

LSGI scholars contribute to Nation's Chang'e-6 historic lunar far-side sampling mission, marking a magnificent chapter in the Nation's aerospace history

Prof. WU Bo, Fiona Cheung Professor in Spatial Science, Associate Head of the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics (LSGI), and Associate Director of the Research Centre for Deep Space Explorations (RCDSE), and his research team have been instrumental in the successful completion of the world's first lunar far-side sampling for the Chang'e-6 lunar exploration mission from the Lunar Sample Management Office under the China National Space Administration's Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Centre. A press event sharing this achievement was held on 3 July at the PolyU.

Prof. Wu and his research team including Dr Wang Xing, Postdoctoral Fellow of LSGI, and Dr Sergey Krasilnikov, Research Assistant Professor of LSGI are actively engaged in the lunar exploration mission. They will delve into groundbreaking research on "Finding Water in Lunar Soil" through microstructural analysis of the lunar regolith, shedding insights into soil formation on the Moon's surface and the lunar water resources. The PolyU research team has successfully obtained two distinct lunar soil samples: a surface soil sample weighing 400 milligrams, collected by PolyU's Surface Sampling and Packing System; and a subsurface soil sample totaling 42.6 milligrams. Leveraging their extensive expertise in photogrammetry and related geospatial technologies, the research team has made invaluable contributions to this historic achievement.

Prof. Wu Bo highlighted that the PolyU research team successfully obtained lunar soil samples from the National Astronomical Observatories in Beijing, which they have brought back to the PolyU campus for further analysis. He expressed the team's delight in securing these valuable samples, which will provide important scientific insights. Prof. Wu stated that the interdisciplinary PolyU team has extensive experience in space missions, with research embracing areas such as lunar geological research, topographic and geomorphological analysis of landing sites, development and manufacturing of space payloads, in-depth analysis of lunar soil samples, and space resource utilization. Prof. Wu emphasized the team's eagerness to leverage their research strengths to deliver additional impactful contributions to innovation and technological advancement in Hong Kong and the Nation.

The achievements of the PolyU LSGI scholars in the Chang'e-6 lunar far-side sampling mission have not only marked a significant milestone in the nation's aerospace history but also paved the way for future advancements in space resource utilization and lunar research. As the nation continues to prioritize manned lunar landing and the return of Mars samples, the PolyU team stands ready to make further valuable contributions to the nation's ambitious space exploration endeavours.

University Press release:

English - <https://polyu.me/4bsw5bt>; Chinese - <https://polyu.me/4bx27TL>

Media coverage (4 July 2024):

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Now TV - <https://polyu.me/3W7ZaVj>
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