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Welcome Message
To the participants to the 14th session of the Asia-Pacific
Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-14)

As you are aware, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-14) will be held from 21 to 23 November 2007 in Bangalore, India.

This Forum will jointly be organized and co-sponsored by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). APRSAF was established in 1993 in response to the declaration adopted by the Asia-Pacific International Space Year Conference (APIC) in 1992, to enhance the development of each country's space program and to exchange views toward future cooperation in space activities in the Asia-Pacific region. At the APRSAF-13, held in Indonesia last year, the participants gave full support for the start of the Sentinel Asia Project for providing support in the Asia-Pacific region for management of natural disasters through the use of satellite data.

While APRSAF is expected to be an active forum to promote concrete cooperative activities like Sentinel Asia, APRSAF-14 will be held under the main theme entitled "Space for human empowerment" with the aim to bring together participating agencies from the Asia-Pacific region to join hands and cooperate in building up capacity in the use of space activities for enriching the lives of people.

APRSAF-14 is proposed to have 4 working groups (WGs): Earth Observation (EO) WG, Communication Satellite Applications (CSA) WG, Space Education and Awareness (SEA) WG and Space Environment Utilisation (SEU) WG, followed by a plenary session. In the plenary session, APRSAF-14 will receive the status report on the specific activities in the different countries of the region and also the progress toward the establishment of Sentinel Asia. It is also hoped to initiate discussion towards cooperation in the use of space technology in areas of mutual interest.

On behalf of ISRO, Department of Space, Government of India, I take great pleasure in inviting you to participate in APRSAF-14, to exchange views and experiences toward future cooperation in space activities. I hope that APRSAF-14 will contribute to further cooperation in space activities in the Asia-Pacific region.