



Out of the Cradle: An International Strategy for Human Exploration Away from Earth

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Introduction

The International Space University (ISU) was founded in April 1987 to bring together international instructors from academia, industry, and government to lecture students over a ten-week Summer Session Program. The 1999 session was held at the Suranaree University of Technology in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand from June 26th through to September 4th.

This is the Final Report for the Strategies for Human Exploration Away from Earth design project. Out of the Cradle represents the efforts of 41 students from thirteen countries. Eight Canadian students took part in this project: Eric Choi, Alwin Cunje, Thierry Fontaine, Angelina Guzzo, Eric Lanoix, Douglas McKay, Nishi Rawat, and William Stewart, as well as project assistant Isabelle Tremblay. The nominal goals of our project were to critically assess current proposals for human missions beyond low-Earth orbit, to identify gaps and overlaps, to make recommendations intended to assist policy makers, and to perform a preliminary design for a precursor mission. But the overriding goal was to learn how problem solving works in an international, multicultural, and multidisciplinary team. It should be noted that these goals sometimes conflicted. This made our work harder, but we believe it also made for a unique educational experience because the team members were neither focused on their discipline of expertise nor limited by the biases of one country or culture. This article is the result of that process and reflects the environment in which the project was completed. This paper was adapted from the executive summary of the project report.