

Agenda Item 5 – “United Nations Programme on Space Applications”

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On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I am pleased to present Japan’s contributions to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

Japan has been cooperating with UNOOSA to promote a UN-Japan collaborative program known as “KiboCUBE”. Launched in September 2015 as a capacity-building initiative between the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and UNOOSA, the “KiboCUBE” program offers educational or research institutions from developing countries the opportunity to deploy CubeSats from the Japanese Experiment Module “Kibo” of the International Space Station (ISS).

A team from the University of Nairobi, Kenya, was selected to be the first to benefit from the program. Their CubeSat named 1KUNS-PF was deployed from Kibo in 2018 as Kenya’s first satellite and is now in operation. The experience and technology acquired from the development of this CubeSat will be applied in future earth observation satellites of Kenya.

Following this mission, a team from the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala was selected for the second round of KiboCUBE currently in progress. Their CubeSat was successfully developed, and is scheduled to be launched to the ISS next month and deployed from Kibo in the spring. This will be Guatemala’s first satellite, and their mission is to test a multispectral sensor prototype which will be their first step towards remote sensing.

Recognizing that KiboCUBE has become an essential tool for capacity building, UNOOSA and JAXA recently announced the selection of the Central American Integration System (SICA) to participate in the fifth round of the KiboCUBE program. It is the first time that an international organization has been selected for KiboCUBE. We look forward to working with the team, including participants from Costa Rica and Guatemala, both of which have already gained experience in developing their own satellites.

Japan has also contributed to the Basic Space Technology Initiative. In cooperation with UNOOSA, the Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech) offers students from developing countries the opportunity to participate in the Long-term Fellowship Program on Nano-Satellite Technology (PNST). During the program, students take part in the development of a nano-satellite and use testing facilities available at Kyutech. This Fellowship Program accepts three students in the Master course and three students in the Doctorate course each year. The post-graduate program offers training in the field of space technologies to students

from developing countries or countries with economies in transition where educational infrastructure for hands-on experience through nano-satellite development is limited. The program aims to further worldwide nano-satellite development efforts and promote the peaceful and innovative use of outer space with the participation of a larger number of countries for the benefit of all of humanity.

Japan is committed to continuously contributing to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and is determined to continue our efforts to benefit all of humanity through our space activities.

Thank you for your attention.