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Expo pre-bookings looking healthy: Official

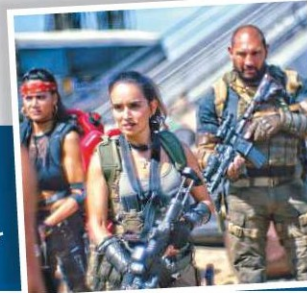
Focus now will be on making summer months active, he says



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Join the Zombie fest

Zombies hit Las Vegas in Zack Snyder heist movie *Army of the Dead*



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G20 leaders snub patent waivers

Back 'voluntary licensing' of Covid-19 vaccine patents

Dubai to host space congress in October

Global conference coincides with Space Week at Dubai Expo

DUBAI

BY ANGEL TESORERO
Senior Reporter

Experts, policymakers, professionals and other stakeholders in the global space community will gather in Dubai for the 72nd International Astronautical Congress (IAC), happening from October 25-29 at the World Trade Centre.

The UAE is the first Arab country to host the space congress, organised by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), in collaboration with the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC).

"The entire space community will come together to meet, share and connect; and this will happen in Dubai. The IAC will cover all space topics — from space exploration to space communication as well as space and society," IAF executive director Dr Christian Feichtinger told *Gulf News* during a press conference held in Dubai yesterday.

Space debris in focus

Dr Feichtinger noted: "There is no aspect of space issue that will not be covered. There will be over 2,500 technical presentations and rich plenary sessions. One of the topics high on the agenda will be space traffic management and space debris. The IAF will have a dedicated committee to deal with this question."

Space debris, also known as space junk, has recently

WHAT IS THE IAF?

Founded in 1951, the International Astronautical Federation is the world's leading space advocacy body with 407 members in 71 countries, including leading space agencies, companies, research institutions, universities, societies, associations, institutes and museums.

grabbed global headlines following the debris from China's Long March 5B rocket that plummeted into the Indian Ocean on May 9.

This year's theme is 'Inspire, Innovate and Discover for the Benefit of Mankind'.

'Catalyst in region'

Yousuf Hamad AlShaibani, MBRSC director-general, MBRSC, said: "The event will act as a catalyst for more nations from the region to engage with international partners and empower a new generation of space experts that will work for humanity."

MBRSC deputy director general Salem Al Merri said that the IAC will coincide with Space Week at Expo 2020 Dubai. He also noted the space congress venue at Dubai World Trade Centre is just 30 minutes away from the Expo venue on Dubai Metro.

"The UAE hosting this year's edition reaffirms our commitment to support the growth and development of the global space sector. We are working with government authorities in Dubai to ensure everyone's safety," he said.