CSE Department news room

What better than having an astronaut to complement the course textbook's exercise?

Teacher: Open your textbook, page 137, Step 1: identify the need for NASA to make a Robotic Arm and define the problem…

Then, in a magical moment, the astronaut who participated in the design of the robotic arm described in the book appeared on the screen! He was invited by the teacher, Dr. Abdelaziz Bouras, to give to the students in a video-conference session the needed details of the exercise… and a complementary overview on the Robotic Arm mission and its ability to "walk" around the International Space Station (ISS) under its own control, with an ability to perform many tasks automatically or semi-automatically (Installation and deployment of solar arrays, Inspection of the station, Support of astronauts during space walks). He also informed them about future space projects and insisted on how this necessitates continues research to develop innovative systems and solutions for the aerospace, human-machine interaction, robotic systems and so on.

Astronaut Michel Tognini is a former European CNES and ESA astronaut who served as Head of the European Astronaut Centre of the European Space Agency. He made spaceflight on the space shuttle Columbia (deployment of the Chandra X-Ray Observatory), and earlier on Soyuz (to link with Mir station). He attended NASA Johnson Space Center and worked on the International Space Station (ISS).