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Further information on APRSAF-18 will be available on the APRSAF website: http://www.aprsaf.org/annual_meetings/aprsaf18/meeting_details.php
Date: December 6-9, 2011
Venue: Marina Mandarin, Singapore
Co-hosts: Singapore Space and Technology Association (SSTA)
          National University of Singapore/Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing (CRISP)
          Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT)
          Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
The Space Seed for Asian Future (SSAF) 2010–2011 mission is now operating. The plant seeds are now on an orbit, and are slated to return to the ground on the Space Shuttle Endeavour (STS-134) in April 2011.

The program has been planned and developed by the space agencies participating in APRSAF Space Environment Utilization Working Group (SEUWG), which has been discussing ways to facilitate effective joint utilization of the space environment among Asia-Pacific countries.

APRSAF Space Seed for Asian Future 2010–2011
http://www.aprsaf.org/working_groups/seu/wg_seu_ssafer.php
(ref.) KOUNOTORI2 PLC Payload

Sentinel Asia System (SAS) operation training conducted in Kathmandu

The seventh Sentinel Asia System (SAS) operation training was held from February 28 to March 4, 2011, in Kathmandu, Nepal. Twenty-five people from 19 organizations in 13 countries participated.

The agenda as well as training materials is available on the Sentinel Asia website: https://sentinel.tksc.jaxa.jp/sentinel2/capaBuild.action#
The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) was set up by the United Nations General Assembly in 1959 to review the scope of international cooperation in peaceful use of outer space, to devise programs in this field to be undertaken under United Nations auspices, to encourage continued research and dissemination of information on outer space matters, and to study legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space. The Committee has two subcommittees: the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) and the Legal Subcommittee.

On February 7, 2011, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) was held in Vienna, Australia and, reflecting the APRSAF-17 recommendations, JAXA Technical Counselor Dr. Yasushi Horikawa made a technical presentation entitled: “Summary of APRSAF-17 - The role of space technology and industry addressing climate change”. He opened his speech by giving an overview of the APRSAF-17, which was successfully held in Melbourne, Australia in November 2010 and gathered approximately 230 delegates from 23 countries and regions and 11 international organizations.

After introducing the framework of APRSAF as well as recent activities of APRSAF initiatives such as Sentinel Asia, STAR program, and SAFE, he underlined one of the significant outcomes of APRSAF-17, a consideration of a new initiative, the APRSAF Regional Readiness Review for Key Climate Missions (Climate R³). This climate change study will be established by referring to facts and figures as a conclusion.

He also emphasized that APRSAF wished that the outcomes of APRSAF-17 be presented by the Chairman of UNCOPUOS at the meetings of the UNCOPUOS in 2011. In addition, another APRSAF-17 recommendation, “Recommend the Chairman of UNCOPUOS present the accomplishment of APRSAF as regional cooperative structures in order to promote inter-regional cooperation as mandated by UN General Assembly” was highlighted.

Finally, Dr. Horikawa announced that the next session of APRSAF, APRSAF-18, would be held in Singapore from December 6 to 9, 2011 and encouraged the participants to attend APRSAF-18. Dr. Horikawa’s technical presentation was made at the opening date of the UNCOPUOS STSC attended by a number of delegations from various countries and regions. His presentation received not only strong interests from the delegation of Nigeria but also great acknowledgements from the delegation of Pakistan. The Chairman of UNCOPUOS STSC, Mr. Ulrich Huth, voiced his appreciation for him. A major part of attraction of the participants to the technical presentation was due to the fact that it had been made by Dr. Horikawa, a Designated Chairman of UNCOPUOS (2012–2013).

The full presentation is available on the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) website.

The APRSAF Space Education Seminar was held in Bangladesh from January 17 to 19, 2011, jointly organized by the Bangladesh Astronomical Society (BAS) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). It was the first of its kind in the history of Bangladesh.

On January 17 and 18, the seminar was held in the auditorium of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novotheatre, Dhaka. The seminar was inaugurated by Architect Yeafesh Osman, the State Minister for Science and Information and Communication Technology, Government of Bangladesh. In his inaugural speech, the minister thanked the organizers of this seminar and assured that his government would implement an appropriate plan to accelerate space education in Bangladesh. Eminent scientists and educationists, including 125 secondary school teachers from different locations across Bangladesh, participated. The seminar urged the government to immediately set up the “Bangladesh Space Agency” to stimulate space education and awareness activities, as well as research and development of space technologies and their applications in Bangladesh, in order to enable our younger generations to reap the benefits offered by this emerging sector.

On January 18, a hands-on session for teachers was held. JAXA officials trained 125 teachers to build plastic rockets. These rockets, kits, and instruction manuals were distributed among the participating teachers so that they could teach their students.

The most spectacular event of this seminar was held on January 19 in the high school playground at Enayetpur, in the Space Village; about 4,000 students and teachers from 20 schools participated. In addition to some lectures, there was a hands-on session. Students were shown how to build plastic rockets, and these rockets were distributed among 3,000 students. JAXA Space Education Center staff helped in the demonstrations of the kits and posters. Both JAXA and UNESCO officials were surprised to see such huge numbers of students and teachers participating in this space congregation; the officials frankly stated that they had never seen such a gathering of space enthusiasts before. JAXA officials were exceedingly pleased and excited to interact with the students, and they promised that they would offer complete cooperation for space education activities in Bangladesh, which will begin from Enayetpur.

(Contributed by BAS
Edited by the APRSAF Secretariat)
APRSAF participated in “International Workshop on GIS and Space Technology for Sustainable Development of Asia” at Asian Development Bank

At APRSAF-17 on November 23–26, 2010, in Melbourne, Australia, Mr. Arjun Thapan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced in his special address, the International Workshop on GIS and Space Technology for Sustainable Development of Asia, ADB Headquarters, Metro Manila, Philippines, February 21–22, 2011. The Recommendations of APRSAF-17 stated that the participants of APRSAF-17 would actively participate in the workshop and recommend ADB, through the workshop in collaboration with APRSAF members, to promote discussion and compile participants’ requests on their focus areas and activities in using space technologies as well as specific requirements for space technologies.

The workshop was held to help countries in Asia to share knowledge on appropriate geospatial information system (GIS) and space technologies (ST) and discuss future actions to develop and make use of them in various development sectors in order to accelerate sustainable economic and social development in Asia.

Government officials, experts, and NGOs from various development sectors, e.g., water, environment, climate change, agriculture, transport, and urban management as well as ST and GIS experts, including 20 participants from APRSAF and 8 participants from JAXA, were engaged in active discussion to bridge the gap between “demand” and “supply” in order to make use of ST and GIS in “everyday practice” in development sectors.

Specific plan of actions were recommended in four sectors, i.e., water and disaster management, environment and climate change, agriculture and urban management. It was recommended that both development and space communities proactively make use of the product as a starter to engage in focused, concerted efforts to bring ST and GIS for the benefit of the people in Asia, especially the poor.

“International Years for Use of Space Technology and GIS in Asia (2012-2016)” was proposed as a vehicle to promote voluntary actions by governments, academia, civil society, and other stakeholders in order to introduce space technology and GIS in “everyday life” for the benefit of the Asian people. The participants welcomed and supported the proposal, and agreed that the proposal should be carried forward to official discussion by governments.
Capacity Building Portal Open

In accordance with APRSAF-17 Recommendation No. 38, a portal site for capacity building programs has been opened on the APRSAF website at the address: http://www.aprsaf.org/capacity_building/. This site provides you with the list of capacity building programs in the Asia-Pacific region, which can lead you to each program site showing its details such as schedule, etc.

APRSAF participating organizations providing a capacity building program are invited to supply the APRSAF Secretariat with the program’s URL, etc.

http://www.aprsaf.org/capacity_building/

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We welcome your updates on space-related activities and also your comments and suggestions to the APRSAF Secretariat.

For further information for APRSAF, please visit http://www.aprsaf.org