

26th SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)  
International Space Exploration Policies and Programmes (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 within 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.

In 2011, the first Outreach Seminar focusing on the International Space Station (ISS) utilization was held in Vienna, Austria, during the 48th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). Later that year, the first Expert Meeting on Human Space Technology took place in Malaysia, bringing together over 120 participants from both space faring and non-faring countries. This five-day meeting contributed to active discussions 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 endeavor and to take part in space science research.

In 2012, the second Expert Meeting was held in Vienna, Austria, during the 49th Session of COPUOS, to facilitate the dialogue between the ISS partner agencies and relevant United Nations organizations to extend the benefits of ISS to humanity. Discussions were carried out on the benefits of ISS in the areas of education, Earth observation and disaster response, and health.

In 2013, HSTI is going to conduct various activities based on its work plan. The first Workshop on Human Space Technology will take place in Beijing, China, from 16 to 20 September. Co-organized by UNOOSA, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) and the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), the focus of the Workshop will be human space exploration as a global endeavor as well as collaborative efforts that include the building of scientific, technical and educational capacity.

HSTI is also initiating its primary science activity called the “Zero-Gravity Instrument Project” (ZGIP), in which microgravity simulation instruments will be distributed to qualified research and educational institutions, particularly in developing countries. ZGIP will provide unique opportunities for students and researchers to study the gravitational effects on samples, such as plant seeds and small organisms, in a simulated microgravity condition.