



PRESS RELEASE

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IAF becomes a member of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

IAF PR 01-2014, 15 January 2014: The International Astronautical Federation is pleased to announce its status as a Participating Organisation of the GEO, which was officially accepted at the Group's 10th Plenary Session in Geneva today.

IAF President Kiyoshi Higuchi addressed the Plenary, saying that “the IAF and the GEO share a common mission: To foster dialogue between scientists and policy-makers and to support global cooperation”.

The GEO was founded following calls for greater Earth Observation cooperation at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Group is a partnership of governments and international organizations, and coordinates efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems, or GEOSS. GEO provides a framework within which partners can develop new projects and coordinate strategies and investments.

GEO's members include 89 Governments and the European Commission. Furthermore, 67 intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations with a mandate in Earth observation or related issues are recognised as Participating Organizations.

The 10th Plenary will be followed by a Ministerial Summit, whose main objective will be to approve a renewed mandate for GEO through 2025, and to endorse high-level recommendations that will shape the development of a detailed Implementation Plan.

The IAF works extensively in the field of Earth Observations, and on June 2 – 4 2014 will host the Global Space Applications Conference ('GLAC'), which addresses satellite-based observations in global monitoring of climate change and disaster management, amongst other topics. The IAF's Earth Observation Committee, and its sub-committee on GEOSS, also covers all aspects of earth observations from space.

More about the International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Founded in 1951, the International Astronautical Federation is the world's leading space advocacy organisation with over 270 members in 64 countries, including all major space agencies, companies, research institutions, societies and associations worldwide.

Dedicated to “A space-faring world cooperating for the benefit of humanity”, the Federation advances and promotes space cooperation, knowledge and achievements.

Supported by over 40 committees gathering more than 500 world space experts, the IAF coordinates the International Astronautical Congress and the IAF Global Networking Forum (GNF), has dedicated regional activities and activities for students and young professionals, and recognises and awards space achievements.

For more information, see www.iafastro.org