

World Space Congress Exhibition

by Yukiko Ohno, CRL

The World Space Congress (WSC) took place in Houston – Texas between 10th and 19th October, 2002. As an aerospace event held anywhere in the world WSC may be considered the grandest of the kind due to the fact that it integrates all other regular assemblies such as IAF, COSPAR, IAA and IISL into one, the event people can visit only once in ten years.



Space Astronaut Wakata, left
Yukiko Ohno, CRL, right



Japan Booth by NASDA/ISAS/NAL

Attached to this international giant is The World Space Congress Exhibition which invites most of the prominent space institutions of the world covering both public and private spheres, universities and business entities. Specialists arrive at George R. Brown Convention Centre from all over the world. Researcher from Japan's Communications Research Laboratory (CRL) was among them to introduce to the visitors its latest aerospace technologies.

The Convention Centre may be comparable in size to Tokyo's Big Sight Exhibition Halls. Chic in red and black, a beautiful piece of architecture. There, visitors enjoy looking into a variety of international exhibiting booths which represent countries such as the U.S.A., Latin American, European and Asian. There were also NASDA/ISAS/NAL from Japan besides CRL. Considering the fact that the three institutions are getting merged into one in the coming year, the congress gave them the excellent publicity chance in getting themselves known to the outside world

in the most appropriate timing in an appealing way.



CRL Booth

We are happy to note that the CRL booth appeared having attracted the visitors' attention possibly because it was designed to awaken people's admiration for harmony and friendship – WA in the Japanese concept – the design that gives the image of a Japanese garden. For CRL, participation in the gigantic overseas congress/exhibition of this scale was its very first challenge. In fact, CRL had never in the past gone out of Japan. Nevertheless, the members are all quite optimistic about what they have



achieved in Houston. The sharp metallic image of the booth that comes in conjunction with the tranquil concept of WA must have collected visitors' sensation.

The following seven items were exhibited at the CRL booth in Houston: 1) Transponders for use in the High Altitude Platform System (HAPS) or the Stratospheric Platform System, 2) Orbiting model for "Figure-Eight" satellite, 3) Deployable antenna of user terminal for use in the ETS-VIII experiments, 4) Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) board installed in the Giga-Bit Satellite, 5) LSI chips for the Giga-Bit Satellite, 6) MCM for the MicroSat, 7) Module-typed robot for space operation experiments, and 8) Wearable antenna. Both Ryutaro Suzuki, the Chief of Smart Satellite Technology Group, and Yoshiya Aragaki, Senior Researcher of Wireless Innovation System Group, were busily occupied in answering the Visitors' questions which were all highly professional and detailed due probably to the fact that the majority of the visitors were from institutions and laboratories, universities and manufacturers who had in mind to pursue alliance possibilities for the future.



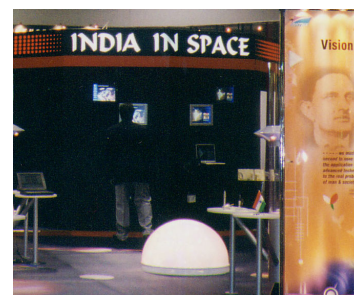
NASA's Booth



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A special courtesy should probably be given to the NASA booth. Though quite natural the booth was just formidable in volume and its dignified air gave people overwhelming impression. Its exhibition, demonstration, experiencing corner, film theatre are all excellent in reminding the visitors of their excursion to NASA,

the theme park of today. Visitors are soon approached by an attendant who asks you to request for help. The attendant urges you to ask questions of whatever kind. Their warm and detailed services are quite impressive. People say that NASA provides attendants popularly called "Interpreter" for visitors. It appears that NASA considers offering the best service – explanations which are easy to understand – imperative since people are its supporters after all.



On Saturday 16th October, CRL booth had a special visitor. Space Astronaut Wakata. He gave us great impression looking into what CRL was exhibiting. He was an ardent observer and, at the same time, a modest man with frank personality that charmed every one in the booth.

Looking back, we all hope that our participation in Houston shall be deemed useful in extending appeals to the world for tomorrow's Japan that stands firmly toward the space and its environment.