



Agenda Item 3

General Exchange of Views

Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity of delivering our video statement related with the recent activities on the University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC)-Global. I would like to express my kind appreciation to the Chair of the Subcommittee, Ms. Natalia Archinard, for allowing me to join this meeting as a virtual participant. Further, I must mention my appreciation of such complicated but valuable arrangements for the meeting made by Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, and her staff in this difficult time of the ranging pandemic.

Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

Many people and organizations across the world have suffered by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and UNISEC-Global has not been an exception. Many of our programs have been canceled or postponed. Among them, the annual UNISEC-Global Meeting which was planned to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in July 2020 has been postponed. And our annual hands-on training program of the CanSat Leader Training Program (CLTP) of 2020 was canceled and will be expected to resume next year.

Despite such uncertainties, we should not just be idle and do nothing until the pandemic subsides. We should consider the present predicament as a challenging issue for new hope. We must take actions to turn the current plague into an opportunity for the future.

Let me give you a few examples of what we have done during this pandemic. We have adapted to hold a virtual UNISEC-Global Meeting every month since last September of 2020. This is a two-hour online meeting with a featured presentation, breakout sessions, regional reports, and acknowledgement of new members. For example, allow me to mention briefly our main discussion themes, such as: “When Collaboration Works More than Competition” at the first meeting in September, “Deep Space Mission” at the second meeting in October, “Why Emerging Nations Needs to Spend Resources for Space Activities” at the third meeting in November, “How to Realize Vision 2030-All” at the fourth meeting in December, and “Hands-on Training during the Pandemic” in February 2021 respectively.

The second example I want to touch upon is that, in view of our slogan of “VISION 2030 – All”, which was launched three years ago, we feel it necessary to improve our university-based community by extending the current membership to business circles, space agencies, and research institutions. Recently, we have dispatched an invitation letter to businesspeople as we are mindful of possible intermediary services between universities and commercial entities.

Thirdly, this is also related to our slogan of “VISION 2030 – All.” We decided to restart the Mission Idea Contest (MIC-7) last October. The main theme for the Contest is “Deep Space Science and Exploration with

Nano/Micro Satellite”. At current, a “call for papers” is underway until July 7th of this year. We would like to have as many applications as possible from around the world, including non-spacefaring countries. In this context, we launched a series of free online lectures about deep space missions with nano/micro satellites. The lectures were organized five times particularly targeting university students and young researchers from non-spacefaring countries. It is our belief that these lectures would help the participants to improve their knowledge about deep space, or to increase their interest in such space fields. On this point, I think that it is safe to say that our approaches to MIC-7 and the lectures would be in conformity with the “Access to Space for All Initiative” launched by UNOOSA in 2018, together with our hands-on training program, CanSat Leader Training Program.

Our last example highlights the joint endeavor between UNOOSA and JAXA. It is called the “KiboCUBE Sixth 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). Within the framework of the project, UNISEC-Japan, one of UNISEC-Global’s local chapters, has started to organize the “KiboCUBE Academy”, in cooperation with JAXA, to lecture technical insights for a better application. Any persons who are interested in such lectures are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

I am glad to mention new members to our community, Thailand and Nepal. They joined us as new local chapters. Up to now, we have 21 local chapters, 186 university members and 54 member countries/regions with these respective Points of Contact.

We dare to join those who feel it essential to contribute to the protection of this beautiful planet using space technology. We must help maintain the health of the planet by observing from space. For such purposes, we should involve not “some”, but “All” countries/regions to reach meaningful results. That is why we have launched “VISION 2030 – All”. I would like to close my statement here.

Thank you for your kind attention.