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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Fifty-sixth session
Vienna, 12-21 June 2013

**Terms of Reference for the Evaluation Mission to Assess the
Capacity of Beihang University to Serve as a Host of a
Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology
Education**

1. At the fiftieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the Subcommittee welcomed a proposal by the Government of China to establish a regional centre for space science and technology education to be hosted by Beihang University in Beijing, under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Subcommittee noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would facilitate an evaluation mission in that regard.¹
2. In discharging its duty under the paragraph cited above, the Office for Outer Space Affairs extended an invitation to member States of the Committee to nominate a suitable expert to take part in a mission to evaluate Beihang University.² The purpose of the mission will be to provide a report on the capacity of Beihang University to serve as a host of a regional centre for space science and technology education.
3. On the margins of the fifty-sixth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a meeting was held on 14 June 2013 to elaborate and agree on the terms of reference for the evaluation mission.
4. The meeting was attended by representatives of China, Greece, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland.

¹ A/AC.105/1038, para. 45.

² OOSA/2013/4, CU 2013/83.



5. The Secretariat had prepared document A/AC.105/2013/CRP.15 which contained essential background information for the elaboration of the terms of reference.
6. On the basis of this document, the meeting discussed and agreed on the terms of reference for the evaluation mission, contained in the Annex to this document.
7. It was further agreed that the evaluation mission will be conducted in September 2013 and that the results of the evaluation mission will be made available to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-first session, in 2014.
8. A regional centre can be affiliated to the United Nations on the basis of General Assembly resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, para. 30,³ and subject to the following:
 - (a) The positive outcome of the evaluation mission;
 - (b) The establishment of a Governing Board and of an Advisory Board;⁴
 - (c) The conclusion of a sufficient number of bilateral, governmental agreements on the establishment of a regional centre;⁵
 - (d) Any costs of the Office for Outer Space Affairs associated with the establishment and operation of the centre should be covered by the host country.

³ “Endorses the recommendation of the Committee that these centres be established on the basis of affiliation to the United Nations as early as possible and that such affiliation would provide the centres with the necessary recognition and would strengthen the possibilities of attracting donors and of establishing academic relationships with national and international space-related institutions;”

⁴ A/AC.105/534, paras. 72-73.

⁵ There are presently 53 member States and 9 associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. There are 16 member States that have entered into a bilateral agreement with the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP).

Annex

Terms of Reference

A. General Remarks

Mission objective: The purpose of the evaluation mission is to provide an accurate and informative report of whether the government and host institution visited will provide the support necessary for the Centre's successful establishment and sustained operation.

Date and duration of the mission: September 2013, 2-3 days

Agenda of the mission: The detailed agenda of the evaluation mission will be prepared by the host country on the basis of the agenda proposal contained in Annex V (b) of document A/AC.105/534.

B. Members of the Evaluation Mission

The following member States of the Committee have nominated experts to take part in the mission to evaluate Beihang University in response to note verbale OOSA/2013/4, CU 2013/83: Greece and Russian Federation. In addition, the following member States have indicated that they will nominate an expert to take part in the mission: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Pakistan.

All costs associated with the expert's participation in the evaluation mission shall be borne by the respective governments.

The evaluation mission will be facilitated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

C. Evaluation Parameters

This section presents the mission's evaluation of the current or expected condition for each of the parameters considered; the list of these parameters is shown below. For each of the countries visited, the level to which the offer would meet with the perceived needs of the Centre is given as one of three categories (i) Offered or Satisfactory (OS); (ii) Probably Satisfactory (PS); or (iii) Not Offered, Unsatisfactory or Unavailable (N) for each of the parameters and criteria identified below.

The evaluation scale is described in more detail as follows:

Offered or Satisfactory (OS): This means that the mission members are confident that the facilities, manpower or other needs of the Centre will be fulfilled by the proposed offer, even though these may not be currently available. Where appropriate it means that statements of support or in-country conditions and infrastructure are considered satisfactory.

Probably Satisfactory (PS): This means that the mission members are reasonably sure that the Centre's perceived needs will be satisfied by the offers or statements, but that existing facilities may need upgrading, that the proposal has not

completely addressed all of the Centre's needs, or that formal approval of a particular part of the offer is expected but has not yet been given.

Not Offered, Unsatisfactory or Unavailable (N): This means that (i) the mission members believed that what was offered would not satisfy the needs of the Centre and that there was very little chance that a satisfactory upgrade could take place; (ii) the statements of offer did not have sufficient formal approval and had little likelihood of gaining that approval in the immediate future; (iii) no offer was made regarding particular facilities or requirements; or (iv) such facilities or requirements were not available and had very little chance of coming to fruition.

1. Governmental Support
 - 1.1 Level or rank of the government representative
 - 1.2 Contents of the statements and scope of the support offered
2. Institutional Support
 - 2.1 Level or rank of the representative of the potential host institutions for the Centre
 - 2.2 Contents of the statements and scope of the support offered
3. Local resources in support of the Centre
 - 3.1 Scientific, technical and administrative personnel offered for the Centre (potentially available to the Centre in (i) participating institutions and (ii) in national institutions)
 - 3.2 Infrastructure
 - 3.2.1 Installed facilities (e.g. libraries, equipped laboratories, non-dedicated major equipment, communications networks, interpretation/translation services)
 - 3.2.2 Campus (distance to the future location of the Centre)
 - 3.2.3 Physical spaces (total available surface, classrooms, work and study rooms and offices properly furnished)
 - 3.3 Support equipment (e.g. computers, plotters, printers and other electronic or specialized equipment)
 - 3.4 Software (commercial or in-house developed software packages), e.g. for digital image processing and data analysis
4. Housing for participants and staff of the Centre

Availability and adequacy; either on-campus, offered for the Centre or commercially available at reasonable rates; transportation
5. Coordination of the Centre's activities
 - 5.1 Coordination of the education programmes (structure proposed by the host country)
 - 5.2 Coordination among the participating institutions

6. Autonomy of the Centre
 - 6.1 Degree of academic autonomy
 - 6.2 Degree of administrative autonomy
7. Financial contribution
8. Degree to which the proposed structure has been developed
9. Legal status of the Centre
10. Experience of the host country/institution in space science and technology applications
11. Experience in space technology
12. Demand for experts and services from a space science and technology education centre in the region
 - 12.1 Demand for experts in operational programmes of the region
 - 12.2 Demand for services/consultancy from the Centre
13. Geographic situation, practical aspects
 - 13.1 Geographic situation within Asia
 - 13.2 Infrastructure access links in the region
 - 13.3 Political links, participation in regional academic exchange, presence of students from other Asian countries

Additional background information on the evaluation parameters is provided in Annex V (a) of document A/AC.105/534 which contains the original proposal for the terms of reference for evaluation missions for the selection of the host institution(s) for the Regional Centres.
