

29th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5)
Space Societies, Professional Associations and Museums (5)

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THE SPACE GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL: CAPACITY BUILDING AND THE SPACE
GENERATION FORUMS**Abstract**

In 1999, at UNISPACE III, the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) was created. At this time the Space Generation Forum was held and it was recommended “to create, within the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, a consultative mechanism to facilitate the continued participation of young people from all over the world, especially young people from developing countries and young women, in cooperative space-related activities.” SGAC would like to celebrate this historic event by hosting the second Space Generation Forum, now known as Space Generation Forum 2.0, in the form of a pre-twentieth anniversary event. This paper will start by discussing the origins and history of the Space Generation Advisory Council which has led up to the organization that stands today with over 13,000 members in over 150 countries providing capacity building and networking to students and young professionals on various space topics from legal to technical and scientific. The first ever SGAC event was the Space Generation Forum held during UNISPACE III in 1999. Here the founders came together to discuss SGAC and applications for students and young professionals in the international space community. They walked away with outcomes that have helped shape what SGAC is today. The second section of this paper will discuss this original SGAC event and the outcomes that came from it and how that helped in shaping the organization as it stands today. Now with UNISPACE+50, the Space Generation Advisory Council will hold Space Generation Forum 2.0 (SGF 2.0) to celebrate the Space Generation Forum, the history of SGAC and the progression SGAC has made in the last two decades. This section of the paper will highlight SGF 2.0 and the outcomes that it will provide which are to be presented at UNISPACE+50 in the form of a Conference Room Paper. Lastly, this paper aims to capture the way forward for SGAC, the next generation and how to continue to generate capacity building opportunities for students and young professionals in the international space community. Additionally it will address what are the potential challenges facing the organization and what are some ways in which SGAC can continue to grow and inspire international students and young professionals with an interest in space.