

40th COSPAR Scientific Assembly

Associated Event on the UNESCO Thematic Initiative “Astronomy and World Heritage”

Minute¹ of the Working Meeting on technological heritage connected with space exploration

Moscow, Russian Federation, 6 August 2014

National Focal Points (Egypt, Russian Federation), UNESCO’s representative (World Heritage Centre), Space Agency (Roscosmos), Russian national authorities (National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Culture) and International bodies (COSPAR, IAF) met during 40th Scientific Assembly of COSPAR in Moscow on 6 August 2014 to discuss thematic and organizing issues relevant to the elaboration of studies and researches on technological heritage connected with space exploration within the framework of the UNESCO Thematic Initiative on Astronomy and World Heritage.

Noting that the idea of launching studies and research on technological heritage connected with space exploration was emerged in 2007, with a proposal announced by the World Heritage Centre during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Sputnik satellite organized by ESA/CNES,

Noting the Kazan Resolution adopted in 2009, and in particular the definition of a group of Space Technological Heritage sites which could fall into the following categories:

1. Launch Pads, such as the human-engineered Gagarin Launch Pad in Baikonur Space Centre, together with related auxiliary facilities and roads;
2. Clearly defined landscapes designed and created intentionally by people and intrinsically associated with a given Launch Pad and the development of related structures, e.g. the Baikonur area;
3. Prominent parts of space networks specially designed and constructed to support manned flights, such as Gagarin Star City in the Moscow region with its facilities for cosmonauts’ pre-flight training, education, and the verification of space operations using spacecraft mock-ups;
4. Historical sites where the pioneering concepts of space flight and the design of original space vehicles were tested, such as Kaluga town and the K.E. Tsiolkovsky Museum of Cosmonautics, with their related natural landscapes,

Noting the Decision of the World Heritage Committee adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012) encouraging cooperation between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, specialized agencies and relevant interdisciplinary scientific initiatives towards the elaboration of a Global Thematic Study on Heritage of Science and Technology, including studies and research on technological heritage connected with space exploration,

Noting that while two first studies were published within the framework of the ICOMOS/IAU Thematic Study on Astronomical Heritage, there is a need to extend existing studies towards recognition of space technological heritage as a part of cultural heritage,

¹ The minute prepared after the Associated Event was exchanged with the participants and agreed.

The participants agreed that the main issues which should be raised in conjunction with the identification of potential technological sites connected with space exploration are:

- Recognition of technological sites connected with space exploration at the national level as cultural heritage sites and adoption of appropriate legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for their protection;
- Specificities of the legal status of use of the technological installations recognized as cultural heritage sites;
- Obligations related to the protection, management and sustainable use of such sites and the rules of application of these obligations;
- Conservation Master Plan, including requirements and deadlines for completion of restoration, renovation and others works;
- Requirements regarding the conditions of visitor access to the site;
- Other requirements necessary for the protection of the site within the framework of the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines for its implementation.

The participants also agreed on the necessity to expand a network among all interested parties and to enhance the collaboration between all stakeholders concerned at national and international levels.

It was also noted that numerous States Parties to the World Heritage Convention have decided to contribute to the implementation of the “Astronomy and World Heritage” initiative. An unprecedented network of scientific and cultural communities in preserving the heritage of science and technology is established comprising national Focal Points and representatives of the national institutions.

The participants launch an appeal to the international community to actively contribute to the development and implementation of studies and research on space technological heritage towards recognition of the most representative sites by their inscription on the World Heritage List.

A first upstream case-study proposal was presented: **Baikonur Cosmodrom**

The preparatory stages prior to launch the development of a potential draft nomination by the State(s) Party(ies) concerned could be:

- gathering of all the available information (legal/management/protection/use);
- creation of the Baikonur case-study expert team involving the representatives of all stakeholders concerned
- identify the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the site;
- ensure that this is justified through a comparative analysis involving relevant facilities;
- make sure adequate protection, conservation and management is provided by the relevant authorities in conformity with the existing international normative instruments;
- develop a shared understanding of the nominated property and shared responsibility for its future.

It was proposed by COSPAR and IAF to organize special meetings within the framework on this topic during their respective Scientific Assemblies/Symposia in order to further progress in the implementation of this initiative (the 2015 IAF SA could be a platform for the next working meeting; AWH-related events could take place in COSPAR Assembly at two years intervals, based on proposals to be submitted in time for approval by the Program Committee (1st meeting in March 2015 for the Assembly in 2016 in Istanbul)).