Fourteenth Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-14)

Communication Satellite Application Working Group (CSA WG)

Concept Paper

The CSA WG has been discussing many topics on satellite communication matters in the Asia Pacific region and has been providing good opportunities to exchange each country’s status report on, in particular, digital divide issues as well as the broadband service in the Asia Pacific region. In the APRSAF-13, the WINDS project developed by JAXA aiming at the satellite broadband service in the Asia Pacific region was introduced, and it was announced that proposals of the experiment plan by using the WINDS satellite were invited by the Japanese government.

Based on the previous discussion, the concept of CSA WG in the APRSAF-14 is as follows:

1) On the discussion in the previous meetings, digital divide issue in Asia-Pacific countries has not been resolved yet. In particular, needs for tele-education and telemedicine for rural area have been quite large in that region.
   a) With regard to tele-education, it is necessary to distinguish between the formal education and informal education in terms of region specific requirements on language, curriculum, final objectives etc. It is obvious that a formal education system on a specific subject leads to acquisition of academic qualification and career growth; whereas, an informal education system on specific theme such as health, hygienic, cultivation etc., would lead to societal empowerment. Parallel efforts without mix-up, using the satellite based systems would ultimately result in human empowerment, which is the theme of APRSAF 14.
   b) Tele-Medicine is yet another societal service that could be largely benefited through space based services supported by appropriate networking among the nations.
   c) Discussions on the effective use of the space systems in this Asia Pacific region and the infrastructure that have been already established and operationalized in these application areas in certain regions would pave the way for reaching the ultimate goals.

2) For effective disaster management, the application of satellite communication system is an important element. Such systems are being implemented through various regional systems. CSAWG should provide opportunity for discussing various experiences in this field.

Reference: Recommendations from APRSAF-13 in relating to CSA WG
3. Communication Satellite Applications Working Group shall share the information relating to digital divide in the Asia Pacific region, recognize the role of satellite communications and navigation, and identify solutions for the region.
4. Communication Satellite Applications Working Group shall consider applying the Wideband InterNetworking engineering test and Demonstration Satellite (WINDS) experiment program to study: i) the technical issues of Ka-band satellite communications, satellite IP network, broadband communications; ii) the application of WINDS to the Sentinel Asia project, and iii) post WINDS program with cooperation of Asian countries.

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