



INFORMATION NOTE

United Nations/United Arab Emirates Symposium on Basic Space Technology

**Zayed University Conference Center, Dubai Academic City
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 20 to 23 October 2013**

1. Introduction

Space technology and its wide range of applications contribute essential information and services to all aspects of sustainable development that is economic and social development and environmental conservation and protection. In 2009 the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, implemented by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, launched the Basic Space Technology Initiative (BSTI) (see <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bsti/index.html>) in support of capacity building for the development of basic space technology.

From 2009 to 2011 a series of three United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposiums on Small Satellite Programmes for Sustainable Development were held in Graz, Austria. Starting from 2012, BSTI is organizing international symposiums on basic space technology in the regions that correspond to the United Nations Economic Commissions for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia.

The first meeting in this new series, the United Nations/Japan Nano-Satellite Symposium, was held from 10 to 13 October 2012 in Nagoya, Japan for the Asia and the Pacific region, hosted by the University of Tokyo and co-hosted by the University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC). The present symposium for the Western Asia region will be held from 20 to 23 October 2013 as the UN/UAE Symposium on Basic Space Technology in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, hosted by the Emirates Institution for Advanced Science and Technology (EIAST).

2. Symposium Objectives

The Symposium objectives will build on the outcomes of the aforementioned BSTI Symposiums held from 2009 to 2012. The relevant symposium reports, containing the objectives, symposium summaries and observations and recommendations made by participants, are available from <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bsti/fundamentals.html>.

The objectives of the UN/UAE Symposium will be to:

- (a) Review the status of capacity building in basic space technology, in particular in the field of small satellites (<100 kg) development activities and with a focus on regional and international cooperation opportunities for countries in Western Asia;

- (b) Examine issues relevant to the implementation of small satellite programmes, in particular organizational capacity building, development and testing infrastructure and launch opportunities;
- (c) Elaborate on regulatory issues of space technology development programmes, such as frequency allocation, space debris mitigation measures and import/export controls;
- (d) Elaborate on legal issues and responsibilities related to space technology development programmes, such as those emanating from the relevant provisions in international space law;
- (e) Continue the development of an education curriculum for aerospace engineering;
- (f) Discuss the way forward for the Basic Space Technology Initiative (BSTI).

3. Symposium Programme

The Symposium programme will be structured around a series of topical sessions. Presentations will be solicited through a Call for Papers. In addition, renowned experts in the field will be invited to make some of the presentations. Working Groups will be established to consider specific topics and to discuss observations and recommendations on the basis of which a United Nations General Assembly report will be prepared for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Appropriate time will be set aside for discussions and for short presentations by participants on their own relevant activities.

The following topics will be considered in dedicated sessions:

- **Capacity Building in Basic Space Technology Development**
This session will discuss the latest developments in the field of space technology development capacity building. This will include presentations on various institutions and their experiences with establishing small satellite programmes. Opportunities for international and regional cooperation will also be considered.
- **Infrastructures for Basic Space Technology Development**
This session will look at the requirements for development and (environmental) testing facilities for basic space technology development. Experiences with the establishment of such facilities in universities and research institutions will be shared.
- **Small Satellite Platforms for Earth Observations**
Over the last few years' affordable small satellite platforms have been developed, capable of delivering medium- to high-resolution imagery for a wide range of geospatial applications. This session will review the latest developments in the field.
- **Regulatory and Legal Issues**
Regulatory and legal considerations play an important role in the implementation of small satellite programmes. The session will include discussions on the allocation and registration of frequencies with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the registration of satellites with the United Nations, launching State liabilities, space debris mitigation guidelines and import/export controls.

- **Working Groups of the International Panel of Experts for the Development of the Education Curriculum on Space Engineering**
In follow up to its first meeting held at the BSTI Symposium in 2012, this session will reconvene the International Panel of Experts for the development of the Education Curriculum on Space Engineering. For details see <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bsti/bsti-education/ecse.html>.
- **Working Group on Observation and Recommendations**
This session will be dedicated to discussing the Symposium observations and recommendations.

The sessions may be supplemented by a poster session, demonstrations of relevant software tools, technical visits and by practical hands-on exercises. The co-sponsors will also organize an attractive programme of side-events for all Symposium participants. The detailed Symposium programme will be made available on the Symposium website at <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bsti/uae2013.html>.

4. Participation Requirements and Qualifications

Symposium participants are expected to have obtained university degrees in relevant study fields or be enrolled in relevant activities or studies. Contributions to and professional working experience in a field related to the theme of the Symposium is desirable. Applicants should ideally be involved in the planning or implementation of activities related to capacity building in basic space technology in relevant governmental organizations, international or national agencies, non-governmental organizations, research or academic institutions or industry. Applications from qualified female applicants are particularly encouraged. The co-sponsors of the Symposium will jointly select participants on a competitive basis. Successful applicants will be notified from August 2013.

5. Financial Support

Within the limited financial resources available to the co-sponsors, qualified applicants that have expressed the need will be offered financial support to attend the Symposium. This may include the provision of a round-trip air ticket between Dubai and the applicant's international airport of departure and daily subsistence allowances to cover board and lodging for the duration of the Symposium. En-route expenses or any changes made to the air ticket must be borne by the participants.

Due to the limited availability of financial resources it is usually not possible to provide assistance to all qualified applicants who have expressed the need for financial support. Applicants and their nominating organizations are therefore strongly encouraged to identify additional sources of sponsorship to allow them to participate in the Symposium.

Preference will be given to qualified applicants from developing countries and to qualified applicants whose nominating institutions will cover the cost of travel to/from Dubai.

6. Dates and Location

The Symposium will be held from 20 to 23 October 2013 at the Zayed University Conference Center situated at Dubai Academic City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

7. Language of the Symposium

Applicants must have a working knowledge of English, which will be the only language of the Symposium. Selected participants who receive funding support from the co-sponsors are required to make presentations and to actively contribute to the work in working groups.

8. Life and Health Insurance

Life and major health insurance is the responsibility of each selected participant or his/her nominating institution or government. The co-sponsors will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for any expenses related to medical treatment or accidents.

9. Deadline for Submission of Applications

Those interested in participating in the Symposiums are encouraged to use the online application form available from <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bsti/uae2013.html>.

Alternatively, the fully completed application form and all other required documents shall be scanned and submitted in electronic format (.doc or .pdf) by email to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (unpsa@unoosa.org).

In exceptional cases where applicants do not have access to electronic mail, the completed application may also be sent by postal mail or forwarded through the Office of the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the applicant's country to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria.

Applications must be received by the Office for Outer Space Affairs at the latest by Sunday, 30 June 2013. Only complete applications with all the requested information and signatures will be considered.

10. Further Information and Points of Contact

For questions related to the application process, please contact **Ms. Ayoni Oyenehin** (ayoni.oyenehin@unoosa.org, Tel: +43-1-26060-4953).

For questions related to the Symposium programme and to co-sponsorship opportunities, please contact **Mr. Werner Balogh** (werner.balogh@unoosa.org, Tel: +43-1-26060-4952).

Applicants selected for participation will receive further information with details on board and lodging and other local arrangements.

Please frequently check <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bsti/index.html> and <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bsti/uae2013.html> for the latest information on the Symposium.