



1
00:00:05,110 --> 00:00:02,790
and so here in mission control houston

2
00:00:07,430 --> 00:00:05,120
i'm very privileged to have a recently

3
00:00:09,430 --> 00:00:07,440
returned uh international space station

4
00:00:11,669 --> 00:00:09,440
commander koichi wakana the commander of

5
00:00:13,430 --> 00:00:11,679
expedition 39 kuichi thanks so much for

6
00:00:15,430 --> 00:00:13,440
joining me here inside the room today i

7
00:00:17,510 --> 00:00:15,440
really appreciate it it's my pleasure

8
00:00:19,109 --> 00:00:17,520
being here so you just got back in may

9
00:00:21,189 --> 00:00:19,119
you've only been back about a month and

10
00:00:23,269 --> 00:00:21,199
a half or so how how's it how's it been

11
00:00:25,189 --> 00:00:23,279
readjusting how's gravity

12
00:00:27,509 --> 00:00:25,199
well first i felt the gravity is pretty

13
00:00:29,910 --> 00:00:27,519

heavy but we really have great exercise

14

00:00:32,870 --> 00:00:29,920

device on board and a great protocol for

15

00:00:34,709 --> 00:00:32,880

the exercises and then we kept up our

16

00:00:37,430 --> 00:00:34,719

strength the muscle and the bone density

17

00:00:39,350 --> 00:00:37,440

so uh the re-adaptation back to the one

18

00:00:41,910 --> 00:00:39,360

gravity environment was not difficult

19

00:00:44,229 --> 00:00:41,920

actually five years ago i flew on a five

20

00:00:46,470 --> 00:00:44,239

minute on flight but this time it seems

21

00:00:49,110 --> 00:00:46,480

easier for me to get back to this

22

00:00:51,430 --> 00:00:49,120

environment well it's got to feel lucky

23

00:00:52,790 --> 00:00:51,440

um so let's just start off beginning of

24

00:00:54,229 --> 00:00:52,800

your mission you know there's a lot of

25

00:00:55,750 --> 00:00:54,239

hype there was a lot of excitement you

26

00:00:57,510 --> 00:00:55,760

guys were carrying the torch do you

27

00:00:59,029 --> 00:00:57,520

remember kind of what you were feeling

28

00:01:01,430 --> 00:00:59,039

leading up to that launch getting into

29

00:01:03,110 --> 00:01:01,440

the soyuz getting ready yeah we had

30

00:01:04,950 --> 00:01:03,120

about two and a half years of training

31

00:01:06,310 --> 00:01:04,960

and the training facilities of the

32

00:01:08,310 --> 00:01:06,320

international partners and their

33

00:01:10,830 --> 00:01:08,320

dedicated the instructors

34

00:01:12,710 --> 00:01:10,840

gave us excellent foundation for

35

00:01:14,710 --> 00:01:12,720

preparation uh

36

00:01:17,590 --> 00:01:14,720

that of the details that go into this

37

00:01:19,270 --> 00:01:17,600

complex mission and uh yeah soyuz launch

38

00:01:21,510 --> 00:01:19,280

it was my first time to launch on a

39

00:01:23,670 --> 00:01:21,520

soyuz and it's very different from a

40

00:01:25,670 --> 00:01:23,680

shuttle launch and we had the olympic

41

00:01:27,270 --> 00:01:25,680

torch and it was pretty exciting to be

42

00:01:30,390 --> 00:01:27,280

part of this

43

00:01:31,990 --> 00:01:30,400

uh wonderful relay and this symbolizes

44

00:01:33,749 --> 00:01:32,000

international cooperation not only in

45

00:01:35,670 --> 00:01:33,759

sports but also in the space and other

46

00:01:39,109 --> 00:01:35,680

activities that we work together

47

00:01:40,469 --> 00:01:39,119

so um yeah still remember this november

48

00:01:43,030 --> 00:01:40,479

7th

49

00:01:45,270 --> 00:01:43,040

we launched on the soyuz it was pretty

50

00:01:47,749 --> 00:01:45,280

soft launch

51
00:01:49,429 --> 00:01:47,759
from what i felt inside

52
00:01:51,270 --> 00:01:49,439
and

53
00:01:53,830 --> 00:01:51,280
it took us only six hours to get to the

54
00:01:56,069 --> 00:01:53,840
space station with this four

55
00:01:58,950 --> 00:01:56,079
revolution rendezvous

56
00:02:01,030 --> 00:01:58,960
and i'm glad to see that now this uh

57
00:02:03,030 --> 00:02:01,040
full revolution rendezvous is a standard

58
00:02:04,950 --> 00:02:03,040
operation which means uh

59
00:02:06,950 --> 00:02:04,960
we can get to work in the space station

60
00:02:08,790 --> 00:02:06,960
much quicker than before you don't gotta

61
00:02:11,110 --> 00:02:08,800
spend two days hanging out inside the

62
00:02:12,790 --> 00:02:11,120
soyuz anymore all right well what do you

63
00:02:14,869 --> 00:02:12,800

what do you remember i mean you guys got

64

00:02:16,470 --> 00:02:14,879

there like you said just a few hours you

65

00:02:18,949 --> 00:02:16,480

got a chance to talk to your family

66

00:02:21,270 --> 00:02:18,959

right upon arrival what was it like just

67

00:02:23,589 --> 00:02:21,280

when you poked through that hatch again

68

00:02:25,430 --> 00:02:23,599

yeah i felt uh i still remember the

69

00:02:27,510 --> 00:02:25,440

smell of the space station when the

70

00:02:29,750 --> 00:02:27,520

hatch opens what's it smell like it's

71

00:02:31,990 --> 00:02:29,760

kind of like a little bit the mechanical

72

00:02:35,110 --> 00:02:32,000

smell and then uh but

73

00:02:37,830 --> 00:02:35,120

somehow i remember this sensation and

74

00:02:40,390 --> 00:02:37,840

it was i i felt as if i came back to an

75

00:02:42,710 --> 00:02:40,400

old office old house gotcha okay and it

76
00:02:44,229 --> 00:02:42,720
was great to see uh six crew members the

77
00:02:45,830 --> 00:02:44,239
more the merrier we had nine crew

78
00:02:48,229 --> 00:02:45,840
members on board only for a short time

79
00:02:50,150 --> 00:02:48,239
of four days but it was great so it was

80
00:02:52,710 --> 00:02:50,160
a packed house i mean was there so like

81
00:02:55,110 --> 00:02:52,720
you said you flew back on expeditions 18

82
00:02:57,270 --> 00:02:55,120
19 20 you're up there for it was a big

83
00:02:58,949 --> 00:02:57,280
transition time any major differences

84
00:03:00,550 --> 00:02:58,959
between when you flew then and when you

85
00:03:01,670 --> 00:03:00,560
flew this time

86
00:03:03,030 --> 00:03:01,680
yeah there's a

87
00:03:05,030 --> 00:03:03,040
big difference between the three crew

88
00:03:07,270 --> 00:03:05,040

member stage to six crew member stage

89

00:03:09,509 --> 00:03:07,280

during expedition 18 at 19 we only have

90

00:03:12,070 --> 00:03:09,519

three crew members and uh american

91

00:03:14,949 --> 00:03:12,080

russian and me serving as

92

00:03:16,229 --> 00:03:14,959

crew of the exhibition 18-19

93

00:03:17,910 --> 00:03:16,239

and

94

00:03:19,830 --> 00:03:17,920

we are so busy not only doing

95

00:03:22,149 --> 00:03:19,840

experiments or utilization of the space

96

00:03:24,149 --> 00:03:22,159

station but also housekeeping tasks such

97

00:03:25,110 --> 00:03:24,159

as taking out the trash

98

00:03:27,030 --> 00:03:25,120

and

99

00:03:29,830 --> 00:03:27,040

with the six members on board we share

100

00:03:31,990 --> 00:03:29,840

those tasks by six of us and we can

101
00:03:33,910 --> 00:03:32,000
allocate more time the utilization doing

102
00:03:36,630 --> 00:03:33,920
a lot of experiments maintenance tasks

103
00:03:38,470 --> 00:03:36,640
so i think we're in a very mature stage

104
00:03:41,110 --> 00:03:38,480
of the utilization of the space station

105
00:03:42,869 --> 00:03:41,120
with six members on board so i felt a

106
00:03:45,270 --> 00:03:42,879
quite difference this time

107
00:03:46,710 --> 00:03:45,280
okay and you were the commander of

108
00:03:48,229 --> 00:03:46,720
expedition 39 you were the first

109
00:03:49,910 --> 00:03:48,239
japanese commander of the international

110
00:03:52,470 --> 00:03:49,920
space station what was that like how

111
00:03:54,710 --> 00:03:52,480
much what did that mean for you

112
00:03:56,789 --> 00:03:54,720
well uh it is a privilege for me to

113
00:03:58,149 --> 00:03:56,799

serve as the commander of expression 39

114

00:04:00,149 --> 00:03:58,159

and

115

00:04:02,390 --> 00:04:00,159

i was very fortunate to be able to fly

116

00:04:04,550 --> 00:04:02,400

with uh

117

00:04:07,190 --> 00:04:04,560

one of the greatest well many uh great

118

00:04:09,910 --> 00:04:07,200

commanders uh uh before on my space

119

00:04:11,830 --> 00:04:09,920

shuttle in the space station flights

120

00:04:13,270 --> 00:04:11,840

brian duffy was my first commander of

121

00:04:15,830 --> 00:04:13,280

the space shuttle mission actually first

122

00:04:18,069 --> 00:04:15,840

and second flight on the space shuttle i

123

00:04:20,949 --> 00:04:18,079

flew with him and then

124

00:04:23,749 --> 00:04:20,959

i was able to learn a lot from him and

125

00:04:26,310 --> 00:04:23,759

i still remember i will remember his

126

00:04:28,390 --> 00:04:26,320

subtle but very skillful leadership

127

00:04:32,629 --> 00:04:28,400

whenever i work in space so i was very

128

00:04:34,870 --> 00:04:32,639

fortunate and for japan um

129

00:04:36,070 --> 00:04:34,880

to have their own representative as the

130

00:04:38,550 --> 00:04:36,080

commander of the international space

131

00:04:40,629 --> 00:04:38,560

station is a milestone in the history of

132

00:04:43,590 --> 00:04:40,639

japanese

133

00:04:45,270 --> 00:04:43,600

human space exploration and i am feeling

134

00:04:47,830 --> 00:04:45,280

that the trust

135

00:04:50,070 --> 00:04:47,840

and expectation towards japan

136

00:04:52,469 --> 00:04:50,080

as a partner of the international effort

137

00:04:53,830 --> 00:04:52,479

in the space exploration has grown

138

00:04:56,870 --> 00:04:53,840

and the

139

00:04:59,510 --> 00:04:56,880

kibo module has been working very

140

00:05:02,469 --> 00:04:59,520

functionally properly since the launch

141

00:05:04,469 --> 00:05:02,479

assemble in 2009 and japanese corner

142

00:05:06,710 --> 00:05:04,479

spacecraft has delivered

143

00:05:08,230 --> 00:05:06,720

multiple times important logistics to

144

00:05:10,790 --> 00:05:08,240

the space station so

145

00:05:11,590 --> 00:05:10,800

that's why i felt i feel the trust has

146

00:05:15,749 --> 00:05:11,600

been

147

00:05:17,670 --> 00:05:15,759

growing and japan can and should

148

00:05:19,510 --> 00:05:17,680

contribute in

149

00:05:20,469 --> 00:05:19,520

in the space station program further and

150

00:05:22,550 --> 00:05:20,479

also

151
00:05:26,310 --> 00:05:22,560
uh in the future uh human space

152
00:05:28,950 --> 00:05:26,320
exploration international exploration

153
00:05:30,710 --> 00:05:28,960
of space beyond low earth orbit well i

154
00:05:32,870 --> 00:05:30,720
think you definitely set a great example

155
00:05:34,150 --> 00:05:32,880
with your time as commander how are you

156
00:05:36,070 --> 00:05:34,160
going to take that experience as

157
00:05:37,510 --> 00:05:36,080
commander on board the international

158
00:05:38,870 --> 00:05:37,520
space station and apply it to your

159
00:05:40,070 --> 00:05:38,880
future

160
00:05:41,830 --> 00:05:40,080
well uh

161
00:05:44,469 --> 00:05:41,840
of course i would like to

162
00:05:47,110 --> 00:05:44,479
stay an active astronaut and working in

163
00:05:49,189 --> 00:05:47,120

an iss program and

164

00:05:51,029 --> 00:05:49,199

communication is the key for the success

165

00:05:53,110 --> 00:05:51,039

of the international program

166

00:05:54,950 --> 00:05:53,120

and uh royce renfro who is sitting here

167

00:05:57,670 --> 00:05:54,960

as uh at the console as the flight

168

00:06:01,270 --> 00:05:57,680

director he was our lead flight director

169

00:06:03,670 --> 00:06:01,280

of uh expression increment 39 and uh

170

00:06:06,390 --> 00:06:03,680

what a great leader and a great you know

171

00:06:08,550 --> 00:06:06,400

team you have here at the johnson space

172

00:06:10,790 --> 00:06:08,560

center at the mission control room and

173

00:06:13,909 --> 00:06:10,800

i would like to to enhance this i would

174

00:06:16,309 --> 00:06:13,919

like to keep working to enhance this

175

00:06:18,390 --> 00:06:16,319

communication further better among the

176

00:06:20,790 --> 00:06:18,400

international partners so that we can

177

00:06:22,950 --> 00:06:20,800

further solidify this partnership of the

178

00:06:25,110 --> 00:06:22,960

space program we have acquired we have

179

00:06:26,790 --> 00:06:25,120

learned a lot through this international

180

00:06:29,350 --> 00:06:26,800

space station program how we can work

181

00:06:31,430 --> 00:06:29,360

together and then go beyond

182

00:06:34,469 --> 00:06:31,440

always further from what we have right

183

00:06:36,950 --> 00:06:34,479

now so i'm so curious and interested in

184

00:06:39,350 --> 00:06:36,960

working towards the future uh space

185

00:06:42,070 --> 00:06:39,360

exploration with their partnership

186

00:06:43,749 --> 00:06:42,080

awesome awesome now i gotta ask any

187

00:06:45,110 --> 00:06:43,759

super memorable moments from your time

188

00:06:46,870 --> 00:06:45,120

on board anything you're really gonna

189

00:06:47,670 --> 00:06:46,880

miss so being back down here on the

190

00:06:49,670 --> 00:06:47,680

ground

191

00:06:51,670 --> 00:06:49,680

yeah there a lot actually it's hard to

192

00:06:54,790 --> 00:06:51,680

pinpoint one but

193

00:06:56,710 --> 00:06:54,800

the magnificent view of the earth yeah

194

00:06:58,950 --> 00:06:56,720

last time five years ago when i lived on

195

00:07:00,870 --> 00:06:58,960

the space station we did not have cupola

196

00:07:03,270 --> 00:07:00,880

module and now we have seven window

197

00:07:04,309 --> 00:07:03,280

module that what a wonderful module and

198

00:07:06,390 --> 00:07:04,319

then

199

00:07:09,350 --> 00:07:06,400

you can never get bored looking through

200

00:07:11,749 --> 00:07:09,360

the windows of cupola so uh that's a

201
00:07:13,510 --> 00:07:11,759
most unforgettable memory to see this

202
00:07:14,950 --> 00:07:13,520
beautiful home planet

203
00:07:18,070 --> 00:07:14,960
in cupola

204
00:07:20,230 --> 00:07:18,080
beautiful aurora borealis and

205
00:07:22,070 --> 00:07:20,240
stars and

206
00:07:24,309 --> 00:07:22,080
and also this

207
00:07:26,790 --> 00:07:24,319
wonderful camaraderie that we had among

208
00:07:28,830 --> 00:07:26,800
the crew members eating together and

209
00:07:32,950 --> 00:07:28,840
note one and service

210
00:07:35,350 --> 00:07:32,960
module steve who's the commander now

211
00:07:38,390 --> 00:07:35,360
we spent some to get together with steve

212
00:07:40,390 --> 00:07:38,400
alec and then sasha and

213
00:07:42,710 --> 00:07:40,400

what a wonderful group and i'm so

214

00:07:43,670 --> 00:07:42,720

privileged to be able to work with them

215

00:07:45,830 --> 00:07:43,680

and

216

00:07:47,510 --> 00:07:45,840

you know going back i mean when i was

217

00:07:49,670 --> 00:07:47,520

onboard the space station i really

218

00:07:52,550 --> 00:07:49,680

missed the the smell of the earth and

219

00:07:54,390 --> 00:07:52,560

family and yeah but coming back here i

220

00:07:55,909 --> 00:07:54,400

missed the same thing that i had down

221

00:07:57,990 --> 00:07:55,919

for the space station

222

00:07:59,749 --> 00:07:58,000

well you did a great job and we're all

223

00:08:00,790 --> 00:07:59,759

very proud of you we're glad to see you

224

00:08:01,990 --> 00:08:00,800

back down here on the ground but

225

00:08:03,510 --> 00:08:02,000

hopefully we'll see you commanding

226

00:08:04,950 --> 00:08:03,520

another mission in the future looking

227

00:08:07,270 --> 00:08:04,960

forward to that all right again

228

00:08:09,029 --> 00:08:07,280

expedition 39 commander koichi wakata

229

00:08:10,790 --> 00:08:09,039

first japanese commander in history on

230

00:08:12,230 --> 00:08:10,800

board the international space station

231

00:08:14,150 --> 00:08:12,240

thanks again so much for joining me