

NASA Discusses Science on Northrop Grumman's 19th Resupply Mission
Media Teleconference (July 18, 2023)

I-Space Essay

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Thank you. I sincerely appreciate NASA for inviting me. Good day, everyone. Today, I want to share our project's remarkable impact on students and teachers and the outstanding findings we have discovered.

First, let me share the critical concept of our project. The project aims to explore the future of education. We connect schools across borders through the ISS, Japanese culture, and the Internet. Also, we provide students and teachers an online system to collaborate and create wishes upon a star.

Next, I want to focus on this mission. This mission will carry a single memory card of 8 000 students' wishes in 2022. The memory card will be stored in Japanese Experiment Module on ISS and eventually become a shooting star.

In 2022, 6,000 students and teachers from 31 schools in 7 countries, the US, Australia, Germany, the UK, Spain, South Africa, and Japan, collaborated and created Space Poem in Japanese. Space poem is a type of Japanese linked verse. Many students who speak Japanese as a second language participated, enjoying cross-cultural engagement.

Now, let me share the power of space poem. Students from a school in Charlotte, USA, and a school in Ehime, Japan, collaborated and created an iconic space poem: "It comes out, shining brightly, a wishing star. Don't be defeated by the coronavirus, and don't give up hope." Students from a school in Houston, USA, and a school in Nara, Japan, created a universal space poem: "You're not the only one who is struggling, and I will support you. Hard time, everyone has it." These poems remind us of our shared humanity and the strength we find in unity. You can find and translate all the students' beautiful space poem on our website.

Now, let's discuss the impact and findings. Since I initiated this project over the past 23 years, 70,000 students and teachers have participated. Their contributions have been compiled into anthologies featured in school textbook and websites. These anthologies celebrate the growth and potential of students as humans in the universe on Earth! In 2023, we received requests from 42 schools in 8 countries to continue this incredible project. Season 23 has already begun, and we're excited to continue this journey of exploration and learning together.

Finally, my deepest gratitude to NASA and JAXA for their support. Thank you for your attention.



Q: What is your favorite part of the project and your experience working with the students?

A: Thank you for asking me. My favorite part of the project is witnessing the remarkable growth and resilience of the students I had the privilege to work with. Despite the challenges they faced after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, these students showed incredible progress and a determination to overcome obstacles. It was inspiring to see their creativity and dedication during the collaborative creation of the Space Poem. Working with them was a truly rewarding experience, and I am grateful to have played a part in fostering their hope and dream for the future. I have written Japanese textbooks and books with the goal of sharing the incredible strength of these students with people around the world. They are available for reading on our website in PDF format, and AI translation is also possible. I would be delighted if you could take a look.