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Welcome to program 64 of VOA Radiogram from the Voice of America.

I'm Kim Andrew Elliott in Washington.

Here is the lineup for today's program (MFSK32 centered on 1500 Hz):

1:36 Program preview (now)
2:41 Subsurface ocean on Pluto's moon, with image
9:57 Indonesian smartphone use surges, with image
15:54 Designing buildings to withstand disasters, with image
21:22 Al Jazeera reporter released from Egyptian prison, with image
26:32 Closing announcements

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<EOT>

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VOA NEWS

Ancient Subsurface Ocean Could Have Flowed on Pluto's Moon Charon

Matthew Hilburn
June 16, 2014 3:32 PM

Pluto's moon Charon may have once had subterranean oceans of liquid water, something the U.S. space agency NASA hopes to investigate further when its New Horizons spacecraft swings by just over a year from now.

The notion that there could have been liquid water on a body 29 times further away from the sun than Earth seems far fetched given the surface temperature on Charon is minus 229 Celsius, but NASA scientists say that because the moon may have had an "eccentric," or slightly oval-shaped orbit, Pluto's gravity may have caused the interior of the moon to flex, causing enough heat to melt ice.

This phenomenon is believed to be the reason for potential subsurface oceans of liquid water on Jupiter's moon Europa and Saturn's moon Enceladus.

NASA hopes New Horizons will be able to provide a detailed
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analysis of crack patterns on Charon in order to see if there was once water underneath the surface.

"Our model predicts different fracture patterns on the surface of Charon depending on the thickness of its surface ice, the structure of the moon's interior and how easily it deforms, and how its orbit evolved," said Alyssa Rhoden of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, in a statement. "By comparing the actual New Horizons observations of Charon to the various predictions, we can see what fits best and discover if Charon could have had a subsurface ocean in its past, driven by high eccentricity."

Charon is the largest moon in the solar system relative to its planet (dwarf planet in Pluto's case), with one-eighth of Pluto's mass. Scientists think it was formed after an impact on Pluto caused debris to orbit and gather into several moons.

Researchers said that when Charon initially formed, the gravity between the two bodies would have been enough to cause "their surfaces to bulge toward each other, generating friction in their interiors."

"Depending on exactly how Charon's orbit evolved, particularly if it went through a high-eccentricity phase, there may have been enough heat from tidal deformation to maintain liquid water beneath the surface of Charon for some time," said Rhoden. "Using plausible interior structure models that include an ocean, we found it wouldn't have taken much eccentricity to generate surface fractures like we are seeing on Europa."

However, the days of liquid water on Charon, if they ever existed, are long over.

The moon's orbit is now circular and slower, researchers said. Plus, only one side of Charon faces Pluto. Together this would mean that no significant gravitational tides would be generated thus causing any would-be ocean to freeze.

Alan Stern, the principal investigator of NASA's New Horizons mission and a planetary scientist at the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado wrote in an email to VOA that the study "shows just how exciting Pluto's moons could be."

"We're looking forward very much to exploring this planet and its satellite system for the first time next year with New Horizons to see what they are really like," he wrote.

Rhoden's research appears in the online journal Icarus.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/pluto-moon-charon-liquid-water/1938203.html>

<EOT>

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Image: This artist concept shows Pluto and some of its moons, as viewed from the surface of one of the moons. Pluto is the large disk at center. Charon is the smaller disk to the right.

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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VOA NEWS

Indonesian Smartphone Usage Surges but Still Lags

Alina Mahamel
June 16, 2014 3:41 PM

JAKARTA - A new Nielsen Survey Study reveals that smartphone ownership continues to surge in Indonesia.

The survey shows smartphone ownership has risen up by 5 percent over the previous year, according to Anil Anthony, Consumer Insight executive director of Nielsen Indonesia.

"In urban Indonesia, the penetration of smartphones is 23 percent, which [means] one-in-four people has a smartphone," he said. "That is quite low when we compare [it] with other developing countries in Asia, but better than India and the Philippines."

The survey of 1,900 participants was conducted over the course of 2013 in several big cities, including Medan, Bandung, Surabaya, and Makasar.

Uday Rayana, a communications observer in Jakarta, questions if rising smartphone usage is a positive sign.

"Actually this is due to the smartphones spectacular growth which now has become part of our lifestyle and in accordance with our behavior of hanging out together and establishing communities," he said. "But the quow productive are these kinds of social media activities?"

Karania, a human resources professional staffer in a business firm, told VOA that her smartphone has helped her in her job.

"When I have free time, I always spend it by using my phone", she said, adding that most of her smartphone activities involve chatting and browsing the Internet.

Meanwhile, Eggi, who lives in a Jakarta suburb and runs an online food business, says his smartphone helps him interact with his customers.

"Mostly I use my smartphone for my business," he said.

According to the study, average Indonesian smartphone users spend more than two hours daily on their phones, with most of the time spent chatting, browsing or using Internet apps.

The Nielsen Survey states that, on average, women spend more time chatting than men.

The survey said young adults between 25-30 are the most active smartphone users and spend most of their time talking on the phone.

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The level of smartphone usage reaches its peak after office hours.

According to a Nielsen report last year, usage varies wildly between countries in East Asia. Some, such as Singapore and Malaysia, have a smartphone penetration exceeding 80 percent, while the Philippines stands at just 15 percent and India at 18 percent.

(This report was produced in collaboration with the VOA Indonesian service.)

<http://www.voanews.com/content/indonesian-smartphone-usage-surges-but-still-lags/1938198.html>

<EOT>

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Image: A Blackberry Z3 smartphone is shown by a model during its launch in Jakarta, Indonesia, May 13, 2014. The Z3 is priced at (US \$200) in the country.

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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VOA NEWS

Designing for Disaster Helps Save Lives, Property

George Putic, KI4FNF
June 16, 2014

Natural disasters -- tornados, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and forest fires -- occur frequently, and often unexpectedly, across the United States, but there is technology that can help save property and lives.

An exhibition at Washington's National Building Museum showcases some of these technologies.

For example, large buildings and other structures can withstand even strong earthquakes if they are built with some degree of flexibility.

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"We need to let buildings move and we can actually understand where they might fail and then go in and design buildings with that in mind," said exhibition curator Chrysanthe Broikos.

The so-called special moment frame,' allows a degree of movement at points where large load-bearing beams join each other.

Rubber-based foundation blocks let buildings sway, while huge shock absorbers dampen vibrations.

A model of the wind wall, built at the International Hurricane Research Center, in Florida, shows how certain types of roofs are more vulnerable than others to the strong winds of tornados and hurricanes.

For example, a hipped roof shape withstands better than the flat roof or the gable roof, according to Broikos.

In areas affected by strong winds, scientists also recommend having at least one safe room' where inhabitants can spend the most dangerous part of the storm.

To keep storm surges in check, some communities along the U.S. coasts and river banks built artificial reefs, using not just rocks but also oyster shells, collected from restaurants.

"It turns out that oyster reefs actually help to attenuate wave action," said Broikos. "They also help with soil erosion."

Broikos also says building parks along the shoreline, instead of houses, is more natural and keeps valuable property away from danger.

As for forest fires, scientists now recommend that a so-called home ignition zone be about 60 meters wide.

"What that means is trying to keep that area free of material that easily combusts," Broikos said.

Some natural disasters cannot be prevented but researchers say advance planning and timely investment can provide the same sort of protection as applying sunblock lotion before going to the beach.

Text and video:

<http://www.voanews.com/content/designing-for-disaster-helps-save-lives-property-/1937886.html>

<EOT>

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Image: Example of a hipped roof, said to be more resistant to high winds than gable or flat roofs.

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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Egypt Releases One Al Jazeera Reporter

VOA News

June 17, 2014 4:52 PM

An Al Jazeera Arabic reporter was released from an Egyptian prison Tuesday, 10 months after being arrested and held without charge in a case that prompted serious criticism of Egypt's military-led government.

The Qatar-based satellite channel said Abdullah Elshamy was transferred to a Cairo police station after being set free from the notorious, high-security Scorpion prison.

Egypt's prosecutor general on Monday had ordered his release, citing "health conditions."

The 26-year-old was met by his mother, wife and brothers as he walked out of the police station in a northern Cairo suburb, The Associated Press reported. Witnesses say the once robust Elshamy looked frail as he exited the facility.

"The appeal which was accepted by the public prosecution was based on the fact that Abdullah was carrying out his duties as a correspondent for Al Jazeera at the time of his arrest," an Al Jazeera lawyer Shaaban Saeed said.

Elshamy was arrested on August 14, 2013, while reporting the police dispersal of sit-in protest in Cairo. In January, he went on hunger strike to protest his detention.

His arrest coincided with a wide crackdown on Islamist supporters of President Mohammed Morsi, who was overthrown by the military last year.

Egyptian officials have accused the channel of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood, an organization and political party that has been labeled a terrorist organization by the Egyptian government. The network has denied the allegations.

Al-Jazeera calls Elshamy's freedom a relief rather than a cause for celebration. It says he has been through a terrible ordeal, and it thanked all who supported Elshamy, including the white House and European Union.

Al-Jazeera is demanding that Egypt free three English language journalists who remain jailed for allegedly spreading false news - Peter Greste, Baher Mohamed and Mohamed Fahmy.

Some information for this report comes from AP, AFP and Reuters.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/egypt-al-jazeera-reporter-freed/1939166.html>

<EOT>

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Image: Al Jazeera Arabic service reporter Abdullah Elshamy is greeted by friends and family after being released from a Cairo prison Tuesday evening, June 17, 2014. (VOA / Hamada Elrasam)

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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Thanks to colleagues at the Edward R. Murrow shortwave transmitting station in North Carolina.

I'm Kim Elliott. Please join us for the next VOA Radiogram

This is VOA, the Voice of America.

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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