



6 Years of Children Crew's Simulated Space Flights

(1988 – Cosmos Expedition)

2004 – Space Expedition

2005 – Space One

2006 – Space Two

2007 – Mars Expedition 2007

2008 – Mars Expedition 2008

2009 – Mars Expedition 2009



The Organizer Dr. Ladislav Hrzal



Ladislav Hrzal is mainly a teacher and a journalist. He endeavours to popularize the science, technique, arts, culture, meaningful spending of children's spare time in radio programmes as well as in practice. In his courses and hobby groups he teaches children to search, process and pass information.

Ladislav Hrzal is the chairman of the Domino Club, Children Press Agency civil association. Ladislav founded this association in 1992, when the Czech Radio cancelled a programme for children called Domino edited by Ladislav. Ladislav and children who co-created the Domino programme wanted to continue playing



journalists and organizing educational games and competitions. One of them is a competition for becoming a member of the children's space crew and participate in a simulated space flight.

History of the Simulated Space Flights

Ladislav Hrzal has been including reportages and competitions related to the space research and scientific discoveries in the Domino radio programme since the programme was started in 1982. These activities culminated in an international competition for children's space crew members in 1989. The competition was called Cosmos Expedition. The international crew included children from Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany and the USSR. The simulated space flight took place in the Prague planetarium and it was live broadcasted by the Czechoslovak Radio. The simulated flight was inaugurated by the first Czechoslovak astronaut Vladimir Remek.



After a several-year pause, in 2004, on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the first moon-flight, Ladislav renewed the project. In cooperation with Marek Janacek, an editor of the Radiozurnal radio station, Ladislav organized the Space Expedition. About 500 children applied for the simulated space flight.

Not only the Czech Radio, but also the press and TV stations informed about the Space Expedition. The success of the first expedition was a motivation to continue. Children who participated in the project created a great team and went on



meeting regularly. Many of them chose astronautics as the field of their studies or their hobby. Some of them became the project organizers.

The finalists of each year participated in a training course in Belgian Europe Space Center and spent two days in a simulated space-ship cockpit. They were only connected with the outside world by the audio and video equipment. During the simulated flight they were fulfilling some scientific tasks.

The participation in the project motivated many of the children to a deeper interest in this area. Some of them successfully passed competitions for other

courses in the Czech Republic and abroad, e.g. Tomas Pejchal – International Space Camp 2006 (NASA, Huntsville, USA), European Space Camp 2008 (Andoya, Norway). Julie Novakova - International Space Camp 2008 (NASA, Huntsville, USA). Anna Stindlova - International Space Camp 2009 (NASA, Huntsville, USA).

Petr Adamek – studies a related field of studies at university. He was the project leader and co-organizer in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Patronages, Personalities, Co-organizers

Ladislav Hrzal arranged the support of the Czech Ministry of Education, Czech Space Office, first Czechoslovak astronaut Vladimir Remek, Czech Radio and other organizations for the project.

The project partners are recognized scientists, e.g. Boris Valnicek (leading specialist at



astronautics), Josef Dvorak (physician, medical research in the area of astronautics), Jakub Haloda (respected geologist), Vlado Milunic (famous Czech architect), Marcel Grun (director of the observatory and planetarium in Prague), Jiri Dusek (astronomer, director of HaP Brno) and others.



In the last years a German astronaut Sigmund Jahn has been the project partner too.

The patronage over the children's simulated space flight is also ensured by Vaclav Kasik (ex-director of the Czech Radio), Miroslav Vlcek (chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament) and Anna Curdova (deputy of the Czech Parliament).

For two years the Association of Young Débrouillards of the Czech Republic was the project partner and co-organizer too. Thanks to the international Association

of Young Débrouillards children from Great Britain and Slovakia took part in the project.

Domino Club, Children's Press Agency

The Domino Club, Children's Press Agency founded by Dr. Ladislav Hrzal, who is also its chairman, is a small but respected children and youth organization. The organization has been awarded an Extraordinary Ferdinand Peroutka Journalistic Award. The Domino Club, Children's Press Agency is certified by the Czech Ministry of Education and patronaged by the Czech Committee for UNICEF.



In addition to the **SPACE EXPEDITION, SPACE 1 and 2** and **MARS EXPEDITION**, L. Hrzal organizes or participates in other events for children. In 1999 he established the first children's internet radio in the Czech Republic and a children's internet newspaper (1994); he organizes environmental courses for schools and media education courses. In 1992 he started a competition for the most popular teacher called The Gold Amos, which is now very popular in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.



Ladislav Hrzal has been awarded several personal awards for the longtime and useful work with children and youth, e.g. an award from the Czech Ministry of Education and other organizations like the Czech Council of Children and Youth, Folklore Association of the Czech Republic, Children Film Festival in Ostrov.