



16TH
APRSAF

Asia-Pacific Regional
Space Agency Forum

September 15, 2009

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The 16th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum **(APRSAF-16)**

“Space Applications: Contributions towards Human Safety and Security”

26-29 January 2010, Bangkok, Thailand

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that the sixteenth session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-16) will be held from 26 to 29 January 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. The APRSAF-16 will be jointly organized and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of Thailand, the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

On behalf of the APRSAF-16 organizers and on our own behalf, we invite you to join the APRSAF-16 to share your valuable experiences as well as your profound thoughts and insights. We also take the liberty of requesting for good participation in the APRSAF-16 from your organization as well.

While the APRSAF is designed to serve as an active forum to promote concrete cooperative activities to address common issues at the regional level 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.

As usual, the APRSAF-16 is going to have the plenary session and sessions of the 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.

Following the APRSAF-15 which was held in December 2008 in Hanoi & Ha Long Bay, Vietnam, the APRSAF-16 will also focus on Sentinel Asia (Disaster Management Support System in the Asia-Pacific Region), SAFE (Satellite Applications For Environment) and we will share the

E-mail: aprsaf16@aprsaf.org Tel: +81-50-3362-5880, Fax: +81-3-6266-6908

<http://www.aprsaf.org>

progress report on the STAR (Satellite Technology for the Asia-Pacific Region) program which was launched successfully this June. Additionally, the result of the GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) workshop, which will be held in Bangkok as well, will be presented in APRSAF-16.

Other themes of the APRSAF-16 will be: (1) Applications of space technology to tackle imminent regional (and global) environmental issues; (2) Further utilization of space to raise the standard of living of the people; (3) Utilization of a unique research environment in space to advance research and development; and (4) Education and awareness of space to provide better opportunities to the youth who would play a key role in space development and utilization in the future.

Further details of the APRSAF-16 will be sent to you in due course. We do hope that you will join us at the APRSAF-16 in January next year along with your colleagues.

With warmest regards,

APRSAF Secretariat

On behalf of the co-host organizations,



Dr. Suchinda Chotipanich

Dr. Suchinda Chotipanich
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Science and Technology

Dr. Darasri Dowreang



Dr. Darasri Dowreang
Acting Director
Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency



Koichi Morimoto

Koichi Morimoto
Deputy Director-General
Research and Development Bureau
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology



Keiji Tachikawa

Keiji Tachikawa
President
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

The 16th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-16)

“Space Applications: Contributions towards Human Safety and Security”

26-29 January 2010, Bangkok, Thailand

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 fifteen 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, India and Vietnam. 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 15th Session of the APRSAF (APRSAF-15) was convened under the main theme of “Space for Sustainable Development” 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 Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of Vietnam, the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), MEXT and JAXA. The APRSAF-15 gathered more than 200 participants from 20 countries and 6 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-15 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-16 will be held under the main theme of “Space Applications: Contributions towards Human Safety and Security” 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 third and fourth days of the APRSAF-16. 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-16. The concept paper of each working group will be provided to you in due course.

At the Plenary session, a status report of the Sentinel Asia Project, SAFE (Satellite Applications For Environment), STAR (Satellite Technology for the Asia-Pacific Region) and GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) workshop will be presented.

Sentinel Asia, 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.

SAFE was recommended in APRSAF-15 in 2008 as a platform for development of solution-oriented prototype systems for environmental monitoring, in particular to assess regional impacts of climate change. Its basic concept for future prototype activities is contributing to GEOSS.

STAR program was proposed in the APRSAF-14 as a new international cooperation scheme on small satellite development. The objective of this cooperation is to provide opportunities of capacity building on satellite development for space agency staffs in Asia-Pacific countries, to increase the number of available Earth observation satellites in this region and meet the needs of Earth observation in the future.

Additionally, the result of the GNSS workshop, which will be held in January 25, 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand, will be presented in APRSAF-16.

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-16.

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

Tentative Program

Please see Appendix-B.

Date and Location

Date: 26 to 29 January 2010

Venue: Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok

1695 Phaholyothin Road , Chatuchak, 10900 BANGKOK, THAILAND

<http://www.sofitel.com/gb/hotel-3432-sofitel-centara-grand-bangkok/index.shtml>

Others

Further detailed information on the program, registration and logistics of the APRSAF-16 will be available in due course. Please visit the APRSAF website at: <http://www.aprsaf.org>.

Points of Contact

For Participants from Thailand:

If you have any inquires concerning the APRSAF-16, please feel free to contact:

Ms. Raksina Lekthanoo, Administrative Officer, International Relations
The Government Complex, Bldg B, 6-7th Floor
120 Moo 3, Chaeng Wattana Rd., Laksi, Bangkok 10120
TEL: +66-2-141-4502, FAX:+66-2-143-9603, E-mail: raksina@gistda.or.th

For Participants from the countries except Thailand:

If you have any inquires concerning the APRSAF-16, please feel free to contact:

Ms. Saori Ozawa, APRSAF-16 Secretariat
Manunouchi Kitaguchi building,
1-6-5 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8260, JAPAN
TEL:+81-50-3362-5880, FAX:+81-3-6266-6908 or E-mail: aprsaf16@aprsaf.org

APRSAF-16 Side Event

■ **Asia-Oceania Regional Workshop on GNSS**

Date: January 25 to 26, 2010

Venue: Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok

*Further detailed information will be released in due course <http://www.multignss.asia/>

*Please contact for further information at [Email: IS-QZSS@jaxa.jp](mailto:IS-QZSS@jaxa.jp)

Contact for further information

Mr. Satoshi Kogure, JAXA QZSS project team

Tel: +81-29-868-5511 Fax: +81-29-868-5975

[Email: IS-QZSS@jaxa.jp](mailto:IS-QZSS@jaxa.jp)

■ **APRSAF-16 Poster Contest**

Theme: "Our Universe - Great Discoveries"

Co-organizers: GISTDA and JAXA

Date: During the sessions of APRSAF-16

Venue: Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok

Reference: http://www.aprsaf.org/data/aprsaf16_data/PC-A&R_Version-17Jun09_.pdf

■ **APRSAF-16 Water Rocket Event**

Local Organizer: National Science Museum (NSM) of Thailand

Co-organizer: JAXA

Date: January 23 to 24, 2010

Venue: NSM, Bangkok, Thailand

Reference: http://www.aprsaf.org/data/aprsaf16_data/Water_Rocket_Event-Outline_FINAL.pdf

Contact for further information (Poster contest & Water Rocket Event)

Ms. Emiko Ando, JAXA Space Education Center

Tel: +81-42-759-8752 Fax: +81-42-759-8612

[Email: aprsaf-16@edu.jaxa.jp](mailto:aprsaf-16@edu.jaxa.jp)