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Welcome Message

To the participants of the 14th session of the Asia-Pacific
Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-14) in November

It is my great honor to serve as general chairperson of the 14th session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-14) with Mr. Nair and announce that APRSAF-14 will be held from November 21 to 23, 2007 in Bangalore, India.

It will be jointly organized and co-sponsored by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO); the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). APRSAF was established in 1993 in response to the declaration of 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. APRSAF has held thirteen annual meetings organized jointly by MEXT, JAXA, and the co-host organizations of countries participating in APRSAF, to discuss current space-related issues and possible cooperation among countries especially those in Asia.

While APRSAF has been an active forum to promote concrete cooperative activities to resolve common problems at a regional level, APRSAF-14 will be held under the main theme of "Space for Human Empowerment" with the aim of enabling countries in the Asia-Pacific region to improve the quality of life of their people through enhanced use of space-based systems, activities and services.

APRSAF-14 is proposed to have a plenary session, and four working groups (WGs): Earth Observation (EO) WG, Communication Satellite Applications (CSA) WG, Space Education and Awareness (SEA) WG, and Space Environment Utilization (SEU) WG. In the plenary session, in particular, a summary report will be presented on the Sentinel Asia Project, which was initiated as the first step to build a disaster risk management system in the Asia-Pacific region after APRSAF-12, and participants will discuss the possible next step of that project. We will inform you of other topics in due course.

Once again, I look forward to seeing you in Bangalore for a lively exchange of views toward future cooperation in space activities, and hope that APRSAF-14 will contribute to further cooperation in space activities in the Asia-Pacific region.