



## **The International Lunar Decade: A Giant Leap Forward in Understanding the Moon and Opportunities for its Development**

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In 1957 at the dawn of the space age the United Nations launched the International Geophysical Year which had a profound impact on collaboration among scientists around the globe. Its legacy includes several major scientific organizations as well as the beginnings of collaboration among nations that see themselves as competitors on Earth. The Soviet Union and the United States made many attempts at collaboration in space while building weapons systems to destroy each other. Space technologies have become the infrastructure for the ubiquitous smart phone with global telecommunications, navigation, weather forecasting, environmental monitoring, and hundreds of other applications. In 2015, the International Year of Light, several conferences will be held exploring the idea of an International Lunar Decade<sup>1</sup>. An informal group, the International Lunar Decade Working Group (ILDWG) has been formed to plan the launch of the International Lunar Decade in 2017, the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year. This report will cover the progress of the ILDWG covering conferences planned, international organizations involved and key publications. The activities of the ILDWG can be followed at <http://2014giantleap.aerospacehawaii.info/>.

### **References**

[1] V. Beldavs, 2014 “The International Lunar Decade”, The Space Review, <http://www.thespacereview.com/article/2431/1>