

Report on Small/Nano satellite Seminar held in the University of Nairobi on 27th October 2010 as part of Mission Idea Contest for nano-satellites.

This symposium was held in the University of Nairobi, faculty of engineering, Department of Geospatial studies and space technology. We were grateful to Dr. Faith N. Karanja of this department for availing us a hall. Over 200 people attended the seminar.

The goals of the symposium were

1. To increase awareness of small satellites
2. To form the basis of curriculum development for basic satellite/space technology in the university and therefore start coordinated space activities in our institutions
3. To encourage participation in the Mission Idea Contest for nano-satellites as promoted by the Japanese company AXELSPACE.
4. Encourage our National Council for Science and Technology to see space as a tool for advancement of science and Technology in Kenya
5. Inform the audience that Kenya is in satellite project initiative
6. Benefit from initiatives such as United nations Basic Space

The meeting had a special guest Mr. Toshiki Tanaka from Intelligent Nano-Satellite Technology Center (INSTEC) University of Tokyo. He gave a presentation on University Nano-Satellite activities and actually he proposed a bottleSat (Not Cansat) as a start for Kenya in these activities. His presentation which included some rocket launches pictures was very well received by the audience. Due to his age, which they shared with a number of students, he was an instant hit to the students. He did a very good job.

John Mugwe presented on the satellite activities in Kenya and its history. It was agreed that Kenya's experience with space is long and it is high time that Kenya participated fully in the space arena. He also gave detailed information on the Mission Idea Contest explaining how to participate.

Dr. Vitalis Oduol, Chairman of Electrical Engineering also gave a presentation on working on satellite industries as he had worked for a Canadian industry designing communication equipment for satellite and also with INTELSAT.

In the wrap up the following was agreed upon

1. The university will submit at least one Mission Idea for the contest on nano-satellite
2. The Mombasa Polytechnic which was represented will submit at least one Mission idea contest on the nano-satellite
3. There will be a forum to discuss way forward on small/nano- satellites

4. That the department of geospatial studies together with John Mugwe of AFROSOFT will take the lead.

The people to be invited for the seminar will be

1. John Njoroge of space secretariat
2. Dr. Vitalis Oduol of Electrical engineering
3. Kenneth Kagoiya from Mombasa polytechnic
4. Margaret Maimba of National council for science and technology
5. Leo Boruett of Communications Commission of Kenya
6. Among others.



