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NASA LANDS AT DUBAI CONCLAVE WITH SPECIAL GIFT

Communications team that links up with ISS distributes a unique portrait of city from space

DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

When officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration – the US space agency Nasa – come down to Dubai for a global space conference, what better gift could be given to delegates than a unique postcard showing Dubai's astronomical growth from space? That is exactly what Nasa's Space Communications and Navigation programme (SCaN) team did.

Participating at the weeklong 17th International Conference on Space Operations (SpaceOps 2023) at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, the SCaN team gave away to delegates and visitors a unique lenticular postcard showing the magnificent transformation of the emirate's coastline as seen from space.

The striking difference in the landscape over the past four decades is shown through the satellite images captured in 1986, 2002 and 2021. The images have been captured by the satellites used for the Landsat Earth Observation Mission, a joint venture of the US Geological Survey (USGS) and Nasa.

The first two images were captured by Landsat 5 and the last one by Landsat 8, Kate Manning, communications specialist, Nasa SCaN, told *Gulf News*. "These images come through our networks at Nasa, specifically our Near Space Network, which is part of our Space Communications and Navigation programme."

Manning said a friend's friend who is involved in the project gave her the idea of us-



The Nasa-USGS lenticular post card on display at the Nasa stand at the SpaceOps 2023 space conference at MBRSC captures 'Dubai from space' with its many striking highlights.



Read the detailed story and watch a video

ing the postcard for outreach here in Dubai during the visit of the SCaN team.

Philip Baldwin, Network Operations manager, Nasa SCaN, told *Gulf News*: "We at SCaN provide those products, and we see these images and make sure that it actually goes to the rest of humanity and the rest of the world to see it and benefit from it."

SCaN is also helping the UAE by providing the communication networks for the SpaceX Crew-6 mission, which includes the second Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi who is on the longest Arab space



Nasa's Kate Manning displays the lenticular post card of Dubai.

mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Saud Karmustaji, director of communications at the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre, which has organised

SpaceOps for the first time in the Arab region, acknowledged the gesture. "It is so nice that Nasa has added a nice piece of work for outreach which is very beautiful."

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

Al Neyadi hits the gym on first episode of *ELF in Space*

DUBAI

BY SAMIHAH ZAMAN, Senior Reporter

Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi demonstrated the benefits of exercise in space in a new online programme that aired its first episode yesterday.

'ELF in Space' is being created by the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), in collaboration with the Emirates Literature Foundation (ELF). The first episode is now available for viewing online.

With Al Neyadi on the longest Arab space mission in history on the International Space Station, the first episode kicked off with Salem Al Marri, MBRSC director general, and Isobel Abulhouli, chief executive officer and trustee of the Emirates Literature Foundation.

"On Earth, exercising is important. In space, it's vital. Aboard the International Space Station, we exercise for 2.5 hours every day to avoid muscle atrophy and bone loss triggered by micro-gravity," Al Neyadi tweeted following the episode.

The experts invited everyone to tune into the programme, and spoke on what to expect in the coming episodes. The episode further featured astronauts Sultan Al Neyadi – live from space – and Hazzaa Al Mansoori, explaining why exercise in space is crucial and how it differs from exercising on Earth.

More than 170 schools signed up to watch the first episode, with visitors tuning in from the UAE, Egypt, India, UK and the US. A new episode will be available every Thursday at 8:30am, and will be available to watch for free, with subtitles for students from anywhere in the world.



Sultan Al Neyadi demonstrates the value of exercise from the ISS.