



The Space Renaissance International inaugural Congress

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a reportage by Kim Peart

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The Space Renaissance International (SRI) has quietly accrued a rather large bundle of carbon credits, saving on air flights by holding their inaugural congress live on Skype. A number of participants in Australia joined an event that involved 118 space development advocates from around the world, including Chile.

Adriano Autino, the president of the SRI, gave the keynote address from the HQ in sunny Italy, where the time was a more civilized 3.00pm, compared to Australia, presenting the organisation's vision for the future of human civilization, with a view to the Solar System as a whole, declaring that the "Solar Civilization means a civilization targeted to expand into the solar system."

Mr Adriano pointed out that in the "Oort Cloud there are trillions of comets", demonstrating a very large source of raw materials from across the Solar System, waiting to be married with the unlimited energy-well of our star to build a future for humanity beyond Earth.

The building of solar power stations in space was a hot topic in the ensuing discussions, as no civilization could progress beyond Earth without harnessing the energy to do so.

The strategic address of SRI was outlined for the next four years, until 2015, as promoting the most promising space industrial development proposals, including:

- Space Tourism, SubOrbital Tourism, Greater Earth region industrialization, Space Based Solar Power and
- Protecting life in space from hard radiations and generating gravity for orbital space habitats.
- Conveying financial support to the new space industry:
- Stimulate the growth of a new mass space industry.
- An international space investment fund.
- Promote tax discounts and friendly financing.
- Support grants and incentives to hire young graduate and experienced personnel.
- Support the creation of new kinds of companies, combining cultural, philosophical and artistic concepts toward astronomical services and jobs, including virtual space habitats, where people can imagine a life outside the gravitational well.

The last item is a proposal from island Earth, to design and build a full-sized model of an orbital space settlement in a virtual world, such as Second Life, that would have a gravity generated by rotation. This proposal will be discussed later in the congress.

One of three projects proposed includes: Civilization Risk Assessment and Mitigation.

The two other projects include spotting the most promising space industrial development line and work on an orbital space settlement in a virtual world.

It is hoped that universities will become involved with these projects, along with securing grants, sponsorships and finding donors to help finance the projects.

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Dr. Feng Hsu, formally employed by NASA, noted, "The key is a PR strategy Adriano!! We must connect SRI movement with the issues confronting the everyday lives of the general public, such as the energy shortages, climate changes, water & food shortages and Wars."

Walter C. Putnam added, "The key to getting it done is organizing on every local level. We must each begin now to publicize these views and get as many people involved as possible. That means all of us -- through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and whatever other means are available."

Rob Hunt in Australia suggested, "SRI needs to be seen by the general public as having a very tightly defined goal and timeframe, else it will be seen as fringe."

Kim Peart said, "I see SBSP" (space based solar power) "as the key stepping stone beyond Earth, leading to space industry and space settlement. A serious move to build SBSP at an international level would drive a galaxy of improved and new propulsion systems."

Dr. Feng Hsu commented, "Dr. Kalam of former India president is a strong proponent for an International Committee on SBSP initiatives.... I may be visiting India in the next month or so, should I speak for the SRI that we support such initiative with strongest conviction possible?"

Keith Henson, founder of the L5 Society in 1976 expressed, "I wish someone would do an analysis of space tourism. I have tried hard to make it work and failed. The numbers just didn't work, not even when all the transport development was paid for by an SBSP project."

Keith Henson, "It's just opinion . . . I think it is harder to get a space group going today than it was back in the 70s."

Kim Peart, "Kieth - Post Apollo was a hum - with O'Neill offering space boots that anyone could wear - now any space group that hopes to beat 10,000 members must connect with the Earth and human needs of this time in history and sell the reason "Why?" The real power is at the grass roots - with the people - connect with the people with a vision that is real to the people and delivers survival, prosperity and creativity - and an organisation can be very strong."

Neda Ansari, "It was great to see Dr. Globus, an active SRI member hand out the NSS-NASA Student-designed space settlement award to an Indian team at the Gala at ISDC. That's when it materialized we as a civilization are making great strides. SRI's doing awesome."

Stephanie Lynne Thorburn complimented Adriano, "As a whole, I would like to take the opportunity of congratulating Adriano and the many industrious members of the SRI at all levels on what has actually been achieved in a relatively short space of time within the Space Renaissance. The organisation actually encompasses affiliations and support from a wide sector of the space industry. Progress at all levels is always difficult in times of recession and investment and improvements are always possible in an organisational sense; but the SRI always shows initiative - initiatives such as this Congress are very innovative."

Anton Volkonskiy, "ерфтл нщг фдд - Thank you all."

The SRI congress was gallantly chaired by Gail Leatherwood, a writer on space issues in Florida.