

APRSAF-12

Concept Paper for Earth Observation W.G.

► Proposal for Pilot Project of EOWG

The APRSAF-12 Earth Observation Working Group will discuss the details of the proposals for the pilot project which arose from the 12th APRSAF-related technical workshop titled "Disaster Reduction through Effective Space Technology Utilization in the Asia Pacific Region" held at the Malaysian Centre for Remote Sensing (MACRES), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during 24-26 May, 2005, in cooperation between MACRES and JAXA focusing on disaster monitoring and data-sharing.

The pilot project which is temporally named the "Sentinel-Asia" is a satellite information distribution network for disaster management of the Asia-Pacific region. It is originally planned to demonstrate more effective and timely supply of satellite data for management and decision-making before, during and after disasters in the region.

The purpose of the above pilot project is that the participated space agencies and disaster-prevention organizations will share what each has and make up a project for well being of the region.

According to the action items arose from the above workshop, the following main organizations have been striving for the formation of three parallel coordination for the pilot project:

- (1) Coordination of Node Network & Infrastructure Coordination: JAXA-CSIRO
- (2) Content & User interface: MACRES/SCOSA
- (3) Capacity-Building
 - Node operations and IT: Digital Asia
 - Interpretation of data to products: ADRC, UN-ESCAP, JAXA-AIT

► Details of APRSAF and its' Periphery

The 11th APRSAF held in November 2004 was sponsored both by Japan and

Australia. At the 11th APRSAF, the participants agreed that the APRSAF members should develop an effective pilot project in their region for the purpose of disaster reduction.

Consequently, the 12th APRSAF-related technical workshop titled "Disaster Reduction through Effective Space Technology Utilization in the Asia Pacific Region" was held at the Malaysian Centre for Remote Sensing (MACRES), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during 24-26 May, 2005, in cooperation between MACRES and JAXA focusing on disaster monitoring and data-sharing. The purpose of the above WS was to make up proposals for a pilot project to be carried out by the APRSAF member nations under cooperation with the disaster prevention organizations of each member country and the international organizations in the region such as the UNESCAP and the ADRC, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center based in Kobe, Japan.

In addition, the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (UNWCDR) was held in the City of Kobe in January 2005. The City of Kobe is a well known place since it was struck by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in January 1995.

At UNWCDR, JAXA sponsored and held a workshop titled the "Asian WS on Satellite Technology & Data Utilization for Disaster Monitoring" on January 20th, 2005, having near by 140 people who audited it. In front of those audience, the WS participants who gathered from the Asian countries including Japan reached the following conclusions at the WS:

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 recover);
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.

These decisions made at the JAXA WS during UNWCDR were accepted at the

APRSAF-12 related technical workshop held at the MACRES, Malaysia, during 24-26 May, 2005, according to a commitment made at the APRSAF-11th in Australia.

Through workshops, it should be pointed out that the usefulness of the images obtained from the satellites as one of the disaster-prevention and disaster-reduction measures on condition if the space agencies are able to provide satellite data which can respond to information needs, and translate data into simple and useful information for the end users.

In order to enhance safety to achieve sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region as much as possible in the future, APRSAF is considered by many as one of the most effective measures to provide necessary assistance to the people in the region through space applications.