

# SPACE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum

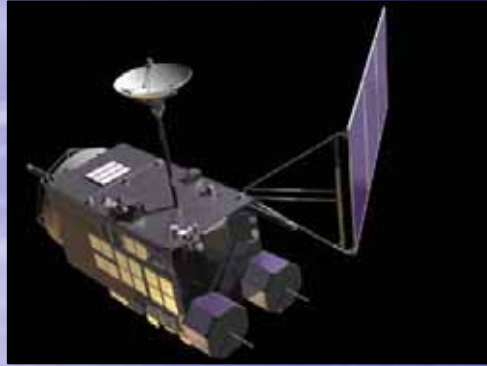
5-7 December 2006, Jakarta, Indonesia

>>Working Group Session : Earth Observation (EO),  
Communication Satellites (ComSat), Space Education &  
International Space Station (ISS)

"Work Together  
Building a Better Tomorrow for All Peoples of Asia-Pacific Region"

APRSAF 13

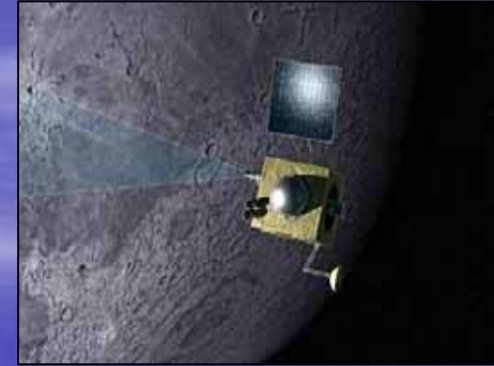




KAGUYA



CHANG'E-1



CHANDRAYAAN-1

The 14th Session of APRSAF is a historic event as it coincides with 50th Anniversary of launching of Sputnik-1, which heralded the Space Age. It also coincides almost simultaneous launching of Lunar Orbital Missions by Japan and China. Japan Space Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched their Kaguya (Selene) on September 14, 2007, while China National Space Administration (CNSA) launched their Chang'e-1 on October 24, 2007 which are now moving around the orbit of the Moon. On the other hand, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is taking brisk preparations to launch their Lunar Orbiter Chandrayaan-1 in April, 2008. We salute to JAXA and CNSA for their historic achievements and also book advance salute to ISRO for their upcoming Lunar Orbital Mission.

The above activities indicate that within a short time, Space activities are going to be booming in Asia and the people of this region will be aptly benefited by its technologies and applications. Unfortunately, people of the developing countries in Asia will not be able to reap its benefits if hindrances faced by them are not solved out. I am confident, Space Education and Awareness Working Group will seriously look into this matter and take appropriate steps for its solution.

## HINDRANCES FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. Lack of knowledge about importance of Space.
2. Absence of facility for Space Education.
3. Government does not show interest.
4. No scope for Employment.
5. Lack of Finance.

(Financial problem is the Number One hindrance for introduction of Space Education in developing countries.)

## SOLUTIONS TO THESE HINDRANCES

1. Governments of developing countries to be provided opportunities to avail Funds for financing their Space Education Projects.
2. Asian Development Bank and other Financial agencies may be sought for arranging this Fund as Loan, Credit or Grants.
3. This Fund to be offered only to the Government sector for Ministries of Education or Science.
4. Interest rate would be minimum.
5. It will be named as Space Education Fund.
6. Sanctions of the Funds be allocated on the basis of the Report of the Fact Finding Committee of Space Education and Awareness Working Group.
7. Members of the Fact Finding Committee will visit these countries and talk with the top officials of the respective governments and prepare the Report for Funding.

## FUND WILL HELP

1. To publish and procure the Books, Magazines, Print Materials , CDs , Kits, etc. used for Space Education purposes.
2. To arrange Seminars, Meetings, Space Fairs and Celebration of Space Events.
3. To attend Meetings of the Space Education and Awareness Working Group to participate in their Space related Programs and in other important overseas Space events.
4. To make payment for any other activities as per criteria of the Fund.

## SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR STUDENTS

1. Students in developing countries be allowed to visit Space Centres and Space Museums of JAXA to enhance their interest.
2. They will be allowed Zero-Gravity Flight opportunity.
3. Exceptionally meritorious students be allowed stipend for Higher studies in Space Universities in Japan.
4. Potential students may be allowed employment opportunity.
5. Attractive Prizes be offered to the students for their development of Space technologies and exceptional contributions in Space Awareness activities.

## CONCLUSION

I have been working in Space Awareness activities for over 35 years and the above views are made on the basis of my personal experience. I believe that if funding facilities are being provided then developing countries will be able to accelerate their Space Education and Awareness activities in a massive way. On the other hand, they will remain obligated with APRSAF to offer all out co operations to achieve its objectives.



THANK YOU