

Kenya's first satellite finally deployed into Space

The satellite named 1st Kenya University Nano Satellite Precursor Flight (1KUNS-PF) was successfully deployed from KIBO (a satellite deployment module) from the Japan Space Agency (JAXA) Tsukuba Space Centre in Tokyo, Japan at 1:30 pm Kenyan time.

It was a moment of great joy as Kenyans gathered at the Chandaria Auditorium witnessed the successful deployment of the first Kenya University Nano Satellite Precursor Flight (1KUNS-PF).

1KUNS-PF is a result of scientific and technological collaboration between the University of Nairobi, School of Engineering – the KiboCube Team, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), University of Rome (Italy), and the Kenya Space Agency.

Ambassador Amina Mohammed, CS, Education, speaking on behalf of the President from Tokyo, Japan said, 'Hongera Kenya, Hongera Japan, Hongera University.'

Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance, speaking on behalf of the Vice Chancellor said, "We are happy that this breakthrough will inspire our scientists and the youth of this country to continue being innovative and utilize their talents to compete globally and apply their knowledge for the good of mankind."

He noted that Commercial satellites have considerable economic potential for Kenya. They enable earth mapping, earth observations, land use and environmental monitoring, weather forecasting, applications in food security and forecasting, communication, disaster management, coastline and border monitoring, outer space observation, management of forests, livestock and wildlife monitoring and management, marine research etc.

Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign affairs, gave sincere appreciation the University of Nairobi and the government of Japan for the role they played in this project. He said, 'Today's launch will play an integral part in the big 4 agenda.'

Kenya was represented in Japan by Amb. Amina Mohammed, CS, Education, UoN Chancellor, Dr. Mrs. Vijoo Rattansi, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbutia Dean, School of Engineering, Prof. Mwangi Mbutia among others.