

# THE IAF INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTS CHAPTER

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**25**

76TH  
INTERNATIONAL  
ASTRONAUTICAL  
CONGRESS  
SYDNEY

29 . SEP - 03 . OCT . 2025  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Credits: Marcin Rosadziński



INTERNATIONAL  
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Australian  
Space Agency



IAC 2025

THE IAF  
INTERNATIONAL  
ASTRONAUTS CHAPTER

SUSTAINABLE SPACE: RESILIENT EARTH

29.SEP-03.OCT.2025  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



Dear IAC 2025 Delegates and Esteemed Guests,

We are honoured to welcome you to the 76<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025) in Sydney, Australia – a preeminent global gathering uniting the public with the foremost visionaries, pioneers and leaders in space exploration.

Among the many highlights of this landmark event is the fourth edition of the IAF International Astronauts Chapter – a distinguished initiative launched in 2023 by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). This premier programme offers an extraordinary opportunity to engage directly with those who have journeyed beyond our planet, bringing humanity face-to-face with the heroes of space.

Jointly organized and proudly funded by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the Australian Space Agency, an esteemed IAF Member since 2011 and Co-Host of IAC 2025 – this year's Chapter features astronauts from both national space programmes and the private sector. Their participation creates a rare and vibrant platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, education, and inspiration for future generations.



To commemorate this exceptional gathering, we are pleased to present this exclusive IAF Astronauts Chapter Booklet – a unique collector's item featuring photographs of the participating astronauts. This keepsake not only celebrates their achievements but also offers delegates a personal memento, perfect for collecting autographs and preserving the unforgettable moments of your interactions with these icons of human spaceflight.

We invite you to make the most of this singular opportunity to connect with those who have ventures beyond Earth and to be inspired by their stories, passion, and vision for the future of space exploration.



**Christian FEICHTINGER**

Executive Director,  
International Astronautical Federation



**Enrico PALERMO**

Head,  
Australian Space Agency



## Katherine BENNELL-PEGG

Australia

Astronaut, Australian Space Agency (ASA)

Group Captain in the Royal Australian Air Force  
(Reserve)



"I want to use this experience to open doors for Australian scientists and engineers to utilise space for their discoveries, to inspire the pursuit of STEM careers, and show all Australians that they too can reach for the stars."



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## Eric PHILIPS

Australia

Crew Dragon Astronaut



"I'm now the first Australian to fly into space under the Australian flag and an incredible honor."



## Julie PAYETTE

Canada

Astronaut (retired), Canadian Space  
Agency (CSA)

President, Association of Space Explorers



"It reassures me that when we get together as a community, when we put our effort together and our will to help others, we can achieve anything, and that is a lesson for us all."

## Shubhanshu SHUKLA

India

Astronaut

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)



“From space, the Earth looks completely one. No borders, no divisions — only one home shared by all of humanity. When I saw India from above, it looked grand and enormous. Much bigger than on a map.”

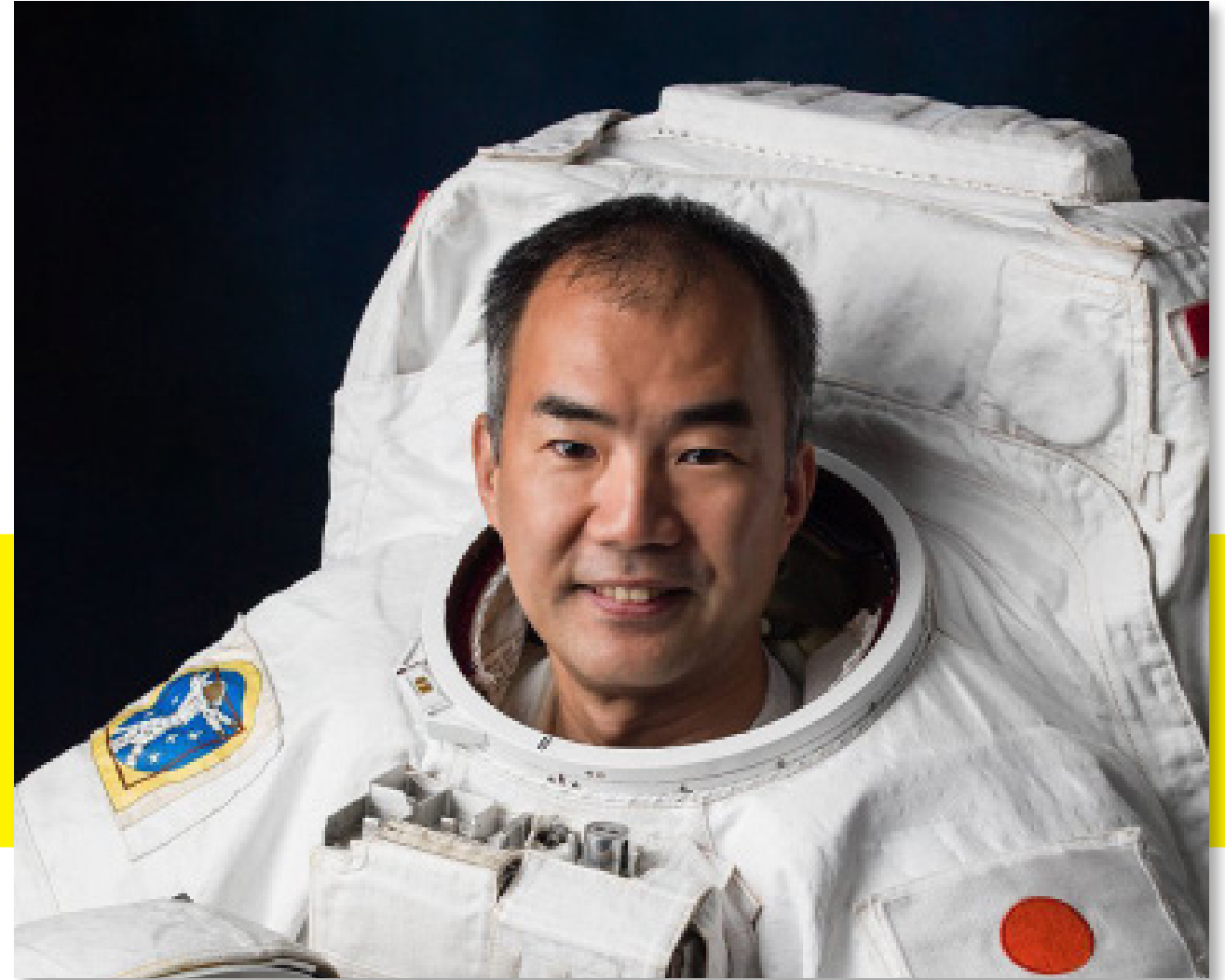
## Soichi NOGUCHI

Japan

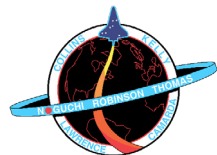
Astronaut, Executive Fellow

World Economic Forum (WEF)

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)



"We are citizens of space and stewards of Earth. We need to take actions to build a global climate alliance in order to protect our environment."





## Koichi WAKATA

Japan

Astronaut and Chief Technology Officer,  
Asia-Pacific  
Axiom Space, LLC



"Seen from space, the beauty of our planet is striking, I felt very fortunate to call it my home. Every time I watched the Earth, I felt a strong sense of determination to protect it. No matter how busy my work was or how different life in space was, the near presence of my home planet provided a sense of comfort."

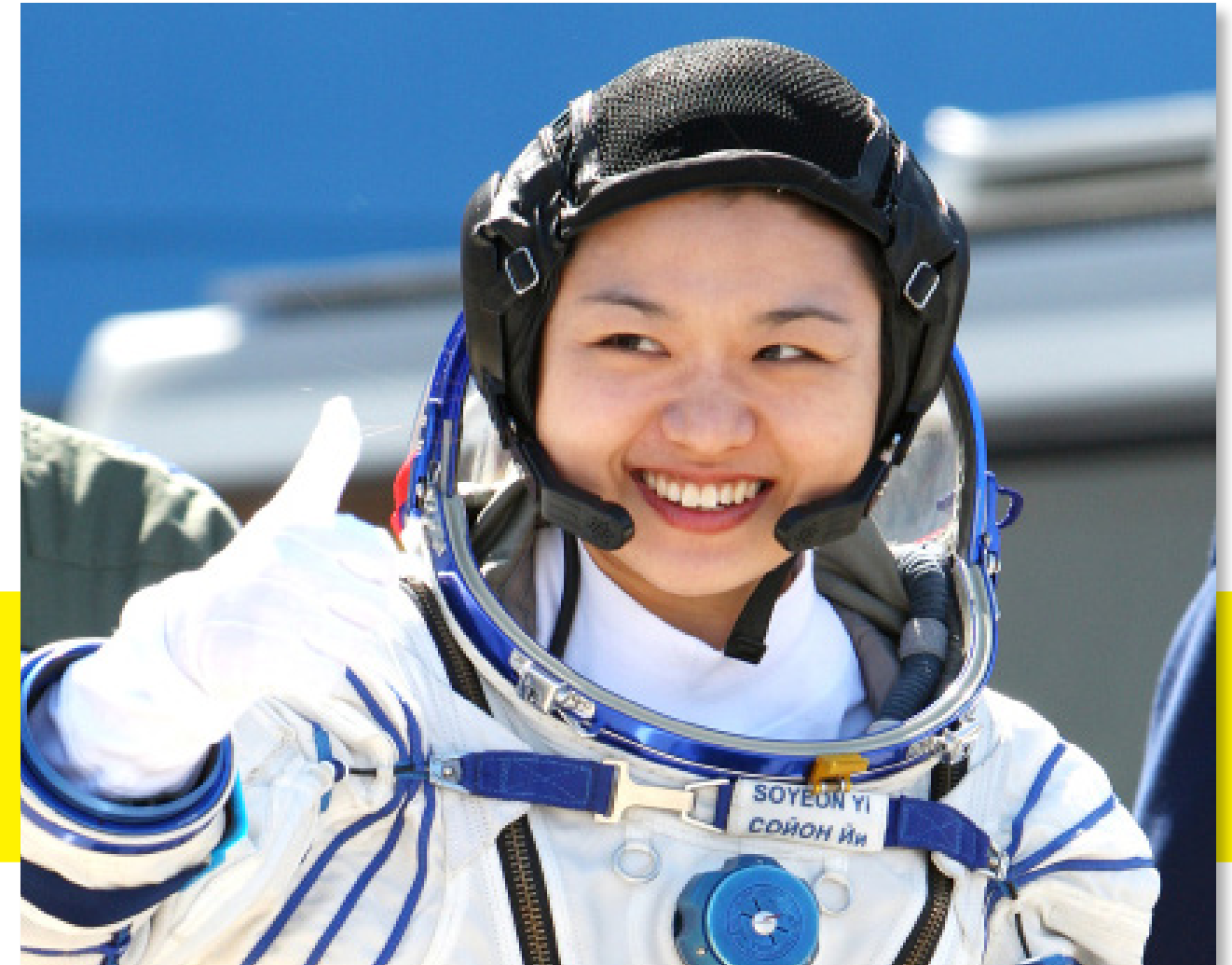


## Soyeon YI

South Korea

Astronaut

Korean Astronaut Program (KAP)



"Our beautiful planet, Earth, is the greatest gift for us. I believe that we have an obligation to share it fairly with everyone, to preserve it to the best of our ability, and to hand it over to the next generation in as good a condition as when received."

## Marcus WANDT

Sweden

Chief Innovation Officer, SAAB AB  
Special Advisor, Swedish National Space  
Agency (SNSA)  
Astronaut, European Space Agency (ESA)



There is a very clear difference between impossible and unlikely; impossible and very difficult. Those are very separate things. If it is unlikely and very difficult – it is still not impossible. Don't let go of that dream, just keep it."



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## Alper GEZERAVCI

Türkiye

First Turkish Astronaut

Board Member

Turkish Space Agency (TUA)



"The future is in the skies. As Türkiye, we are experiencing the joy of taking a step towards a first in our history. We are eager to contribute to the science and research conducted here."



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## Tuva Cihangir ATASEVER

Türkiye

Astronaut, Galactic 07 Research Astronaut  
Engineer, Turkish Space Agency (TUA)



"We are the universe experiencing itself"



## Nora ALMATROOSHI

United Arab Emirates

Astronaut

Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)



"If no one has done it yet, then you just go ahead and be the first. Always set high goals and ambitions for yourself. If you are shooting for the Moon and you don't reach, you'd still fall on the stars."

## Hazzaa AL MANSOORI

United Arab Emirates

First Arab Astronaut

Astronauts Office Manager

Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)



“The launch sparked something in the souls of kids, not just here but across the whole Arab region. I believe they are already inspired and will follow their dreams and do something great.”

## Dominic Anthony “Tony” ANTONELLI

United States

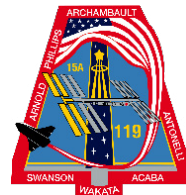
Astronaut (retired)

Acting Director, Advanced Programs Civil Space

Lockheed Martin Corporation (LMC)



Get over this fear of failure. Be asked to do something hard. Don't shy away. Work together as a team and accomplish something. The confidence of doing something really difficult as part of a team as an experience they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.



## Sirisha BANDLA

United States / India

Astronaut, Vice President of  
Government Affairs

Virgin Galactic



“After I have gone to space and had that incredible experience of viewing our planet, it became my favourite planet.”

## Michael LÓPEZ-ALEGRÍA

United States / Spain

Chief of the Astronaut Office

Axiom Space LLC



"It can inspire students to dream big, think smart, and pursue private-sector or public-sector careers that contribute to the advancement of knowledge and technology. Space exploration is like embarking on a journey of self-discovery."







ORGANIZED BY :



**International Astronautical Federation  
(IAF)**

100 Avenue de Suffren  
75015 Paris, France

**Phone:** +33 1 45 67 42 60

**E-mail:** [info@iafastro.org](mailto:info@iafastro.org)

[www.iafastro.org](http://www.iafastro.org)

HOSTED BY :



**Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA)**

Suite 102, Level 1, 13-15 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

**Phone:** +61 476 358 611

**Email:** [operations@spaceindustry.com.au](mailto:operations@spaceindustry.com.au)

[www.spaceindustry.com.au](http://www.spaceindustry.com.au)

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