

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Calling Planet Earth - Space Outreach to the General Public (6)

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ON UNIQUE APPROACH OF KIBO UTILIZATION PROMOTION

Abstract

When the assembly of “KIBO” (the Japanese Experiment Module) completed in 2009, Japanese space activity has entered into a new era. In order to fully utilize the capability of KIBO, “KIBO Utilization Promotion Office” of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) was established in June, 2008. Development marketplace for KIBO utilization is the most important role of the promotion office. In September, 2010, Japanese government announced the statement on its decision to support the International Space Station (ISS) Program and to promote its utilization beyond 2015. Based on this decision KIBO should be effectively utilized for solving social problems, enhancing scientific and technological advancement, strengthening the technology basis of industries, and responding various needs in educational and business fields. But unfortunately, it does not seem like yet that the ISS program and KIBO/ISS capability are recognized widely by general public. To improve this unfavorable situation, JAXA has formed a new scheme named “KIBO Utilization Forum”. Advertizing slogan of “KIBO Utilization Forum” is “Toward a new KOTOZUKURI”. “KOTOZUKURI” means innovations of various areas not only in science and technologies but also in new events or social systems in Japanese. Therefore, we expect that the variety of KIBO utilization proposals will be created through this forum by various participants such as private sectors, industries and government organizations besides scientists and engineers. Recently, Japanese government has established the 4th science and technology plan. The outline of it refers to “Green innovation and Life innovation” in science field. This indicates the intension to solve social problems by close cooperation of industries and academia. We believe this forum is one of the potential system to contribute this plan by creating new proposals on KIBO utilization through joint efforts among variety of organizations. This forum is open network system for any people who have interests in KIBO utilization. Any one can join by registering through the website or providing the registration form to the KIBO Utilization Promotion Office. And the participants are encouraged to form a specific group to study on a particular common idea. Once the group is formed, JAXA will support the group activities by participation of related specialists from JAXA. This forum holds various unique symposia and seminars. The new social networks such as twitter and facebook are of course utilized effectively as well.