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International cooperation: goals, constraints and means (2)

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THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SPACE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (HSTI) ACTIVITY STATUS
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Abstract

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) launched the Human Space Technology Initiative (HSTI) in 2010 under the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in response to the relevant recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) held in 1999. HSTI aims to promote international cooperation in human spaceflight and space exploration-related activities and create awareness among Member States on the benefits of human space technology and its applications.

The first Outreach Seminar on the International Space Station (ISS) was held in Vienna, Austria, on 8 February 2011, during the 48th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). Seventeen Member States participated in the seminar along with the ISS partners. This seminar established that HSTI could be a meaningful mechanism for creating awareness on the potential of the ISS and the research conducted on the ISS among countries, regions, and potential users that have up to this point not been involved with such activities, thereby contributing to capacity building in microgravity science and technology education.

The first Expert Meeting on Human Space Technology was also held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 14 to 18 November 2011. It was attended by 125 professionals from 23 countries working in governmental institutions, universities and other academic entities as well as the private sector. It focused on facilitating the discussion on the benefits of human space technology, capacity building and microgravity research in general and on identifying potential opportunities for developing countries to cooperate in human space technology activities and to take part in space science research.

In 2012, HSTI is going to conduct various activities based on its work plan. The second Expert Meeting on Human Space Technology will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 11 to 12 June. The meeting will discuss how to expand the ISS benefits for humanity, focusing on the areas of education, earth observation and disaster response, and health. HSTI is also planning to start its scientific activities by distributing zero-gravity simulation instruments to research and educational institutions in developing countries.

HSTI will continue to share human space technology in all parts of the world and to bring countries together in this endeavour in human space exploration, and thus, create new opportunities of international collaboration and contribute to the peace of the world.