



Thank you, Bob.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for being the Master of Ceremonies for SPACE Canada's International Policy Forum.

As Canada's National Science Correspondent and the Host of CBC Radio's weekly science program, "Quirks and Quarks", you are well known to the people of Canada. Today we are proud to introduce you to our international audience.

I would also like to thank Mr. Wael Almazeedi, Founder and Chairman of the FATE Consortium, who has generously sponsored today's plenary session.

On behalf of my colleagues at SPACE Canada permit me to tell you what a privilege it is to have all of you with us today.

SPACE Canada was created with one job to do. That is to support and facilitate international dialogue on space-based solar power through research, education and commercialization.

Your presence here today is witness to the international interest in this emerging and promising field.



Over 12 years ago now a friend, Owen Maynard, famous in air and space lore for Apollo and the Avro Arrow taught me that the most important step in design engineering was what he called the 0th step.

The precursor to the process of building a device to solve a problem was the task to seek and define both the problem and the need to solve it.

Our esteemed speakers today will inspire us with great ideas concerning the important facets of the challenge of solar power satellites but the real key to today is the fact of our presence here, why we came from all over the world and worked so hard to achieve this discussion.

Our desire to determine the need for solar power satellites is the purpose of this event. It is broader than the explanation of the climate crisis or the potential for the engineering project or even the bright human future that it foretells.

We are not here to embrace salesmanship of crises or ideas we are here to define the need for something we all agree must be done.



If we succeed we could set our world upon a path through entrepreneurship, Treaties and, most importantly, political will, to create solar power satellites as a benign global utility.

And if we succeed we could turn back the climate change clock without turning off all the lights.

It is therefore my honour on behalf of SPACE Canada and the International Academy of Astronautics that I dedicate this day to Owen's memory and welcome you to a new beginning for the prospect of human industry and the opening up of the sky above. We cannot will it into being, but we can ask that it begin.

I now have the pleasure of sharing a letter from the Honourable Tony Clement, Canada's Minister of Industry who is responsible for the Canadian Space Agency.

Mr. Clement had hoped to join us today to officially open the Symposium but Cabinet responsibilities have kept him in Ottawa.

The Japanese government through the Japanese Space Agency, JAXA, has exciting things in mind for solar energy from space.



It is my pleasure to introduce a senior executive of JAXA, Mr. Susumu Sasaki, who is here with us as a symposium delegate and has agreed to give us more details of this terrific news.