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A Message at Einstein's Centenary in 2015

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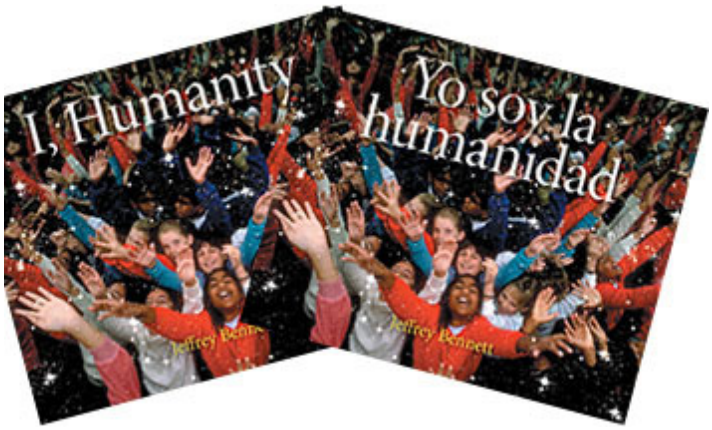
Over the past 25 years, in ***Space Research Today (SRT) [https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/publications/space-research-today]*** , the information bulletin of the **Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) [https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/]** , we have reported on the Basic Space Science Initiative (BSSI) of the **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) [http://www.unoosa.org/]** . This initiative has three pillars: research, education, and applications of fundamental knowledge for the benefit of humankind. The research part has been exercised through **annual United Nations workshops [http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/bssi/index.html]** , hosted and supported by member states and their respective space agencies. The education part has been exercised through UN-affiliated **Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education [http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/regional-centres/index.html]** . The time range of this initiative extended from 1990 to 2015, with most recent activities hosted by **Austria [http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/regional-centres/index.html]** and **Japan. [http://aas.org/posts/news/2015/03/report-unjapan-workshop-space-weather]**



Now, just in time for the **centennial of Einstein's general theory of relativity [http://www.light2015.org/Home/CosmicLight/Einstein-Centenary.html]** during the **International Year of Light 2015 [http://light2015.org/]** , we are pleased to have a role in introducing a new resource to the astronomical community: ***I, Humanity,*** **[http://www.bigkidscience.com/books/i-humanity/]** the latest book by astronomer/educator Jeffrey Bennett (Big Kid Science), to be released in November 2015 but already available for individual distribution. The beautifully illustrated, 32-page book tells the story of how humanity has gone from ancient conceptions of a small, flat Earth to our modern understanding that we live on one planet, orbiting one star, in a vast and amazing universe. The story is told in a way that will make every child of every culture feel that they are a part of this fantastic journey of discovery through history. In this sense, the book summarizes what the UN initiative has sought to achieve over a quarter century, building upon past dissemination efforts that have included thousands of ESA/NASA Hubble Space Telescope DVDs and comprehensive in-depth **curricula for space-science and technology education [http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/regional-centres/study_curricula.html]** .

Bennett will make available a limited number of free copies of this book through the **UN Office for Outer Space Affairs [http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/contact-us/index.html]** . In addition, the book is scheduled to be launched in December to the International Space Station, where it will be read aloud by astronauts for the **Story Time from Space [http://storytimefromspace.com]** program, with the video reading posted freely on the Web for educational use anywhere in the world. The book is also available in Spanish (both print and e-book) and Japanese (e-book only). Bennett also invites translations into other languages, as he can offer low-cost book production and donation of copies for educational use; **contact him directly [mailto:jeff@bigkidscience.com]** if you are interested in this possibility.

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