

APSCO, Item 3

Statement of APSCO

The 62nd Session of the Scientific-Technical Sub-Committee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

Honorable Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), it is my great honor to report the update on our activities in the past year in support of the aims of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Madam Chair,

APSCO is currently implementing the its 2nd 10-Year Strategic Plan - the Development Plan for Cooperative Activities of APSCO (2021-2030), where its key strategy is to take advantage of the wide coverage area of the Asia-Pacific to multiply benefits for our Members. Pooling up and sharing of resources, and networking our facilities is the heart of the Plan realization. In 2024, under the supporting Project Implementation Plan, there are 3 new projects kicked off, namely,

- Vision-Based Close-Proximity Orbital Operation Simulation Platform, initiated by Thailand,
- Mineral Prospection using Satellite Remote Sensing, proposed by Pakistan.
- LINKU project, proposed by Peru.

There are currently 8 cooperative projects under implementation distributed in the domains of space science, space technology and application, and there are 5 in-operation networks, including:

- APSCO GNSS Monitoring and Assessment Service Network;
- Network for Ionosphere Modeling through Study of Radio Wave Propagation;
- APSCO Seismo-Ionospheric Observation and Application Platform (SOAP) for Integrating Satellite and Ground Observations for Earthquake Signatures and Precursors Monitoring;
- Radiometric Calibration of Satellite Sensors Network;
- Asia-Pacific Space Science Observatories (APSSO) Network.

Madam Chair,

In order to promote the Data Sharing Service Platform (DSSP) for socio-economic development of its Members, APSCO launched the 1st batch of Earth-observation data application projects based on one-country-one-project principle in 2021, and the projects have been successfully concluded in 2024. Consequently, the 2nd batch under the theme of Climate Change and Its Effect on Agriculture has been promptly kicked off this year. Some project examples include:

- Determining Effects and Driving Factors of Climate Change on the Agricultural Region in Mongolia using Remote Sensing;
- Geospatial Information Management System for Climate Change Adaptation of Temperature Extremities, by Pakistan,
- Regional Crop Monitoring and Irrigation Management, by Turkiye.

On the utilization of the DSSP for disaster monitoring and management, the APSCO Council has just approved the Terms of Reference of the ‘Disaster Response Mechanism-APSCO Charter’ in November 2024. The establishment and operation of the Charter shall begin this year.

Madam Chair,

In the field of deep space exploration, APSCO’s Host Country, China, has offered unique opportunities for our Members to join their Chang-E Lunar missions. In 2024, Member State Pakistan successfully deployed the iCube-Q satellite onboard the Change'E-6, and the Sensor Package for Space Weather Global Monitoring payload developed by Thailand will join Change'E-7, the Moon polar-landing mission, in 2026.

Besides, the APSCO Working Group for Joint Study on the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) has been established in April 2023, and 2 workshops and 1 training on Coherent Design Facility for Lunar Missions were organized last year, under the cooperation with Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Centre (LESEC) of the China National Space Administration (CNSA). Furthermore, a number of science and engineering project proposals from Members States of APSCO have been selected to abroad Change'E-8, the Lunar landing and preparation mission for the ILRS, planned in 2028.

In order to enhance cooperation in the field of space science toward global scale, APSCO has signed the MOU with the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), this week. One of our key fields of cooperation is on Planetary Protection, Ionospheric Research, and Space Debris Monitoring and Mitigation.

Madam Chair,

For Space Education Development Program, after the successful launch of the Small Student Satellites (SSS) Mission in 2023, APSCO has recently started the

APSCO CubeSat Competition (ACC) Project, and in 2024, 17 teams from universities in APSCO countries presented their CubeSat Conceptual and Preliminary Design. This year, the selected teams will be supported for development, manufacturing and testing of their CubeSat.

On the Degree Education in Space Science and Technology, currently there are 266 Master and 102 Ph.D. students from APSCO Member States and regional countries granted free scholarship, under the cooperation with China Scholarship Council (CSC). Besides, in order to improve its degree education, training and capacity-building activities, the APSCO Education and Training Center (ETC) are being upgraded to support the implementation of the “APSCO Space University” concept approved by the APSCO Council in 2024, where educational resources as well as hands-on training facilities will be pooled up and shared among our Members.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

APSCO is strongly committed and putting its best effort to support the work of UNCOPUOS in every domain. We are also open for cooperation with the global space community on exploring and exploiting peaceful uses of outer space.

Thank You.