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AL NEYADI SHARES VIDEO OF HIS FIRST VIEWS OF EARTH

Preserve incredible planet we call home, astronaut says

DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

UAE's second astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi yesterday shared a video of how he watched his "permanent home" from his "temporary home for six months".

Al Neyadi, who is on the International Space Station (ISS) for the longest Arab space mission, shared a video of Earth as seen from the cupola of the ISS.

"Sharing with you my first views of Earth from the Cupola Observational Module aboard the ISS," he tweeted.

Al Neyadi also had a message: "The further we journey from Earth, the more we realise just how precious it truly is. Let us cherish and preserve this incredible planet we call home," he said.

In the video, Al Neyadi can be seen talking in Arabic and English. He said the ISS was over Africa as he captured the first visuals of Earth. "This is absolutely amazing," he said.

"This is the best place we can monitor and see our beautiful planet," he added, as he panned the camera across the cupola. He showed the Canadarm robotic arm fixed outside the ISS. It is officially known as the Shuttle Remote Manipulator System or SRMS.

Sharing the moment

He greeted everyone saying *assalamu alaikum* (Peace be upon you). As he floated towards the cupola, he encountered astronaut Koichi Wakata of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency from Crew-5 taking pictures from the cupola.

After exchanging greetings, Al Neyadi told Wakata, "I am gonna share this moment with everybody!"

On Wednesday, Al Neyadi shared his first selfie from the cupola. Prior to the launch, Al Neyadi had said he would carry a camera to take photos of Earth through the dome-shaped module.

"All astronauts run towards the cupola to watch Earth from there. I want to go there with a camera and share that moment with everybody," Al Neyadi had said in a Nasa podcast.

In its latest post, Nasa said the four new Expedition 68 crew members (SpaceX



Reuters. Twitter: @Astro_Alneyadi

■ Sultan Al Neyadi said that the International Space Station was over Africa as he captured the first visuals of Earth. He also showed the Canadarm robotic arm fixed outside the ISS.

HIGHER ISS ORBIT
The ISS orbited slightly higher after the docked ISS Progress 83 cargo craft fired its engines for 5 minutes and 17 seconds. The new orbital altitude readies the unoccupied Soyuz MS-22 crew ship for its departure following a coolant leak that was detected in December of last year, Nasa said.



Twitter: @Astro_Alneyadi

■ Al Neyadi in the Japanese KIBO module where experiments on space medicine, biology and Earth observation are conducted.

This is absolutely amazing. The further we journey from Earth, the more we realise just how precious it truly is. Let us cherish and preserve this incredible planet we call home.

Sultan Al Neyadi | UAE's second astronaut

"Also, today's research includes replacing fuel bottles in the Combustion Integrated Rack and collecting samples for the Food Physiology and Host Pathogen experiment," it said.

The Endurance crew is preparing for its return to earth by cleaning, completing stowage and inventory tasks.

Late on Wednesday, the Mo-

ammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) tweeted images of the Crew-6 members.

"Astronaut Sultan AlNeyadi and his colleagues have started to work on their tasks aboard the ISS. Sultan is seen in the Japanese KIBO module which hosts experiments that focus on space medicine, biology and Earth observation," it said.



Video: See how Sultan Al Neyadi is spending his time on the ISS

Crew-60 are getting used to life in space while the four members of Crew-5 are preparing to go home this month.