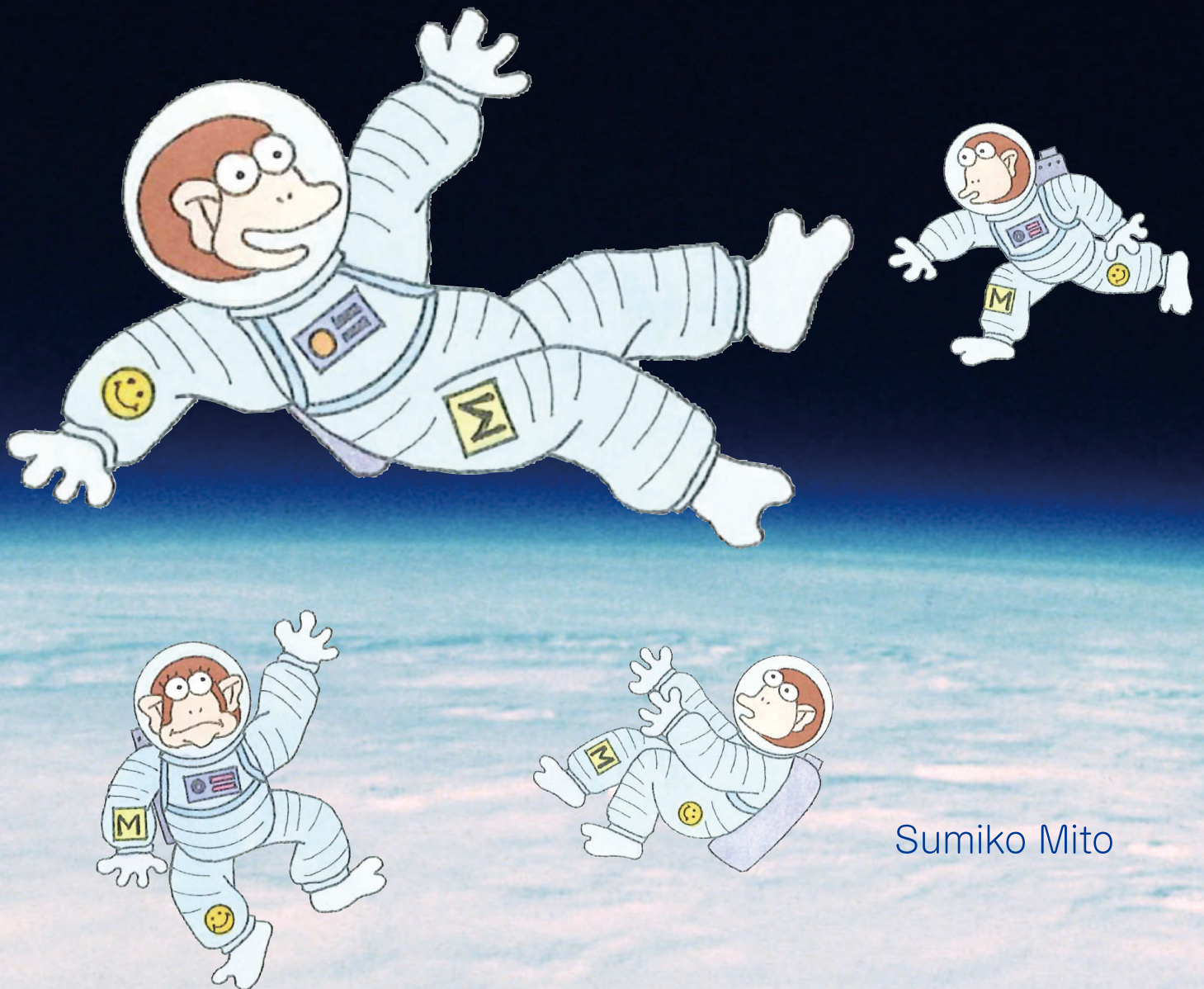


AstroMonkeys Go Space!



Sumiko Mito



PROLOGUE

One thing that unites people around the world is looking up into the night sky and marveling at the Moon, the stars, and the planets. This story shares that wonder.

It is a warm and creative story that teaches us about the impacts of development on our Earth, and offers an entertaining glimpse into possible solutions through space exploration.

As we follow the monkeys on their journey into space and experience with them the wonder of new worlds, we are reminded of the need to be good caretakers of our home planet - the Earth.



Just like the monkeys in the Monkey Banana Kingdom, scientists and engineers around the world are now sending machines into space to explore our solar system and beyond.



Like the story, I hope that children around the world are inspired by these endeavors to be the space explorers of the future, while also learning how we can make the Earth a better place.

Justin Tilman NASA Japan Representative

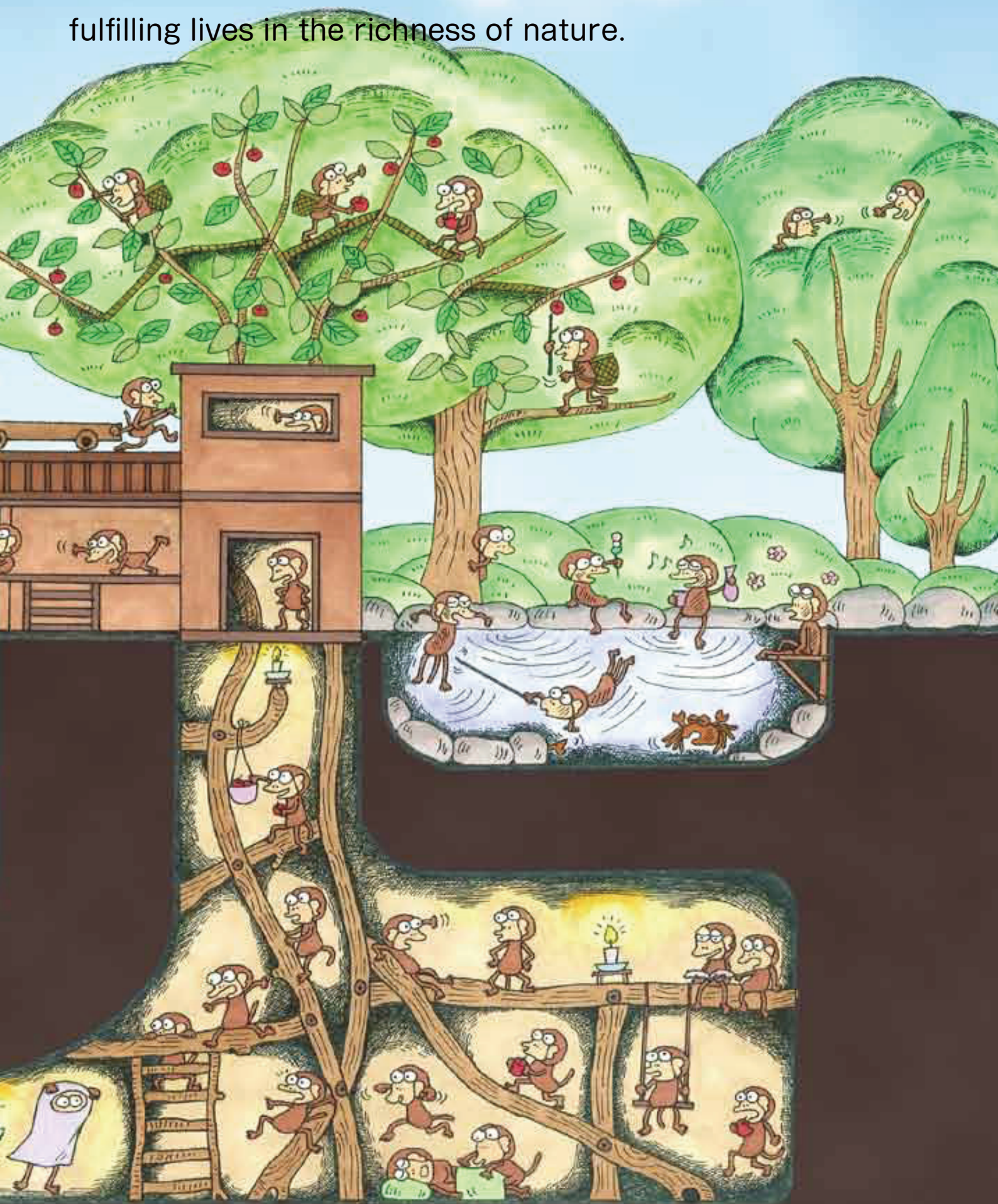


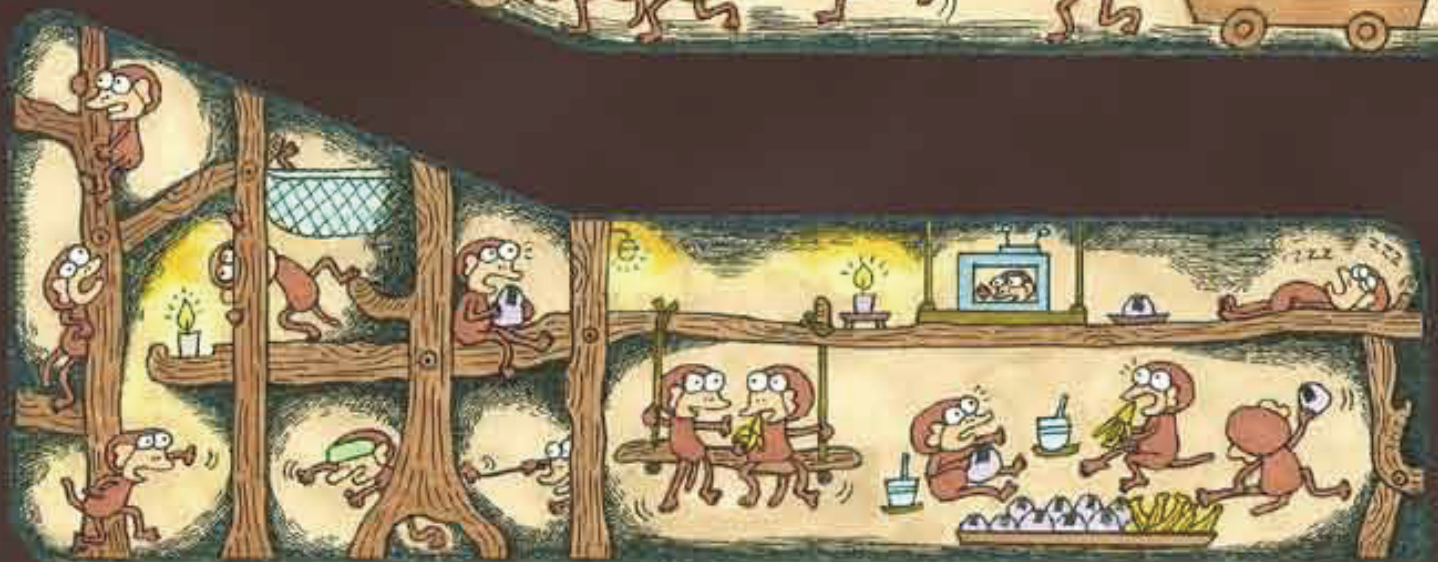
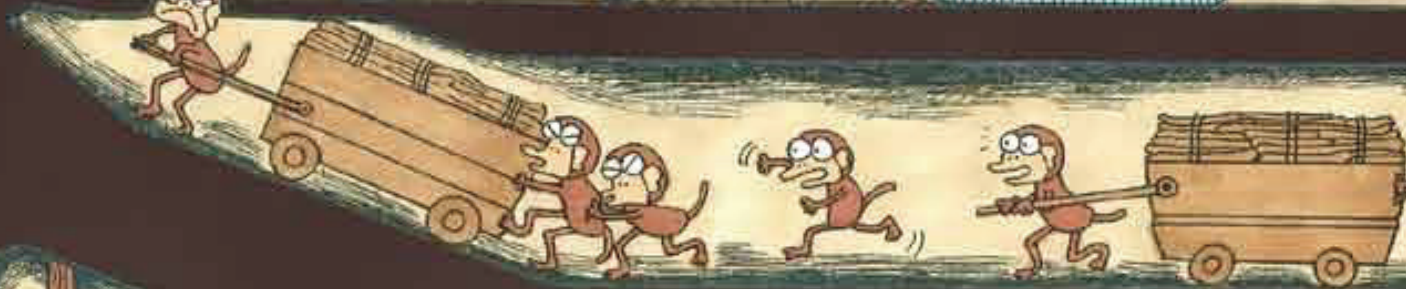
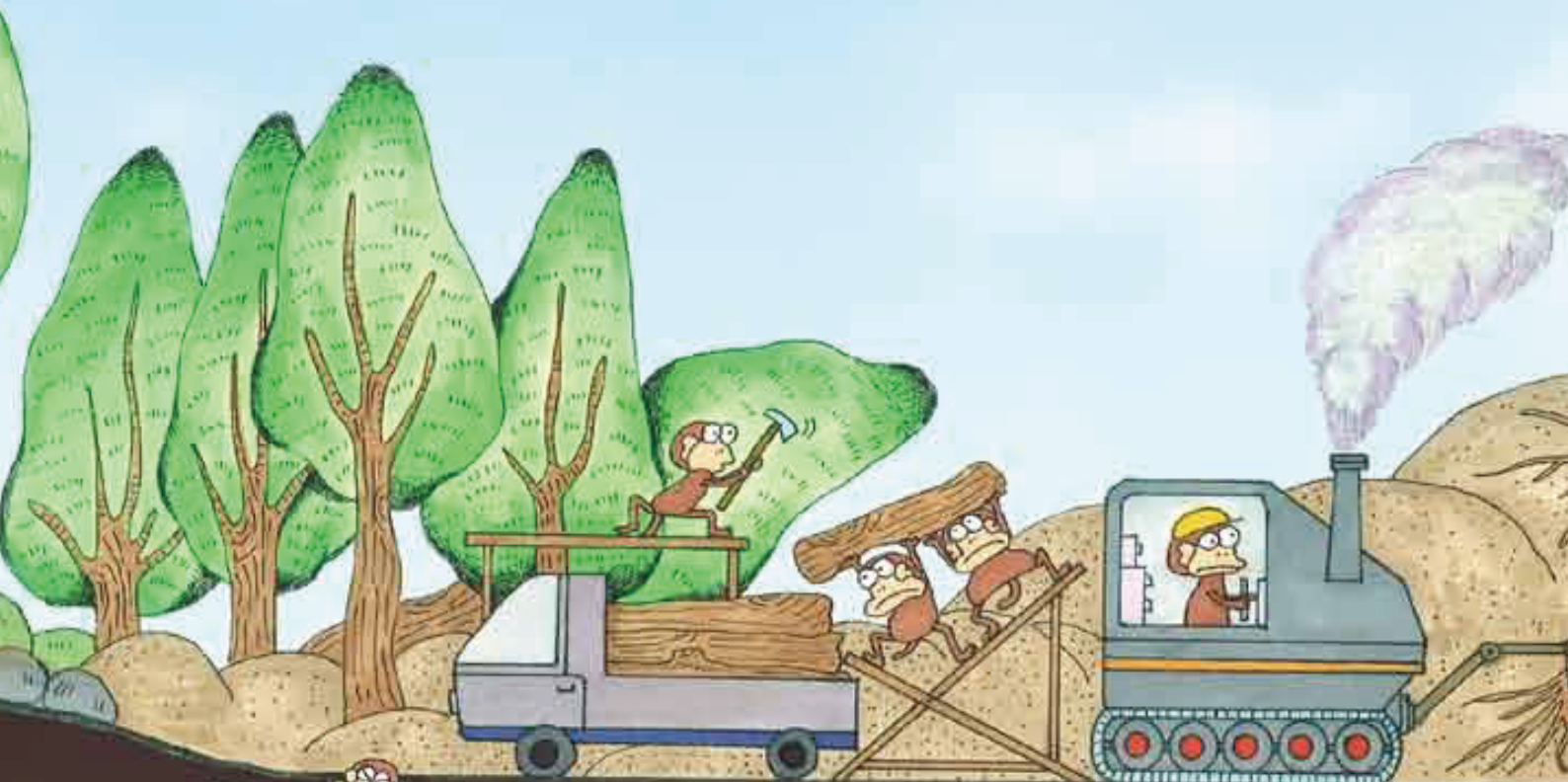


There is a blue star floating far away,
deep in space.



On that star lies the tiny Monkey Banana Kingdom Island, where Astro Monkeys have long enjoyed happy and fulfilling lives in the richness of nature.





Astro Monkeys love to build things from wood, so they began to cut down trees, one after another.





Then, before they knew it, they had roads, cars on the roads, and high-rise buildings like bamboo shoots along each side. In the blink of an eye, they had created a grand city.

