



Agenda Item 4
General Exchange of Views

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC)-Global, a non-governmental organization with permanent observer status to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I would like to congratulate the new chair of the Subcommittee, Mr. Juan Francisco Facetti from Paraguay. I also must express my gratitude to Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, and her staff for their efficient arrangements.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

Facing the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic around the world, without knowing when it would be under control, we have been trying to find new ways of activities through trial-and-error while accepting the situation caused by coronaviruses. Under such circumstances, UNISEC-Global has been trying to improve the current programs for more convenient ways. We also plan new projects. Let me mention some of them as illustration.

Firstly, we have been continuing the virtual UNISEC-Global Meeting on a monthly basis. Since its first virtual meeting in September 2020, we have completed the 17th meeting just in the last month. We facilitate active participation in the meeting by offering an opportunity to discuss topics related

to the invited presentations at a breakout session. The topics have included deep space exploration, dark sky problem, space weather research and operation, space education for all. There are 50 to 100 participants on average around the world at each meeting. Apart from the virtual meeting, we plan to convene the 8th UNISEC-Global Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, in October this year. More details will be discussed including meeting modalities, such as in-person or hybrid.

Secondly, the 7th Mission Idea Contest was completed in last November 2021. This is a contest under a specific theme given each time to compete ideas about satellite missions, in terms of feasibility, novelty, economic efficiency and other factors. This time, for example, the theme was “Deep Space Science and Exploration with Nano/Micro Satellite”. The final presentation took place in a hybrid way in Tokyo. Applicants were mainly groups of universities and research institutes from around the world.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

The third point I would like to illustrate is that we have started a local chapter empowerment program. This is a program of building human resources in space and space engineering for UNISEC-Global’s local chapters, currently 21 around the world. The program aims to share the experiences of our original body of the University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC) with the local chapters. Since its establishment in 2002, UNISEC, with few financial and manpower resources in its management, has played a role of providing a forum where university professors, students and young researchers can exchange their research activities for possible cooperation. I am sure that how to manage the

forum and to provide such opportunity keeping in mind a maximum realization of cost/performance would be one of the essential elements for capacity building. With this in mind, we would like to share our experiences and know-how with these local chapters.

The fourth point is that we successfully completed “Higher Education Session” as a part of “Space education for all working group” at the 27th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) in last December. It is time to pay more attention to the importance of providing effective education to university students as they will become one of the driving forces to create the bright future in the space industry and academia.

Finally, I must briefly touch upon the on-going joint endeavor, KiboCUBE project, between UNOOSA and JAXA. This project is to deploy CubeSats of developing countries from the Japanese Experiment Module (Kibo) onboard the International Space Station. Within the framework of the project, UNISEC contributed to the “KiboCUBE Academy”, in cooperation with JAXA, to provide lectures with technical insights for a better application of small satellites. The lectures are available at the UNOOSA website. Any person interested in such lectures are most welcome to view them.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

UNISEC has been promoting practical space projects at university level over the past 20 years, and has built a community of colleagues and friends from more than 50 countries around the world. Our knowledge, experience, and know-how could be universally used by anyone who wants to go to space.

We want to share it widely outside universities and overseas. There is an African proverb that says, “If you want to go faster, go alone. If you want to go further, go together.” UNISEC has chosen to go together to further space exploration and development.

Thank you for your kind attention.

By Rei Kawashima,
Secretary General of UNISEC-Global