



## 2017 Theme

At the last Board meeting, it was agreed to consider themes related to the following:

- **Extraterrestrial Resources** – This is a popular but controversial topic, in that certain practices to exploit extraterrestrial resources are not permitted by international treaty. However, there is much interest in this subject. If presented as a question, then WSWA would not appear to advocate any particular position, rather encouraging discussion on the question. It was also noted that the legal questions raised could link to 2017 being the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty ratified on October 10, 1967.
- **Astrobiology** – This could address the search for Earth-like planets in the galaxy, SETI, and exobiology. It could be used to teach biology and other related fields.

### Specific 2017 Theme Proposals

#### “New Worlds in Space”

- Relates to search for Earth-like planets (such as discovery last month of one orbiting Proxima Centauri)
- Relates to space colonization (such as plans discussed this week by Elon Musk)
- Legal questions can link to 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Outer Space Treaty

#### “Space Resources for Earth”

- Can discuss the potential of sustainable energy from space-based solar power
- Can relate to asteroid mining, in the news recently due to Luxembourg’s initiatives
- Legal questions can link to 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Outer Space Treaty

#### “Are We Alone?”

- Focus on the search for extraterrestrial life
- Relates to search for Earth-like planets (such as discovery last month of one orbiting Proxima Centauri)

### General Theme Considerations

- Timely to encourage media and public attention
- Suggests a range of public events which could be planned around the theme
- Permits teaching a variety of subjects using the theme, such as science and math
- Range of organizations involved in the theme from which WSWA might get sponsorship