21st Century Challenges in Bringing Space Benefits to People

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Secure World Foundation (SWF) is a private operating foundation dedicated to the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all its peoples.
Basic Facts

• Non-profit operating foundation founded in 2004
• Funding comes from a private endowment
• Offices in Colorado, Washington DC and Brussels
• Dedicated to ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space
• Strong role in policy development in both the international and domestic policy communities
• Permanent Observer at COPUOS
What Does the Foundation do?

**Engages** with academics, policy makers, scientists and advocates in the space and international affairs communities to support steps that strengthen global space security.

**Promotes** the development of cooperative and effective uses of space for the protection of the Earth’s environment and human security.

**Acts** as a research body, convener and facilitator to advocate for key space security and other space related topics and to examine their influence on governance and international development.
Key Governance Focus Areas

Space sustainability
  • Protection of continued utility of space resources

Policy and law development

Human & environmental security
  • Governance of processes toward disaster assistance
  • Governance of environmental change processes

Planetary threats
  – Mitigating the threat of collision from a Near-Earth Object (NEO) through the establishment of effective international governance for response
Space Sustainability

• Co-sponsored workshop on Space, Science and Security, New Delhi—January
• Attend COPUOS Working Group on Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities—Vienna, February, June
• Held conference on Verification of Activities in Outer Space—Brussels
• Co-hosted annual UNIDIR conference on Space and Security—Geneva, April
• Co-hosted International Workshop on Space Policy in Asia, with China Academy of Sciences—Beijing, May

• Co-hosted conference, “After the Lisbon Treaty—Impact on European Space Policy”, with Ifri—Brussels, September
• Partner with *Imaging Notes* on remote sensing applications, ongoing
• Sponsored study of the legal implications of Community Remote Sensing/Crowdsourcing, March
• Co-sponsored with government of Austria, UN SPIDER Conference on Crowdsourcing for Disaster Response and Recovery—Vienna, July
• Co-sponsor UN SPIDER Conference on Spacebase Information for Crowdsourcing--Geneva, November
• Co-sponsor with EU and government of Poland, Space Applications in Support of Humanitarian Operations—Warsaw, November
• Attend COPUOS meetings to take part in Action Team – 14 meetings in support of the Working Group on NEOs—Vienna, February and June
• Co-sponsored Bi-annual Planetary Defense Conference – Bucharest, May
• Co-sponsored special Action Team 14 meeting with space agencies, and Association of Space Explorers—Pasadena, California, August
What are the issues?

What are the challenges to SGAC?
http://www.swfound.org
Issues

• Lack of awareness of space science and space activities among public
• Lack of awareness of the everyday benefits that space activities bring to the public
• Lack of awareness of benefits from space activities among policymakers
• Lack of follow through to end user
  • E.g., focus on developing space systems but not how to make the best use of them
Example from Remote Sensing and Disaster Response and Recovery

• Uncoordinated use of data collected
  – Does the information reach first responders in the local community?
  – Can the user make use of the information available?
    • Loss of communications
    • Lack of electricity
    • Lack of experience & training
    • Lack of coordination

• Lack of understanding of the needs of the user

• Lack of data format standards

• Slow turn around from data to useful information
Challenges

- Improving awareness among the public
- Improving awareness among policymakers
- Improving applications
- Developing focused end user applications
Some Tools

- Your energy and resourcefulness
- Knowledge of space science and applications
- Internet, social media
  - Crowdsourcing
  - Community remote sensing (use of social media to support data, information inputs from community to refine data collected from space)
- Access to policymakers through SGAC
THANKS!

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QUESTIONS?