



Dr. Tetsuhiko Ikegami
Chairman
Space Activities Commission (SAC)
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)



Welcome Message

To the participants to the 17th session of the Asia-Pacific
Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-17) in November

It is my great honor to serve as General Co-Chairperson of the 17th session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-17) with Dr. M. Green and to announce to you that the APRSAF-17 will be held from 23 to 26 November 2010 in Melbourne, Australia.

This Forum will jointly be organized and co-sponsored by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR), Australian Government, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The APRSAF was established in 1993 in response to the declaration adopted by the Asia-Pacific International Space Year Conference (APIC) in 1992, to enhance the development of each country's space program and to exchange views toward future cooperation in space activities in the Asia-Pacific region. The APRSAF has held sixteen annual meetings organized jointly by the MEXT, JAXA, and co-host organizations of countries participating in the APRSAF, to discuss current space-related issues and possible cooperation among countries mainly in the region.

While the APRSAF has been an active forum to promote cooperative activities to resolve common and timely problems shared in the region, the APRSAF-17 will be held under the main theme entitled "The role of space technology and industry in addressing climate change" with the aim of improving the quality of life of people through enhancing use of space-based systems, activities and services.

The APRSAF-17 is going to have a plenary session, and 4 working groups (WGs): Earth Observation (EO) WG, Communication Satellite Applications (CSA) WG, Space Education and Awareness (SEA) WG and Space Environment Utilization (SEU) WG.

At the plenary session, we will have a summary report from the Sentinel Asia (Disaster Management Support System in the Asia-Pacific Region), SAFE (Satellite Applications For Environment) and STAR (Satellite Technology for the Asia-Pacific Region) program. Other topics will be informed in due course.

Once again, I look forward to seeing you in Melbourne for exchanging lively views toward future cooperation in space activities, and hope that the APRSAF-17 will contribute to further cooperation in space activities in the Asia-Pacific region.