The Sixty-Sixth Session of
the Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
31 May – 6 June 2023

Agenda Item 4
General Exchange of Views

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC)-Global, an international NGO for space education, I am very pleased to be here in person to join the 66th Session of the Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). Above all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Omran Sharaf, the Chairman of the Committee, for giving me the opportunity of delivering this statement. I also thank Mr. Niklas Hedman, Acting Director of Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA), and his staff for their excellent preparation of this session.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

Thanks to the recent relaxation of border controls related to the COVID 19 pandemic by many countries, we have taken more active approaches to our space education activities. Let me mention a few examples. As dedicated to getting CubeSat technical skills through hands-on training for university students and researchers around the world, we will continue the CubeSat/CanSat Leader Training Program (CLTP). We plan to hold it in August this year, offering financial support to those from developing countries. In addition, our annual in-person UNISEC-Global meeting was reopened in

Istanbul last October, ending up in great success. Many thanks to our Turkish colleagues for organizing that meeting. We will host the next UNISEC-Global Meeting this November in Tokyo. During the meeting, we will organize the 8th Mission Idea Contest with theme of “Missions by Multiple Nanosatellites.”

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

We launched a new program of the “Local Chapter Empowerment Program,” in 2021. A local chapter, consisting of local universities, is one of the key components for UNISEC-Global, with the expectation of it playing a significant role for our activities. There are now 24 local chapters around the world. As a first step to move the program forward, we offered to them the congruent systems program, which is to share the 20 years of experiences and accumulated knowhows of the original UNISEC with these newly established local chapters. This includes explaining how to establish workable relations between government, industry, academia, and a local chapter.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

Regarding collaborative projects, I want to illustrate with two examples. One is a joint project between UNOOSA and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). It is called the “KiboCUBE Academy.” KiboCUBE offers to deploy, free of charge, a CubeSat of a developing country from the International Space Station’s Japanese Module, “Kibo”. We support and promote the KiboCUBE program by offering a series of online space lectures to provide technical insights about CubeSat development for non-spacefaring countries. You can view the video-recorded lectures at the UNOOSA’s website at any time.

The other example I wish to mention is the J-Cube program, which seeks to form joint partnerships between an international university or organization and a Japanese university to deploy a 1U, 2U, or 3U CubeSat from the ISS Kibo module. Under contract with JAXA, we play the matchmaking role for such partnerships. The J-Cube launch is not free, but it is very low cost. It is more feasible than the former in terms of realizing space access.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to conclude my statement by referring to the founding spirit of UNISEC-Global, which states that UNISEC-Global will help to create a world where every country can access space and space technology regardless of its economic status. This is just in line with the principle of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - “No one will be left behind.”

*UNISEC-Global will do its best to realize “**a world where university students can participate in practical space projects in ALL countries/regions”** in cooperation with other organizations who share the same values.*

Thank you for your kind attention.

By Rei Kawashima,

Secretary General of UNISEC-Global