



**70<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**

***of the International  
Astronautical Congress – IAC***

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**Jean-Yves Le Gall**  
*IAF President*

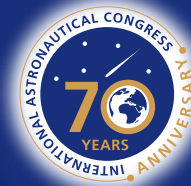
This year, the International Astronautical Congress, IAC, marks 70 vibrant years since its first meeting in Paris, France, in 1950. The first IAC was attended by a bold group of 20 space enthusiasts coming from 8 countries who sought to encourage improvement in international cooperation in the aftermath of the horrendous second world war responsible for the deaths of millions of people.

It was in this context that the IAC opened an international conversation to create a space-faring world. They did so by acknowledging that proper dialogue would be the best way to promote cooperation, advancing international development and sharing knowledge.

Seventy years have passed since the first meeting, the IAC has come a long way and manage to rise to the challenge thanks to the incredible work of the International Astronautical Federation, IAF. The IAC could never have lasted for so long without the excellence of all those within the IAF who made enormous efforts to establish the foundations of an international space community and transform the IAC into a brand name.

Congratulations to us all, past and present delegates of the IAC, for showing how in Space and on Earth there are no boundaries. This little photo album is a celebration and a recognition of the people and the work behind the world most important space congress.

# 1950's



In 1950, the first International Astronautical Congress takes place in Paris, the only forum where space enthusiasts of East and West could meet



- 1<sup>st</sup> IAC, Paris, France, 1950

In 1951, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) is established by 10 countries



- 2<sup>nd</sup> IAC, London, United Kingdom, 1951



- 3<sup>rd</sup> IAC, Stuttgart, Germany, 1952
- 4<sup>th</sup> IAC, Zurich, Switzerland, 1953

- 5<sup>th</sup> IAC, Innsbruck, Austria, 1954



In 1957, Sputnik I becomes the first artificial satellite in space

In 1957, Laika the dog is the first animal launched to space

In 1958 Van Allen radiation belts are discovered as a zone of energetic charged particles

In 1958, U.S. President Eisenhower establishes the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA



- 6<sup>th</sup> IAC, Copenhagen, Denmark, 1955

- 7<sup>th</sup> IAC, Rome, Italy, 1956

- 8<sup>th</sup> IAC, Barcelona, Spain, 1957
- 9<sup>th</sup> IAC, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1958

- 10<sup>th</sup> IAC, London, United Kingdom, 1959



# 1960's

In 1960, the International Astronautical Academy is founded by Theodore von Karman as part of IAF



- 11<sup>th</sup> IAC, Stockholm, Sweden, 1960



In 1961, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human to travel into outer space and the first to orbit the Earth

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy declares the goal to put a man on the moon

In 1961, Gherman Titov is the first man to sleep in space and the youngest person ever to fly to space

In 1961, the IAC takes place for first time outside of Europe, in Washington D.C.

- 12<sup>th</sup> IAC, Washington D.C., United States, 1961

In 1962, Telstar 1 Satellite provides first global television signal of space

In 1962, the first reusable spacecraft, the X-15, is air-launched on a suborbital trajectory

In 1962, the Alouette-I scientific satellite marks Canada's entry into the space age



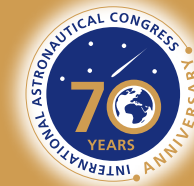
- 13<sup>th</sup> IAC, Varna, Bulgaria, 1962



In 1963, Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman in outer space



- 14<sup>th</sup> IAC, Paris, France, 1963
- 15<sup>th</sup> IAC, Warsaw, Poland, 1964



In 1965, Asterix , the first French satellite, is successfully sent to space

In 1965, cosmonaut Alexei Leonov completes the first ever spacewalk



- 16<sup>th</sup> IAC, Athens, Greece, 1965



- 17<sup>th</sup> IAC, Madrid, Spain, 1966



- 18<sup>th</sup> IAC, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, 1967
- 19<sup>th</sup> IAC, New York, United States, 1968

In 1969 the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is established

In 1969, the Apollo 10 crew achieves the highest speed (39897 km/h) relative to Earth ever attained by humans

In 1969, 600 million people are watching live Apollo 11's crew landing on the moon

In 1969, the IAC takes place for the first time in Latin America, in Argentina



- 20<sup>th</sup> IAC, Mar de Plata, Argentina, 1969





**Clayton Mowry**  
*IAF Vice President  
for Financial Matters and  
IAC Evolution*

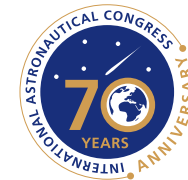
Celebrating anniversaries is an important part of life. Major milestones give us a chance to look back and reflect on how our experiences have shaped us. Over the past 70 years, the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) has helped gather space leaders from nations around the world to exchange ideas, advance exploration, and learn how we can utilize what lies beyond Earth for the betterment of humankind.

By design the IAC changes each year with new host cities and themes that allow us to learn diverse perspectives and visit new lands. The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) seeks to involve local communities in these varied locations to bring space to all people and galvanize the next generation of space enthusiasts. Our Congress has become the central gathering place for space professionals from all sectors and nations of the world. Just as important, the IAF has sought to foster gender diversity and embraced future generations of space professionals through exciting content.

The IAF will continue to evolve the IAC, bringing innovative tools, content, and technology to enrich the delegate experience, reaching out to those who cannot attend in person. We invite you to share your thoughts and impressions on how we can make the IAC an even better event. As Albert Einstein said, "The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once." Let's celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> gathering of our community in Washington, learn from our experience, and improve together but not necessarily at once!



# 1970's



In 1970, Lunokhod 1 becomes the first of two robotic lunar rovers landed on the moon by the Soviet Union

In 1971, Alan Shepard becomes the first American astronaut to play golf on the moon

In 1971, the first orbital station in history, Salyut 1, is launched

In 1973, NASA's first space station Skylab is launched



- 21<sup>st</sup> IAC, Constance, Germany, 1970



- 22<sup>nd</sup> IAC, Brussels, Belgium, 1971



- 23<sup>rd</sup> IAC, Vienna, Austria, 1972
- 24<sup>th</sup> IAC, Baku, USSR, 1973



- 25<sup>th</sup> IAC, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1974

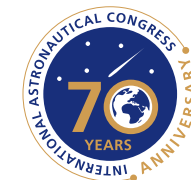
In 1975, the European Space Agency is created

In 1975, the first international handshake in outer space between astronaut Thomas P. Stafford and cosmonaut Alexey A. Leonov



In 1977, NASA launches Voyager 1

In 1978, Vera Rubin discovers the galaxy rotation problem, evidence of the existence of dark matter



- 26<sup>th</sup> IAC, Lisbon, Portugal, 1975



- 27<sup>th</sup> IAC, Anaheim, United States, 1976



- 28<sup>th</sup> IAC, Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1977
- 29<sup>th</sup> IAC, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, 1978



- 30<sup>th</sup> IAC, Munich, Germany, 1979



# 1980's

In 1980, Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez becomes the first Latin American to fly in space aboard Soyuz 38 to space station Salyut 6



In 1982, Jean-Loup Chrétien first French to fly with Soviets on Salyut 7

In 1982, Soviet probe Venera 13 lands on Venus recording sound for the first time ever on another planet

In 1983, Guion S. Bluford becomes the first African-American ever in Space

In 1983, the Israel Space Agency is founded in Tel Aviv

In 1983, the Space Foundation is established

In 1984, Svetlana Savitskaya becomes the first woman to perform a Spacewalk



- 31<sup>st</sup> IAC, Tokyo, Japan, 1980



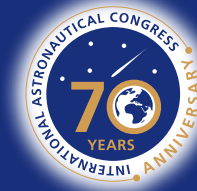
- 32<sup>nd</sup> IAC, Rome, Italy, 1981



- 33<sup>rd</sup> IAC, Paris, France, 1982
- 34<sup>th</sup> IAC, Budapest, Hungary, 1983



- 35<sup>th</sup> IAC, Lausanne, Switzerland, 1984



In 1985, Sultan bin Salman Al Saud becomes the first member of a royal family, Arab and Muslim to fly in outer space



In 1986, Space Station Mir is launched by the Soviet Union

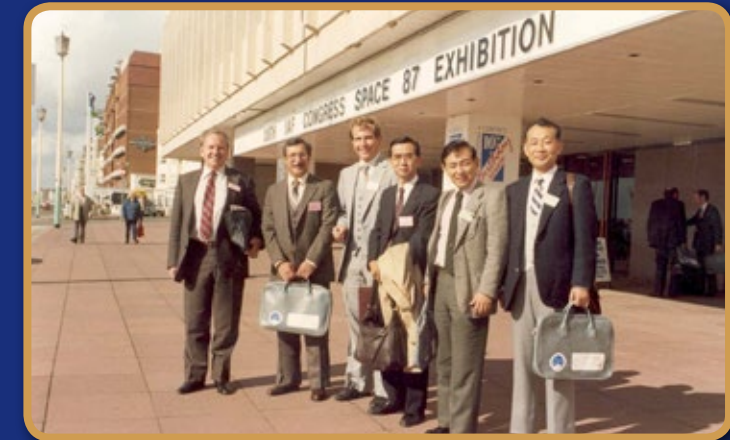


In 1987, the birth of a galaxy is observed for the first time



In 1988, the IAF reaches 100 members

In 1988, the IAC takes place in Bangalore, India, spotlighting space activities in Asia



- 36<sup>th</sup> IAC, Stockholm, Sweden, 1985

- 37<sup>th</sup> IAC, Innsbruck, Austria, 1986

- 38<sup>th</sup> IAC, Brighton, United Kingdom, 1987
- 39<sup>th</sup> IAC, Bangalore, India, 1988

- 40<sup>th</sup> IAC, Malaga, Spain, 1989





## Mary Snitch

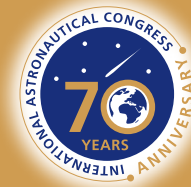
*IAF Special Advisor to the  
IAF President  
(Diversity Initiatives)*

For the past 70 years the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) through the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) has encouraged participation from all over the world in order to create a more inclusive environment where different working patterns are accommodated, people can debate, challenge and present ideas, and are supported when undertaking new and innovative work.

In 70 years, we've been striving to let everyone see how diversity and inclusion have practical benefits: Diversity has been shown to foster creativity and drive innovation; A diverse and inclusive workforce is proven to be the best way to ensure the development of new ideas; And having people with different backgrounds is a certainty to solving problems.

The IAF President, Jean-Yves Le Gall, has developed an Agenda for his term as IAF President focusing on diversity: Foster the Principles of "3-G Diversity: Geography, Generation, and Gender" within the Federation and the Space Sector. The International Platform for Diversity and Equality in Astronautics (IDEA) has been created allowing the IAF to take a leading role in the effort to promote and advance diversity and equality principles amongst a global space community, and live up to its motto Connecting @ll Space People. There is still a lot of work to do before we reach parity. However, the mission is now implemented within the IAC community and the path is now clear, we are positive that in the next 70 years the IAC will be able to become the embodiment of diversity in Gender, Geography and Generation.

# 1990's



In 1990, the Hubble Space telescope is launched



- 41<sup>st</sup> IAC, Dresden, Germany, 1990



- 42<sup>nd</sup> IAC, Montreal, Canada, 1991

In 1992, Mae Jemison becomes the first African-American woman in space aboard flight STS-47 of Space Shuttle Endeavour

In 1992, Dirk Frimout becomes first Belgian to fly in space

In 1992, Mark C. Lee and N. Jan Davis become the first and only married couple to fly together in space as mission specialists

In 1993, the full constellation of 24 satellites of the Global Positioning System (GPS) is operational



- 43<sup>rd</sup> IAC, Washington, United States, 1992
- 44<sup>th</sup> IAC, Graz, Austria, 1993

In 1994, Chiaki Mukai becomes Japan's first female astronaut



- 45<sup>th</sup> IAC, Jerusalem, Israel, 1994





In 1996, the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) comes to China for the first time

In 1996, Claudie Haigneré becomes the first French woman in space

In 1995, Dr. Norman Thagard becomes the first American to board a Russian rocket

In 1995, the spacecraft Galileo reaches the orbit of Jupiter



- 46<sup>th</sup> IAC, Oslo, Norway, 1995



- 47<sup>th</sup> IAC, Beijing, China, 1996

In 1997, NASA's Mars Pathfinder becomes the first roving probe to explore Mars

In 1998, the International Space Station is launched

In 1998, at age 77 John Glenn becomes the oldest person to ever fly in space



- 48<sup>th</sup> IAC, Turin, Italy, 1997
- 49<sup>th</sup> IAC, Melbourne, Australia, 1998



- 50<sup>th</sup> IAC, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1999



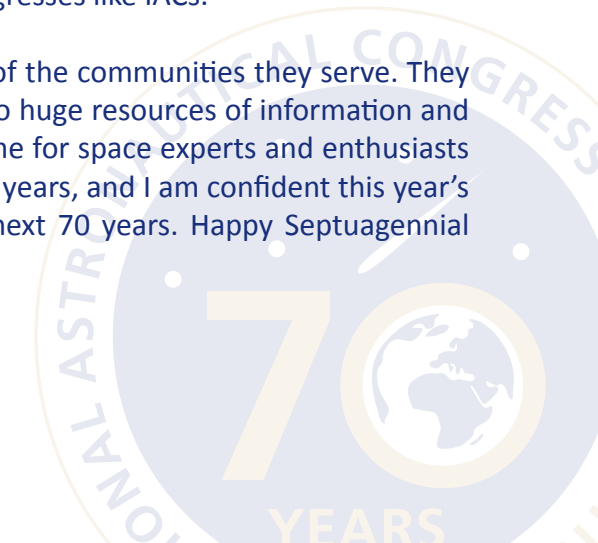
## Pascale Ehrenfreund

*IAF Incoming President  
and IAF Vice President for  
Communications, Publications  
and Global Conferences*

It is the third time that Washington D.C. is hosting the IAC after 1961 and 1992, and 2019 will be a great Platinum jubilee. At this year's IAF Congress, the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) has managed to bring forth an impressive gathering of space enthusiasts to celebrate the successful first Moon landing among others. The organization has planned, over the years coordinated and designed successfully 70 IACs already and we plan to continue doing so for the foreseeable future.

With the ever-increasing use of smartphones and the opportunities for online networking, it is easy to think that we are shifting away from in-person meetings and congresses like IACs.

Congresses like the IAC have however always been at the heart of the communities they serve. They provide a platform to meet, discuss, exchange, socialize, access to huge resources of information and knowledge that cannot be matched today. The IAC has been home for space experts and enthusiasts from all over the world, background and genders, for the past 70 years, and I am confident this year's IAC is a success and I am confident it will be at least for the next 70 years. Happy Septuagennial anniversary dear space friends, cheers to the next 70 years!





# 2000's



In 2001, Earth receives last signals from space craft NEAR, providing data on asteroid Eros

In 2001, the longest spacewalk of 8h 56m outside of the ISS is performed by Susan J. Helms and James S. Voss

In 2001, the robotic spacecraft Mars Odyssey orbits Mars



- 51<sup>st</sup> IAC, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2000



- 52<sup>nd</sup> IAC, Toulouse, France, 2001

In 2002, Elon Musk founds SpaceX

In 2003, the European Space Agency launches Mars Express

In 2003, Canadian Space Agency launches first telescope micro-satellite MOST

In 2003, Nigeria enters the Space Age with the launch of its first satellite Nigeria-Sat-1

In 2003, the Chinese Space programme launches its first man, Yang Liwei, into space



- 53<sup>rd</sup> IAC, Houston, United States, 2002
- 54<sup>th</sup> IAC, Bremen, Germany, 2003

In 2004, Cassini-Huygens becomes the first to enter Saturn's orbit

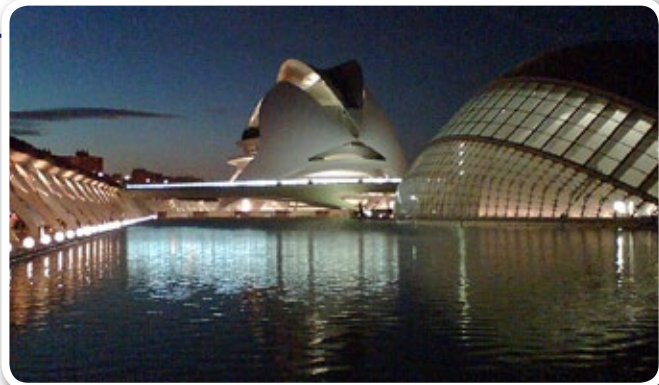
In 2004, the European Space Agency's space probe mission Rosetta begins



- 55<sup>th</sup> IAC, Vancouver, Canada, 2004



In 2005 Huygens, an atmospheric entry probe, lands successfully on Saturn's moon Titan



In 2009, the Kepler telescope is launched

In 2009, the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite is launched to explore hydrogen and water on the moon



- 56<sup>th</sup> IAC, Fukuoka, Japan, 2005



- 57<sup>th</sup> IAC, Valencia, Spain, 2006



- 58<sup>th</sup> IAC, Hyderabad, India, 2007
- 59<sup>th</sup> IAC, Glasgow, United Kingdom, 2008



- 60<sup>th</sup> IAC, Daejeon, Republic of Korea, 2009



# 2010-2018

In 2010, four women are in space at the same time for the first time

In 2010, the IAF Global Lunar Conference (GLUC) is held in Beijing

In 2010, the Mexican Space Agency is established



- 61<sup>st</sup> IAC, Prague, Czech Republic, October 2010



- 62<sup>nd</sup> IAC, Cape Town, South Africa, 2011



In 2012, Liu Yang becomes the first Chinese woman to go to space

In 2012, Curiosity, a car-sized rover, lands on Aeolis Palus inside Gale on Mars

In 2012, Voyager 2 becomes NASA's longest-operating mission



- 63<sup>rd</sup> IAC, Naples, Italy, 2012
- 64<sup>th</sup> IAC Beijing, China, 2013

In 2013, Edward C. Stone, Project Scientist for the Voyager mission, wins the IAF World Space Award

In 2013, the Indian Space Research Organisation launches the Mars Orbiter Mission becoming the first Asian nation to reach Mars orbit

In 2014, the Zero-G (gravity) 3D printer is launched onboard Space X CRS-4 demonstrating the possibility of 3D printing in microgravity

In 2014, Philae becomes the first successful comet landing, providing data on the composition of comets

In 2014, the UAE joins the space race with announcement of Hope Mars Mission



- 65<sup>th</sup> IAC, Toronto, Canada, 2014



In 2015, Gennady Padalka reaches a record of 879 days in space

In 2015, New Horizons flies 12,500 km (7,800 mi) above the surface of Pluto, making it the first spacecraft to explore the dwarf planet

In 2015, gravitational waves are detected by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory



- 66<sup>th</sup> IAC, Jerusalem, Israel, 2015

In 2016, University of Texas researchers identify a giant ice deposit on Mars

In 2016, IAF President Le Gall launches his Global Innovation Agenda promoting 3G Diversity



- 67<sup>th</sup> IAC, Guadalajara, Mexico, 2016



In 2017, astronaut Peggy Whitson breaks the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman

In 2017, the Cassini-Huygens probe studying the planet Saturn's system is caught in Saturn's upper atmosphere and burns up

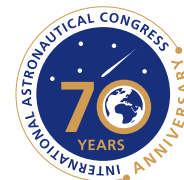
In 2017, Australia announces the creation of the Australian Space Agency at the 68<sup>th</sup> IAC



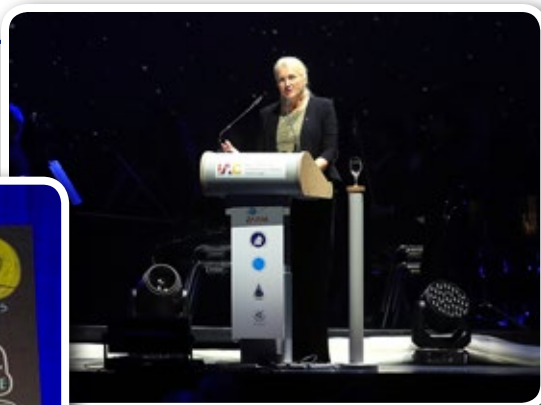
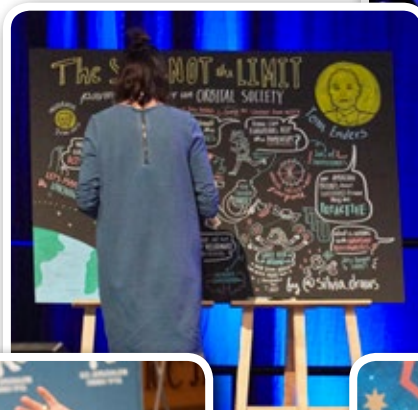
- 68<sup>th</sup> IAC, Adelaide, Australia, 2017



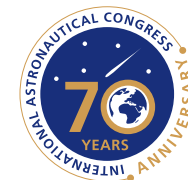
- 69<sup>th</sup> IAC, Bremen, Germany, 2018













**70<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS**

21-25 October 2019 | Washington, D.C.

*Space: The Power of the Past, the Promise of the Future*



IAC2019.ORG



*70<sup>th</sup> IAC, Washington D.C., United States, 2019*









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***Connecting @ll Space People***

