

PSIPW Attends UN COPUOS Meeting in Vienna

The Prize attended the fifty-second session of United Nations' Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) which was held in Vienna, Austria from 8 to 12 June, 2009.

The meeting was convened at the famous Vienna International Center – also known as UNO City – the building complex which hosts the United Nations offices in Vienna.

The Prize was represented by its General Secretary, Dr. Abdulmalek A. Al Alshaikh, and the Director of Technical and Administrative Affairs, Ali Wafa Abu Risheh.

The Prize is a permanent observing member of COPUOS, where it focuses on the application of space technologies to water-related concerns. The topic of "Space and Water" is an important priority of COPUOS, and the Prize has specific expertise in applying remote sensing and GIS technologies to water research.

The General Secretary of the Prize, Dr. Abdulmalek A. Al Alshaikh, addressed the delegates and thanked the organization for accepting the Prize as a permanent observer. "I wish to thank all of the nations that supported our membership." Dr Al Alshaikh said.

On Thursday, 11 June, during the Space and Water session, Dr Al Alshaikh presented the PSIPW film to the delegation followed by a speech and presentation about the Prize.

In his speech, he stressed the importance that the Prize gives to water-related space research, adding that the current topic for the Water Resources Management and Protection Prize is "Remote Sensing and GIS Applications for Water Resources Management."

Dr Al Alshaikh also said: "We at the Prize believe that space technologies hold great promise for the future of water resources management and conservation. For this reason, the Prize is ready to sponsor and help organize conferences around the world held by the United Nations, particularly COPUOS, and by other agencies, which address the application of space technologies to solving the world's water-related problems."

The Prize – in conjunction with the UN, UNESCO and King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia – participated in sponsoring and organizing the first-ever International Conference on the Use of Space Technology for Water Management, which was held in Riyadh in April 2008.

At the COPUOS meeting, Dr Al Alshaikh declared that the Prize is commitment to make this an ongoing event and has pledged \$30,000 every two years for this purpose.

The Second Conference on the Use of Space Technology for Water Management will be held in Argentina in April 2010 as a cooperative effort between the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs, PSIPW, the European Space Agency, and the Argentine Space Agency.