



Association of Space Explorers

Committee on Near Earth Objects

Tom Jones (USA), Chairman

Sergei Avdeev (Russia)
Franklin Chang-Diaz (USA/Costa Rica)
Pedro Duque (Spain)
Chris Hadfield (Canada)
Edward Lu (USA)
Soichi Noguchi (Japan)
Dumitru Prunariu (Romania)
Viktor Savinykh (Russia)
Gerhard Thiele (Germany)

2017 ASE NEO Committee Activities

- The Association of Space Explorers Committee on Near-Earth Objects continues its support of United Nations discussions on the NEO hazard. In February, Dorin Prunariu represented ASE at the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space meetings in Vienna, Austria. Speaking before the COPUOS' Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Dorin presented an ASE statement recognizing the UN's 2016 declaration of each June 30 as International Asteroid Day. ASE NEO, in February 2016, had introduced a measure to COPUOS that set this recognition in motion. When necessary, ASE NEO also attends the UN COPUOS sessions in June each year, if NEO discussions by the member states are on the agenda.
- ASE NEO Committee members each year volunteer, where able, to support International Asteroid Day events in their regions. In February, the ASE logo was featured as part of the backdrop for Asteroid Day 2017's kick-off press conference. See www.asteroidday.org to find information on regional Asteroid Day events. For example, Tom Jones this year will be participating in Asteroid Day events near Orlando and Kennedy Space Center, Florida. Dorin Prunariu is already featured in an Asteroid Day video greeting at the Asteroid Day website, and will also support June 30 events.
- ASE is a financial sponsor again this year of the biannual IAA Planetary Defense Conference, at <http://pdc.iaaweb.org/>. This year's conference is from May 15-19 in Tokyo. Our sponsorship is in line with ASE's significant contributions to international discussions of, and proposed solutions to planetary defense from hazardous NEOs. ASE NEO's Soichi Noguchi will attend and represent ASE. His registration fee was covered by our financial sponsorship (\$2K). We plan to support the 2019 conference.
- ASE NEO's leadership at UN discussions of the NEO hazard led to our submittal to COPUOS of our ground-breaking report, "Asteroid Threats: A Call for Global Response." Two UN-approved groups have been set up, based on our report's recommendations: the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN), and the Space Missions Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG). The former includes space agencies, observatories, and orbital prediction centers, coordinated by the Minor Planet Center, that assess possible hazardous NEO encounters. The SMPAG is a space-agency forum taking on studies of needed technology, mission concepts, and cost estimates for a future NEO deflection campaign. ASE NEO is an observer to these groups. When practical, ASE NEO sends a representative to attend SMPAG and IAWN meetings.
- The ASE NEO Committee Chair also attends periodically the NASA-sponsored Small Bodies Assessment Group, which advises the agency on research and technology priorities for small body exploration missions and observations.