

SATELLITE BUSINESS NETWORK REPORT: GLIS 2016

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Summary

The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) hosted a conference titled the "Global Conference on Space and the Information Society (GLIS)", at the headquarters of The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 6 to 7, 2016. This conference is held every year, with a different title and theme. Last year, the conference was held under the title "GLOBAL SPACE INNOVATION CONFERENCE (GLIC)".

Around 100 visitors attended the conference this year.

A number of ITU employees joined the conference, but it appeared that about 80 attendees were not from ITU, most of them members of the European space agencies and other organizations. Representatives of a number of Chinese private companies participated, with 10 visitors in total. There were



only two participants from Japan except for this reporter from Japan, including Mr. Kiyoshi Higuchi, President of the IAF and former Vice President of JAXA.

Our Impressions

The theme of this conference appeared to be "Merging Space Technology and an Information Society, as SUGGESTED BY SPACE COMMUNITIES". Issues related to Information Technology (IT) came up during discussions, however, all items were explained as the views only from space communities. Some participants suggested that data acquired by satellites (such as earth observations) can be used as Big Data in an IT society. There was no discussion regarding the advantages of and usage of data acquired by satellites. Unfortunately, we heard no points offered from the users' point of view.

In the past, we have attended numerous conferences held in the Silicon Valley, USA, regarding startup companies related to space activities. This conference differed from the events in America - there was no discussion surrounding money. Perhaps due to the fact that this conference was held at ITU facilities, issues regarding legal restrictions on space activities (including the frequency of coordination) came up often. We could not quite grasp the relationship between a so-called Information Society and the aforementioned subjects, or the reason why such issues were discussed here. We found it frustrating that there was little time offered for questions and answers or discussions after each presentation session.

Of more benefit were personal discussions during lunches and coffee breaks with

representatives of European companies that manufacture small satellites, and the members of European space agencies. It seems to us that space activities have not been utilized as well as expected by governments and the private sector in Europe also. Judging by the current situation, there should be opportunities available to create space utilization services and businesses from now.

Speeches, and Discussions

A keynote speech by Mr. Karsten Geler, Head at the
<Omitted below>

A keynote speech from Ms. Jennifer Warren, Vice President, Technology Policy & Regulation Trade & Regulatory Affairs, at the Lockheed Martin Corporation (LMC)

<Omitted below>

A keynote speech by Mr. Simon Gray, Vice President of Humanitarian Affairs, Eutelsat

<Omitted below>

A speech by Mr. Luca Del Monte, Space Economy Manager, ESA, and Related Panel Discussions

<Omitted below>



A speech by Mr. Jeroen Rotteveel, CEO, Innovation Solutions In Space (ISIS), and related discussions

<Omitted below>

Big Data - a panel discussion regarding the Information Society

<Omitted below>

The next Global Series Conference hosted by the IAF will be held in Beijing, China, from June 6 to 8, 2017. This conference will be called the "GLOBAL SPACE EXPLORATION CONFERENCE (GLEXP 2017)".

Other Miscellaneous Comments:

This was my first visit to Geneva, Switzerland. I was amazed at the number of people walking around in suits, a



phenomenon that is due to the fact that a number of international organizations, such as the United Nations (UN) and the ITU, are located in the city. Most of these people also carried ID cards, and walked extremely quickly. This was all especially striking in comparison to typical sightseeing spots seen elsewhere in Switzerland.

If you have any questions related to this document, please contact:

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