REPORT FROM ILEWG TO THE LUNAR SCIENCE WORKSHOP 2008
B.H. Foing and International Lunar Exploration Working Group (ILEWG),
c/o ESTEC/SCI-S, Postbus 299, 2200 AG Noordwijk, NL, Europe, (Bernard.Foing@esa.int)

Abstract: We report on activities from ILEWG, the International Lunar Exploration Working Group (ILEWG), a public forum created in 1994, sponsored by the world's space agencies to support "international cooperation towards a world strategy for the exploration and utilization of the Moon - our natural satellite".

ILEWG charter: The charter of ILEWG is:
- To develop an international strategy for the exploration of the Moon
- To establish a forum and mechanisms for the communication and coordination of activities
- To implement international coordination and cooperation
- In order to facilitate communication among all interested parties ILEWG agrees to establish an electronic communication network for exchange of science, technology and programmatic information related to lunar activities

ILEWG meets regularly, at least, once a year, and leads the organization of an International Conference in order to discuss the state of lunar exploration.

Formal reports are given at COSPAR meetings and to space agencies.

ILEWG working groups: The International Lunar Exploration Working Group (ILEWG) is a public forum sponsored by the world's space agencies to support "international cooperation towards a world strategy for the exploration and utilization of the Moon - our natural satellite". The Forum is intended to serve three relevant groups:
- actual members of the ILEWG, ie delegates and representatives of the participating Space Agencies and organizations - allowing them to discuss and possibly harmonize their draft concepts and plans
- team members of the relevant space projects - allowing them to coordinate their internal work according to the guidelines provided by the Charter of the ILEWG
- members of the general public and of the Lunar Explorer's Society who are interested and wish to be informed on the progress of the Moon projects and possibly contribute their own ideas

ILEWG activities: On ILEWG website http://sci.esa.int/ilewg, users can obtain information on how to participate, as well as details on the latest news and events regarding lunar exploration, forthcoming meetings, relevant reports and documents of importance for the work of the ILEWG, summary descriptions of current lunar exploration projects (such as SMART-1, Chang'E1, Selene, Chandrayaan-1, LRO, LCROSS) funded by various space agencies, and basic data on the Moon itself. Activities of the related space agencies and organizations can also be found.

ILEWG has been organising International Conferences on Exploration and Utilisation of the Moon (ICEUM) since 1994, whose proceedings are published. It has also sponsored a number of activities, workshops, tasks groups and publications in collaborations with other organisations: COSPAR, space agencies, IAA, IAF, EGU (see references below).

ILEWG reports: In accordance with its charter, ILEWG reports to COSPAR, and a summary was given at Beijing COSPAR2006 on ILEWG activities conducted since the previous COSPAR2004 assembly in Paris. This included reports from the 6th and 7th ILEWG International Conference on Exploration and Utilisation of the Moon, held respectively in Udaipur, India on 22-26 November 2004 (ICEUM6) and in Toronto, Canada on 18-23 September 2005 (ICEUM7). We shall report at the Lunar Science Workshop 2008 on the “lunar declarations” from these ICEUM conferences, as well as for the ICEUM8 conference held in Beijing immediately after COSPAR.

References:


[9] 9th ILEWG International Conference on Exploration and Utilization of the Moon, Sorrento, Italy, abstracts and presentations online (http://sci.esa.int/iceum9, Dec. 2007), Foing B., Espinasse S., Kosters G., Editors


