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Al Neyadi marks a year since return from space

Now a minister, he created history in 2023 with longest Arab space mission

DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Chief Reporter

It has been a year since UAE astronaut Dr Sultan Al Neyadi, who is now the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, returned to Earth after the longest Arab space mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Yesterday marked the first anniversary of his return along with other members of the Nasa Space-X Crew-6 after 186 days in space.

Dr Al Neyadi shared heartwarming images of his reunion with his alma mater, Griffith University in Australia.

In a tweet, Dr Al Neyadi expressed his joy at being back at Griffith University, where he earned his Master's degree and pursued PhD in Information Technology.

Dr Al Neyadi presented the university with a T-shirt that he had carried with him to the ISS. He also shared an image of him wearing the T-shirt in space with the cupola of the ISS in the background.

"During my mission, I captured a photo from space of Griffith University, where I completed my studies. Today, I am glad to be with students and my professors, sharing my experience & presenting to them the university's T-shirt, which I carried to the ISS. Happy to see you all!" Dr Al Neyadi tweeted.

Outstanding alumnus

The university had honoured Dr Al Neyadi by naming him the Outstanding International Alumnus at the Outstanding Alumni Awards 2023.

During the six-month mission, Dr Al Neyadi became the first Arab astronaut to complete a spacewalk mission outside the ISS in April 2023.

Dubbed Sultan of Space, he helped conduct about 200 scientific experiments that took about 585 hours.



■ On the first anniversary of his return, Dr Sultan Al Neyadi presented his alma mater, Griffith University in Australia, with a T-shirt that he had carried with him to the ISS.