An Overview

The International Astronautical Federation—Workforce Development Young Professionals Programme Committee (IAF-WD/YPP) is one of the administrative committees dedicated to Young Professionals and Students. The committee’s scope includes all matters pertaining to international space community workforce development. The committee focuses on early career professionals in all the areas of the aerospace community and provides overall guidance to IAF’s Young Professional Programme. We may divide our work into four distinct domains:

- IAF Internal Relations and support
- Technical Activities
- Career Development
- Communications

General Changes to the Committee

IAF Workforce Development Young Professional Programme Committee (IAF WD-YPP) welcomed new leadership (2022-24). The names of new selected members after the election results in February 2021 are yet to be announced officially. They will take the charge from the existing leadership during IAC 2021 in Dubai.

News Developments

- Every member of the committee is encouraged to be part of each team working in the domain under a vice chair for effective delivery and fast reappraisal.
- IAF WD-YPP committee has also joined hands with the SEOC to establish a workforce development subcommittee having members from both and to introduce workforce technical sessions.
- A new database of active members of the committee is made for more lucrative information.
- The structure of news blasts and other communication methods have been revived once again to make them reader-friendly, crisp and informative.
- The Committee has also approved the release of Juventa (erstwhile YP newsletter), a quarterly magazine exclusively for young professionals and students.
- The Committee has also focused on joining hands with international organizations like SGAC and ISU for more capacity building events benefitting young professionals and students.
Developments related to IAC 2021

Under the supervision of the chair, the IAF WD-YPP Committee has prepared the following events for IAC 2021 in Dubai

- Cross Cultural Workshop 2021.
- IAF IPMC Workshop 2021.
- Networking Event “YP panel on IAF Opportunities”.
- Joint Networking Events
- Global Networking Forum
- Next Generation Plenary

Breakthroughs:

Congratulations to the IAF WD/YPP Committee members Ryan L. Kobrick and Stephanie Wan for being awarded Distinguished Service Award 2021.

After one and half years of continued success, the YP newsletter of the IAF WD-YPP committee is now converted into a YP magazine with the new title as “JUVENTA”

IAF-WD/YPP Committee is successfully organizing Scientific Writing Series to help YPs and other researchers to successfully write an abstract, prepare their manuscripts and present their papers in IAC everywhere.

IAF-WD/YPP Committee had successfully organized the flagship NextGen Summit last year in IAC 2020 in collaboration with SGAC and ISEB. Blue Origin USA sponsored the event.

Action Plan:

1. More result-oriented workshops (like scientific writing) and online events in future.
2. Specialized space-related courses by experts in collaboration with the secretariat.
3. Indexed IAF YP Journal in collaboration with Springer, Elsevier or any reputed publishing house. The proposal draft is under process.
4. More networking events and MOUs with leading organization for skill based courses especially designed for our YPs.
5. Special motivational lectures and webinars for stakeholders through our YouTube channels.
6. Special YP related events, awards, grants for GLEX, IAF events other than the IAC (ESL, YSL etc.).