



Agenda Item 4 General Exchange of Views

Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

I am very pleased to be here today on behalf of the University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC)-Global, and I would like to express my sincere congratulation on the inauguration of the Chair of the Subcommittee, Ms. Natália Archinard. In addition, I must convey my heart-felt thanks to Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, for her continuous support. She provides video messages to our annual international gatherings, including the 7th UNISEC-Global Meeting held last year November in Tokyo, Japan. I also appreciate Ms. Di Pippo and her staff for the efficiency in preparing this conference.

Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

UNISEC-Global has continued to value its founding spirits of seeking a world where university students can participate in practical space projects in all countries by 2030 – “Vision 2030-ALL”. For the realization of such Vision, we are taking four approaches – providing training programs mainly using HEPTA-Sat model, organizing a forum for exchange of research ideas and opinions, increasing awareness to debris issues, and supporting global space projects by the member universities.

I believe these approaches would contribute to UN COPUOS Guidelines on Long - term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, especially Guideline C “International cooperation, capacity-building and awareness” as well as Sustainable Development Goal 4, “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.

Let me briefly touch upon UNISEC-Global activities since June of 2019. Firstly, we organized an annual hands-on satellite making course of the 10th CanSat Leader Training Program (CLTP-10). The program was conducted in cooperation with Nihon University, Chiba, Japan in August of 2019. The program has the participants build a model satellite, called a HEPTA-Sat, with a time span of two weeks after the online course of basic space engineering. This time, we had 15 participants from 11 countries (namely, Australia, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya, Morocco, Myanmar, Peru, Rwanda, Zimbabwe), which recorded the highest numbers in terms of participants and countries. The next CLTP will be held at the same venue in August 17-28, 2020.

Secondly, we held the annual gathering of the 7th UNISEC-Global Meeting at the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan November 30th - December 3rd, 2019. We had two meaningful panel discussions, one was about “Gender Equality in the Space Field”, the other one was “Space Technology towards Droughts and Floods”. For the gender panel, we received a wonderful video message from Ms. Pascale Ehrenfreund, Chair of the Executive Board, German Aerospace Center (DLR), and Chancellor of the International Space University, Strasbourg, France.

The message certainly triggered the active exchange of opinions among the panelists and the floor. We had female and male panelists from, for example, JAXA, NASA, African Union Commission and the Malaysian University. I am sure that the results will contribute to the future gender discussions related to space. The other panel was a timely theme of “How can Space Technology Solve Droughts and Floods?” We had various positive opinions about the usefulness of space technology for disaster relief.

One more striking agenda I would like to mention here is the Mission Idea Contest in which were selected the ten teams as the finalists. In this case, we placed a precondition of meeting UN SDGs at the time of “call for paper”. Thanks to generous offers by a Belgium company and a Japanese company who are commissioned for commercial use by ESA and JAXA respectively, the winning two teams can use the ISS facilities with discounted fees. As a result, a Costa Rican team, under the title “MUSA – An ISS Experiment for the Research of a Dual Culture for Panama Disease”, was selected as a winner of the Category ICECUBES to use a partial ESA’s Columbus module. The other winner was a Philippines team, under the title of “Spectrum Monitoring from Space with i-SEEP to use a partial JAXA’s Exposed Facility. In addition, the Student Award was given to the Italian and the Indonesian teams. These teams are excellent in idea and approach to realization with a promising future. We will hold the next UNISEC-Global Meeting in Istanbul Turkey in July 2020 and Pre-workshop for the 7th Mission Idea Contest will be organized as well.

Madam Chair,

As the educational entity, we have close relations with the International Space University (ISU). In addition to an agreement reached with ISU last year as a consultant to facilitate Japanese students to join the ISU programs, we cooperate with ISU by sending instructors to the University of South Australia in Adelaide Australia to execute the HEPTA-Sat hands-on training program for the attendees. As one of the global players in space education, we will keep the current cooperative relations with ISU.

As for the HEPTA-Sat hands-on training program, we sent three university instructors to Kenya last November at the request of the Kenya Space Agency to perform the 5-day training program. This year, we have received several inquiries from different countries about possible dispatch of the Japanese instructors to their countries to host such training programs. In this sense, I am aware that the HEPTA-Sat is becoming gradually known as a good educational tool for access to basic space and satellite technology.

Finally, I would like to briefly touch upon the UNISEC-Global Community. We have 19 local chapters and 53 Points of Contact around the world. These local chapters are active in their mission of capacity building activities, particularly CanSat Training/Competition programs. I would like to name here such existing and preparing local chapters as Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, India, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Serbia, Thailand, and Turkey. Other local chapters plan to have similar training programs for some time to come.

Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to close my talks by emphasizing that space is a common property for all humankind and that the key principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is “No one will be left behind”. Now, I want to repeat the phrase, African proverb - “If you want to go faster, go alone. If you want to go further, go together.” Thank you for your kind attention.