

Exploring Space



Prof. Claude Nicollier
ESA Astronaut
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne.

Date: 23 May 2006, Tuesday
Time: 5.30 pm
Venue: LT31, Block S16, Level 3
Faculty of Science

About The Lecture

Human Space Exploration started 45 years ago with the two orbits of Yuri Gagarin (April 12, 1961). Since then, this program has gone through times of remarkable successes, like the Apollo program, the early Space Stations of the Soviet Union, The Shuttle and Hubble Space Telescope programs, the two Chinese Shenzhou flights in 2003 and 2005. We also experienced tragedies and a number of near misses.

What is the outcome of these bold undertakings? What have we learned and gained, what is the future of human space exploration and who will be the players? This lecture will cover the above aspects, and reveal some of the impressions and memories of the person who had the privilege of experiencing space on four occasions.

About The Speaker

Switzerland's first and only astronaut, Claude Nicollier, received a B. Sc. degree in Physics from the University of Lausanne in 1970 and a Master of Science degree in Astrophysics from the University of Geneva in 1975. He also graduated as a Swiss Air Force pilot in 1966, an airline pilot in 1974, and a test pilot in 1988. He is appointed as Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, since 1994.

His various missions include the deployment of the European Retrievable Carrier Science Platform (EURECA) in 1992, the reflight of the Tethered Satellite System TSS in 1996 and two flights to service and repair the Hubble telescope in 1993 and 1999. During the second mission to repair the Hubble telescope, Prof. Nicollier carried out his first spacewalk of 8:10 hours, to install a new computer and one of three fine guidance sensors.

Prof. Nicollier is currently assigned to the EVA (Extravehicular Activities) Branch in the NASA Astronaut Office in Houston.

All Are Welcome

Admission is Free (Refreshments will be served after the lecture)

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