



Rome – May, 26th 2005

Dear Sir/Madam,

As President of the Association "Solidarietà e Sviluppo" ("Solidarity and Development") I am proud to welcome you to the first of the two workshops of the International Conference

"Moon Base: a Challenge for Humanity"

The first workshop, held in the International Academy for Environmental Sciences, located in S. Elena, Campo della Chiesa 3, Venice on May 26th and 27th, 2005, is organized with the full support of Italian Government at the highest level and is promoted by the major Italian companies active in the Space Business, as well as some high technology SME.

This first Workshop will be followed by a second Workshop, planned in Washington DC for October 11th and 12th.

With this Conference, Italy is aiming at a leadership role with the United States in bringing about a First Human Settlement on the Moon to deploy with international Partners a "Condominium of Observatories".

The purpose of the Conference is to survey and analyse the various aspects of the First Moon Base, covering technical items as well as scientific goals and social, economical and cultural impacts.

The first Workshop will investigate the foremost issues for various Moon Base programme Scenarios, while the second will aim to reach a common vision.

The Venice Workshop, based on invited talks, has been intended to be a meeting for scientists, experts and politicians, providing them with the opportunity to convene and to discuss the various issues with the goal to define a comprehensive, even if preliminary, outlook and assessment of the programme and to introduce scenarii of the international aspects to achieve such a Condominium approach.

The Organizing Committee is lead by the Cultural Association "Solidarietà e Sviluppo", that considers a very important value the promotion of the development of humanity and therefore is open to every contribution in the same direction.

The two-days agenda has been subdivided in three main parts:

- Moon Base Outlook, with the presentation of the general aspects of the Moon Base and the position of the most important Space Agencies;
- Moon Base Assessment, with the presentation of the most important technical and scientific problems associated to the Moon Base; and, finally,
- Moon Base Scenario, with the discussion of the most important aspects of the international cooperation aspects, as well as economical and industrial impacts.