



International Space Weather Initiative

*Secretariat
Goddard Space Flight Center
Code 670
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<http://iswi-secretariat.org>

September 16, 2013

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to inform you of my resignation as Director of the International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI) effective at the end of February 2014. I will continue as Director until then so that I can complete my commitment to organize the “Expert Meeting on Improving Space Weather Forecasting in the Next Decade” will be held in conjunction with the 51st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) at the United Nations facility in Vienna, Austria. This meeting is very important, and I hope that you will all attend. The purpose of the meeting is to bring together international scientists currently working in space weather research to discuss the paths for improvement of space weather forecasting during the next decade to discuss future space and ground-based instrumentation for space weather research and forecasting.

The International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI) and the International Heliophysical Year (IHY) have been very active in promoting the installation of new ground-based instrumentation in scientifically interesting non-traditional locations. In particular, there has been substantial progress in the observation of the equatorial ionosphere, the terrestrial magnetic field, solar transients, and energetic particles from space. In the coming decade I hope that these observations will become available in near real time, and will become an important new data source for the forecasting of space weather events. The ISWI instrument program continues to expand with new instruments either in the process of deployment, or planned for deployment over the next decade.

You, the participants in these programs, have built a network of instruments that span the globe, and a record of achievement that you can be extremely proud of. New instruments in Africa, Asia, South America and elsewhere are a testament to the ingenuity and curiosity of the international space science community, and to the hard work that you have all put in to make these projects succeed. These instrument installations have yielded great scientific benefits as well. Universities have formed new space science departments, PhD students have been able to obtain space science degrees and remain in their own countries to work, and a new organization for space science has formed in Africa. These are all wonderful outcomes.

Within the ISWI there has never been a plan for the transition of leadership from one individual to another. I know that there are several capable individuals already active in the ISWI that have the capability to lead this project. I hope that between now and February several will volunteer to accept the leadership, and that a consensus will form about the future direction of ISWI. Whatever the process, I will work to make the transition as seamless as possible.

On a personal level, it has been an honor for me to participate with all of you in the many IHY and ISWI activities. I have made many new friends in countries all around the world, and I am sure that I will see many of you at future science meetings as I continue my work here at NASA. It is my hope that the collaborations that began in the IHY and ISWI will continue, and that Heliophysics will continue to grow as an international scientific enterprise.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Davila
Executive Director
International Space Weather Initiative



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