



Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum  
19 September 2008

**Subject: The 15th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum  
(APRSF-15)  
“Space for Sustainable Development”  
09- 12 December 2008, Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam**

Dear. Colleagues,

Following the first announcement of APRSAF-15, which was distributed to its members in July 2008, we, the APRSAF Secretariat, are pleased to send you the Second Announcement, as enclosed.

On behalf of the APRSAF-15 organizers and on our own behalf, it is our great pleasure to invite you to personally join us to the APRSAF-15 to share your valuable thought and keen insights. We also take this opportunity to request for a good participation to APRSAF-15(including WG) from your entity as well.

Earth Observation(EO), Communication Satellite Applications(CSA) and Space Education and Awareness(SEA) WGs will start on **December 9**, Space Environment Utilization(SEU) WG will start on **December 10**.

It would be highly appreciated if the on-line registration, which is stated at our web site, <https://www.prime-intl.co.jp/aprsaf15/registration.html>, is duly completed no later than October 24, 2008.

More information on the final program etc. will be sent to you at a later stage.  
We will be constantly updating the APRSAF-15 web site:  
[http://www.aprsaf.org/text/ap15\\_info.html](http://www.aprsaf.org/text/ap15_info.html)

E-mail: [aprsaf15@aprsaf.org](mailto:aprsaf15@aprsaf.org) Tel: +81-3-6277-0117, Fax: +81-3-6277-0118

<http://www.aprsaf.org>

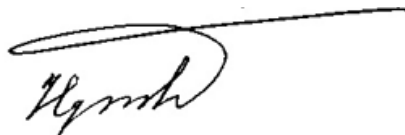
We look forward to meeting you in Vietnam.

With warmest regards,

On behalf of the co-host organizations,

**MOST**

MINISTRY OF  
SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
VIETNAM



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19 September 2008

**Second Announcement**  
**The 15th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-15)**  
***“Space for Sustainable Development”***  
**09 – 12 December 2008, Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam**

You are invited to register for the 15th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-15), to be jointly organized and co-sponsored by Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam (MOST), the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). We also take this opportunity to request for a good participation to APRSAF-15(including each WGs) from your entity as well.

Details of APRSAF-15 are provided below.

**Please note that you are responsible for your own travel and accommodation expenses.**

We look forward to welcoming you to 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, the 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. The 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 bring together participating agencies from

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the region to cooperate in the use of space activities for the common cause. It was jointly organized and co-sponsored by the India Space Research Organisation (ISRO), MEXT and JAXA. The APRSAF-14 gathered more than 130 participants from 18 countries as well as from 6 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 development and utilization for sustainable development of countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **Plenary Session and Working Groups**

The Plenary session will take place in the third and fourth 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 and second days of the APRSAF-15. The tentative concept paper of each working group is provided in **Appendix-B**.

At the Plenary session, the status reports of *Sentinel Asia* which was confirmed that the pilot project achieved its overall goals and agreed the launch of the next phase at the APRSAF-14, and *APRSAF satellite cooperation* which was proposed, welcomed at the floor and incorporated into the Recommendations adopted at the APRSAF-14 will be presented and participants will be expected to discuss its enhancement.

## **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 welcomed to participate in the APRSAF-15.

*\*Participants from Vietnam will be/ need to be invited by VAST and MOST.*



## **Tentative Program**

See *Appendix-C*.

## **Date and Location of APRSAF-15**

The APRSAF-15 will be held from December 9 (Tuesday) through 12 (Friday), 2008. See *Appendix-D* for your reference of the location of the venues in Hanoi.

<b>December 9 – 10</b>	<b>Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)</b>
	<i>Add. 18 Hoang Quoc Viet, Hanoi, Vietnam</i>
<b>December 11</b>	<b>International Conference Center (ICC)</b>
	<i>Add. 11 Le Hong Phong Street, Hanoi, Vietnam</i>
<b>December 11 – 12</b>	<b>Saigon Halong Hotel</b>
	<i>Add. 168 Halong road, Baichay ward, Halong city, Quangninh province, Vietnam</i>

## **Registration**

Please visit the on-line registration site;

<https://www.prime-intl.co.jp/aprsaf15/registration.html> and complete it **no later than October 24, 2008**.

If you have any inquires or any problems, please contact to the APRSAF-15 Secretariat as referred in **Points of Contacts**.

*\*Note: Vietnamese participants need to contact directly to the local organizer as referred in **Points of Contacts**.*

## **Accommodation**

The following hotel can be reserved at a special discount rate for APRSAF-15 participants by completing ***the on-line hotel reservation***;

<https://www.prime-intl.co.jp/aprsaf15/registration.html>

*\*Deadline of reservation: **October 24, 2008**.*

*\*Your requests may not be accepted depending on the situation.*

*\*Note: Hotel might be changed due to the number of participants.*

## HOTEL informations

### < Hanoi >

*Appendix-D* is the location of the hotels in Hanoi, for your reference.

#### **Melia Hanoi Hotel**

- Address: 44B - Ly Thuong Kiet Street Hanoi - Vietnam
- Tel: +(84-4) 9343343 / Fax: +(84-4) 9343344
- URL: <https://www.meliahanoi.com/>
- Room charge from December 8 check-in to 11 check-out is USD 140++/ night.  
(The rate is subject to 5% service charge and 10% VAT.)
- Cancellation policy:
  - You need to guarantee the reservations and payment by credit card number.
  - **Any cancellation within 05 days before the arrival date will be charged for 1 room/ night fees.**
  - **Any cancellation within 24 hours of the arrival date or no-show or shorten stay will be charged for full duration of stays reserved.**
  - These cancellation fees will be automatically deducted from the pre-payment or charged to the credit card provided for guaranteeing.

*\*Note: Hotel might be changed due to the number of participants.*

*\*This rate is valid only for reservations through the Secretariat.*

*\*For the reservations before December 8, please contact the Secretariat through the on-line hotel reservation.*

*\*For lower price hotels, please refer to "Others", the last page of this Announcement.*

### < Ha Long Bay >

#### **Saigon Halong Hotel**

- Address: 168 Halong road, Baichay ward, Halong city, Quangninh province, Vietnam
- Tel: +(84-33) 845845 / Fax: +(84-33) 845849
- URL: <http://www.saigonhalonghotel.com>
- Room charge on December 11 check-in to 12 check-out is USD 80/ night.  
(The rate is inclusive of service charge and VAT.)
- Cancellation policy:
  - You need to guarantee the reservations and payment by credit card number.
  - **Any cancellation within 15 days before the arrival date will be charged for 1 room/ night fees.**

*\*Note: Hotel might be changed due to the number of participants.*

*\*This rate is valid only for reservations through the Secretariat.*



## **Cultural Tour**

On **December 12 (Day 4) from 12:00-16:30**, Cultural Tour in Halong Bay will be hosted by VAST, Vietnam.

To participate in the tour, please register through on-line registration **by October 24, 2008**.

For the detailed information will be provided through the APRSAF-15 website.

*\* Note: Accompany persons need to pay the tour fee.*

## **Events**

All participants will be invited to the events hosted by the following organizations:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Host</i>
December 10 (Day 2) 17:30-19:30	Melia Hanoi Hotel	MEXT (Japan)
December 11 (Day 3) 20:00-21:30	Saigon Halong Hotel	VAST (Vietnam)

*\*Note: Detailed information will be provided later.*

*\*Note: Participants are required to wear the badges that will be given at the registration.*

## **Transportation**

The following charged bus will be provided:

1. From Hanoi Airport to Melia Hanoi Hotel on December 8 and 9 \*
2. Between Melia Hanoi Hotel and the venues (VAST or ICC) on December 9 – 11
3. From ICC in Hanoi to Saigon Halong Hotel in Ha Long Bay on December 11
4. From Saigon Halong Hotel to the Cultural Tour on December 12
5. From Ha Long Bay to Hanoi Airport and Melia Hanoi Hotel on December 12  
(after the Cultural Tour)

*\* The secretariat will arrange the check-in counter for transportation to Melia Hanoi Hotel at the Hanoi Airport. Detailed information will be provided later.*



## **Visa Application**

If you need VISA, please check the “VISA required” along with passport details (full name/nationality/date of birth/passport number/ passport type/ date and place of issue/date of validity/ country and city to apply VISA) when you register through the website by **October 24, 2008**.

After that, VAST will provide invitation to support your visa application to enter Vietnam. In case you do not know if you need VISA or not, please contact your Government.

*Appendix-E* is for your reference to check if you need VISA. But it is not the guarantee of your VISA requirement or not, please be sure to ask the appropriate department of your Government about VISA requirement.

## **Insurance**

Participants are highly recommended to arrange their own overseas travel insurance. The APRSAF-15 Secretariat do not take any responsibility for your travel accident.

## **Points of Contacts**

(1) For Non-Vietnamese Participants

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

Ms Kiyomi Murakami  
APRSAF-15 Secretariat  
c/o Prime International Co. Ltd.  
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(2) For Vietnamese Participants

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## **Others**

For up-to-date information on APRSAF-15, please refer to our website at:

[http://www.aprsaf.org/text/ap15\\_info.html](http://www.aprsaf.org/text/ap15_info.html)

For your information, the APRSAF-15 Secretariat shows you the following 2 hotels in Hanoi. However, you are responsible for all the arrangements such as the reservation and the transportation. We do not take any responsibility for your travel arrangement of these hotels.

### **Sunway Hotel**

Address: 19, Pham Dinh Ho Street, Hai Ba Trung District, Ha Noi City, Vietnam

Tel: +(84-4) 9713888 / Fax: +(84-4) 9713555

URL: [http://www.sunway-hotel.com/vietnam/hotel\\_overview.jsp](http://www.sunway-hotel.com/vietnam/hotel_overview.jsp)

Room charge is approx. USD 130++.

### **Hoa Binh Hotel**

Address: 27 Ly Thuong Kiet, Ha Noi City, Vietnam

Tel: +(84-4) 8253315 to 8253692/ Fax: +(84-4) 8269818

URL: <http://www.hoabinhhotel.com/>

Room charge is approx. USD 80++.

## **List of Appendixes**

Appendix-A : The APRSAF-14 adopted the recommendations

Appendix-B : The tentative concept paper of each working group

Appendix-C : Tentative Program

Appendix-D : The map of the venue and hotels in Hanoi

Appendix-E : Visa requirement list