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Author: Mr. Ghanim Alotaibi
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Kuwait

REALIZING THE MOON VILLAGE: PARTICIPATION OF EMERGING SPACE COUNTRIES

Abstract

Expanding space activities to involve long term exploration and utilization of the moon is no longer science fiction. In October 2018, NASA has released the National Space Exploration Campaign report. This report mentioned the return to the moon for long term exploration and utilization in co-operation with International and commercial partners as a strategic goal for NASA in the following 10 years. The space community in general is looking at the moon more seriously, and very serious initiatives are ongoing. Realizing the Moon Village: Participation of the Emerging Space Countries (MV - PESC) mission and vision were inspired by the Moon Village Association and it is an independent activity organized by the youth in Kuwait. The mission is to “provide a forum for the young generation in developing and non-space faring countries to contribute on the concept of a Moon Village”. This mission can be achieved by defining scientific, engineering and/or commercial opportunities for a particular country. This means that the MV – PESC is a platform in which potential Moon Village stakeholders in an emerging space country can learn about potential opportunities, which might open a new horizon for the Moon Village. The event is planned to happen in different emerging space countries around the world such as Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Mexico. The first MV – PESC event was held in Kuwait in April 2019. The event was sponsored by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) and mentored by a representative from the Moon Village Association. This paper describes the mission and vision of the MV - PESC, It also describes the legal structure, partnerships and work plan.