

Conversation on the topic of “Cold War “

(YH) Yoke Hou

(QR) Qin Rou

(K) Kenneth

YH Hi Qin Rou and Kenneth! I am going to write about MoonBots in our newsletter. Would you both like to tell me about your roles in the team?

QR Besides maintaining our website blogger, I do a lot of research and documentation for my team too.

K I am in-charge of Robot design, managing outreach events and..... A bit of this and that + I'm a Buzz Lightyear fan. Ooooppss, I mean Buzz Aldrin fan. I just bought the new Toy Story 3 DVD last night. So sorry I messed it up. No hard feelings alright?

YH No problem! (Look at QR) Qin Rou, You must have read a lot about space things. Can you tell me how the “cold war “thing started between the Soviet Union and the United States?

QR This has to bring us back in time to the late 1940s and the early 1950s. The cold war inspired space race between the two superpowers of Soviet Union and the United States accelerated with a focus on the Moon.

YH What's that got to do with the space race, Kenneth?

K Both sides wanted to show superiority in technology advancement and nation pride.

YH Is that all?

K No, no... that is what appealed to be the focus point but deep down, both sides of the conflict wanted to avoid direct military action because of the threat of mutual nuclear destruction.

YH Oh I see... When is the cold war ended?

K In December 1989, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush officially ended the Cold War at a summit in Malta.

YH What happen after the cold war?

K Due to struggling of Soviet and US economy after the cold war and also the internal problem of states seeking independence in the Soviet Union, there was not much advancement in space exploration mainly due to lack of motivating factors and funding from the 2 countries.

YH What a waste. I wish there is a progression from what it was in their glory days.

QR The good news is ... the Google Lunar X prize is sponsoring the project, throwing in US30 million as monetary attraction to motivate the global public funded teams to continue the space exploration currently projected to occur in 2013.

YH Oh....but do we kids also have a chance to participate?

QR Yes! Google Lunar X Prize is also not forgetting us by introducing the MoonBots Challenge games as part of their Lunar X Prize.

YH What is the age to be eligible to enter this competition?

QR From age 9 to age 17.

YH That's cool! Thank you both for the information.

QR & K You are welcome Yoke Hou!

YH See you later, bye!

QR & K Bye!