

**APRSAF-12**

**Concept Paper  
for  
Space Education and Awareness W.G.**

► **Role of Space Education/Awareness WG**

Throughout the history of human civilization, we find that humans have always endeavored to expand their sphere of activity from within their own country to other countries and continents on the earth and finally from the earth into the space. This comes down to the very basic nature of all living creatures of the world. This very nature always drives society to ever-high levels, and we are now living in a world in which we have tremendously benefited from space-based technology. From our past experience, we believe that space development is fundamentally important to the future of every country. We now have vastly benefited by space systems used in meteorology, remote sensing, and radio communication. The Global Positioning System is being increasingly used in a variety of application areas such as geodesy, position fixing and navigation.

However, the most important and key fact that human beings have learnt from space exploration is that earth is the only planet within our solar system in which life can exist. The second lesson we have learned from space exploration is that our environment is deteriorating due to expanding deserts, de-forestation, depletion of ozone layer, global warming and so on. This knowledge comes as a warning to humanity on the global environment. However, the significance of space development is still not well recognized by the general public. Even the highest-ranking policy makers do not realize this nor do they give any importance or stress the problems in space.

At this point we, who are directly engaged in space development, know that the significance of space development should speak out for the future of the countries even when we are suffering from unfavorable economic situations. Or because of this bad economic situation, we should dare to speak out now. One thing we can do is to make aware the importance of space development to the people who are living in this world; another is to educate the young generation. More importantly our role is to enlighten the engineers and scientists who can play important roles in the future of space development. To extend our education we should also enlighten the leading people in our society, such as policy makers who understand the significance of

space development. It goes without saying that we should keep the general public aware of the significance of space development.

► **Action items discussed at APRSAF-11**

We agreed in the past WG meeting that SEA WG should not be only for the meeting, which is held once a year, although it is worth for us to exchange information. According to this agreement, we discussed actions, which can be initiated. SEA WG agreed that we should first recognize that there is a difference of temperature regarding the space education /awareness activities in individual Asian and the Pacific region countries. The actions, therefore, which we should take in each country, should be easy and affordable in order to increase public awareness of the importance of space development and to trigger the interest of the young generation through Space.

One of the main action items, which we agreed to take at the SEA WG meeting at APRSAF-11, is to conduct Water Boosted Rocket Competition. The water boosted Rocket Competition is now scheduled on October 15 following APRSAF-12 and UN Workshop at Kitakyushu.

Another item, which we have discussed since APRSAF 9, is that each country should try to organize chances to talk to the public. Right after the APRSAF-11, which was held at Canberra, Australia, Space Education Forum was conducted at Questacon, National science and technology Center, Canberra, Australia. Mirai in Japan and Questacon were linked by satellite.

Apart from these actions, exchange of information among WG members has been repeatedly encouraged in the past WG meetings. This is going on. Issues on the person exchange among countries has been repeated, but still not realized.

► **How we can continue these main two action items**

At APRSAF-12, our main discussion could be how we can continue these two items mentioned above. Without continuous and dedicated activities, the final fruit might not be our own. We propose to have the second water rocket competition again in Japan by inviting junior high school students and the teachers from Asia and Pacific countries in more organized scale. We have requested WG members of each country to conduct a Water Boosted Rocket Competition prior to the first water boosted rocket competition. WG members are asked to report the activities on the water-boosted rocket, which was held in each country. We know that some WG members had difficulties to conduct water boosted rocket competition this year. For

these countries we would like the members to raise the problems for conducting water boosted rocket competition. We would like to discuss how we could proceed together toward the next water boosted rocket competition.

The second item, which we would like to discuss, is on the candidate country that might be able to hold Space Education Forum together with Japan.

► **Other issues**

The discussion will be extended on how we can strengthen the further communication between WG members. I believe that continuous communication is one of the key factors for the future international activities. Accordingly to establish a network among WG members is important. Through the networking authorized by APRSAF, WG members might be able to play a long term leading role on the Space education/awareness activities in each country.

Before attending the WG meeting, each member is requested to investigate the possibility to hold the Forum jointly with Japan and each member is also requested to present on the activities in each country, which were conducted since APRSAF-11 and on what will be done this year in each country. in addition to the Water Boosted Rocket Competition issue.

I, as a cochairman of SEA WG, really hope that we can walk together toward the goal of space education/awareness by believing that our small activities could light the corner of the world.

Looking forward to seeing you at Kitakyuushyu city, Japan.