

**Contact Radio avec Leroy CHIAO, commandant de bord de l'ISS, le mardi 18 janvier 2005 à 17h55**

0:00: NA1SS, this is Fox 6 Kilo Fox Alfa, Fox 6 Kilo Fox Alfa calling, Over?.....

1:00: NA1SS, this is Fox 6 Kilo Fox Alfa, Fox 6 Kilo Fox Alfa calling...?.....

1:08: ....F6KFA, this is NA1SS, Read you very clear!

1:12: OK, NA1SS, this is F6KFA returning, with the primary school of Rueil Malmaison. Good afternoon to you, and wishing you a Happy New Year, on behalf of the 300 persons here! Are you ready to answer our questions, Over?

1:28: Yes, we are ready, Welcome to the International Space Station at Robespierre B school in Rueil-Malmaison, France!

1:37: OK, so we'll start with the 1st question. ...The 1st question is from Nils: What time is it for you ? is it the US time for the American astronauts, and the Moscow time for Russian cosmonauts ? Over.

1:51: Ah that's a very good question, Nils, The time we use to operate is G.M.T.(Greenwich Mean Time), which is the standard Aviation time, Over?

2:00: OK, thank you, Question Number 2, from Antoine: What is the most beautiful thing you have seen in the space, Over ?

2:09: Well, Antoine, the most beautiful thing that we see is our Earth, it's amazingly beautiful, and that's what we do.. any spare time we have is to look at our beautiful Earth. Over?

2:19: OK, thanks, Question Number 3, from Arthur: How do you manage to get air and water in the ISS, Over ?

2:28: Very good question Arthur, well, we have supply ships that come up and they bring us air and water. We also generate Oxygen onboard, using a device that turns from water into Oxygen. Over?

2:41: OK, thanks, Question Number 4, from Marie: Do you see the stars better than us, Over ?

2:49: Well, Marie, we are a little bit closer to the stars, about 360 Kilometers closer, However, so we don't seem that much difference except it look a little more clear, because the light from the stars does not have to pass through the earth atmosphere, Over?

3:05: OK, thanks. Question Number 5, from Jack: How good is it to be in zero-gravity, what kind of feeling does it make?, Over ?

3:15: Well, Jack, it's very comfortable being in zero-gravity, you quickly get used to the idea of floating around, and you just feel very light, and very free, Over?

3:25: OK, question number 6, this is from Laetitia: What are you currently studying ? For what reason ? Now, have you found what you are looking for, Over?

3:37: Well Laetitia, that's a good question, we do a lot of different science investigations onboard, and those are on going, and what we are studying right now is we are getting ready to do our first spacewalk of the mission, and that will occur on the 26th. And, we will go outside, and install some experiment packages, Over?

3:54: OK, thanks, Question Number 7, from Alexandre: Could you recognize the continents, or the Great Wall of China, or the largest cities like Paris or New York, Over ?

4:06: Yes, Alexander, we do see a lot from space, even just from our own eyes, we see continents of course, and also large cities, we have seen Paris, and taken photographs of cities like Paris, and Lyon, and many others..., and ..I'm still looking for the Great Wall, and I haven't seen that yet, Over?

4:23: OK. Question Number 8, from Axel: Are you realizing your childhood dreams, over?

4:31: Yes, Axel, I am! I dreamed about becoming an astronaut when I was 8 years old, when I was watching the first Apollo Moon landing, so I am, over?

4:40: OK. Question Number 9, from Vincent, and Mathilde: What do you have for breakfast ? and do you have microwave ovens to cook your food, Over?

4:53: Well, Vincent and Mathilda, That's a good question, we have different things for breakfast, we can have eggs, or some kind of oat meal, or.. things like that..., We don't have a microwave oven, but we do have some warmers, that can heat up the food. Over?

5:07: OK, this is Question Number 10, from Thomas: Would you prefer to stay in the space forever, Over?

5:16: Well Thomas, I really love being in space, and love being on space missions, but I miss my family and friends, and other things about the earth, I miss nature, and fresh fruits and vegetables, so while I like being in space, I do want to come back to earth. Over?

5:30: OK. Question Number 11, this is from William: What will you do in case of a general failure on the ISS, Over?

5:39: Well William, we are trained to respond to different emergencies and failures onboard the ISS, and so we don't have to fix just about everything, and in the case that something really bad happen, that we had to leave quickly, we could get in our Soyouz spacecraft, and come back to earth, Over?

5:54: OK. Question Number 12, this is from Rojo: How do you prepare yourself before going to space, Over?

6:05: Well Rojo, we go through many years of training, and even just for one space flight, for this particular mission. So, Shal.(Shalizan) and I have trained for 3 and a half years first, as a backup, in his case, backup for several different missions, and then we trained for our own mission, and so take several years of preparation, a lot of studying, it's like being in school. Over?

6:25: OK. Question Number 13 from Alexandre: How many kilometers you will accumulate, Over?

6:34: Well Alexander, it's... many millions, I haven't calculated it, but if you figure that we orbit the earth once every one and a half hour, and we are going to be here up to 6 months, you can figure it out, it's going to be many millions, Over?

6:47: OK. Question Number 14, from Elodie: Is it difficult to become an astronaut, Over?

6:56: Well Elodie, the thing about becoming an astronaut is there are a lot of qualified people, lot of qualified applicants, but not that many spaces, so it is pretty competitive... I don't know..., I could say it's hard and difficult but you have to persevere with it, and really try hard. Over?

7:15: OK. One more question, this is from Charles Hubert: How many hours do you spend to sleep, Over?

7:22: Charles, we have a normal 8 hours schedule for sleep, and we try to get as many as we can. Over?

7:29: OK, Thanks NA1SS, I think now the time is almost finished, we thank you so much for this very nice contact, \*\*\*\* and I think you can hear the applause behind me \*\*\*\*\*

7:47: Thank you very much, All the students and faculty, and over the Robespierre school there, in Rueil Malmaison, France, and thank you very much for relaying, Fox 6 Kilo Fox Alpha.

8:00: OK, Thank you very much Leroy, and we wish you all the best to both of you during your mission, and we say you, as in French: "Au Revoir". OK, Bye Bye and 73's.

8:12: OK, thank you very much, and wish you all the best as well, and all the students up there, and follow your dreams, and reach for the stars! 73. Over.

8:22: OK, thank you very much, thank you, Bye Bye \*\*\*\*(Applause again)\*\*\*\*\*

8:43: Thank you, and Au Revoir!

8:45: OK, Au Revoir, Leroy!