

Statement of APSCO

at the 58th Session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), I appreciate taking the opportunity today to present an update on the Organization's work in the past year in support of the aims of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Madam Chair,

In December 2020, the 14th Council Meeting of APSCO approved the Development Plan of Cooperative Activities of APSCO (2021-2030). The Strategic Vision focuses on enhancing capability of the Member States in particular, and in the Asia-Pacific region in general, in peaceful uses of outer space, in the domains of space science, space technology and space technology applications, by establishing the basis of cooperation through voluntary sharing of financial, technological and human resources, and leading the regional cooperation, work with and contribute to the collective efforts of international space community toward space governance and long-term sustainability of the outer space activities.

Under the leadership of our new elected Secretary-General, Ms. Yu Qi, APSCO gives highest priority on taking advantage of the wide coverage area of the Asia-Pacific to enhance benefits of APSCO Members in region. Consequently, networks of Space Science, Technology and Application Programmes, as well as Space Education, Training and Capacity Building have been emphasized in the Development Plan.

Madam Chair,

As a basic facility for sharing and promoting especially application of satellite remote sensing data among the Member States, the APSCO Data Sharing Service Platform (DSSP) has been upgraded so that it can serve bigger volume of data and wider range of space-based and ground-based measurement data. Through 35 Certified Users composing of focal organizations, disaster management departments and universities, the Platform can serve more extensive and responsive applications for our Members. In order to promote DSSP Application, APSCO supports at least one project per one Member each year. In April 2021, six application projects were kicked off simultaneously. They cover the topics on Flood Monitoring and Warning System, Forest Cover for the Evaluation of Amazonian Ecosystem, Satellite Imagery Search Engine,

Mangrove Watch from Space, Air Pollution Assessment, and Disaster Management System.

In parallel, the extension phase of the ‘Establishment of a Framework for Researches on Application of Space Technology for Disaster Monitoring in the APSCO Member States Project’ was also kicked off in April, 2021. Under this framework, the APSCO joint research team will work together by focusing on Flood, Landslides/Avalanches, Drought and Multi-Hazard which are common disaster sources experienced in all APSCO Countries.

Under the Domain of Space Science, the “Asia-Pacific Ground-Based Optical Space Objects Observation System (APOSOS)” is now in operational phase, while APSCO is working on its extension phase, the “Asia-Pacific Space Science Observatories (APSSO)”. Establishment of the network of optical telescopes with enhanced performance for tracking space objects, including NEOs, operating under distributed data centers in all APSCO Member States is planned in 2021.

Meantime, there are a number of networks have been successfully established in the past years, and they are now in utilization phase, namely,

- APSCO GNSS Monitoring and Assessment Service Network
- Network for Ionosphere Modeling through Study of Radio Wave Propagation
- Network for Determining Precursor Ionospheric Signatures of Earthquakes by Ground-Based Ionospheric Sounding Project.

In October 2020, the ‘Stereoscopic Seismic-ionospheric Observation Application Platform (SOAP)’ had been completed under the ‘APSCO Earthquake Research Project Phase II: Integrating Satellite and Ground Observations for Earthquake Signatures and Precursors’, in which space-born data from the China Seismo-Electromagnetic Satellite (CSES) is made available for APSCO Members.

Madam Chair,

APSCO has continued its capacity-building endeavor in Education and Training area and due to pandemic situation has adopted diverse online platforms to offer short training courses and to provide opportunities for exchange of knowledge. In the year 2020, three short training courses on remote sensing and satellite navigation applications were conducted. Each course lasted about one week long. Also, six short distance training courses were offered, each course took six hours long. All of these courses were conducted in two different time schedules to cover all the participants based on their time zones. More than 600 participants from 17 countries joined these online training courses. More online trainings are planned for the year 2021 and one such training has already been conducted on space technology applications.

During 2020, the APSCO Student Small Satellite (SSS) Project continued its development in spite of the difficulties caused by the pandemic. This program is an

educational framework and includes one microsatellite and two cubesats developed by university students. All three satellites have finished testing engineering models successfully and now the flight model is being manufactured and tested. The satellites are expected to be launched in second half of 2021.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO and its Members are strongly committed to support the work of COPUOS. We are also open for cooperation with all nations in keeping outer space available for peaceful activities, and improve ability to use space capabilities for socio-economic development, especially to those developing countries.

Thank You.