



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of MAMORU MOHRI

Born January 29, 1948



Written by NASA Staff; Formatted by JS (05/2006), Reformatted by JS (10/2009)

The following information is from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration website, www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/mohri.html, accessed March 1, 2006.



September 1992 –Mamoru Mohri flies model airplane while orbiting the earth on the Space Shuttle Endeavor, STS-47. Mohri was the first Japanese astronaut in space, representing Japan’s National Space Development Agency (NASDA). (Video Still Credit: National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

Mamoru Mohri JAXA Astronaut

Personal Data: Born January 29, 1948, in Yoichi, Hokkaido, Japan. Married to the former Akiko Naka of Sapporo Japan. They have three children. He enjoys snow skiing, tennis, baseball, table tennis, ice skating, scuba diving, squash, [and] aerobics.

Education: Graduated from Hokkaido Yoichi High School in 1966; received bachelor and Master of Science degree in Chemistry from Hokkaido University, in 1970 and 1972, respectively, and a doctorate in Chemistry from Flinders University of South Australia, in 1976.

Organizations: Member of the Japan Society of Applied Physics, the Chemical Society of Japan, the Surface Science Society of Japan, the Japan Society of Microgravity Application, the Japan Society for Aeronautical and Space Sciences, and the Japanese Rocket Society.

Publications: Has published over 100 papers in the diverse fields of material and vacuum sciences.

Special Honors: Fifth Kumagai Memorial Award for the Best Science Paper in Vacuum Science (1980). Honorary doctorate degree from Flinders University of South Australia (1991). Special awards from the Prime Minister of Japan, the Minister of Science and Technology of Japan and the Government of Hokkaido (1992). Diplome pilote-cosmonaute de l' URSS V.M Komarov and Japan Society of Aeronautical and Space Sciences Commendation for Technology (1993). Special award for contributions to the Japan Society of Microgravity Application (1994). Distinguished Achievement Award in Space Biology from the Japanese Society for Space Biology and the Space Engineering Award from the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineering (1995).

Experience: Dr. Mohri joined the Faculty of Hokkaido University, Department of Nuclear Engineering in 1975, where over the next ten years he rose to the position of Associate Professor and conducted research in the fields of surface physics and chemistry, high-energy physics, ceramic and semi-conductor thin films, environmental pollution, catalysis, and application of spectroscopy to biomaterials. He was involved in Plasma-Surface interactions in a Japanese nuclear fusion project for eight years and has experience working on large-scale experimental systems for plasma confinement as well as small devices, which he designed and built in his laboratory. In 1980, he was selected to participate in the first group of exchange scientists under the U.S./Japan Nuclear Fusion Collaboration Program, which led to the publication of an irradiation damage study of nuclear fusion materials using a linear ion accelerator at the Physics Division of the Argonne National Laboratories, USA. In 1985, Dr. Mohri was selected by the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) as a payload specialist for the First Material Processing Test project (Spacelab-J). In 1987, he was appointed as an adjunct professor of physics and worked in the center for Microgravity and Materials Research, at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, for two years where he was concerned with mass spectroscopy of high temperature vapors for space experiment applications. He also conducted microgravity experiments in alloy solidification and immiscible liquid behavior using a drop tower facility at Marshall Space Flight Center and the KC-135 aircraft. Dr. Mohri was assigned as a prime payload specialist on STS-47, Spacelab-J in 1990. This cooperative mission between the United States and Japan, to conduct experiments in materials processing and life sciences, was launched in September 1992. Dr. Mohri performed 43 Spacelab experiments with NASA astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor during the 8-day mission. His performance in the space classroom became a popular nationwide event. Dr. Mohri was assigned as the first general manager of the NASDA Astronaut Office in Tsukuba Science City, Japan, established in October 1992. In that capacity, he worked as an expert in manned space experiments at NASDA developing the new astronaut office for the space station project. In July of 1996, he was selected by NASDA to attend NASA's Astronaut Candidate Training. Effective October 1, 2003, NASDA merged with ISAS (Institute of Space and Astronautic Science) and NAL (National

Aerospace Laboratory of Japan) and was renamed JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency).

NASA Experience: Dr. Mohri reported to the Johnson Space Center in August 1996. He completed two years of training and evaluation, and is qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist. Dr. Mohri was initially assigned to the Astronaut Office Payloads and Habitability Branch where he supported integration of the Japanese Experiment Module (JEM) payload for the International Space Station. A veteran of two space flights, Dr. Mohri has logged over 459 hours in space. He flew as a payload specialist on STS-47 in 1992, and was a mission specialist on STS-99 in 2000.

Space Flight Experience: STS-47, Spacelab-J (September 12-20, 1992) was a cooperative venture between the United States and Japan. During the 8-day flight, the crew conducted 44 experiments in life sciences and materials processing. The STS-47 mission was accomplished in 127 Earth orbits, traveling 3.3 million miles in 190 hours, 30 minutes, 23 seconds.

STS-99 (February 11-22, 2000) was an 11-day flight during which the international crew aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour worked dual shifts to support payload operations. The Shuttle Radar Topography Mission mapped more than 47 million miles of the Earth's land surface. The STS-99 mission was accomplished in 181 Earth orbits, traveling over 4 million miles in 268 hours and 38 minutes.

-Written October 2003, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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