

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

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Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

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

Mr. Chair,

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

So far, CubeSats developed by teams from Kenya, Guatemala, and Mauritius, winners of the first, second and third round, have been deployed from the ISS through the KiboCUBE programme. Each of the CubeSats is their country’s first satellite, and Japan expects that experiences acquired from the KiboCUBE programme will be applied in their future satellite development. Currently, teams from Indonesia, Moldova, and SICA, the winners of the third, fourth, and fifth round are developing their CubeSats.

Recognizing that KiboCUBE has become an essential tool for capacity building, OOSA and JAXA announced the extension of the KiboCUBE programme until the end of December 2024, adding a new educational opportunity called “KiboCUBE Academy” to the program. “KiboCUBE Academy” is a series of online lectures and technical consultations provided in collaboration with Japanese universities, which aims to help applicants design, develop, test, operate, and utilize their CubeSat in collaboration with Japanese Universities. Through this new programme, Japan aims to further contribute to the capacity building in space emerging countries, and we look forward to working with future selected teams.

Mr. Chair,

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 "Post-Graduate Study on Nano-Satellite Technology (PNST)" Fellowship Program. During the program, students take part in the development of a nano-satellite and use testing facilities available at Kyutech. Each year, PNST accepts six graduate students: three students in the Master course and three students in the Doctorate course. Since 2013, PNST has attracted talented engineers from all corners of the world who are passionate about space. Kyutech provides them with the hands-on training needed to become competent space engineers such that when they return to their homelands, they can immediately contribute to developing a national space program.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

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

Thank you for your attention.