

# **The 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum**

**(APRSAF-15)**

**“Space for Sustainable Development”**

**10-12 December 2008, Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam**

## **Background**

The Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) was established in 1993 in response to the declaration adopted at the Asia Pacific International Space Year Conference (APIC) held 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. The APRSAF has held fourteen annual meetings organized jointly by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and co-host organizations of countries participating in the APRSAF, to discuss current space-related issues and possible cooperation among countries mainly in the region. The co-host countries have been Mongolia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Thailand, Australia, the Republic of Indonesia and India. APRSAF features to promote concrete regional cooperation on space-related matters through open and voluntary participation. To reflect a broad range of views and voices, the APRSAF intends to ensure wider participation of space agencies, government entities, regional and international organizations and institutions responsible for space applications.

The 14th Session of the APRSAF (APRSAF-14) was convened under the main theme of "Space for Human Empowerment" with the aim to strengthen and enable the countries of the Asia-Pacific region to improve the quality of life of their people through enhanced use of space-based systems, activities and services. It was jointly organized by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), MEXT and JAXA. The APRSAF-14 gathered more than 130 participants from 19 countries and 5 regional and international organizations. As the results of the discussions at the Plenary session and the four working groups (Earth Observation (EO), Communication Satellite Applications (CSA), Space Environment Utilization(SEU) and Space Education and Awareness (SEA)), the APRSAF-14 adopted the recommendations as shown in Appendix-A.

## **Objectives**

While the APRSAF has been an active forum to promote concrete cooperative activities to resolve common problems at the regional level, the APRSAF-15 will be held under the main theme of “Space for Sustainable Development” with the aim to contribute toward solving problems not only of the Asia-Pacific region but also of the entire world as well as to exploit space technology developed and utilization for sustainable development of countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **Plenary and Working Groups**

The Plenary session will take place in the second and third days of the APRSAF-15. In addition to the Plenary session, it is proposed to have parallel sessions of 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 first day of the APRSAF-15. The concept paper of each working group will be provided at a later stage.

At the Plenary session, a status report of the Sentinel Asia Project, which was initiated as the first step to build a disaster risk management system in the Asia-Pacific region since the APRSAF-12, and now that entered into STEP2 Project, will be presented. Other topics will be informed in due course.

### **Expected Attendance**

Senior officials of relevant Ministries as well as heads and other representatives of space agencies, remote sensing agencies, and interested institutions from government, academy and industries including private sectors are very much welcome to participate in the APRSAF-15.

*\*Participants from Vietnam are recommended to contact the Point of Contact of the VAST mentioned below to obtain more detailed information for participation.*

### **Tentative Program**

See Appendix-B.

### **Date and Location**

The APRSAF-15 will be held from 10 (Wednesday) through 12 (Friday) December 2008 in Hanoi and Ha Long Bay in Vietnam.

*\*More detailed information will be announced in due course.*

### **Points of Contact**

For Participants from the countries except Vietnam:

If you have any inquires concerning the APRSAF-15, please feel free to contact:

**Ms. Kiyomi Murakami, APRSAF-15 Secretariat**

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For Participants from Vietnam:

If you have any inquires concerning the APRSAF-15, please feel free to contact:

**Dr. Pham Anh Tuan, Vice Director, Space Technology Institute (STI)**

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### **Others**

More detailed information on the program, registration and logistics of the APRSAF-15 will be available in due course. Kindly visit the APRSAF website at: <http://www.aprsaf.org>.

**Recommendations of the fourteenth session of  
the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-14)**

*Recognizing* the use of space technology and its applications to substantively contribute to human empowerment in improving the quality of life and bringing other benefits to humanity in the Asia-Pacific region,

*Recognizing* also the importance of regional cooperation through space-based technology applications that would address disaster management and environmental issues for more secure and prosperous society, tele-education and tele-medicine through enhanced connectivity, as well as the importance of fostering the hopes and dreams of young generations for the future,

Hereby affirm that we, the participants of APRSAF-14,

[Sentinel Asia]

1. Declare the completion of the Sentinel Asia pilot project successfully with the efforts of the current Joint Project Team. This pilot project has successfully shared disaster-related information obtained by several Earth Observation satellites, especially those of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) along with training and technical support;
2. Declare the launch of the next phase of Sentinel Asia starting from 2008 to 2012 with the goal to expand utilization of disaster-related information including environmental changes together with its member countries and international organizations, increasing the number of Earth observation satellites from the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA) of Thailand, and some other entities, as well as satellite communication;
3. Agreed to establish the new Joint Project Team for implementation of the second phase of Sentinel Asia early next year, where JAXA will serve as a secretariat;

[APRSAF satellite]

4. Welcome the APRSAF satellite cooperation proposed by JAXA, which consists of two parts, *i.e.* a joint study on the small satellite concept which shall meet the needs of the Asia-Pacific region such as disaster management, and a pilot project to develop the technology for the APRSAF satellite, to provide opportunities for capacity building, and encourage to hold technical workshops for a joint study on the APRSAF satellite. JAXA, ISRO and other interested agencies will jointly evolve a detailed proposal for the realization of the APRSAF satellite at the earliest;

[Earth observation]

5. Promote satellite data applications, through the Earth Observation Working Group (EO WG), in socially beneficial areas such as disaster management and environmental monitoring;

[Communication satellite applications]

6. Share the experiences for realizing cooperation among countries in the Asia-Pacific region through the Communication Satellite Applications Working Group (CSA WG), regarding applications of satellite communication for tele-education, tele-medicine and disaster management, taking into account the needs to resolve the digital-divide in the region;

[Space education and awareness]

7. Promote educational activities through the Space Education and Awareness Working Group (SEA WG) to further stimulate interest of primary and secondary school children as well as university and graduate students in, and increase their awareness of, space science and technology and their applications;
8. Encourage the exchange of education materials and teaching experiences in enhancing education using the outputs yielded by space activities and addressing space-related subjects, taking into account the need to make more materials available in the languages spoken in Asia and the Pacific to better meet the needs of the countries in the region;
9. Recognizing the need for capacity building in the region, the Forum noted the significant role played by the UN Affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific (UN-CSSTEAP) located at the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun, India, and recommend the APRSAF participating countries and organizations to fully utilize the center;

[Space Environment Utilization]

10. Share and update information in the field of space environment utilization among Asia-Pacific countries, through the Space Environment Utilization Working Group (SEU WG), and encourage to realize the cooperation on space experiments following the current feasibility studies of the ISS/Japan Experiment Module (JEM) utilization;
11. Encourage to realize cooperation on a micro-gravity platform on board the Space Recovery Experiment capsule (SRE) of ISRO among Asia-Pacific countries;

[Space for Human Empowerment]

12. Appreciate the examples provided by ISRO on the use of space technology for human empowerment to provide services to village areas in the Asia-Pacific countries.

**The Tentative Program of  
the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-15)  
“Space for Sustainable Development”  
Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam**

**Day-1 : Wednesday, 10 December 2008 / Hanoi**

0830-0900	-	Registration
0900-1230	- - -	Working Group Sessions (Parallel) A. Earth Observation WG B. Communication Satellite Application WG C. Space Education & Awareness WG Space Environment Utilization WG  *1030-1050 Coffee Break
1230-1330	-	Lunch Break
1330-1630	-	Working Group Sessions (Cont'd) *1430-1450 Coffee Break
1900-2100	-	Reception hosted by MEXT

**Day-2 : Thursday, 11 December 2008 / Hanoi & Ha Long Bay**

Plenary Session chaired by Prof. Nguyen Khoa Son, Chairman, Vice President, VAST  
and Dr. Hiroki Matsuo, Chairman, Space Activities Commission (SAC) / MEXT

0830- 0900	-	Registration
0900-1000		Welcome Addresses and Remarks by Co-Chairs Special Greetings Key note address Summary of APRSAF-14
1000-1040	-	Photo Session & Coffee Break
1040-1220	-	Keynote Speeches by representatives of participating countries (in Alphabetical order, 15 min. each)
1220-1350	-	Lunch Break
1350-1520	-	Special Session on Sentinel Asia
1520-	-	Move to Ha Long Bay
1930-2100	-	Reception hosted by VAST at Ha Long Bay

**Day-3 : Friday, 12 December 2008 / Ha Long Bay**

0830-0930	-	Reports from Working Groups, - Earth Observation WG Report - Communication Satellite Application WG Report - Space Education & Awareness WG Report - Space Environment Utilization WG Report
0930-1000	-	Coffee Break
1000-1130	- - -	Discussion Adoption of Recommendations Announcement of the APRSAF-16 Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs Adjourn
1130-1300	-	Lunch
1300-1700	-	Technical Tour