Japan

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space 68th Session

25 June – 2 July 2025

Item 14 : Space exploration and innovation.

Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Space exploration represents a major challenge to humanity in our quest to explore new frontiers, gain knowledge and extend human presence deeper into space. Japan has been proud to participate in this challenging endeavor in close cooperation with our international partners.

Chair,

Allow me to illustrate some of Japan's efforts in this regard.

Japan is actively engaged in both domestic and international initiatives.

In support of the future Artemis mission, Japan is committed to developing a crewed pressurized rover under an Implementing Arrangement based on the Framework Agreement between Japan and the United States. In parallel, JAXA is advancing the *Lunar Polar Exploration mission (LUPEX)* in collaboration with ISRO. This mission aims to investigate the presence of water and assess the potential for resource utilization in the lunar polar region.

From the private sector, the Japanese start-up, ispace attempted its second lunar landing in early June. Although completion of this milestone has yet to be achieved, the mission underscored the growing potential of private enterprises in the field of space transportation.

Beyond the Moon, the Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission, currently under development with NASA, CNES, ESA, and DLR, will be the world's first collaborative scientific mission to collect samples from Phobos, one of the Martian moons.

In the area of planetary defense, JAXA is contributing to international efforts by collaborating with ESA on the Hera mission, as well as conducting

asteroid observation during the asteroid flyby of JAXA’s Hayabusa2 extended mission. Furthermore, JAXA is accelerating studies on potential cooperation for ESA’s Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (RAMSES), which aims to explore the asteroid Apophis as it passes close to our planet on 13 April 2029.

Chair,

Beyond these initiatives, the Japanese private sector is also working toward the exploration of lunar resources.
Recognizing the importance of industry collaboration, the Japanese government has long promoted partnerships with the Japanese private sector on space exploration.

One such initiative is *JAXA’s Space Exploration Innovation Hub Center*, established in 2015, which facilitates collaborative research with companies, academia, and research institutes on key technologies in the fields of energy, mobility, manufacturing, and habitation for dual space-ground utilization. In recent years, a series of research programs were launched to investigate the technical practicability of producing water and oxygen from lunar regolith.

In 2024, Japan established the *Space Strategy Fund* to enable private companies and academia to engage in research and development over multiple years. We aim to provide support totaling 1 trillion yen (about $6B) as soon as possible, and to strengthen and accelerate technological development across private companies, startups, and academia.

Chair,

Space exploration is in the common interest of all humankind and represents the ultimate challenge of pushing the boundaries of the known universe. We believe that these endeavors not only advance science and technology but also inspires the next generation and contributes to advancing economic development. Together with our international partners, Japan is committed to taking part in this extraordinary journey by offering our technical expertise for the benefit of all of humanity.

Thank you for your kind attention.