



SPACE: WHERE THE WORLD COMES TOGETHER FOR PROGRESS VISION 2071

EVENT DETAILS

DATE:	Wednesday 20 October 2021
TIME:	09:30 – 17:10
VENUE:	DEC Hall 2A South
IN ASSOCIATION WITH:	Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre and UAE Space Agency
CO-CURATE PARTNERS:	Italy and Sweden



EVENT SUMMARY

Global leaders from space agencies, governments and private corporations will convene to explore humanity's sustainable expansion into space. How are recent advancements and current plans going to increase the connectivity of our citizens? How can we work together for mutual benefit on some of the most exciting scientific advancements of our time?

With the global space industry expected to have an annual revenue of 1.1\$ trillion or more by 2040, this event will consider the economic benefits of the space sector, the variety of ways the space economy could expand and the role that governments and private enterprises can play to facilitate this.

The event will focus on fostering leadership, creativity and interdisciplinary global co-creation and cooperation. By attending you will have the opportunity to feed into an action-orientated global cooperation plan, the contents of which will be determined on the day with input from expert speakers and audience members.

AGENDA

TIME

ACTIVITY

09:30 – 10:00

Registration

10:00 – 10:10

Welcome from Event Partners

Hear from **H.E. Sarah Al Amiri**, UAE Minister of State for Advanced Technology and Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency, and **Yousuf Hamad Al Shaibani**, Director General of the MBRSC, as they welcome you to the event and set out the intention and agenda for the day.

All speakers will be introduced by Space Law and Governance expert, space industry consultant and thought leader, **Dr. Timiebi Aganaba**.

10:10 – 10:30

Introduction to the Blue Marble Vision

Led by **Cecilia Hertz**, Managing Director and Founder of Umbilical Design, and **Magnus Penker**, CEO and Founder of Innovation360, this session will introduce the concept of the Blue Marble Vision, the intended legacy framework for this event, backed by the partners planning this day. This framework will offer an informal partnership for new international collaborations.

10:30 – 11:10

The View from Space

In the company of **Naoko Yamazaki**, JAXA astronaut, space policy expert and second Japanese woman in space, **Jessica Meir**, American Astronaut, **Christer Fuglesang** Swedish astronaut, and **Hazza Almansoori**, UAE Astronaut, we set the day off with this inspirational theme considering the profound psychological and practical effect observing Earth from above – known as the ‘overview effect’ - has on the way we see the world, the overlap of opportunities and problems and how the benefits of global cooperation in the space sector become apparent.

The session will be moderated by **Dr. Timiebi Aganaba**, Space Law and Governance expert, space industry consultant and thought leader.

11:10 – 12:00

Earth Observations for Good

Earth Observation, geolocation and the provision of communications through satellites accounts for the majority of public and commercial space activity – and these services are growing and broadening in scope quickly.

Satellite observations such as the European Global Navigation Satellite System, Sentinel and Copernicus have become an essential part of everyday activities, including weather forecasting, monitoring the seas, forest fires and deforestation, mapping global CO2 emissions, preventing illegal wildlife trade and polar studies.

Further, some %40 of the UN’s SDGs are contingent on the use of space technology. In this section, we will explore the many ways in which these services can better serve humanity and sustainable living with an emphasis on Earth Observation.

We hear four perspectives on how these valuable services, and especially data from Earth Observation, can serve varied communities and markets around the world. These perspectives will be provided by **Diana Mastracci**, Czech Republic, Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat consultant, GEO Indigenous Alliance; **Mario Vargas Shakaim**, Co-founder of the GEO Indigenous Alliance, Technical officer of “All Eyes on the Amazon”; **Saeed Al Mansoori**, Senior Manager of Applications Development and Analysis Section, MBRSC; and **Dr. Gay Jane Perez (virtual speaker)**, Deputy Director General of the Philippine Space Agency

We ask what governments can do to help encourage space agencies and reward private corporations to share this valuable data and technology.

This will be a working, structured panel discussion responding to provocations from the host and involving input from the whole audience. It will highlight areas of collaboration in support of the Blue Marble Vision and a ‘marking up’ of areas for potential collaboration in the room. This will be replicated for each panel discussion. The panel will be moderated by **Dr. Timiebi Aganaba**.

12:00 – 12:10

Break

During the break, there will be facilitated networking to discuss previous sessions and other areas that can be incorporated into the Blue Marble Vision.

12:10 – 13:00

Connectivity for Humanity

Connecting the whole of humanity to the internet and providing effective communications is a priority for most nations. Innovations in the space sector provide new ways of delivering these to remote locations through satellite. How can we ensure this type of technology reaches the communities most underserved? We explore these developments through the eyes of the tech innovators and users on the ground making these possible, exposing the issues from their side and from the users. This will be a panel discussion moderated by **Dr. Timiebi Aganaba**, and will feature the expert voices of **Luigi Pasquali**, Coordinator of Space Activities at Leonardo, CEO Telespazio, Italy; and **Abimbola Alale (virtual speaker)** CEO, NIGCOMSAT, Nigeria; together with virtual contributions from **Fatema Al Hajri**, Vice President, Yahsat, UAE (**virtual speaker**) and **Aarti Holla-Maini**, Secretary General at EMEA Satellite Operators Association (**virtual speaker**). These global experts in the Satellite industry will be joined by **Krister Nilsson**, State Secretary for Foreign Trade, Sweden, to discuss the importance of international cooperation in this growing sector.

The desired outcome of this session will be to identify opportunities for expansion, collaboration and knowledge sharing with relevant space industry representatives.

13:00 – 13:45

Lunch & Networking

13:45 – 14:45

Space Economy – A Catalyst for Economic Growth and Human Wellbeing

The space sector is estimated to be worth 1.1\$ trillion by 2040 up from 350\$ billion now. Under this theme, we explore with people from both the private and public sides of this industry, where this growth will come and what the opportunities are to support this development in a way that benefits all nations.

We will consider the need for sustainable growth and management of the Space Economy, addressing topics such as the emergent space tourism industry, overcrowded orbits, space debris, cyber security and the setting of the norms of good behavior within the sector. This will take a global perspective with views shared from nations at different stages in their space tech development.

We will hear from representatives from different countries, including **Alexander MacDonald (video message)**, Chief Economist, Office of the Administrator at NASA Headquarter, USA; **Temidayo Oniosun**, Managing Director, Space in Africa; **Lionel Suchet**, COO and Deputy Director General of the French Space Agency, CNES; and **Dr Wei Sun**, Vice President of International Business, HEAD Aerospace.

The discussion will be led by **Dr. Timiebi Aganaba**.

14:45 – 15:30

Launching the Careers of the Next Generation of Space Technologists

A growing space sector needs a talented and diverse workforce. We consider perspectives from around the world on how this can be ensured.

Voices in this session will include **Amer Al Sayegh**, Senior Director of Space Engineering, MBRSC; **Soichi Noguchi**, JAXA Astronaut; and **Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo**, Director of Human Resources Science & Technology (HRST), of the African Union Commission. Science Technology and Innovation strategy for Africa (STISA2024-). We hope to be joined by **Monica Talevi**, Head of STEM Education and Outreach at ESA (**virtual speaker**) along with a pre-recorded video from **Matilda Ernkrans**, Minister for Space, Higher Education and Research, Sweden, and the discussion will be overseen by **Dr. Timiebi Aganaba**.

In a rapidly expanding industry, there currently exists shortages of a skilled workforce and, in many nations, a lack of diversity amongst the space sector. What can be done to attract the best talent from the widest pool, what are the needs of different nations and how could nations work together to support the inspiration and training of the best young people?

This panel aims to bring together perspectives from across a range of professions, integrating views from the private sector, higher level education institutes and government. In doing so, it addresses the Four Pillars of the UAE Vision for 2071, notably the role of education within this vision.

15:30 – 15:50

Break

15:50 – 16:50

Setting a Blue Marble Vision: International Collaboration for the Future

Introduced by **Magnus Penker**, CEO and Founder of Innovation360, this session will bring together many of the day's speakers and the audience to tease out the areas where greater cooperation is needed, possible and achievable to support global development in its many forms.

This session considers opportunities to work together, supporting collaborations between nations of differing capabilities, capacities, and needs, to bring about progress for all.

The UAE Space Agency, the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre and event co-organisers from Sweden and Italy will create an informal framework for progress, The Blue Marble Vision. This framework will describe an action-orientated plan for new cooperation that builds on the day's discussions.

This Blue Marble Vision framework will be carried forward to the 'Space for Agenda 2030' discussions in the Swedish Pavilion on 22nd Oct and will inform the agenda of the Stockholm 50 Conference in June 2022.

This session will also be a time to look further into the future. The space sector is in a period of rapid evolution: plans for private space stations, space tourism, in-orbit manufacturing and servicing and harvesting of lunar and asteroid materials were long considered to be so far in the future that there was no practical reason to talk about them. Yet these ideas are becoming increasingly more realistic and, in some cases, reality.

We will hear from the heads of several key space agencies, including **Simonetta Di Pippo**, Astrophysicist and Director of UNOOSA; **Dr Valanathan Munsami**, CEO South Africa National Space Agency; **Raúl Kulichevsky**, Deputy Executive and Technical Director of the Argentine National Space Activities Commission (CONAE) and **Ibrahim Al Qasem**, Executive Director UAE Space Agency.

16:50 – 17:10

Closing

The closing ceremony, with remarks from **Magnus Penker**, CEO and founder of Innovation360 and **Amer Al Sayegh**, Senior Director of Space Engineering at MBRSC, will include a review of the conclusions reached from the Blue Marble Vision and summarise the consensus of the experts in the room as to next steps. There will be a call to action urging attendees to act with enthusiasm for international cooperation and a summary of connections made during the day.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



HER EXCELLENCY SARAH BINT YOUSEF AL AMIRI

UAE Minister of State for Advanced Technology and
Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency.

In her role as Minister of State for Advanced Technology, her Excellency spearheads the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology's efforts to empower the adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies and promote research and development in the advanced science and technology sector, to create new industries that drive the shift towards a knowledge-based economy. This, in turn, contributes to the overall mandate of the Ministry to strengthen the UAE's industrial base, ensure in-country value, and raise the competitiveness of local industries. As Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency, Her Excellency is responsible to oversee the Agency's mandate of pioneering the space sector, ensuring its contribution to the national economy and to the UAE's sustainable development.

Her Excellency is also the Chairwoman of the Emirates Scientists Council, Chairwoman of the UAE Council for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Chairwoman of the Dubai Future Academy Board of Trustees, and she served as the Deputy Project Manager and Science Lead of the Emirates Mars Mission (Hope) at the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) before going on to be appointed Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency.

Prior to her Ministerial role, Her Excellency was the Head of Research and Development at MBRSC, where she established the Centre's knowledge management, strategic research and product assurance functionalities. She was also involved in DubaiSat1- and DubaiSat2-, and in the establishment of the KhalifaSat program.

In 2014, Her Excellency was tasked with and led the establishment of the Advanced Aerial Systems Program, where she championed development efforts on a prototype High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite. The project resulted in a successful ~24hour flight of the unmanned vehicle, which recorded the highest altitude of any unmanned aircraft over UAE airspace.

In 2015, the World Economic Forum honored Her Excellency as one of its 50 Young Scientists for her contributions to science, technology, and engineering.

Her Excellency Sarah Al Amiri holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Computer Engineering from the American University of Sharjah.



HIS EXCELLENCY YOUSUF HAMAD AL SHAIBANI

Director General for Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)

His Excellency Yousuf Hamad Al Shaibani, Director General for Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) H.E. Yousuf Hamad AlShaibani is the Director General for Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) and one of its founding members. With over two decades of experience serving in various government positions, AlShaibani has made valuable contributions towards the growth and development of MBRSC.

Since his appointment in 2013, AlShaibani has led MBRSC to become the regional leader in space research, exploration, and technology. Furthermore, the Centre has gone on to develop and launch the UAE Satellite Programme, UAE Astronaut Programme, Emirates Mars Mission, Mars 2117 Programme, and most recently the Emirate Lunar Mission.

In addition to his role as Director General, AlShaibani is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors at MBRSC and the Director General of the Dubai Electronic Security Center (DESC) and a board member for the UAE Space Agency as well as Smart Dubai.

AlShaibani graduated from Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research (KUSTAR) in 1995 and earned a Master of Science in Microelectronics Systems Design from Birmingham City University in the UK.



TIMIEBI, AGANABA

Assistant Professor

Space Law and Governance expert and thought leader, with 15 years sector experience gained in academia, government, non profit, think tank, law firm and consulting industries in 5 countries.

A Passionate communicator, Timiebi has been featured in the Washington Post, New York Times, CNN, NPR, LA Times and Business Insider amongst others!

She is an assistant professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society with a courtesy appointment at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, USA. Timiebi was a post-doctoral fellow and fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) based in Waterloo, Ontario Canada where she focused on environmental governance, and participated in a Canada-India Track 1.5 Dialogue. She was an observer at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn and Marrakech and It was at CIGI that she also honed her skills at utilizing social and multimedia to communicate her messages.

Timiebi was Executive Director of the World Space Week Association coordinating the global response to the UN 1999 declaration that World Space Week should be celebrated Oct 10-4 annually. She is currently on the Advisory Board for the Space Generation Advisory Council supporting the UN Programme on Space Applications. She is also on the ScienceAdvisory Board of World View Enterprises and the SETI institute and is a Senior Global Futures Scientist at the Global Futures Lab at ASU.

Timiebi has represented Nigeria at the UN as a Next Generation Aviation Professional at the International Civil Aviation Organization Model Council in Montreal (2014) and at the Legal subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer space in Vienna (2011).

Timiebi launched the Space Governance Lab concept in 2020.



CECILIA HERTZ

Managing Director and Founder of Umbilical Design

Cecilia Hertz started her career in the space sector, when doing her Diploma work at NASA, Houston, developing the interior of the Crew Return Vehicle, a rescue vehicle planned for the International Space Station. Umbilical Design was founded in 2001 by industrial designer Cecilia Hertz, and since its inception has worked with NASA and ESA on design for the space industry.

Umbilical Design is an innovation consultancy company with over 15 years of experience in space technology transfer representing Sweden as part of ESA Space Solutions Network. Cecilia Hertz has been successful in showing how design, technology and material from the space industry can be transferred to sustainable solutions.

@UmbilicalDesign



MAGNUS PENKER

CEO Innovation 360 and Wall Street Journal and
USA Today Bestselling Author

Honorary Professor Magnus Penker is a Wall Street Journal and USA Today Bestselling author, internationally-renowned thought leader on innovation, sustainability, and business transformation. He is a speaker in prestigious global forums and events, such as – The Global Peter Drucker Forum, top-ranked international business and design schools, a variety of associations, and some of the world's largest companies. Mr. Penker recently launched the bestseller Play Bold, writing on a 5 Volume Series on Business Innovation titled The Complete Guide to Business Innovation, is a former contributing editor at the International Journal of Innovation Science, and a columnist for the American business magazine Inc Magazine. As a result of these achievements he has been honored with the Business Worldwide Magazine award as the 'Most Innovative CEO Sweden 2016' and appointed as a Global Top 100 CEO by CEO Monthly year 2018. Additionally, he has launched 10 start-ups as well as acquired, turned around, and sold 30+ SMEs all over Europe. For the past 10 years, he has used his practical and theoretical insights to develop InnoSurvey®, a leading methodology and global innovation database which is used to analyze and to provide advice to companies, business leaders, and scientists around the world. Today, Mr. Penker is the CEO and Founder of the Innovation360 Group, which is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, with executive offices in New York, Toronto and Sydney. Through his best-selling American books on digitization and IT engineering and his more than 20 years of experience as a management consultant and business leader, Mr. Penker inspires leaders to find a new way of thinking and organizing to stay on top.

@MagnusPenker



NAOKO YAMAZAKI

Former JAXA astronaut, Space Policy Committee member,
second Japanese woman in space

Naoko Yamazaki earned a Master of Engineering degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Tokyo in 1996, then started working for Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). In 1999, she was selected as an astronaut candidate, and went on to qualify as a Soyuz-TMA Flight Engineer in 2004 and NASA Mission Specialist in 2006. On April 2010, Yamazaki was aboard Space Shuttle Discovery as part of the crew of STS-131, an assembly and resupply mission to the International Space Station. Yamazaki retired from JAXA in 2011 and has served as a member of the Japan Space Policy Committee since 2012, a Chairman of "Sorajo (Women in Aerospace)" under the Japan Rocket Society since 2015, and a representative director and co-founder of the Space Port Japan Association since 2018.

@Astro_Naoko



JESSIA MEIR

Astronaut
NASA

Jessica U. Meir was selected by NASA in 2013. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Brown University, a Master of Science in Space Studies from the International Space University, and a Doctorate in Marine Biology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography (UCSD). From 2000 to 2003, Dr. Meir worked for Lockheed Martin's Human Research Facility, supporting human physiology research. During this time, she also participated in research flights on NASA's reduced gravity aircraft and served as an aquanaut in an underwater habitat for NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO). Prior to becoming an astronaut, her career as a scientist focused on the physiology of animals in extreme environments. Meir most recently served as flight engineer on the International Space Station for Expedition 61 and 62.



CHRISTER FUGLESANG

Professor, KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Christer Fuglesang is a former ESA astronaut and professor at KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Director of KTH Space Center. He also consults for Saab, where he is in the Strategy Group. Fuglesang was a Fellow at CERN 1990-1988. He became an ESA astronaut in 1992 and made two space missions in 2006 and 2009 with the space shuttle Discovery to ISS. Retired from ESA 2017 and became employed by KTH in Stockholm.

@CFuglesang



DIANA MASTRACCI

Founder of Space4Innovation and International Strategic Liaison
of the GEO Indigenous Alliance

I founded Space 4 Innovation to enable communities to apply space assets for social change initiatives. Over the years I've developed a new methodology of collective intelligence to foster innovation for complex societal challenges and have received awards and grants from the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists, International Arctic Science Committee, UNFPA and the University of Oxford.

I have worked for the Group on Earth Observations (2019), the European Space Agency (2018-2017), the University of Oxford (2012-2010), The Citizen CyberLab and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (2016-2013).

In 2017 I was an "Ideas to Impact" Fellow at Oxford University's Said Business School, and in 2018 my research was included as one of the pioneer projects of the United Nations SDG Action Network.

My work has taken me to explore one of the most extreme climates on the planet, where temperatures can drop down to 50-C and vegetation only grows for few days a year: the Arctic. I have had the privilege to conduct extensive fieldwork among the Inupiaq subsistence hunters in the Alaskan Arctic and the Nenets Reindeer herders in the Russian Arctic. Living amongst communities that have been so resilient to changing circumstances has humbled me in many ways and is what drives my research forward. During Nalukataq, the spring whaling festival of the Inupiat Eskimo, I was given the Inupiat name "Nauriaq" by Mr. Arnold Jr. Brower Inupiat whaling captain and Executive Director of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission.

By training, I am an anthropologist (MA with joint honors in Russian and Social Anthropology, St Andrews University) with a Masters in Biodiversity Conservation and Management (specializing in Remote Sensing and GIS) from the University of Oxford. I also hold a Diploma in Documentary Film-making from the EICTV in Cuba and wrote a thesis in Russian Linguistics whilst studying abroad at the University of St Petersburg.



MARIO VARGAS (SHAKAIM)

Leader and Technician, Shuar Federation of Pastaza

Mario Vargas (Shakaim) is an Indigenous Shuar from the Ecuadorian Amazon who has been defending nature since he was a young boy. He has been the leader and technician of the Shuar Federation of Pastaza, supporting the formulation of a community broadcaster that disseminates information on the rights of the people. Mario is a founding member of the GEO Indigenous Alliance that was established at GEO Week 2019 in Canberra, Australia to foster a continued, effective, respectful, and reciprocal relationship with GEO and representatives of Indigenous communities from around the world. He is a member of the Network of Climate Finance Specialists, as a representative of South America, and currently works at The Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), as Technical Coordinator of the environmental monitoring project "All Eyes on the Amazon" (TOA). Mario graduated from the Polytechnic College of Chimborazo and is specialising in Public Management at the Postgraduate University of Ecuador.

@Shakaim29



SAEED AL-MANSOORI,

Head of the Applications Development and Analysis Section (ADAS) at Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)

Saeed Al Mansoori heads the Applications Development and Analysis Section (ADAS) at Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC). Saeed's research interests are in image processing (super-resolution, watermarking, object detection and image classification) GIS, Applications, Environmental Analysis, Image Processing, Remote Sensing, Deep Learning and Artificial Intelligence. Al Mansoori is the member of the international society of optics and photonics and one of the program committee in High-Performance Computing in Remote Sensing since 2012. Saeed has received B.Sc. degree in Communication Engineering from Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research (KUSTAR), Sharjah, UAE in 2010 and the M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering from American University of Sharjah (AUS) in 2016.



GAY JANE PEREZ

Deputy Director General for Space Science and Technology,
Philippine Space Agency

Dr. Perez serves as the Deputy Director General for Space Science and Technology (DDG-SST) at the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA). She is also an Associate Professor and Scientist II at the Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology of the University of the Philippines Diliman. She is a graduate of the National Institute of Physics at the University of the Philippines Diliman, from which she received Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics (2003), Master of Science (2005), and Doctor of Philosophy in Physics (2009). She was a postdoctoral fellow at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (2011-2010). Prior to her appointment at PhilSA, Dr. Perez has led various programs on satellite development in the Philippines as well as other projects that utilized satellite and remotely sensed data for environmental applications and climate studies. Dr. Perez is a recipient of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Outstanding Young Scientists (OYS) Award, The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) Award (2019) and is the first Filipino woman to receive the ASEAN-US Science Prize for Women (2018).



LUIGI PASQUALI

Coordinator of Leonardo Space Activities and Telespazio
Chief Executive Officer

Luigi Pasquali has been the Coordinator of Leonardo Space Activities and Telespazio Chief Executive Officer since February 2013.

Graduated in Electronic Engineering, Luigi attended courses in Finance and Business Management. He also served the Italian Army as Officer in the Technical Corps, in charge of Telecommunications. He begins his career in Selenia as System Engineer being involved in several international projects.

Then he moves to Stet/Telecom dealing with Development and International Strategies. After a period spent as Director of Business Development in Atlant, Telefonica group, he is appointed Director of Telecommunications in Alenia Spazio (now Thales Alenia Space) with prominence and increasing responsibilities. Luigi joins Telespazio as Chief Operating Officer and, after a while, he returns to run Thales Alenia Space Italia as Chairman and CEO as well as Deputy CEO of Thales Alenia Space Group.

Luigi is currently member of the Board of Directors of Thales Alenia Space and AVIO, Chairman of Thales Alenia Space Italy as well as member of the Board of AIAD (Federation of Italian Industries for Aerospace, Defence and Security) Member of the Council of ESOA, and Vice President of EUROSPACE. He is registered in the Roll of Engineers of the Province of Rome, Italy.



ABIMBOLA ALALE

Managing Director and CEO, Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited (NIGCOMSAT), Nigeria

Dr. Abimbola is a PhD degree holder of Security & Strategic Studies from Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria. She also holds a Master degree in Space Studies (MSc) and an MBA degree from the International Space University, Strasbourg-France. Other Certificates were obtained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA and the Management School, London and Lagos Business School, Nigeria.

Dr. Abimbola is a Fellow of African Scientific Institute (FASI), Certified Forensic Investigation Professional (CFIP), Member International Academy of Forensics (MIAF), Fellow of Chartered Public Diplomacy and Management (FCPDM), Fellow of Corporate Administration Institute (FCAI). She is a board member of Space Generation Advisory Council. She is also a current Council Member 2021 of the World Economic Forum: Global Future Council on Space.

She has pursued an active career in the Space Sector for over 21 years. She has served in various capacities both at the National Space Research Development Agency and Nigerian Communications Satellite as an Assistant Project Director and Executive Director Marketing respectively. She was part of the team that championed the manufacture and launch of the first sub-saharan Africa communication satellite (NigComSat1-) in 2007.

Dr. Abimbola actively worked on some National Priority Projects such as the NigComSat1-, NigComSat1-R and the establishment of a National Direct-to-Home Digital Transmission Centre. She stands tall amongst satellite professionals not only in Nigeria but the world as the visible woman at the head of a communication satellite business around the globe.



AARTI HOLLA-MAINI

Secretary General,
EMEA Satellite Operators Association ("ESOA")

Aarti Holla-Maini has been Secretary General of the ESOA since 2004. She is a Member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Space Technology, Global 5G Coalition Network and Essential Digital Infrastructure & Services Network.

Under Aarti's leadership, ESOA & its member CEOs lead the effort to showcase the benefits of satellite communications for a more inclusive and secure society - vital to bridging the world's digital divide, achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and realizing the 5G ecosystem.

Since joining the association, Aarti has lead the expansion of ESOA from a European association to one that represents the interests of 20 global and regional satellite operators. She reports directly to their Chief Executives.

Aarti has 22 years' experience in the aerospace industry, starting at Daimler-Benz Aerospace/EADS (now Airbus) in Germany. In 2000, she moved to Brussels, representing Airbus interests in the European satellite navigation program: Galileo.

Aarti holds a Masters of Business Administration from HEC, France & Stern Business School, NYC, USA. She qualified as Solicitor of the Supreme Court in the UK in 1995, holding a 2:1 graded LLB Hons Law with German Law degree from King's College, University of London & the University of Passau, Germany. Aarti is of British-Indian origin and holds British and Belgian nationalities. She lives in Brussels, has 3 children and speaks 5 languages.



ALEXANDER MACDONALD

Chief Economist, NASA

Alexander MacDonald is the Chief Economist at NASA. He was previously the Senior Economic Advisor in the Office of the Administrator and was the founding program executive of NASA's Emerging Space Office within the Office of the Chief Technologist. He is the author and editor of a number of NASA reports including Emerging Space: The Evolving Landscape of 21st Century American Spaceflight, Public-Private Partnerships for Space Capability Development, and Economic Development of Low-Earth Orbit. He is also a former executive staff specialist on commercial space at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a former research faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University, and has worked for the Universities Space Research Association while at NASA's Ames Research Center where he worked on small satellite mission designs and served as the center's first research economist.

He received his undergraduate degree in economics from Queen's University in Canada, his master's degree in economics from the University of British Columbia, and was a Clarendon Scholar at the University of Oxford where he obtained his doctorate on the long-run economic history of American space exploration. He was also an inaugural TED Senior Fellow and received the AIAA History Manuscript of the Year Award in 2016.



TEMIDAYO ONIOSUN

Managing Director, Space in Africa

Temidayo is the Founder and Managing Director of Space in Africa, the leading analytics and consulting company shaping the future of the African space and satellite industry. With over seven years of experience in the industry, Temidayo advises governments and commercial space players in the industry value chain. Temidayo is a 2020 Karman Fellow, a 2021 Forbes Africa 30 under 30 award recipient, and regularly appears on various media commenting on the African space and satellite programs.

@TemidayoOniosun



LIONEL SUCHET

CNES Chief Operating Officer

Lionel Suchet is a graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique engineering school and an Ingénieur Général de l'Armement (IGA, armaments engineer). He is currently Chief Operating Officer of CNES.

He gained his first experience of the space sector in human spaceflight, devoting the first 15 years of his career at CNES to this domain.

From 1989 to 1992, he was responsible for Safety and Human Factors for Michel Tognini's Antares spaceflight mission on the Mir space station. He was subsequently project leader for the next three missions to Mir: Altair (1992 to 1996), Cassiopée, which flew France's first female astronaut (1993 to 1996), and Perseus, a long-duration flight lasting 188 days (1999). He went on to head the agency's International Space Station Utilization division, where he oversaw the Andromède (2001) and STS-III (2002) missions, the latter being the last spaceflight by a CNES astronaut.

At the same time, he set up the CADMOS centre for the development of microgravity applications and space operations, today the centre in charge of human spaceflight physiology for all of Europe. CADMOS also coordinates all of CNES's microgravity activities.

In 2004, Lionel Suchet branched out into the field of Universe science, becoming head of the department tasked with developing CNES's astronomy, planetology and life and material sciences projects.

In 2008, he was appointed head of the sub-directorate in charge of developing orbital systems projects for Universe sciences, altimetry and space oceanography, telecommunications, navigation, Earth observation and defence. In total, this sub-directorate was responsible for 50 projects, all of them with international partners.

In 2011, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Toulouse Space Centre, coordinating all of the centre's cross-cutting activities, i.e., R&T, technology roadmaps, technology and industry policy, preliminary project planning and regional relations.

From 1 January 2016, he was appointed Director of Innovation, Applications and Science (DIA), the new directorate tasked with supporting the interests, requirements and challenges of all potential users of space data and missions, and planning and proposing CNES's future orbital systems with a view to nurturing creativity and driving innovation. Since 28 August 2017, Lionel Suchet is Chief Operating Officer of CNES with functional authority over all of the agency's activities. Special Advisor to the President of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Lionel Suchet holds the ranks of Knight of the Legion of Honour and Knight of the National Order of Merit in France, and Knight of the Russian Order of Gagarin. He has also been awarded France's National Defence Medal. A graduate of France's Ecole Polytechnique engineering school and national aerospace school ENSAE, Mr Suchet is an IGA armaments engineer (2nd section) and was an intern at the 66th national session on defence policy at IHEDN—the French institute of higher defense studies.



AMER AL SAYEGH AL GHAFRI

Senior Director of the Space Engineering Department and
Project Manager of MBZ-SAT, Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)

Amer Al Sayegh Al Ghafri is the Senior Director of the Space Engineering Department and Project Manager of MBZ-SAT, Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC). He leads an able team of engineers working on the development of space technologies and systems in the UAE. Al Sayegh is responsible for the KhalifaSat team, the first-ever satellite to be fully designed and developed by an Emirati team. He managed this project with excellence, leading the UAE to be a satellite manufacturing country, after it was successfully launched on 29 October 2018 from Tanegashima Space Center in Japan, aboard a H-IIA rocket.

Al Sayegh was one of the first engineers in the Knowledge Transfer Programme, based on an agreement with South Korea's Satrec Initiative in 2006. This programme contributed to preparing the first team of Emirati experts and engineers who worked on the UAE National Space Programme. Al Sayegh was responsible for overlooking the development of the UAE's first-ever remote sensing Earth observation satellites DubaiSat1- (developed %30 by Emirati engineers) and DubaiSat2- (developed %50 by Emirati engineers). This paved the way for the manufacturing of KhalifaSat by Emirati engineers at the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)'s facilities %100.

Following his return to the UAE, Al Sayegh helped oversee the construction of MBRSC's facilities, such as clean rooms and laboratories, making it one of the most advanced facilities. Due to his extensive list of accomplishments, he was awarded on the UAE's most coveted honours by its leadership, the Pride of the Emirates Medal, in 2014. Al Sayegh is a graduate of the Queen Mary University in the UK, with a bachelor's degree in electronics. He has also graduated from the Korean Advanced Institute for Science and Technology — one of South Korea's most respected universities — with a master's degree in aerospace engineering.



SOICHI NOGUCHI

Astronaut, JAXA

Dr. NOGUCHI Soichi (Ph.D.) was born in 1965 in Kanagawa. In 2005, Dr. NOGUCHI Soichi participated in an International Space Station (ISS) assembly mission aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery, and acted as leader of three Extravehicular Activities. In 2009, Dr. NOGUCHI Soichi flew as the first Japanese left-seater on the Soyuz spacecraft. As a Flight Engineer on ISS Expeditions 22 and 23, Dr. NOGUCHI Soichi spent about five and a half months aboard the ISS, carrying out tasks such as mounting the Small Fine Arm of the robotic arm of Kibo and conducting experiments. As a Flight Engineer on ISS Expedition 64 and 65, Dr. NOGUCHI Soichi became the first non-American to board SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft (Crew1-), and spent about six months. He performed his fourth EVA, the most by any Japanese astronaut. Dr. NOGUCHI Soichi was the first astronaut in the world to accomplish three different methods of Earth entry (runway, ground, and ocean), and officially certified by Guinness World Records. He also holds the world record of the longest gap between two consecutive spacewalks by the same person - 15 years and 214 days.



DR MAHAMA OUEDRAOGO

Head of Science and Technology Division, and Acting Director,
Department of Human Resources Science and Technology (HRST),
of the African Union Commission

Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, currently serves as the Director of the Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI), of the African Union Commission. In these capacities he oversees the implementation of various African Union decisions on Education, science and technology, including the Science Technology and Innovation strategy for Africa (STISA2024-), the continental education strategy for Africa (CESA 25-16), the African Space Policy and Strategy, and continental flagship projects such as the Pan African University and the pan African Virtual University among other responsibilities. He also served as Head of Science and Technology Division and Executive Secretary of the African Union Scientific Technical and Research Commission. Prior to joining the African Union Commission in Addis, he served as the acting Director of the Semi-Arid Food Grain Research & Development, he has been actively involved in science, technology and innovation programmes of the African Union. Dr. Ouedraogo holds a Doctorate in plant breeding from Texas A&M University.



MONICA TALEVI

Head of STEM Education & Outreach Unit,
ESA Education Office, European Space Agency (ESA)

At ESA since 1998, Monica Talevi leads the STEM Education and Outreach Unit of the ESA Education Office, where she sets the strategy, coordinates and implements the school-age education activities of the Agency. Astrophysicist by background, she is a strong advocate of the importance of innovative science and technical education - starting from a very early age - to build an active citizenship attitude in the young generation - where critical and autonomous thinking, and sustainability values, are at the core of their path to adulthood - and to nurture a generation able to address the societal challenges of today and tomorrow.



MATILDA ERNKRANS

Minister for Higher Education & Research, Government of Sweden

Matilda Ernkran is a Swedish politician of the Social Democratic Party. She has been a member of the Swedish Parliament (the Riksdag) since 2002. She is since 2019 the Minister for Higher Education and Research, which includes responsibility for Space Issues.



SIMONETTA DI PIPPO

Astrophysicist and Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

UNOOSA works to help all countries, especially developing countries, access and leverage the benefits of space to accelerate sustainable development. This is achieved through a variety of activities that cover all aspects related to space, from space law to space applications. The importance of the role of Earth Observation (EO) and geolocation (provided by GNSS) in supporting the achievement of the UN SDGs is of particular relevance. As the Director of UNOOSA, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, oversees and coordinates the strategic direction and operational priorities of the Office, including the preparation, monitoring and implementation of the work plan, budget and the strategic framework of the Office. She has been selected for this event for her specific knowledge and expertise in space policies and international strategies in the space sector.

@SDiPippo_OOSA



VALANATHAN, MUNSAM

CEO, South African National Space Agency

Dr Munsami holds a PhD in Physics, a Master of Business Leadership; a Space Studies Program Diploma; and a Certificate in International Air, Space and Telecommunications Law. He worked in South Africa's Space Secretariat for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; managed the implementation of a suite of bilateral and multilateral science and technology agreements; was involved in the development of South Africa's National Space Strategy and National Space Policy; and oversaw the establishment of South African National Space Agency (SANSA). On winning the bid in 2012 to co-host the Square Kilometer Array (SKA), the biggest radio astronomy project in the world, he became the Chief Specialist for Astronomy and African Space Science. In this role, he led the development of South Africa's Multi-Wavelength Astronomy Strategy and the SKA Readiness Strategy for Africa. He also chaired the African Union Space Working Group, which was tasked with the development of the African Space Policy and the African Space Strategy that was approved by the African Union Heads of State in January 2016.

As of January 2017, he has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SANSA. He is currently a member of the South African Council for Space Affairs (SACSA); and was the Vice President: Developing Countries and Emerging Nations of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). He has been inducted as an academican of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA); sits on the Advisory Boards of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), and the UAE's International Space Congress. In his spare time, he loves playing music, cooking, reading, writing, and spending time with his family.



RAÚL, KULICHEVSKY

Deputy Executive and Technical Director, CONAE
(National Space Activities Commission Argentina)

- Aeronautical Engineer
- Master's degree in science & Technologies of Materials

Main responsibilities at CONAE:

- Manager of the SAOCOM Satellites Development
- SARE 2A Mission Manager
- Deputy Executive & Technical Director
- Executive & Technical Director since July 2018.



H.E. IBRAHIM AL QASEM

Executive Director, UAE Space Agency

Ibrahim Al Qasim is currently an Executive Director, at the UAE Space Agency.

Al Qasim began his career in the UAE space sector at the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center managing international relations and strategic partnerships. He subsequently moved to project management, supervising educational programs to hone the skills of school and university students, and encouraging them to pursue education in various fields of science and technology and to be part of the national space program.

In 2013, he was assigned to manage the UAE's first CubeSat mission Nayif1- that was successfully launched in February 2017. The project managed to attract Emirati talent, in addition to building strategic partnerships in the field of nanosatellite manufacturing. He led the Emirati team responsible for designing and implementing the project until the successful launch of the mission.

Ibrahim also held the position of Director of the Strategic Research Office at the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center, which advised on science and technology policies, carried out studies and policy briefs informing decision makers within the space sector and beyond.

Al Qasim was part of the team that developed the first feasibility studies for the Emirates Mars Mission's Hope Probe and was subsequently appointed Deputy Project Director for Strategic Planning. In this role, he was responsible for building STEM capacities through launching outreach initiatives and encouraging UAE youth to join, as well as leading the communication campaign for the Hope Probe.