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## Welcome Message

To the participants to the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-13) in December

It is my great honor to serve as General Chairperson of the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-13) with Dr. Adi Sadewo Salatun and announce to you that APRSAF-13 will be held from 5 to 7 December 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

This Forum will jointly be organized and co-sponsored by the State Ministry of Research and Technology Indonesia (RISTEC), National Institute of Aeronautics and Space of Indonesia (LAPAN), the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). APRSAF was established in 1993 in response to the declaration adopted by the Asia-Pacific International Space Year Conference (APIC) 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. In APRSAF-12, held in Japan last year, the participants agreed to start the discussion to develop a Disaster Management Support System (DMSS) using space technology jointly with Asia-Pacific colleagues.

While APRSAF is expected to be an active forum to promote concrete cooperative activities like DMSS, APRSAF-13 will be held under the main theme entitled "Work Together, Building a Secure and Prosperous Society" with the aim to bring together participating agencies from the Asia-Pacific region to join hands and cooperate in the use of space activities for the common cause.

APRSAF-13 is proposed to have a plenary session, and 4 working groups (WGs): Earth Observation (EO) WG, Communication Satellite Applications (CSA) WG, Space Education and Awareness (SEA) WG and

International Space Station (ISS) WG. Especially, in a plenary session, APRSAF-13 will receive the status report on the concrete activities toward the establishment of a Disaster Management Support System and is also hoped to initiate discussion toward the cooperation by using space technology to cope with environmental problems and so on.

Once again, I look forward to seeing you in Jakarta for exchanging lively views toward future cooperation in space activities, and hope that APRSAF-13 will contribute to further cooperation in space activities in the Asia-Pacific region.