Space on Earth

http://www.frinlight.cn 2007-01-26

【作者】Astrobiology Magazine
【出处】Astrobiology Magazine
【摘要】Jan 25, 2007. In his book, "Space on Earth", microbiologist Charles Cockell urges space scientists and environmentalists to work together for the future for humanity.
【关键词】"Space on Earth",space,Earth's ecosystems

Must we choose between Heaven and Earth? Space enthusiasts often deride environmentalists as being too inward-looking and focused on the past, with their fight to preserve Earth's ecosystems and natural resources in the face of humanity's push for development. Likewise, those concerned about Earth's problems often look askance at space enthusiasts as being too outward-looking and future-focused, with their search for what lies beyond our home planet, their dreams of human colonies in alien star systems, and their certainty that emerging technologies will cure whatever ails us.

Yet in his book, "Space on Earth," microbiologist Charles Cockell says the seemingly disparate disciplines of space and environmental science share common goals, and both would be better served by joining forces.

It is not uncommon to find environmentalists who regard space exploration as a waste of money, an activity that draws off resources when we should be solving problems at home," Cockell writes. "On the other hand, I have met space settlers who regard environmentalists as Luddites, peering inwards to the wounds of Mother Earth and lacking the vision to look outwards to the endless resources and opportunities in space. These perceiv-ectching goal – the sustainable use of the environment around us; they just differ in the location they focus on."

In this book excerpt, Cockell explains why humanity has only a brief period of time – out of the incredibly long history of life on our planet – to set aside such superficial differences and prepare for a secure future on Earth and in space.

北京国通科技有限公司 Copyright © 2003-2008 Email: tecom@frinlight.cn