

**NASA Administrator Remarks
JAXA Space Exploration Symposium
Kyoto, Japan
March 7, 2007**

The NASA Administrator addressed the Space Exploration Symposium hosted by JAXA on March 7, 2007, in Kyoto, Japan.

After summarizing the status of NASA's implementation of the Vision for Space Exploration, he made the following comments about the Global Exploration Strategy effort by fourteen international space agencies, including NASA:

Global Exploration Strategy (GES):

- Turning to the GES, last year in December NASA completed the first phase of its architectural studies for lunar exploration. In doing so, we took into account the efforts of the GES team that had developed themes and objectives for lunar exploration during the previous year.
- I have been amazed by the significant progress that has been made in the development of themes and objectives for lunar exploration by the GES team. It has been a productive exercise involving 14 nations;
- In fact, most of the world's interested space agencies are now actively engaged in this thoughtful process that will guide the coordination of future space exploration efforts for years to come;
- There has been a high degree of participation by the space organizations of these 14 countries:
 - The breadth of its scope is impressive and important;
 - It has taken into account the diverse interests of international space agencies, academia, private sector and private citizens;
 - It will provide interested parties a basis for understanding the "Why," "What," and "How" of exploration of the Moon, Mars and beyond;
- From NASA's perspective, this strategy process is already serving as a basis for the identification of potential partners with mutual interests in space;
 - Because this process has opened the door for conversations on specific missions and contributions, potential partners know we are serious about international cooperation;
- Therefore, I applaud the significant efforts of the GES Team that undertook the challenge to develop an exploration strategy less than 1 year ago;
- Their GES workshops have served as the basis for our joint understanding of the effort required to go to the Moon and beyond with humans and robots;

- I look forward to the completion by the GES Team in the next few weeks of follow-on actions including:
 - A Framework document for space exploration, one that will allow existing international plans to be coordinated and new ones to be developed;
 - An initial coordination mechanism for future discussions among this group of interested space agencies;

- I believe that this multilateral activity is very important for the following reasons:
 - It encourages transparency by keeping the lines of communication open;
 - It demonstrates the commitment of the participants to work together toward common exploration goals;
 - It provides a forum to continue coordination as national exploration plans evolve;
 - It provides international space agencies the tools to describe the benefits of space exploration within their own governments to enhance understanding and support;
 - It provides a mechanism for describing benefits that our societies can accrue from space exploration;
 - It allows participants to understand the synergy derived from these joint activities;

- The GES effort will continue to be useful as we at NASA focus on specific cooperative projects with potential partners in the coming months;

- In summary, congratulations on a job well done.