

Regional Cooperation in Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development

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Collapse of the former Soviet Union became the pleasant reason of restoration of independence countries of the former USSR. The losing sphere of influence of Russia, in particular from the region Caspian - Black - Mediterranean seas has been simultaneously created variety of questions which demanded the optimum those decision. In this regard the sphere of space science and technology was not an exceptional case. The countries of the former Soviet Union before its collapse carried out the space programs within the framework of this country. After disintegration of USSR all existed cooperative relationships has been collapsed, including in the field of space science and technology.

It is obvious that the success in the field of space science and technology depends of the status and level of cooperative relationships between appropriate institutions in the mentioned area. Activities in this direction during the former Soviet Union was carried out within the international organization as it was called INTERCOSMOS where entered all countries of the former socialist camp of the Eastern Europe as well as Mongolia and Cuba. Presently very sharply there is a question of creation of a new organization where solution of the main problems of space science and technology with the common character and behavior would be possible. Certainly, application of space science and technology is a key tool and instrument for sustainable economical, political, cultural development of countries.

The successful solution of the foregoing problem can be find out within the Euroasian Aerospace Agency (EuASA) with the similar aims and purpose as the European Space Agency. At the first stage countries like Turkey and Azerbaijan can be established appropriate organization for integration the main infrastructure of those countries in space science and technology and efforts for inviting of further joining other region countries to this structure. There is an excellent environment for integration over the recognized Inter-Governmental association Georgia – Ukraine – Azerbaijan – Moldova (GUAM) for implementation intended issues.

This proposal has been shared and discussed within the international events conducted: International Space Technologies Exhibition and Conference, Ankara, May 6-8, 2003⁴ United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs/Government of Romania – Romanian Space Agency, United Nations/Romania Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management for Europe, 19-23 May, 2003; International Conference on Recent Advances in Space Technologies, Istanbul, Turkey, November 20-22, 2003.

Contribution of countries and possible extension of member countries: Turkey as a powerful country in the region can be play a very important role and leadership position within the framework of this organization. There is a highly capacity in space science and technology which could be used for the

successful solution of the regional problems with the use of space technology. Azerbaijan has a more than 30 years experience in the field of space instrumentation and space image processing. In the meantime other GUAM countries can also be present appropriate scientific and technical contribution for the benefit of mentioned institution.

A joining to the EuASA of other countries of the Caspian - Black - Mediterranean seas region can be highly encouraged. There is the signed "Memorandum of Understanding between Romanian Space Agency and Azerbaijan National Aerospace Agency" for cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. This issue is the positive aspect for establishment cooperative relationships between two countries and implementation common problems within the framework of EuASA.

In the meantime setting up cooperative relationships countries as Bulgaria, Baltic Republics in the sphere of space science and technology under umbrella of EuASA can be advantage for further integration to the European community.