

Japan Item 9 – “Space and sustainable development”

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Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Japan is convinced that space technology and international cooperation are indispensable to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Japan would like to continue to provide its unwavering support for the achievement of the SDGs.

Chair,

Allow us to share some examples of our contributions to this end.

Japan has been promoting the use of the Japanese Experiment Module “Kibo” on the ISS to maximize its outcomes. Various experiments have been conducted aboard Kibo including on material/physical science, medical science, life science, and capacity building.

One example is the high-quality protein crystal growth experiment aboard Kibo. The detailed information of protein crystals obtained from this experiment is expected to contribute to the development of innovative drugs to combat cancer as well as infectious and life-style related diseases.

Japan has also contributed to building the capacity of developing and emerging space faring countries. Through programs such as KiboCUBE, we are able to offer various countries the opportunity to deploy their own developed CubeSats from Kibo. Kibo, meaning “hope” in Japanese, has helped five teams so far in realizing their hopes of successfully deploying their CubeSats. This also offers unique opportunity to learn and feel elements of international space law through the development and operation by themselves.

Chair,

Japan is expected to contribute to a wide range of SDGs with satellite data. Earth observation using satellites also contributes to various global issues on ground.

One is the observation of precipitation, which is useful for tackling water-related disasters such as flood, typhoon, and landslide. JAXA has developed

a precipitation monitoring system known as GSMP, which offers global rainfall maps using satellite data such as GPM and GCOM-W. This system provides hourly global precipitation information contributing to a variety of activities including disaster management. Japan is committed to helping address water-related issues through these efforts.

Second is the atmospheric observation such as GHG and aerosol for tackling climate change issues. Japan is addressing climate change issues through observations by satellites such as the Greenhouse gases Observing SATellite (GOSAT) series and the Global Change Observation Mission – Climate (GCOM-C). We would like to reiterate that Japan will continue our efforts to tackle climate change issues. In addition, Earth Cloud and Aerosol Radiation Explorer (EarthCARE), which was launched at the end of May. This is a joint mission with ESA, which carries the world’s first space-borne sensor, Cloud Profiling Radar (CPR). CPR measures the vertical structure and the up-and-down velocity of cloud particles. EarthCARE will quantify and reduce the uncertainty about the role that clouds and aerosols play in heating and cooling Earth’s atmosphere, contributing to our better understanding of climate change.

Third is the disaster monitoring activities. JAXA has led an international cooperative project for disaster monitoring in the Asia-Pacific region, known as “Sentinel Asia.” This is a collaborative project in the region to reduce damage caused by natural disasters whereby disaster-related information acquired from satellite images and other data is shared with 98 organizations from 29 countries and regions as well as 17 international organizations.

Moreover, an article on SDGs efforts using JAXA’s Earth observation satellites is published in “A Better World Volume 9” by the Human Development Forum. The article includes examples of efforts to use Earth observation satellites, in relation to Forest (SDG 13, 15), Wetland (SDG 6), Precipitation (SDG 11, 13), and Disaster (SDG 11).

Finally, in terms of gender equality (SDG5), last year, a JAXA expert participated in the 2023 Space4Women Expert Meeting, co-hosted by the

Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and UNOOSA last Autumn. We congratulate CSA, the distinguished delegate of Canada, and UNOOSA, with appreciation for their effort, on the successful outcome of the Expert Meeting, notably the shaping of “Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit (GMT) .”

Chair,

JAXA will launch ALOS-4 on June 30 from Tanegashima Space Center. ALOS-4 carries the Synthetic Aperture Rader, and is expected to fully utilize its capability in various fields, as ALOS 2 has achieved significant contributions, including Forest monitoring and Disaster monitoring.

Last but not least, Japan believes that space governance is one of the topics of the UN Summit of the Future to be held in September this year. In this regard, Japan hopes that the discussions at COPUOS will contribute to effective future space governance at the Summit and its outcome document, "Pact for the Future.”

Japan firmly believes that space technology has the potential to support sustainable development and we will continue to contribute to this important issue.

Thank you for your kind attention.