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Author: Mr. Yu Takeuchi
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Japan, yutakeuchi@mercury.ne.jp

DIPLOMATIC IMPACT OF HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION

Abstract

50 years have passed since humankind started human space exploration. The International Space Station (ISS) is still exist as the golden tower standing on the middle of this history. Though there are no doubt to the scientific effectiveness of the ISS, its cost impact to the national budgets and the direct contribution to the communities bring us to a serious challenges. Every partners of the ISS are using their efforts to reduce their direct costs to the ISS program. On the other hand, space as a new frontier, it is obvious to have a passion for exploring the deep space as far as possible. These enormous projects are required to collect the knowledge, experience and budget from all of the world to reach its achievement. Diplomacy will take and should take a role of the hinge of this passion to the achievement. The purpose of this paper is to discribe the diplomatic impacts of human space exploration including its motivation, views and results appeared in the ISS program by raising several examples of Japan. This paper will also address the current Japanese diplomatic view by analysing the work of the Space Policy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan which was newly established at April 2012.