

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
New Worlds - Non-Traditional Space Education and Outreach (7)

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SPACE RENAISSANCE ACADEMY – THE SPACE RENAISSANCE AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

Abstract

Space philosophy is the highest product of ethical and utopian thought in the history of Civilization so far. Fueled by the aims of many romantic space enthusiasts and activists during the last 200 years, this culture grew up in a spontaneous movement, more than an academic discipline. It is increasingly clear that philosophical knowledge and capability to discuss philosophical concepts, are very much needed, as a cultural background, by all of the space dealers – whatever their jobs and specialization. Science and technology alone cannot help us winning the game: without philosophy we don't know why we are doing things, where we should go, with which priorities. Without philosophy our moves are chaotic and not coordinate, and they can maybe sometimes stumble in the right direction just incidentally: yet, in many cases, we will simply miss the opportunity. May we allow ourselves to miss the opportunity of this time: to save civilization, evolving into a solar system civilization? The Space Renaissance Academy feels the need – while space settlement is finally moving its first steps – to make a first tentative of systematization of a vast cosmic literature, both historical and contemporary. For sure there will be other works of this kind, while the academic world is finally being invested by the greatest anthropological change of the whole history: challenged by natural limits, our species moves to exceed such limits, expanding into the Solar System. This paper illustrates a very ambitious plan: to build up a set of essential lectures, to train the Space Renaissance Ambassadors, the "Evangelists" which will spread the verb of Cosmic Humanism to the real society. The key concepts, roots and development threads will be analyzed through the history, from Plato, through the historic Renaissance to nowadays, to reach out delivering to our scholars the highest task of our time: to conceive a modern feasible utopia, the renaissance of our civilization into the outer space. The basic education programme to be developed includes at least the following tracks: 1. Ethics and morals of the space age: the camel shall pass now – during the first half of the 21st Century – through the eye of the needle 2. Humanist philosophers and their journey to the stars – history from ancient to current age, towards future history 3. Edge of human culture: the new space industrial segment 4. The space policy to be announced and boosted everywhere: priority to enabling technologies for civilian space development 5. Humanist philosophy compared to other schemes of values,

antithetic, synergistic, partially/potentially synergistic 6. History of biological evolution, human science and technology, economics, current science and techs towards civilization expansion into outer space