



SRI NEWSLETTER – JUNE 24th 2014

by Adriano V. Autino

The SRI international Congress to be held in July 2015

The SRI Executive held a meeting last Sunday June 22nd, and decided that the second international congress will be July 2015, as it was scheduled by the first congress in 2011. It was unanimously agreed that several relevant reasons exist, to undertake the congress works, not only to respect the four years frequency established by our statute.

First of all the radical innovation in our strategic plan. SRI was born as a philosophical international association, and this is what it is and wants to keep on being. After some years we had to acknowledge that it was not possible to pursue our projects basing only on the work of our international team, dealt only via emails and skype. End of 2012, SRI decided to build national chapters, strongly rooted on territory, where members can work together, seeing themselves in face, organizing local events, talking to the people. Nowadays we have a working chapter in Italy, Space Renaissance Italia, a new chapter in the US, Space Renaissance International USA, a chapter on the way to be incorporated in India, Karnataka, and another chapter to be incorporated in UK, Scotland.

Our Theses, written in 2011, need to be updated as well. Many things occurred in the world, confirming our analysis, that expanding civilization into space is an essential condition to its survival: the conflicts for the remaining earthly resources are worsening. Opening the high frontier will allow the advanced countries, thanks to their technology, to “unplug” from the disastrous confrontation with tribal societies, and to become a moral model for the young people of those countries, removing them from the suicidal philosophy of the Jihād, and achieving them to the noble big project to assure new resources, energy and space for the whole civilization. On the other side, the space revolution is making meaningful steps forward: thanks to Space X the downsizing of the cost to orbit is becoming a reality, Space Tourism is gaining more and more interest in the world, and governments should finally understand that the civilian astronautics development is the key to reverse the global crisis and restart the economic and cultural growth. How can we, the space community, contribute to enlarge the public awareness of the urgency of a true expansionist policy? Which kind of alliance should we propose, to the space advocacy organizations world wide, and to other socially engaged organizations, to raise a general consensus and support to the new space industry? To this fundamental questions our congress will give our answers, humanist and deeply philosophical rooted answers.

Our priority focus is not on the congress as an event, but on the contents. We’re not talking, yet, about where to hold the congress, nor to invite many speakers, just to “fill the space”. This is not our goal. We need to update our theses, we need to discuss and share our philosophical and political positions. Yes, we want to do it in the “old” way: write a theses document, give it to all of our chapters and local groups for discussion, reach to the international congress having shared and discussed the theses. We believe that our species still own people able to (i) read a conceptual document (ii) discuss, criticize, improve it (iii) take aware decisions and take responsibilities to spread the shared positions and get public consensus on them. Too many times we attend to big public events and conventions, where people is managed like children avoid of critical capabilities, to be impressed by special effects with very poor cultural content. Against such a stream, we will focus on contents, and on a serious discussion. The success of our recent events -- the SR Italia congress and our participation to the NSS ISDC in May --testifies that a punctilious work on contents works better than any glowing event.

Want to be part of this process? Register as a SRI member to your national chapter, where already exist, or to the SR International if you live in a country where a chapter doesn’t exist yet.

- SRI USA - contact Walter Putnam <https://www.facebook.com/walter.c.putnam> (web site under construction)
- SR Italia - <http://www.spacerenaissance.it/iscrizione-a-space-rennaissance-italia-2/>
- SRI India - contact N.v. Kadloor (web site under construction)
- SRI UK - contact Marianne Rugard <https://www.facebook.com/gittermarianne> (web site under construction)
- SR International - <http://www.spacerenaissance.org/sri-register.htm>

Ad Astra!

Adriano V. Autino, SRI, President