

*The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-24)*

*Space Applications Working Group (SAWG)*

*Concept Note*

**1. Scope and Objectives of SAWG Activities**

The Space Applications Working Group (SAWG) was established following the 20th anniversary of the APRSAF, and its first meeting was held at APRSAF-21 in Tokyo in December 2014. Part of the motivation for forming the SAWG was to foster enhanced cooperation with local operational agencies in each country in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as with development aid agencies and international organizations, through the promotion of the sustainable operation of space applications, especially for disaster management, integrated water and land resource management, agriculture and other Asian regional topics. Representatives and experts from existing initiatives, including Sentinel Asia and Space Applications for Environment (SAFE), outlined their plans to better serve end users. At APRSAF-24 in Bangalore, India, we would like to share information on the progress of the SAWG and its key initiatives, and to discuss further steps for sharing solutions and knowledge development by employing synergies among key space technologies with international and regional organizations.

1) Sentinel Asia

Sentinel Asia is an international collaboration among space agencies, disaster management agencies, and international agencies to apply remote sensing and Web-GIS technologies to support disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region. Sentinel Asia has been successfully operated through the voluntary contributions of Asia-Pacific members since its launch in 2006. In 2006 and 2012, a data dissemination system to support disaster management agencies—the backbone of Sentinel Asia—was established as Step 1 and Step 2. In 2013, APRSAF-19 approved Sentinel Asia to proceed

to Step 3 to cover disaster cycles as a whole with the contributions of multiple space applications, and the number of the members has increased to almost 100 organizations from 25 Asia-Pacific countries. At APRSAF-21 in Tokyo, to further contribute to disaster management for disaster-prone Asia-Pacific countries, three strategic pillars for the evolution of Sentinel Asia were endorsed: strategic management, end-user-oriented activities, and cooperative promotion. The Steering Committee for the Strategic Management of Sentinel Asia was formed in 2015, and the success of Sentinel Asia with respect to landslide early warning activity using space technology will be reported at the SAWG meeting.

## 2) SAFE (Space Applications for Environment)

SAFE is a voluntary initiative to encourage long-term environmental monitoring to better understand environmental changes. The SAFE workshop will be held on Day 0 of the SAWG (13 November, 2017). During this workshop, current SAFE prototype leads will report on the status of their prototype activities and the results of their prototyping efforts, as well as the follow-up activities for SAFE prototypes. A planned revision of the TOR of the SAFE initiative to promote APRSAF active participation will be presented and reviewed by the review board. Reports will be made and discussions of SAFE updates will be held at the SAWG meeting.

## 3) Thematic sessions

The application fields of disaster, agriculture, land and water resources, and Geostationary Earth Observation – Low altitude Earth Observation (GEO-LEO) applications (forest fire, haze monitoring, etc.) are the prioritized social-benefit areas of the SAWG and SAFE framework in collaboration with international/regional organizations such as UN ESCAP and international donor agencies such as ADB. We will focus on discussing these areas in thematic sessions in which representatives of participating countries are invited to contribute by presenting their utilizations of satellite data. However, we do not intend to limit our discussions to these areas, and presentations proposing new activities for the SAWG, especially those critical for participating countries, are also welcome. The SAWG also appreciates the sharing of experiences, the results of regional cooperation

in satellite data utilization, capacity building, and so forth. In addition, we would like to invite representatives of India, as the host country, to organize a special session for their priority areas including knowledge development and/or capacity building.

## **2. Results of SAWG Activities at APRSAF-24**

See attached: Recommendations adopted at APRSAF-23.

## **3. Draft Agenda**

- 1) Opening session
- 2) Review of the last SAWG meeting
- 3) Host country special session
- 4) Reports on initiatives and activities
  - Sentinel Asia Initiative
  - SAFE Initiative
  - Inter-space technologies
- 5) Thematic sessions
  - Disaster, agriculture, and forest monitoring
  - Integrated land and water resource management
- 6) Overall discussions and determining the way forward
- 7) Conclusions and recommendations of the SAWG