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OPERATION OF KIBO HIVISION EARTHVIEW

Abstract

“KIBO Hi-Vision EarthView” is a JSF lead Educational System enabling students, teachers, and the public to receive “live” high definition television (Hi-Vision) images from KIBO, nick name of Japanese Experimental Module of International Space Station (ISS). We expected that Hi-Vision images were distributed to young generations of not only Japan but also any other countries, especially Asia and Pacific Region countries. Our system development is cooperated with Japan Aerospace exploration Agency (JAXA) that launched and installed 2 sets of Hi-Vision cameras on KIBO’s exposed facility in 2012. High school, Junior High school students or science museum can request us to take live images of specific locations around the world covering by ISS between 52 south and 52 north latitude. Based on such requests from schools or science museum, we took Hi-Vision images from KIBO and send them to requested-school and/or museum at real time base. The live Hi-Vision image viewing and accompanying learning guides are fantastic resources to study global environmental problems, natural disasters, Earth and space science, geography, geology, social study, culture, communications, and so on. We are now exploring to expand this program to Asian-Pacific region countries by using the framework of APRSAF (Asian Pacific Region Space Agency Forum). In December 2014, we had 21st APRSAF meeting at Tokyo, Japan. In addition to support educational program, our system will be used in the frame work of “Sentinel Asia” that JAXA is leading to provide disaster monitoring information taken by remote sensing satellites. Because we have lots of natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, tsunami, volcanic eruptions, typhoons and etc. in this decade in the world especially in Asian region. And also astronauts on board ISS are expected to report about existing situation of stricken areas and what was happening there by using our system at the real time base. Our project was fund by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and we started “normal operation phase” of this program early 2014. In this presentation, we would like to introduce our activities progress in this year and future expectations.