

The 2nd International Space Exploration Forum
Tokyo, Japan
3 March, 2018

Joint Statement

Representatives from more than 40 nations and intergovernmental organizations gathered in Tokyo, Japan, for the 2nd International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF) to advance international collaboration and coordination efforts in the exploration of space.

The meeting was preceded by an industrial event to share possibility and issues of private sector involvement in the space exploration and a youth event to stimulate great ideas and interests in the next generation. In the meeting, the representatives participated in a whole day intensive discussion and concluded with important recognitions as follows:

(Significance of space exploration and benefits for humankind)

1. The ISEF participants affirmed that space exploration is an important challenge to explore new frontiers and to expand areas of human activity in outer space. They also noted that space exploration is about accumulating new knowledge and experience for the benefit of humankind and curiosity to search for answers to fundamental questions. They also noted that exploring the solar system is a common endeavor.

(Reasons for national investments in space exploration and values obtained)

2. The ISEF participants affirmed the importance of investments in space exploration, which contribute to economic growth and societal well-being for all citizens on Earth. They noted that investments in space exploration fuel future scientific discoveries; address global challenges in space and on Earth through the development and application of advanced technologies; create global partnerships by sharing challenging and peaceful goals; inspire society and especially the younger generations through collective and individual efforts; stimulate economic expansion and enable new business opportunities.

(Significance of international cooperation and forms of cooperation)

3. The ISEF participants recognized that future space exploration through sustainable human and robotic flight programs will consist of numerous activities that, large or small, and regardless of destinations, can be strengthened through international collaboration and can be synergized based on shared visions and goals to enhance effective and efficient space exploration activities.

(Increasing number of new players in international space exploration and the opportunities for innovative partnerships)

4. The ISEF participants heralded the new landscape of modern exploration characterized by significant contributors on every continent, in both the public (governmental) and private (commercial and non-governmental) sectors, and among accomplished space-faring nations as well as those countries just beginning to explore and utilize outer space. Based on this perception, they encouraged wider opportunities for innovative partnerships of these contributors. They expected that the outcomes of this meeting should be complementary to the work of the UNISPACE+50 Action Team on Exploration and Innovation.

(Possible internationally shared vision and goals)

5. The ISEF participants affirmed that extending exploration deeper into the solar system, from low-Earth orbit (LEO) through the Moon to Mars and beyond, is a goal widely shared by the international community. They recognized the importance of building sustainable human exploration as well as robotic by making the most of each step. They acknowledged the International Space Station (ISS) as a platform for scientific research, technical demonstration, and experimentation for exploration of outer space and act as a project of peaceful international cooperation. They also took note of the January 2018 release of the Global Exploration Roadmap by International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) space agencies. They further recognized the importance of international cooperation on space exploration in LEO and beyond LEO.

In pursuing their individual and collective exploration objectives, the ISEF participants agreed to work to preserve and protect the outer space environment for widest benefit and use by future generations.

(Endorsement of the Principles for International Space Exploration and ISEF ToR)

6. The ISEF participants welcomed the continuation of ISEF as a Ministerial-level forum for advancing support for sustainable international space exploration efforts. The participating countries and intergovernmental organizations recognized the ISEF Terms of Reference and welcomed the Principles for International Space Exploration as a basis for governments to engage in dialogue to promote international cooperation and long-term space exploration endeavors that deliver benefits to humanity.