

Japan Item 7– “Space-system-based Disaster Management Support”

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Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I am pleased to present some of Japan’s recent initiatives and international cooperation related to this agenda item.

Before turning to the main topic, I would like to use this opportunity to first extend Japan's sincere appreciation for the condolences, heart-warming messages and support we received from the international community in the wake of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake.

Chair,

Recognizing the importance of space technology and international cooperation in disaster management, Japan has been leading a regional disaster management project called “Sentinel Asia.” The Asia-Pacific region is often affected by a range of natural disasters, such as floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and typhoons. Sentinel Asia contributes to preventing, mitigating, and reducing damage from these kinds of disasters by co-sharing satellite data in the region. Over 100 organizations in the Asia-Pacific region participate in this framework and more than 430 emergency observations in total have been conducted since its launch in 2006.

One of Sentinel Asia’s remarkable characteristics is that it is composed of not only space agencies, but also disaster management organizations and international organizations. Recently, Sentinel Asia has been working to build a stronger link with the disaster management community based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Last year, the annual meeting of Sentinel Asia, called “Joint Team Project Meeting,” was held in Indonesia, co-hosted by the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) for the first time in four years. The event was a great success with the participation of 85 individuals from 35 organizations, including representatives from the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and UNSPIDER Regional Support Offices.

Sentinel Asia is committed to making its best effort to offer disaster assessment and response planning support, and to further vitalize various activities of Sentinel Asia by gaining greater support from the international community as needed. Sentinel Asia will continue to commit to implementing the Sendai Framework through cooperation among the member organizations.

JAXA has also been a member of the International Charter “Space and Major Disasters” since 2005 and has been actively supporting its activities in cooperation with 16 other Charter members.

Last year, in response to requests from Sentinel Asia and the International Charter, JAXA conducted emergency observations and provided satellite data to related organizations, including for the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. As for the floods in Myanmar, JAXA conducted emergency observations in cooperation with of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre). The data collected was then disseminated by the AHA Centre to disaster management organizations.

Chair,

Precipitation data is important for weather forecasts as well as for water related disaster management, such as floods, typhoons, and landslides.

To address water related disasters using satellite data, JAXA has developed a precipitation data system known as GSMaP. It offers a multi-satellite global precipitation map under the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Mission and provides hourly global precipitation information to support a wide range of disaster management.

JAXA is cooperating with international partners to improve the accuracy of GSMaP data. For example, JAXA and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) are cooperating to jointly validate, improve, and apply rainfall products through the use of both satellite and ground data. JAXA and ISRO also aim to contribute to the improvement of satellite data applications especially in the Asia-Pacific region, which experiences heavy rainfall every year.

Chair,

Before concluding, I would like to reiterate that space technology plays a significant role in managing natural disasters. Japan will continue to strengthen its international cooperation in this field.

Thank you for your attention.