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THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SPACE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE IN THE PERIOD 2015 - 2016

Abstract

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) launched the Human Space Technology Initiative (HSTI) in 2010 within the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, based on relevant recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). The activities of HSTI are characterized by the following "Three Pillars": International Cooperation, Outreach, and Capacity-building.

For International Cooperation, OOSA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) jointly launched a new programme entitled "KiboCUBE". KiboCUBE aims to provide educational or research institutions located in developing countries with opportunities to deploy cube satellites of their own design and manufacture from Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo" on-board the International Space Station (ISS). To promote human space technologies and related ground- and space-based research activities that can contribute to addressing global issues, OOSA is collaborating with space agencies and other relevant organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

For Outreach, OOSA and the government of Costa Rica are jointly organising the United Nations/Costa Rica Workshop on Human Space Technology to be held in March 2016. Participants will exchange information on achievements in human space programmes and discuss how to promote international cooperation by further facilitating the participation of developing countries in human space exploration-related activities. They will also address the growing role of space industries and private actors in human space exploration.

For Capacity-building, OOSA has been carrying out two activities: the Zero-Gravity Instrument Project (ZGIP), which provides clinostats to education and research institutions around the World, and the Drop Tower Experiment Series (DropTES), which provides fellowship opportunities to conduct experiments at the Bremen Drop Tower of the Centre of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity (ZARM).