



The 64th Session of
The Committee on
The Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
25 August to 3 September 2021

Japan, Agenda Item 4
General Exchange of Views

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

I am very pleased to have a chance to make a video statement during the 64th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space about the recent activities of the University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC)-Global. It is a non-profit international organization in the space education field. Before it, I would like to appreciate the excellent leadership shown to us by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Marius-Ioan Piso who kindly allowed me to participate in this prestigious meeting as a virtual participant. Moreover, I must say “Thank you” to Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, and her staff for their complicated but valuable arrangements for the hybrid meeting in this difficult time of the COVID-19 disease.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

The world has been facing a severe longstanding pandemic. It has limited activities for humankind. UNISEC-Global has been adversely affected. Many of our programs have been cancelled or postponed. Among them, the annual UNISEC-Global Meeting which was originally

planned in Istanbul, Turkey in July 2020 has been postponed to 2022. And our annual hands-on training program of the CanSat Leader Training Program (CLTP) was cancelled this year, 2 years in a row. Even though the vaccination program has been spreading all over the world, we don't know for sure how long we need to continue restraining ourselves. Even under such lingering uncertainty, we cannot just do nothing. We should regard the present difficulty as a challenging task for new opportunities. We must take action to turn the current pandemic into opportunities for a better future.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

Let me give a few examples of our recent activities under pandemic constraints.

At first, as I mentioned at the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we have an agreement with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) to contribute to UNOOSA's project called the "KiboCUBE Seventh Round of Applications". This project is to deploy CubeSats of non-spacefaring countries from the Japanese Experiment Module (Kibo) onboard the International Space Station (ISS). In this connection, we have started the "KiboCUBE Academy" which is intended to enhance technical knowledge about space and space engineering for better applications. Any person, especially from non-spacefaring countries are most welcome.

Secondly, I would like to pick up our original program, the Mission Idea Contest (MIC), which is for mainly university students across the

world to design micro/nano satellite missions. This is an annual event and this year it is contest No.7. The theme for this year's Contest is "Deep Space Science and Exploration with Nano/Micro Satellites". We have tried to attract people from non-spacefaring countries to this contest by offering free online lectures. Accordingly, we have observed two preparatory national competitions with deep space missions in Thailand and Costa Rica before our main contest. It may be said that we have paved a way for students of non-spacefaring countries to the cutting-edge of space science. The final presentation will be held on November 13, this year. The 3rd example is about our core international gathering of the UNISEC-Global Meeting. Due to the current pandemic, in-person meetings have been deemed as undesirable. However, to keep the momentum of the past in-person meetings, we have organized the virtual meeting every month since last year and will hold the 13th online meeting on September 18 next month.

Please allow me to mention briefly two more examples in connection with the international arena. The first one is that we have reached an agreement with JAXA about our commitment as the coordinator and the secretariat to the higher education session of the Space Education for All Working Group (SE4AWG) of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). I would say that this may furthermore strengthen our ties with non-spacefaring countries.

My last example is about the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) is now working on a new handbook, called the "ITU-R Small Satellite Handbook". One

of the purposes of the handbook is to promote and to offer technical assistance to developing countries, enterprises and individuals in the field of small satellite utilization. UNISEC-Global is willing to cooperate with ITU by contributing its accumulated knowhow and experience to the handbook.

Because of time constraints, I would like to leave another new project to Dr. Quentin Verspieren, a research fellow of the University of Tokyo who will state as a technical presentation later on..

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

I conclude my statement here by emphasizing that our activities are in line with the “Access to Space for All Initiative” launched by UNOOSA in 2018, in other words, we have tried to and will try to involve developing countries in space endeavors through human resources development. I believe that these efforts for “space for all” would be a driving force to tackle more efficiently with the global environmental problems from the aspect of space technology. Thank you very much for your attention.

(End)