

Proposal for Forming an IAA Study Group

Title of Study: Space Expectations [study # S 6.8]

Proposer(s): Cathy Swan, David Raitt, Arthur Woods, Peter Swan

Primary IAA Commission Preference: Commission 6
(From Commission 1 to Commission 6)
Secondary IAA Commission Interests: Commission 5
(From Commission 1 to Commission 6)

Members of Study Team

Chairs: Cathy Swan, David Raitt, Arthur Woods, Peter Swan

Secretary: Pete Swan

Other Members: Potential members from previous study to include: Vincent Boles, Jerry Grey, Ivan Almar, Carol Oliver, Doug Vakoch, Max Grimard, Patrick Gyger, Gerard Brachet, Susmita Mohanty, Ahmed Azzaoui, Paul Nelson, Geoffrey Languedoc

Short Description of Scope of Study

Overall Goal: Enable a merging of the technological/scientific goals of space activities with society's expectations. This will lead to programs that are supported by the public, generate more interests and have fewer disconnects with society.

Intermediate Goals: Determine societal expectations of space!

Rationale: Space activities have historically been based upon technological successes with science and exploration leading space activities toward major projects throughout the solar system. Periodic disconnects have occurred as the public suddenly sees major successes and cheers or sees failures and asks tough questions like why? And how much? Following on from the IAA's recent study on the Impact of Space Activities upon Society, a study sponsored by the Academy would essentially turn the previous one around in order to determine the depth of understanding and backing that is out in the public; describe society's expectations from space programmes; and, ascertain how society could become more involved in space exploration. The next step would be to merge these three thrusts so that projects could be positioned to fulfill public expectations, maintain their interest and excitement; and thus, be supported (both financially and intellectually) by the public.

Methodology: **Public Survey – The approach for this study is to develop a survey that would be aimed at the public to determine their understanding and expectations of space activities. This survey would then be distributed through various national networks and organizations (including space agencies) to diverse groups including: high schools and universities; art, cultural and heritage bodies; as well as the public at large. To avoid a plethora of responses, replies would be sought as much as possible from groups of people, eg students would be asked to provide a reply from their class as a whole rather than individually. For the public response, students would be requested to ask their parents to respond to the survey. This would give the study team several sets of inputs from different age groups from around the world. The intention is to collect the inputs via a Web-based form to minimize the paperwork. However, a book could result if there are sufficient interesting responses.**

Time Line: Mar 05 Commission 6 approval of study
Oct 05 Approval of Study by Academy
1st meeting in Fukuoka (0800-0930 Thurs) done
Mar 06 2nd mtg, draft up survey – identify points of contact
Oct 06 3rd mtg. Finalize survey and Points of contact
for preliminary survey, send to subset of high schools
Mar 07 4th mtg. Refine survey from preliminary results
Send second round of surveys to high schools around the globe
Oct 07 5th mtg. Summary of surveys and correlation of data
Mar 08 6th mtg. Peer review of draft report
Oct 08 presentation of results in Commission 6 session at IAF

Final Product (Report, Publication, etc.):
Report “Society’s Expectations of Space Activities”

Target Community: High school and university students and their parents; arts, cultural and heritage organizations

Support Needed:
Need website support for collection of data
Need support from national space agencies (their representatives within IAA could be the focal points)
Need report publishing (on web and hard copy)

Potential Sponsors:
ESA TTPO (David Raitt) would help fund website
National Space Organizations could be co-sponsors
High school organizations (teacher based)

To be returned to IAA Secretariat Paris fax: 33 1 47 23 82 16 email: sgeneral@iaonet.org

Date: 14 November 05 Signature: Pete Swan

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