

## APRSAF-12 – Special Session

### **“Establishment of a Joint Project Team for Disaster Reduction through Effective Space Technology Utilization in the Asia Pacific Region”**

#### ► **Background**

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

In 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 and MACRES held the technical workshop on “Disaster Reduction through Effective Space Technology Utilization in the Asian Region” on 24-26 May 2005 at, Kuala Lumpur in cooperation with UN-ESCAP.

The workshop had many good discussions and recommendations, and further proposed a pilot project, namely “Sentinel-Asia: A Satellite Information Distribution Network for Disaster Management of Asia-Oceania”. Rather than focusing on a single disaster type and a single country, the workshop attendees resolved to establish a pilot project focused primarily around the demonstration of a data-distribution network of space-agencies and national spatial data providers.

► **Joint Project Team**

JAXA wishes to promote the pilot project, “Sentinel Asia” and achieve disaster reduction using space technology jointly with disaster management agencies. Therefore, we establish a joint project team for disaster reduction in coordination with the Earth Observation Working Group (EO-WG) and the Communication Satellite Applications Working Group (CSA-WG) in cooperation with space agencies, disaster management agencies and international organizations.

Based on “Sentinel Asia”, the joint project team should be

- A. to identify what products and services should be developed for disaster reduction,
- B. to identify how intensive products and services should be provided to disaster management agencies in a timely manner,
- C. to develop a concrete pilot project on disaster reduction and data sharing focusing on timely dissemination of information for predicting hazards and enhanced and better integrated Earth observation, and
- D. to establish a mechanism for disaster reduction through effective space technology utilization in the Asia Pacific region.

In the APRSAF-12 meeting, a Special Session jointly with EO-WG and CSA-WG members will be set up for establishing the joint project team.