

APRSAF12– Technical Workshop

“Disaster Reduction through Effective Space Technology Utilization in the Asia Pacific Region”

► Background

Under the main theme of "Toward Expansion of the Space Community", the APRSAF-11 was held on November 3 to 5, 2004, at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, Australia.

In the APRSAF-11, the Earth Observation Working Group was held with the 30 participants from 12 countries and 2 international organizations. The action items of the Working Group are as follows:

1. Workshop to be held in 2005 on disaster risk reduction and data sharing focusing on
 - Timely dissemination of information for predicting hazards
 - Enhanced and better integrated measurement using in situ, airborne and satellite data.
2. Definition and coordination of pilot projects among APRSAF members for rapid response to disasters.
3. Distribute among member countries a proposal for standardization of data sets such as Digital Asia and means of sharing these data.

In connection with the action item 1, JAXA held the Asian Workshop on Satellite Technology Data Utilization for Disaster Monitoring on 20 January 2005 at the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Japan.

The workshop had many good discussions, and recommends the following:

1. Space technology can effectively provide information for disaster management in Asia, through International and regional frameworks and national programs;
2. Space agencies should provide satellite data in a manner that responds to information needs, and translate data into simple and useful information for the end-users;
3. Different needs at each phase of disaster should be considered (prevention, early warning, detection, response and recovery);
4. Space Agencies and private sector should cooperate and share satellite data for rapid response and application;
5. Capacity building for data interpretation is essential.

Based on these outcomes, further discussions will be made at this technical workshop and a concrete plan or a pilot project for disaster reduction using space technology will be developed. In order to execute recommendations 2 and 3, space agencies need to jointly develop the appropriate products and services.

This technical workshop will provide an opportunity for the following objectives:

- a. to identify what products and services should be developed,
- b. to identify what intensive products and services should be provided,
- c. to identify what mechanism should be tested, and
- d. to develop a concrete plan or a pilot project on disaster risk reduction and data sharing focusing on timely dissemination of information for predicting hazards and enhanced and better integrated Earth observation.

▶ Date and time

May 24 – 26, 2005

▶ Venue

MACRES, Malaysia

▶ Expected participants

20 – 25 participants mainly from the APRSAF Earth Observation Working Group and from some disaster management agencies

▶ Hosted by

MACRES and JAXA in cooperation with UN-ESCAP

▶ Points of Contact for the Technical Workshop

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