



# Space Generation Advisory Council

*in support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications*

**Press Release, October 11<sup>th</sup>, Daejeon – Republic of Korea**

## **Final day of the SGC09 showcases unique youth perspective on key space policy topics**

The Space Generation Congress (SGC) 2009 concluded Saturday with a series of high level speeches from top space professionals and a showcase of conference projects.

Of the day's speakers a highlight was the presentation of Sini Merikallio, winner of the 2009 Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) Move an Asteroid competition and a Space Generation Advisory Council member. She passionately presented her winning idea of using Electric Solar Sails to redirect objects that may impact Earth. This presentation highlights the high level of engaged critical thought that SGC 2009 and SGAC members as a group regularly produce. The competition also demonstrates that SGAC is not only involved with space policy and space outreach, but also it is highly capable of including technical initiatives and supporting the germination of new creative technical ideas.

Other key speeches of event included a presentation of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), how they help developing States, and why they are critical to space operations and science by Jim Miller, Sr. GPS Technologist at NASA. He described the navigation program of NASA, the top level requirements, and the nature of national and international collaboration. Explaining the GNSS capabilities, Jim Miller further clarified why NASA invests in this project, and keeps its support of the Youth GNSS project, a SGAC initiative led by Stephanie Wan.

Dennis Stone, President of World Space Week and also a NASA employee, introduced conference delegates to the NASA Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) project and some of the different commercial companies involved in it. He then introduced delegates to the history and activities of World Space Week, a project SGAC is also supporting.

Prof. Dr. Berndt Feuerbacher, the current President of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), outlined the history of space exploration and how it widens humanity's horizons and brings new perspectives. He explained the milestones of space flight endeavors and the future changes.

A key output of SGC 2009 is our youth "snapshots" of key policy issues identified in each of our five project sessions: Agency, Peace, Climate, Exploration and Industry. During the last day, each project team groups presented their innovative ideas and a youth snapshot for other delegates and representatives of the space community. These presentations encapsulated SGAC's unique appeal - capturing the ideas and direction of those who will go on to be leaders in the space sector. These presentations give direct insight into the thoughts of next generation to lead global space activities and thus the direction of future global space policy.

The conference concluded with a formal dinner sponsored by the Korean Aerospace Research Institute (KARI). Representing Dr. Bob Richards of Odyssey Moon, Dr. Chris Boshuizen of NASA Ames Research Center presented a perspective on the SGAC creation and how it relates to other past and



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current dynamic, cutting edge space initiatives. Dr. Boshuizen highlighted the passion, enthusiasm and amazing network that SGAC offers its members and conference attendees.

In sum, the final day of SGC 2009, epitomized the caliber, drive and intellectual caliber that are the defining characteristics of both SGAC and the next generation of space leaders.

## CONTACT SGAC

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The Space Generation Advisory Council in support of the United Nations Program on Space Applications (SGAC) is a non-governmental organization which aims to represent university students and young space professionals to the United Nations, Nation States space agencies and other organizations in the space community. SGAC has permanent observer status in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The SGAC Executive Council is made up of representatives from each of the six UN regions, and has a larger body of representatives from nation states. Our focus is on pragmatic space policy advice to policy makers based on the interests of the global community of students and young professionals, broadly in the age range 18-35, interested in space. For further information, please visit [www.spacegeneration.org](http://www.spacegeneration.org)