

A Report on Global Space and Technology Convention (GSTC) 2019

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Abstract | 1 |
| Impressions | 2 |
| Discussions | 2 |
| (1) Establishing ST Engineering Geo-Insights Pte. Ltd | 2 |
| (2) Space Activities in China..... | 3 |
| (3) NewSpace in Singapore..... | 3 |
| (4) Studies of Socio-economic Benefits..... | 3 |
| Other Miscellaneous Comments | 3 |

1. Abstract

The 11th Global Space & Technology Convention (GSTC), with the theme, "Pushing The Innovation Frontier," was held in Singapore on February 14 (Thu.) to 15 (Fri.), 2019 at the St. Regis Singapore¹, which is a hotel located in the city. This convention was hosted by the Singapore Space and Technology Association (SSTA), which is a private organization in

Singapore. More than 600 people attended this convention, and more than 60 people gave presentations. A total of 26 companies/organizations exhibited. It can be said that this is one of the largest conventions regarding the space business in Asia.

In addition, on the afternoon of February 13

¹ The hotel was selected by Mr. Kim Jong-un, the leader of Republic of North Korea, to stay

at during the meeting with the President Trump in 2018.

(Tue.), 2019, the day before this convention began, a Japanese startup, Synspective, held a private seminar at the same site, as a separate event of the convention.

Impressions

It was being said that the GCTC had a strong focus as being an event dealing with multiple discussions regarding space development as carried out by some Southeast Asian countries. The author has been participating in this convention ever since three years ago, and he has felt that the host country, Singapore, has shown a big presence, while it has been difficult to see activities carried out by other Southeast Asian countries, such as Thailand or Indonesia. It seems that Singapore has become a leader in Southeast Asia regarding aspects of technical and economic skill as relating to space activities. In fact, Singapore is the only country that develops and operates private earth observation (EO) satellites.

Previously, European governmental organizations and private companies had expanded their businesses in Southeast Asia. Regarding space activities, France had revealed a big presence in the fields of communications and EO satellites. However, nowadays, China has remarkably expanded its business in the Southeast Asian markets. At this convention, Chinese delegations gave a presentation based on their policy for the Belt and Road Initiative. They also presented the concept regarding the

Space Information Corridor, and mentioned that Chinese space activities have been progressing quickly in the area expanding from Southeast Asia to the Central Asia and Middle East regions.

On the contrary, the author did feel some concerns such that Japan's collaboration with and assistance for other countries regarding space activities has been sluggish. Previously, Japanese governmental organizations have strongly promoted cooperation with Thailand and Vietnam. At this convention, a few Japanese startups, such as Synspective and Space BD, have actively conducted promotion activities; however, mainly resident officers from JAXA and big space-related companies participated in this convention. In general, there has been a lack of presence by Japanese organizations and companies. Singapore has been exploring their original plans regarding space activities based on the fact that Singapore is located between Europe and China in a geostrategic sense. It can be said that making good alliances with Singapore regarding space activities will be an important step for Japan in developing global business regarding space.

Discussions

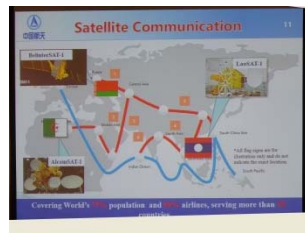
(1) Establishing ST Engineering Geo-Insights Pte. Ltd

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(2) Space Activities in China

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(3) NewSpace in Singapore

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(4) Studies of Socio-economic Benefits

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Other Miscellaneous Comments

One attractive point in visiting Singapore is having dinner at a "hawker center," which is a type of open-air complex common in Singapore that houses many stalls that sell a variety of inexpensive food. At hawker centers, everyone can enjoy food and drink purchased from various stalls on tables located in the middle of the center. Nowadays, however, food courts located in air-conditioned big shopping centers and department stores have become popular.

The only drawback to eating in Singapore is that there are few hawker centers and food courts selling alcoholic drinks. It is regrettable that people are not able to eat delicious food paired with beer. In the past, Singapore authorities have imposed strict restrictions on smoking, and recently they have imposed strict restrictions on drinking anything with alcohol in it. It seems that drinking alcohol in public places has become difficult. Since 2015, drinking and selling any alcoholic drink in public places is prohibited from 10:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. the next morning. Someone once said that it's very complicated to get alcohol sales licenses for serving alcoholic drinks in restaurants and that the authorities impose various restrictions on the types of alcohol and the time period that alcohol can be served.

This author could only find a few places where one could drink a beer in a food court, and this place was located in the Orchard Road area, which is the busiest area in Singapore, home to many hotels.

On the author's first evening in Singapore, he looked around for



a place where one could get a beer, and only restaurants in the Orchard Road area could be found serving beer. On the second day, the author visited one of the hawker centers located in the Newton area of the city, after catching a ride in a Grab car. Grab is the Southeast Asian version of Uber. This area has seen a renaissance recently; however, it is still somewhat the same as it was before. Tiny stalls stand in circular format, and here visitors can enjoy dishes from China, Malaysia, and India, all at the same time. There is another shop selling draft and bottled beers in this area, therefore anyone can bring beers to their table while enjoying food. Finally, the author was able to enjoy dishes of oyster omelets and seafood chow mein while drinking Tiger beer from Singapore.

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact:

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