris? The event was sponsored by the [CU Students for the Exploration and Development of Space \(CU-SEDS\)](#).