



**TURKISH STATE METEOROLOGICAL
SERVICE**

Turkish State Meteorological Service organized an amateur radio connection for students with the International Space Agency Astronaut.

09 October 2020, Ankara, Thanks to Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS), students all around the world get a chance to communicate ISS crew onboard. Students get the opportunity to ask their questions in mind related to space, technology, engineering and science.

The organisation which WMO RTC Turkey also involved was the first direct contact with ISS. Turkish Amateur Satellite Technologies Organization (TAMSAT) provided technical services for connection under the mentorship of ARISS Europe. A successful connection to ISS accomplished on 9 October 2020, with the participation of H.E. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Dr Bekir Pakdemirli, H.E. Minister of National Education Mr Ziya Selçuk, and students from 4 different high schools.



H.E. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Mr. Bekir Pakdemirli and H.E. Minister of National Education Mr. Ziya Selçuk and Director-General of Turkish State Meteorological Service and PR of Turkey with WMO Mr. Volkan Mutlu Coşkun.



Dr. Pakdemirli mentioned that he was also a pilot and an amateur radio operator, he handed over to students wishing success and safe landing to the crew on board.



5 students from 4 different school asked their questions to ISS Astronaut Victor Glover.

Students asked Astronaut Victor Glover about the advantages of being in space in terms of scientific researches, what life was like on the space station, whether any weather phenomenon was seen from space such as thunderstorms and if they get stamps at their passports for each space travel.

Mr Glover explained to the kids that the main advantage of carrying out researches in space was the absence of gravity and he said they had just started an experiment on genetic sequencing which was led by Astronaut Kate Rubins. He also told that all the storms and weather phenomena were seen from space and that his personal favourite was watching the thunderstorms and flashes of lightning at night.

Besides, he stated that life at the ISS is very busy, he said: ‘..it is also not just the place that we work it is where we live. And so, we eat together and, we have a good time and laugh sitting around the table telling stories about the day. So, it is very much like life on Earth but it is also very different because you know, we are in the space and there are some unique parts about that as well.’

His answer to the last question about the passport stamp was surprising. He explained that since the orbit they were in belonged officially to no countries, there was no official



**REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

**TURKISH STATE METEOROLOGICAL
SERVICE**



stamp; but instead, he said they received a stamp showing the period they had stayed at the station, as a memory.

Students participated in this event said they were thrilled to be a part of such an occasion, and this would be a life-time experience and a memory they would never forget.