



INTERNATIONAL  
ASTRONAUTICAL  
FEDERATION



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs

# The 32<sup>nd</sup> IAF Workshop With Support of the United Nations

“Resilient Coasts Resilient Earth: Innovative Space Solutions  
for Coastal Resilience and Emergency Management”

26-28 September 2025  
Sydney, Australia

Speakers'  
Biographies

# DAY 1

## 26 SEPTEMBER

### OPENING CEREMONY



#### CLAY MOWRY

**President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)**

Clay Mowry has worked for over 25 years in the commercial launch and satellite sectors serving in government, as the leader of an industry trade association and as a senior executive for leading space companies.

He joined Voyager Space in January 2022 as Chief Revenue Officer. He is responsible for growing sales, aligning operating company product and service offerings, developing analytics, setting strategy, and delivering customer success. He previously served for five years as Vice President for Global Sales at Blue Origin. He is currently the President of the International Astronautical Federation.



#### AARTI HOLLA-MAINI

**Director, UNOOSA**

Aarti Holla-Maini is the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). She brings to this position over 25 years of professional experience in the space sector including in managerial and advocacy functions.

Most recently, she has held the role of Executive Vice-President Sustainability, Policy & Impact at NorthStar Earth & Space. She holds a bachelor's degree in law with German law from Kings College London, UK, a master's degree in business administration from HEC Paris, France, and she is also an alumna of the International Space University.

### OPENING REMARKS



#### CHRISTIAN FEICHTINGER

**Executive Director, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)**

Dr Feichtinger took up the post of IAF Executive Director on 1 January 2012. Before moving to the IAF, he spent three years as senior advisor on exploration at the European Space Agency (ESA).

Prior to that, he was head of ESA's permanent mission in the Russian Federation, after having worked as the Agency's representative for human space flight and exploration in Moscow for 10 years. He holds a PhD in space experimentation from Graz University of Technology, Austria.



## PIETER VAN BEEKHUIZEN

**Chairman, IAF CLIODN Committee**

Pieter van Beekhuizen has worked his whole professional life in the space domain, first with ESRO and later with ESA. During this period, he has occupied a large variety of different staff functions and line management responsibilities within ESA.

After retiring, he founded Bexperience, a consultancy supporting clients across countries and continents. He serves on the board of the Stichting Space Professionals Foundation, supporting young Dutch space professionals. Pieter is Chair of the IAF CLIODN Committee (2024–2027), Co-Chair of the IAA Symposium on Space Policy, and a member of the Executive Board of the Colombian Space Agency.



## ALEJANDRO J. ROMÁN MOLINAS

Alejandro is a Computer Programmer and Bachelor of Systems Analysis by the Polytechnic Faculty of the National University of Asunción with specializations and courses in prestigious Universities like Oxford, MIT, Harvard, and others in technology, education, aviation systems, and space.

He has delivered talks at leading universities including MIT and Kyushu Institute of Technology, and in countries such as Japan, Taiwan, France, and Peru. His awards include the 2021 Technology Excellence Award (India), the Extraordinary Merit Award (Taiwan), and the Partnership Award from the Pacific Disaster Center (Hawaii). He also serves as a professor at UNIDA University.

# SETTING THE SCENE

## HAMID MEHMOOD

**Scientific Affairs Officer, United Nations  
Office for Outer Space Affairs, UNOOSA**



Dr. Hamid Mehmood heads the UN-SPIDER Beijing Office at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, leading initiatives that apply space-based technologies and GeoAI to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

He focuses on turning cutting-edge research into operational tools for governments and partners. From 2022–2025, he served at UNESCAP's Space Applications Section, developing GeoAI applications across the Asia-Pacific, contributing to the Regional Space Applications Programme, and serving on the GEO Blue Planet Steering Committee. His current interests include GeoAI, big Earth data, and analysis-ready data for decision support, with multiple publications and technical guides



## MADIN MASEEH

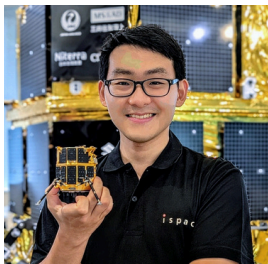
President, Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO)

Madin is currently the President of the Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO), the first entity in the Maldives dedicated to the development and research of a space sector.

MSRO was founded in 2022 with a remarkable support from the international space community after Madin attended the International Space University's Space Studies Program. Before founding MSRO, Madin had been working in the data and intelligence sector for more than 5 years and had worked with the government of Maldives to solve critical issues such as mobility and disaster response.

## DAY 1: PRESENTATION SESSION 1

### FROM ATOLLS TO CONTINENTS: SCALING SPACE SOLUTIONS FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE



## ANTONIO STARK

Global Alliance Lead, iSpace, Japan

Antonio Stark (KangSan Kim) is a South Korean space policy and strategy expert. His professional career spans across iSpace, inc. (Global Alliance Lead), Planet Labs (Partner Sales Executive), HEO Robotics (Korea Country Manager), and the Maldives Space Research Organization (Program Manager)

Antonio's work focuses on fostering partnerships across government, academia, and industry, with projects in space sustainability, cislunar architecture, and satellite fleet management in the Indo-Pacific. Antonio is a Global Ambassador for International Moon Day and GEN Space, and was formerly the Asia-Pacific Editor for SpaceWatch Global.



## MOHAMED BASHEER

President, Noonu Atoll Council, Maldives

Mohamed Basheer is the President of the Noonu Atoll Council and the Chairperson of the Maldives Local Council Association. With a background in political management and data engineering, he is committed to advancing sustainable development across the island communities of the Maldives.

His leadership emphasizes practical solutions tailored to the unique needs of small island nations. A strong advocate for conservation, Basheer prioritizes environmental protection as a foundation for resilience. Recognizing the power of technology, he supports digitalization as a key driver of progress, and he is a vocal proponent of decentralization to empower local communities and strengthen governance from the ground up.



## LIZWE WANDILE MDAKANE

Principal Researcher and Earth Observation Specialist,  
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR),  
South Africa

Dr. Lizwe Mdakane is a Principal Researcher and Earth Observation (EO) Specialist with over a decade of experience in synthetic aperture radar (SAR), maritime surveillance, and spatial information systems.

His work supports national security, environmental monitoring, and regional cooperation. He has led key initiatives such as South Africa's OCIMS and the GMES & Africa MarCOSIO program, highlighting the role of space technologies in promoting sustainable development across marine and coastal regions of Southern and Eastern Africa.



## RAJASEKHAR MEKA

Scientist-SG / Chief Meteorologist, Indian Space  
Research Organisation, India

Dr. Rajasekhar Meka serves as the Scientist-SG and Chief Meteorologist at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). With over two decades of leadership in Earth Observation and Space Science, he is an expert in applying advanced remote sensing technologies for environmental applications.

Holding a Ph.D. in Meteorology and Oceanography, he specializes in using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and space-based systems for ocean monitoring, coastal resilience, and emergency response. He has led the development of early warning systems and satellite-based forecasting tools to support disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in vulnerable coastal regions.

# DAY 1: PANEL DISCUSSION 1

## RE-ROOTING DISASTER MANAGEMENT: THE ROLE OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY IN STRENGTHENING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



## PIETER VAN BEEKHUIZEN

Chairman, IAF CLIODN Committee

Pieter van Beekhuizen has worked his whole professional life in the space domain, first with ESRO and later with ESA. During this period, he has occupied a large variety of different staff functions and line management responsibilities within ESA.

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## **RICHARD NGUGI MWANGI**

**Chief Geo-database Administrator and GIS Developer,  
Kenya Forest Service, Kenya**

Richard Ngugi Mwangi is the Chief Geo-database Administrator and GIS Developer at the Kenya Forest Service, a licensed drone pilot, and a PhD candidate in Earth Observation at Sapienza University of Rome.

His work focuses on using satellite data, UAV imagery, and AI to monitor coastal ecosystems, with a particular emphasis on mangroves and the detection of coastal erosion and sedimentation. He leads the award-winning Forest Alerts System, integrating real-time data into Kenya's National Forest Monitoring System to support informed decision-making. Richard has also trained Community Forest Associations in mobile GIS and citizen science, enabling participatory forest monitoring.

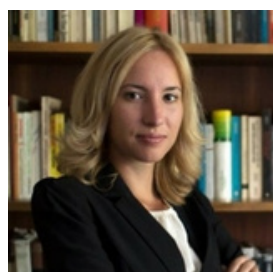


## **MICHAEL JOHN WELLINGTON**

**Senior Earth Observation Scientist, Digital Earth  
Africa program, Australia**

Michael Wellington is a Senior Earth Observation Scientist for the Digital Earth Africa program, employed by Geoscience Australia.

He works on Earth Observation products for Digital Earth Africa and on user applications, including Coastlines products and workflows. He works on Earth Observation products for Digital Earth Africa and on user applications, including Coastlines products and workflows.



## **ANJA NAKARADA PECUJLIC**

**Head of Business for the DACH region, EnduroSat,  
Germany**

Anja Nakarada Pečujlić holds a doctoral degree in space law from the University of Cologne, Germany. After defending her thesis with honours, she joined the Bulgarian space start-up EnduroSat as a business developer.

Her current role is Head of Business for the DACH region. Prior to that, from December 2017 to June 2020, she was the project manager for a joint European Space Agency (ESA) and University of Cologne project: the ESA Convention Commentary. From 2014 to 2016, she was an external consultant for the European Space Policy Institute in Vienna, Austria. She studied at the Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna from 2009 to 2014, where she specialized in international law with a focus on space law.



## ABDULLA HAFIZ

**Meteorologist, Maldives Meteorological Service, Maldives**

Abdulla Hafiz Abdul Sattar Ali from the Maldives working in the Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS) for the past 31 years. He first joined MMS as a meteorological observer and later became as an operational meteorologist.

His main responsibilities are to monitor, analyse and disseminate weather forecast and weather-related warnings to the stake holders. In addition, he conduct in-house meteorological related trainings and working as a weather broadcaster on the national TV and radio. His research interest is in the field of enhancing severe weather Nowcasting over the Maldives using satellite applications. Currently working as a senior research fellow under the “Belt and Road Meteorological Scholar Program” in China at Peking University and affiliation with the China Meteorological Administration (CMA)

## DAY 1: PANEL DISCUSSION 2

### SIDS, SATELLITES, AND SOVEREIGNTY: TRANSFORMING OCEAN RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP FROM SPACE

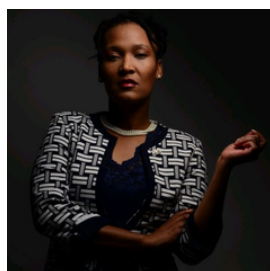


## RAUSHAN ALI FIRAQ

**Director, Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO)**

As a Director at the Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO), Raushan Ali Firaq has guided the NGO's strategic vision since its inception

She leads key initiatives such as the Space for Island Nations Conference (SINC) and the Nakai Constellation project, which revives traditional Maldivian sky knowledge to support the nation's space ambitions. Raushan represents MSRO at global forums including IAC, COP, and UNCOPUOS. With a background in International Relations and Tourism from the University of Queensland, she is currently an Erasmus Mundus Master's student in Transition, Innovation, and Sustainability Environments and an intern at UN-SPIDER.



## THONGWANE LERATO NAMANE

**Director: Commercial, SCS Aerospace Group, South Africa**

Thongwane Namane is Director: Commercial at SCS Aerospace Group and CEO of Space Diamond Space Resources.

With extensive experience in developed and emerging financial markets, she has advised corporations, banks, and governments on financial risk, investment, and strategic transactions. An FSCA-authorized Key Individual in Wealth Management, she has led teams in capital raising, due diligence, and deal structuring. Thongwane serves on several boards, including the FleetSAR Satellite Constellation Steering Committee, IAF Board Committees, and as Vice-Chair of the AMD Space Committee.



## **RÉMI ANDREOLI**

### **CEO, Quintesens, Australia**

Rémi Andréoli is a geospatial scientist with over 20 years of experience in satellite Earth observation. He focuses on transforming space data into actionable insights for sustainable development and climate resilience, especially in coastal and island regions.

He co-develops a scalable cloud platform with Real-Time Virtual Stations that allows local users—from small island governments to emergency services—to monitor coastal dynamics in real time using satellite data, without requiring technical infrastructure. This solution is deployed through initiatives like TAHATAI Neo. Rémi also contributes to regional cooperation as a board member of the Pacific GIS & Remote Sensing Council. His work supports SDG-aligned decision-making and international collaboration by bridging scientific innovation and community-driven needs in vulnerable areas.

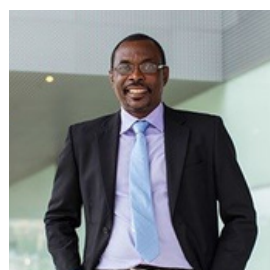


## **GEORGE JOSEPH CARTER**

### **Senior Fellow and Deputy Head of the Department of Pacific Affairs, The Australian National University**

Dr. George Carter serves as Senior Fellow and Deputy Head of the Department of Pacific Affairs at The Australian National University (ANU). He is Director of the ANU Pacific Institute and Mission Specialist at ANU In Space.

His scholarly work examines the intersection of international politics, security, climate change and aerospace through the lens of Pacific Island states and Small Island Developing States. Dr. Carter's research contributes to the fields of climate diplomacy, foreign policy, multilateralism, Pacific regionalism, and Indigenous epistemologies. He has a keen focus on the advancing the Aerospace sector in the Pacific working with governments, industry, partners alongside communities to build the Pacific space ecosystem. Of Samoan, Tuvaluan, iKiribati, Chinese, and British heritage. He is a high chief from Samoa with the title, Salā.



## **FELIX XAVIER ESTICO**

### **CEO, Seychelles Centre for Innovation and Sustainable Development**

Xavier Estico is founder of the Seychelles Centre for Innovation and Sustainable Development (SCISD), a not-for-profit organization, promoting science, technology and innovation with a focus on STEM, innovation and sustainable development

He is currently serving on the United Nations Group of Ten High-level Representatives of Civil Society, Private Sector and Scientific Community to Promote Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs ("10-Member-Group"), a component of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM). He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for Science Technology and Innovation (NISTI) and Director General of the Division of Science Technology and Innovation (DSTI)



## DOMINIQUE TILMANS

Chair, Chair of Eurisy, Belgium

After a career of 27 years in politics marked by an active involvement in the Space sector through chairing the 'Senate Space Group' and leading the European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC). Dominique Tilmans launched Switch to Space in 2014 in order to link STEM Students to Belgian Space experts.

She was Vice-President of IAF and currently Special Advisor of the President, she is also Chair of Eurisy, Board Member of Telespazio Belgium. In 2017, she received the "BeSpace" personality of the year" award.

## DAY 1: ACADEMIC PITCH 1

### RISK, RESPONSE, RESIDUE: THE DISASTER LIFECYCLE FROM ORBIT



## JUMPEI TAKAMI

Associate Expert, UNOOSA

Jumpei Takami is a specialist in remote sensing and GIS, with a strong background in civil engineering and data analytics.

He holds an M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington, where he focused on satellite-based environmental monitoring. With over ten years of academic and professional experience, he has contributed to international projects addressing natural hazards such as landslides, floods, droughts, and land subsidence. He has also supported forest monitoring efforts, including canopy height and above-ground biomass estimation.



## ALBA REBECA GUTIERREZ MELENDEZ

Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Dynamic Genesis, Mexico-Sweden

Rebeca Gutierrez is a Mexican-Swedish physicist and entrepreneur whose work connects computational astrophysics with satellite-data innovation.

She holds an MSc in Physics from Umeå University in Sweden and is the Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Dynamic Genesis. As Founder and CTO of Dynamic Genesis, she develops software that converts space-weather and Earth-observation data into decision-support tools. Her work spans astrophysical simulations, AI-driven satellite monitoring, and climate resilience. Rebeca serves on a Swedish National Space Agency AI working group and is a Newton Fund "Leaders in Innovation" fellow and alumna of the U.S. International Visitor Leadership Program.



## **DR. SACKDAVONG MANGKHASEUMI**

**Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos**

Dr. Sackdavong Mangkhaseum is a lecturer at the Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos, where he advances education, research, and innovation in engineering and technology.

He holds a doctorate in Electrical and Space Systems Engineering from the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan, becoming the first Lao student to specialize in this field. His work focuses on satellite engineering, remote sensing, and environmental monitoring. Dr. Sackdavong has contributed to several international small satellite projects and research initiatives involving IoT and machine learning applications in flood risk assessment and land-use change detection. In addition to teaching and mentoring, he plays a key role in national and regional collaborations to strengthen science and engineering education in Laos.



## **UNIS MUSU LEBBIE**

**Remote Sensing Research Technician, University of Southampton**

Unis Musu Lebbie is a geospatial specialist focused on Earth observation, environmental modeling, and science communication.

She works as a Remote Sensing Research Technician at the University of Southampton, contributing to projects on vegetation dynamics and climate resilience. She holds an MSc in Applied GIS and Remote Sensing (with Distinction) from the University of Southampton and a BSc in Geology from the University of Sierra Leone. She serves as Communications Lead for the Earth Observation of the Biosphere research group and volunteers with Women+ in Geospatial. Her work bridges technical research with public engagement.



## **HANADI ABDALLA**

**Researcher, Electrical and Space Systems Engineering, Kyushu Institute of Technology**

Hanadi Abdalla is a space systems engineer with a Master's degree in Electrical and Space Systems Engineering from the Kyushu Institute of Technology, where she researched plasma contamination control using ion bombardment.

Following her graduation in 2024, she became a researcher at Kyutech. She currently serves as the Lead Electrical Power System Engineer for the LEOPARD 3U CubeSat project and as system engineer and mentor for the BIRDS-RPM CubeSat initiative involving Rwanda, Paraguay, and Moldova. Hanadi previously worked at the Space Research Centre of the University of Khartoum, contributing to CubeSat prototype development. She is an active volunteer with the Space Generation Advisory Council, a former national point of contact for Sudan, and a recipient of the SGAC African Space Leaders Award.



## RACHITA AGRAWAL

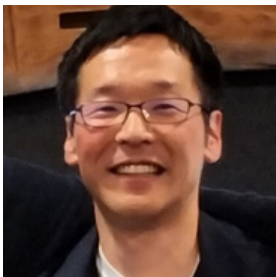
Doctorate Candidate, GGS Indraprastha University,  
Delhi, India

Rachita Agrawal is a doctoral researcher at GGS Indraprastha University in Delhi, India, where her work focuses on the legal and policy dimensions of outer space.

She holds an LL.M. with distinction from National Law University, Delhi, and is a recipient of the Indraprastha Research Fellowship. Her interdisciplinary work connects space law with climate change, sustainability, and human rights. Rachita has taught, mentored, and contributed to global justice initiatives, and has participated in international forums such as the UN and the International Astronautical Congress.

## DAY 2 – 27 SEPTEMBER

### TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION



## GO OZAWA

Manager of Public & Enterprise Unit, Synspective Inc,  
Japan

Go Ozawa holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Chuo University. He began his career at CTI Engineering in 2006, working on flood risk reduction and forecasting systems in Japan.

From 2009–2010, he was seconded to ICHARM, contributing to satellite-based flood forecasting in ASEAN using GSMaP data. Since 2025, he has led the Public & Enterprise Unit at Synspective, overseeing domestic and international projects, including work with the UN, World Bank, ADB, and JICA.

### KEYNOTE SPEECH



## CHRISTIAN HAUGLIE-HANSSEN

Director General, Norwegian Space  
Agency (NOSA)

Christian Hauglie-Hanssen has served as Director General of the Norwegian Space Agency (NOSA) since June 2018.

Representing Norway as Head of Delegation to ESA, he brings over 30 years of experience in the defence, aerospace, and space sectors, including executive roles in industry and business development. He is the former president of NIFRO, the Norwegian space industry advocacy group. Mr. Hauglie-Hanssen holds a BSc in Physics from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and an MSc in Physics from the University of South Florida.

# DAY 2

## PANEL DISCUSSION 3

### PANEL 3: A SPECTRUM OF RESILIENCE: THE ROLE OF COMMUNITIES IN SPACE-BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



#### HAMID MEHMOOD

##### Scientific Affairs Officer, UNOOSA

Dr. Hamid Mehmood heads the UN-SPIDER Beijing Office at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, leading initiatives that apply space-based technologies and GeoAI to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

From 2022–2025, he served at UNESCAP's Space Applications Section, developing GeoAI applications across the Asia-Pacific, contributing to the Regional Space Applications Programme, and serving on the GEO Blue Planet Steering Committee. His work bridges research and operational tools for decision-making, with interests in big Earth data and analysis-ready datasets.



#### TERESA GABRIELA MONTOYA MEJÍA

##### National Coordinator of the Sectoral Technical Commissions, National Civil Protection System in El Salvador

Teresa Montoya Mejía is the National Coordinator of the Sectoral Technical Commissions and the National Emergency Registry within El Salvador's Civil Protection System.

With degrees in International Relations and Territorial Development, she manages international cooperation projects on disaster risk management. She serves as the technical lead on seismic risk and addresses issues like gender-based violence and food security in emergencies.

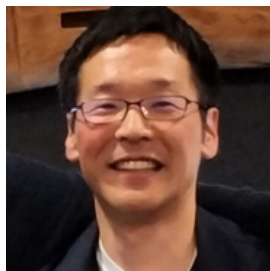


#### SAIRA ROXANA OBITH WILLIAMS

##### Software engineer, science communicator, and space advocate, Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Nicaragua

Roxy Williams is an Afro-Indigenous software engineer, science communicator, and space advocate from Nicaragua.

She brings tech industry experience in data visualization and Earth observation, and leads initiatives in astronaut readiness, analog missions, and inclusive design. Roxy represents Latin America in Cosmos for Humanity, contributes to space policy through SGAC, and was selected as a 2025 Space for Humanity Ambassador. She has presented at the International Astronautical Congress and participated in the 2023 Space Station Design Workshop in Germany.



## GO OZAWA

Manager of Public & Enterprise Unit, Synspective Inc, Japan

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## PRIYANKA DAS RAJKAKATI

Head of Special Projects at vortex-io

Dr. Priyanka Das Rajkakati is an Indian-born French physicist, entrepreneur, and space artist. She leads global business expansion at vortex-io and headed the EIC Accelerator-awarded Project WHYLD, focused on large-scale hydrological data.

With a PhD in Aerospace Engineering from ISAE-Supaéro, she bridges science and art—having sent artworks to the ISS and the Moon. Recognized as a Forbes India 30 Under 30 honoree and France Alumni Ambassador, she advocates for climate resilience and Indo-French youth collaboration

## DAY 2: PANEL DISCUSSION 4

### PILOT TO PLANET: SCALING INNOVATIVE MISSIONS INTO OPERATIONAL SERVICES



## TOM GARDNER

Strategic Partnerships Lead, Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO)

Tom Gardner leads international partnerships at MSRO, advancing national and regional space capabilities through strategic, diplomatic, and scientific collaboration.

He contributes to initiatives like the Space4Ocean Alliance and the Space for Island Nations Conference. A former ESA Protect Accelerator fellow, he worked on space hazard policy and contributed to the Atlantic Constellation at ISU's SSP 2022. He holds First Class master's degrees in Philosophy and History from the University of Oslo and University of Edinburgh.



## **HODA AWNY ABDELSALAM ABOELKHIR ELMEGHARBEL**

**System Design Engineer, Egyptian Space Agency, Egypt**

Hoda Awny El-Megharbel is a System Design Engineer in the Satellite Communication and Navigation Department at the Egyptian Space Agency. She has contributed to small satellite projects in both Egypt and Japan.

Hoda earned her Master's degree from Kyushu Institute of Technology through the United Nations/Japan Postgraduate Study on Nano-Satellite Technologies program, and holds a Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Misr International University. She is a 2024 alumna of the TechWomen program and currently serves as Egypt's National Point of Contact for the Space Generation Advisory Council. Additionally, Hoda represents Egypt as the National Coordinator for the Moon Village Association, advocating for regional engagement in space exploration and international cooperation.



## **FAMA JALLOW**

**Founder, Hisia, The Gambia**

Fama Jallow is a mechanical engineer and climate advocate from The Gambia. She is the founder of Hisia, an initiative that leverages AI and data science for climate resilience and sustainable agriculture in Africa.

Fama holds a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stellenbosch University and a Bachelor's in Aerospace Engineering from Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics in China. As Gambia's first licensed female drone pilot, she promotes accessible space education through her role as African Space Education Program Coordinator for the Space Generation Advisory Council. She is also developing Gambia's first CubeSat and supports space agency training through the IAF ACCESS Subcommittee's Envoy Initiative



## **AHMED NASHWAAN ABDUL MATHEEN**

**Research Coordinator for EO, Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO), Maldives**

Nashwan Matheen is a Coastal Engineer and Research Coordinator for Earth Observation at the Maldives Space Research Organisation.

He works closely with government institutions to evaluate EO data for policy and decision-making, and also serves as a coastal project engineer, using EO outputs for numerical modeling studies of reef islands. His work improves understanding of coastal processes and helps design sustainable erosion mitigation and management strategies. Nashwan is involved in national development planning and currently serves on the board of the National Research Council of the Maldives.



## **FARID GAMGAMI**

**Head of Department at the Innovation Academy for Microsatellites, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Vice Director of Key Laboratory for Satellite Digitalization Technology**

Dr. Farid Gamgami holds a Master's in Aerospace Engineering from RWTH Aachen (2003) and a PhD in Astrophysics from the University of Heidelberg (2007). He has held senior roles across aerospace sectors including space transportation, exploration, and Earth observation, serving as systems engineer, program manager, and Chief Strategy Officer. An accomplished author and speaker, he is passionate about supporting emerging spacefaring nations. In June 2024, he joined the Innovation Academy for Microsatellites at CAS as Head of Department and Vice Director of the Key Laboratory for Satellite Digitalization Technology.

## **DAY 2: PANEL DISCUSSION 5**

### **DIGITAL OCEANS, RESILIENT CITIES: EO, GEO AI, AND DIGITAL TWINS IN ACTION**

## **DR. VALRIE FIONA GRANT**

**Strategic Advisor on Geospatial Matters, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); Caribbean Lead, Fugro- Climate and Nature**



Dr. Valrie Fiona Grant is an award-winning entrepreneur and geospatial innovation leader focused on climate resilience and sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

She is the founder of several tech organizations and currently serves as Strategic Advisor on Geospatial Matters to the OECS Commission, as well as Caribbean Lead for Fugro's Climate and Nature team. Valrie holds leadership roles with the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network as Vice-Chair globally and Chair for the Americas. She hosts Mapping the Conversations, a podcast on leadership and geospatial innovation. She earned her Doctorate in Business Administration from UNC Charlotte, researching national geospatial information management in SIDS.



## **MOHAMED RAJHI**

**Project Manager and Remote Sensing Scientist, UDENE project/Tunisian Space Association, Tunisia**

Mohamed Rajhi specializes in satellite image analysis, spatial modeling, and GIS-based decision support systems.

He holds a PhD in Remote Sensing for Soil and Water Conservation from the University of Miskolc, Hungary. As a fellow researcher with the European Space Agency and Vice-President of the Tunisian Space Association, Mohamed supports geospatial solutions for sustainable land and water management across Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.



## ANDISWA MLISA

Digital Earth Pacific Programme Manager, The Pacific Community (SPC), New Caledonia

Andiswa Mlisa is the Programme Manager for Digital Earth Pacific at the Pacific Community (SPC), where she ensures that Earth observations serve the needs of 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

With over 20 years of leadership experience, she brings expertise in Earth observations, digital infrastructure, capacity building, and strategic partnerships. Prior to SPC, she led the Earth Observation division at the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) and also served as Interim CEO. Andiswa has contributed to global initiatives including AfriGEO, Digital Earth Africa, and the GEO Programme Board. She played a pivotal role in capacity-building efforts and international coordination for sustainable development through Earth observation.

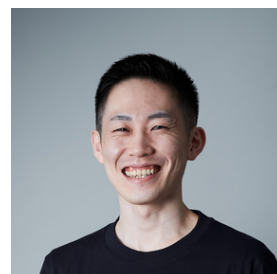


## AHMED NASHWAAN ABDUL MATHEEN

Research Coordinator for EO, Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO), Maldives

Nashwan Matheen is a Coastal Engineer and Research Coordinator for Earth Observation at the Maldives Space Research Organisation.

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## JUMPEI TAKAMI

Associate Expert, UNOOSA

Jumpei Takami is a specialist in remote sensing and GIS, with a strong background in civil engineering and data analytics.

He holds an M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington, where he focused on satellite-based environmental monitoring. With over ten years of academic and professional experience, he has contributed to international projects addressing natural hazards such as landslides, floods, droughts, and land subsidence. He has also supported forest monitoring efforts, including canopy height and above-ground biomass estimation.

# DAY 2

## PRESENTATION SESSION 2

### BETTER DATA FOR TIMELY ACTION: THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF SATELLITE-ENABLED EARLY WARNING



**JUMPEI TAKAMI**  
Associate Expert, UNOOSA

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He holds an M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington, where he focused on satellite-based environmental monitoring. With over ten years of academic and professional experience, he has contributed to international projects addressing natural hazards such as landslides, floods, droughts, and land subsidence. He has also supported forest monitoring efforts, including canopy height and above-ground biomass estimation.



**THANYA TAMARA IDOYAGA IRALA**  
GIS Analyst, Paraguayan Space Agency, Paraguay

Thanya Tamara Idoyaga Irala is an Environmental Engineer from Paraguay specializing in geospatial technologies, remote sensing, and disaster risk management.

She holds a degree from the National University of Asunción and is currently pursuing further studies in GIS, remote sensing, and climate governance. Since 2023, she has worked as a GIS Analyst at the Paraguayan Space Agency, contributing to environmental monitoring and emergency response efforts through the application of satellite data and spatial analysis. Her work supports technical research and capacity building in support of national development and disaster resilience goals.



**MATTEO EMANUELLI**  
Program Manager and Earth Observation Expert,  
Airbus, Germany

Matteo Emanuelli is a Program Manager and Earth Observation Expert in the Airbus Defence and Space's Space Digital (SD) unit. SD's mission is to leverage geospatial and secure connectivity technologies to improve life on Earth.

Joining Airbus in 2019, Matteo has worked in preparing and implementing the next-generation synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite program, building on the successful TerraSAR program. Additionally, Matteo leads an internal regulatory effort to protect the frequencies used by Earth observation satellites for data acquisition and downlink. A space engineer by training, Matteo previously designed, built, and launched numerous small satellites for various commercial and governmental customers before joining Airbus.



## **FARAH DIYA YASMINE**

**Legislative Drafter, Secretariat General for the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia**

Farah Diya Yasmine is an Indigenous Madurese Indonesian serving as a legislative drafter for the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia.

She has contributed to nearly 100 youth and space programs and serves as Co-Chair of the 2025 Lunar Environmental Protection Working Group under GEGSLA, MVA. Within SGAC, she is the HR Recruitment Lead and Research Coordinator for the NEO Project Group, and co-leads the “Un-Inclusive Space Policy” initiative. Farah was a lead researcher at the 2025 IAF-IPMC Young Professional Workshop and is the first Indonesian recipient of the AIAA ASCEND grant and the IAF Emerging Space Leaders 2025 award.



## **DANIEL SORS RAURELL**

**Head of Services and Industrial Promotion Office, Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC)**

Daniel Sors is the Head of Services and Industrial Promotion Office within the Area for the Promotion of the Space Sector at the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC),

Previously, he has been working at the European Space Agency (ESA), in various space startups and at the Satellite Applications Catapult supporting the development of the UK space ecosystem.

## **DAY 3 – 28 SEPTEMBER**

## **TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION**



## **WAKU HATAKEYAMA**

**Executive Officer of Satellite Data Analysis AI Business Development, Custom AI Solution Div. Principal Engineer, Japan**

Waku Hatakeyama holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the University of Tokyo.

Appointed Executive Officer in 2024, he has been recognized for his work at the intersection of space and AI with awards from the Ministers of the Environment (2022) and Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (2024). He has presented at ICLR 2022 and is a regular speaker at seminars and media. Waku holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the University of Tokyo.

# DAY 3

## KEYNOTE SPEECH



### IZUMI MIKAMI

Corporate Advisor, Oceans Solutions Technology,  
Japan om AI Solution Div. Principal Engineer, Japan

Mr. Mikami earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Tohoku University (1978) and a doctorate in electrical engineering from Kyoto University (2005).

During his career at Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (MELCO), he led the development of the SUBARU Telescope in Hawaii, the world's largest monolithic optical telescope at the time. For this achievement, he received the Medal of Purple Ribbon from the Emperor of Japan in 2008. Later held executive roles, including CEO of a MELCO affiliate and Senior Executive Director at two private foundations. He works as a technical and management consultant and serves as Corporate Advisor at Ocean Solutions Technology,.

## DAY 3: FIRSESIDE CHAT



### HAMID MEHMOOD

Scientific Affairs Officer, United Nations Office  
for Outer Space Affairs, UNOOSA

Dr. Hamid Mehmood heads the UN-SPIDER Beijing Office at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, leading initiatives that apply space-based technologies and GeoAI to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

He focuses on turning cutting-edge research into operational tools for governments and partners. From 2022–2025, he served at UNESCAP's Space Applications Section, developing GeoAI applications across the Asia-Pacific, contributing to the Regional Space Applications Programme, and serving on the GEO Blue Planet Steering Committee. His current interests include GeoAI, big Earth data, and analysis-ready data for decision support, with multiple publications and technical guides



### ABDULLAH RAFEEU

Emergency Operations Manager, National Disaster  
Management Authority (NDMA), Maldives

Abdullah Rafeeu is a seasoned disaster risk and emergency management professional with over 21 years of government service, including 16 years at the NDMA.

He currently serves as Emergency Operations Manager, overseeing emergency response coordination and strengthening local capacities for disaster preparedness. Holding a master's degree in project management, Abdullah previously served as Senior Resource Management Officer and Assistant Project Officer, contributing to national disaster resilience efforts. He played a key role in the Maldives' tsunami recovery and has also worked with the Ministry of Atolls and Development and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## JOHN STRICKLAND



**Director, Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI), Office of the Prime Minister, Cook Islands**

John Strickland is an experienced public servant with a strong background in law enforcement and emergency management.

Since September 2021, he has served as Director of Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI), leading national disaster response efforts under the Office of the Prime Minister. Under his leadership, EMCI has gained international recognition, including a 2024 award for advancements in GIS technology. Prior to this role, he served in the Cook Islands Police Service, retiring as Police Commander after overseeing seven portfolios and acting as Police Commissioner. In 2025, he was appointed Regional Chair of NDMO Directors.



## FARID GAMGAMI

**Head of Department at the Innovation Academy for Microsatellites, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Vice Director of Key Laboratory for Satellite Digitalization Technology**

Dr. Farid Gamgami holds a Master's in Aerospace Engineering from RWTH Aachen (2003) and a PhD in Astrophysics from the University of Heidelberg (2007). He has held senior roles across aerospace sectors including space transportation, exploration, and Earth observation, serving as systems engineer, program manager, and Chief Strategy Officer. An accomplished author and speaker, he is passionate about supporting emerging spacefaring nations. In June 2024, he joined the Innovation Academy for Microsatellites at CAS as Head of Department and Vice Director of the Key Laboratory for Satellite Digitalization Technology.



## TELESIA SILA

**Principal Geospatial Officer, Ministry of Lands and Survey, Government of Samoa**

Telesia Sila is the Principal Geospatial Officer in the National Mapping Section of Samoa's Ministry of Lands and Survey.

She leads the development of national geospatial datasets and supports land administration, maritime boundaries, and spatial data integration across government agencies. With expertise in GIS, remote sensing, and geospatial technologies, she has contributed to Samoa's National Land Policy and the introduction of the UN-IGIF framework. Her work spans LiDAR and aerial surveys, foundational mapping for planning, and the use of geospatial solutions for climate resilience, disaster risk management, and sustainable ocean governance in SIDS. She actively promotes data sharing and regional collaboration to support evidence-based policy and resilient communities.



## **OFA MASIWAWA**

**Senior Geospatial Officer, National Disaster Risk Management Office, Tonga**

Ofa Masiwawa is a Senior Geospatial Officer at Tonga's National Disaster Risk Management Office, with over eight years of public service experience in disaster preparedness, emergency logistics, and geospatial intelligence.

She played a key role in establishing NDRMO's Geospatial Unit, enhancing Tonga's capacity to visualize and act on risk information. Her pilot project on Earth observation for disaster preparedness was internationally recognized at the 2024 UN Summit of the Future Museum Gallery in New York. Ofa is passionate about integrating traditional knowledge with modern geospatial tools to strengthen community resilience across the Pacific.

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**



## **AARTI HOLLA-MAINI**

**Director, UNOOSA**

Aarti Holla-Maini is the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). She brings to this position over 25 years of professional experience in the space sector including in managerial and advocacy functions.

Most recently, she has held the role of Executive Vice-President Sustainability, Policy & Impact at NorthStar Earth & Space. She holds a bachelor's degree in law with German law from Kings College London, UK, a master's degree in business administration from HEC Paris, France, and she is also an alumna of the International Space University.



## **ANIL KUMAR**

**IAF Vice President for Relations with International Organizations**

He established the ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM) in 2022 and has held key roles including Project Director of Netra and Director of Space Situational Awareness.

Internationally, he has represented ISRO at UNCOPUOS, UNOOSA, IADC, and chaired several global working groups on space sustainability and debris mitigation. A member of the International Academy of Astronautics, he is a frequent keynote speaker at major conferences worldwide. Beyond space, he is the Founder and Chairman of I-Care, a trust supporting medical treatment and education for underprivileged communities.



## AYHAN INCIRCI

Director of International Relations, Turkish Space Agency (TUA), Director General, External Relations and Legal Affairs Department, Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)

Dr. Ayhan İncirci is Director General of External Relations and Legal Affairs at the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), appointed in 2025 upon the nomination of the Turkish Space Agency (TUA). At TUA, he founded and led the International Relations Department, advancing Türkiye's global partnerships in space and securing the bid to host the International Astronautical Congress 2026 in Antalya. He also serves as Vice Chair of the IAF Committee for Liaison with International Organizations and Developing Nations (CLIODN). With a Ph.D. in Social Sciences, his career spans two decades across international cooperation, defense, and space diplomacy, making him a recognized voice in space education, policy, and law.