



Headline	Getting comfy for life in space		
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Getting comfy for life in space

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All systems go: Dr Mohd Harridon checking the aircraft configuration before take-off. HAVE you ever wondered what astronauts wore under those bulky suits in space? The answer is simple: just like people on Earth, they wear shirts, pants/shorts, sweaters and of course, underwear! Several months ago, the Parabolic Flight Team of Universiti Kuala Lumpur successfully tested its space underwear project during several parabolic flights in Japan. Led by chief pilot Captain Dr Mohd Harridon Mohamed Suffian from Universiti Kuala Lumpur, the team successfully obtained microgravity data that would be used to enhance the development of the varsitys space underwear. We had developed the space underwear to be used by astronauts during space missions. However, before the commercialisation process, we needed to test it under several conditions and environments including a microgravity condition. The parabolic flight gave us the microgravity condition which we fully utilised and several testings were actuated, said Dr Mohd Harridon who is also a Malaysian astronaut candidate. Besides Dr Mohd Harridon, the team comprised students Ahmad Marzuqi Marjohan and Muhammad Syafiq Abdullah who acted as mechanical engineers responsible for the development of the mechanical aspects of the experimentation. They were assisted by Mohd Helmy Hashim from the Malaysia National Space Agency (Angkasa). Due to his vast experiences in microgravity experimentations, Mohd Helmy was the microgravity consultant. We managed to collect relevant data during the parabolic flights in Japan. The flights were performed via a Gulfstream Jet which was modified to suit the experimentations that were performed, said Muhammad Syafiq. The development of the space underwear, said Ahmad Marzuqi, would perhaps aid astronauts in terms of movement flexibility and comfort. Our own Malaysian astronaut Major Dr Faiz Khaleed gave us some advice which was beneficial to the development of the space underwear, he said. Dr Mohd Harridon thanked Angkasa and the Japanese Space Agency for their help in ensuring the project ran smoothly. The team was also indebted to the varsitys president Prof Dr Mazliham Mohd Suud for his support.