

Agenda Item 4 – “United Nations Programme on Space Applications”

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Madam 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.

Madam 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 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 after conducting technological demonstrations through the following two years, it ended its operation in June last year. The experience and technology acquired from the development of this CubeSat will be applied in future satellite development in Kenya.

Following this mission, a CubeSat named Quetzal-1 developed by a team from the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, the winner of the second round of KiboCUBE, was successfully deployed from Kibo last April. This was Guatemala’s first satellite, and the CubeSat’s mission to test a multispectral sensor prototype was their first step towards remote sensing. Last November, the team ended its operation.

Recognizing that KiboCUBE has become an essential tool for capacity building, UNOOSA and JAXA recently announced the extension of the KiboCUBE program until the end of December 2024, adding a new educational opportunity named “KiboCUBE Academy” to the program. The sixth round of KiboCUBE is currently open for applications, and a Q&A webinar dedicated for the applicants of this program is to be co-organized by UNOOSA and JAXA on April 26th. We look forward to working with the future selected teams.

Madam 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 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.

Finally, Madam Chair,

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.