

15 May 2017

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The 24th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum **(APRSAF-24)**

“Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development”

14-17 November 2017, Bengaluru, India

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the co-organizers, we are pleased to announce that the 24th session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-24) will take place from 14 to 17 November 2017 in Bengaluru, India, under the theme entitled “Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development.” APRSAF-24 will be jointly organized by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT), and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

Space technology, as one of the most informative and practical tools for earth observation, has greatly contributed to tackling various global issues including natural disasters, global warming and climate change. It is used not only for assessing and monitoring the impact, but also for informed decision making to address these issues. Earth observation data, integrated with in-situ observations, support a host of applications in the areas of socio-economic security, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and governance. The capabilities of satellite communication and navigation are being exploited for delivering an array of societal applications towards education and health, connectivity, livelihood sustenance and location based services. Many of these applications and services have been effectively used and adopted by stakeholder departments for operational use in many countries. We believe that further maximization of space technology applications for decision making by governments will promote sustainable socio-economic development and lead us to a better future. This also calls for the optimized expenditure on space based activities due to the current global economic situation.

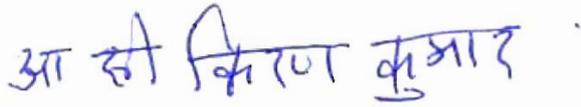
APRSAF-24 will bring together leading players in the space sector in the region as well as the stakeholders and relevant entities that have been actively involved in, or interested in, space endeavors and regional collaborations. We warmly welcome new participants, not only from space agencies, but also from relevant ministries, user organizations of space technologies, development

aid agencies, the private sector, universities, and international/regional organizations. As an open and flexible framework for regional cooperation, APRSAF encourages voluntary participation by anyone who is interested in its work.

Further details of APRSAF-24, including the program and associated events as well as travel arrangements and logistics, will be made available on our website (http://www.aprsaf.org/annual_meetings/aprsaf24/meeting_details.php) soon.

We sincerely hope that you will join us at APRSAF-24, and we look forward to welcoming you and your colleagues in Bengaluru in November 2017.

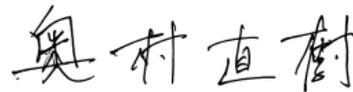
Sincerely,



A. S. Kiran Kumar
Chairman
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
India



Mami Oyama
Deputy Director General
Research and Development Bureau
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,
Science and Technology of Japan



Naoki Okumura
President
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency



The 24th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSaf-24)

“Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development”

14-17 November 2017, Bengaluru, India

Background

The Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSaf) was established in 1993. In the 24 years of its history, it has contributed to solving various problems in the Asia-Pacific region by using space technology and its applications. APRSaf has become the largest forum in the area and to date, Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the Philippines and Vietnam have hosted the APRSaf sessions.

The last session, the 23rd session of APRSaf (APRSaf-23), was convened in Manila, the Philippines, under the theme entitled “Building a Future through Space Science, Technology and Innovation” and was jointly organized by the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development - Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines (DOST-PCIEERD), MEXT and JAXA. A total of 576 people from 33 countries and regions, and 10 international organizations participated in the session. APRSaf-23 adopted recommendations as a result of discussions in the plenary session and proposals from the four working groups: Space Applications Working Group (SAWG), Space Technology Working Group (STWG), Space Environment Utilization Working Group (SEUWG), and Space Education Working Group (SEWG).
<Recommendations of APRSaf-23: https://aprsaf.org/annual_meetings/aprsaf23/recommend.php>

This year, the 24th session of APRSaf (APRSaf-24) will be held under the theme entitled “Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development” to share information about the activities and future plans of each country and region, and to discuss further cooperation in these respective areas. The plenary session will feature information-exchange sessions on space policies and the latest programs of each country, as well as discussions on common regional issues and interests.

APRSaf promotes concrete regional cooperation using space technology through open and voluntary participation. To reflect a broad range of views and voices, APRSaf highly encourages participation from diverse organizations such as space agencies, relevant ministries, user organizations of space technologies, development aid agencies, the private sector, universities, and international/regional organizations.

APRSAF-24

Date and Venue

Dates: 14-17 November 2017

Venue: TBD Bengaluru

Organizers

APRSAF-24 will be co-organized by the following organizations:

India: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Japan: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT)
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

Main Theme

Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development

Overall Schedule

■Plenary and Working Groups

The first and second day of APRSAF-24 (14-15 November) will be devoted to sessions of the four working groups: Space Applications Working Group (SAWG), Space Technology Working Group (STWG), Space Environment Utilization Working Group (SEUWG), and Space Education Working Group (SEWG). The four working groups will hold sessions in parallel.

The plenary session will take place on the third and fourth day of APRSAF-24 (16-17 November). The session will feature reports by APRSAF participating countries focusing on space policy as well as their space activities. There will also be reports from APRSAF Working Groups and Initiatives: the Sentinel Asia (disaster management support system in the Asia-Pacific region), SAFE (Space Applications For Environment), and Kibo-ABC (Asian Beneficial Collaboration Through “Kibo” Utilization). Special panel discussions by heads of agencies are planned at the main plenary session to be held on Friday, 17 November.

■APRSAF Activities

On 13 November, workshops will be conducted by two APRSAF Initiatives: SAFE and Kibo-ABC. Water Rocket Event, Poster Contest, and Exhibition will also take place prior to or in parallel with APRSAF-24.

For more details, please see Appendix-A.

APRSaf Side Event

An “APRSaf Side Event” is a meeting, conference, or similar event proposed and performed by APRSAF participating organizations during the APRSAF annual session. The APRSAF Secretariat is now accepting proposals for APRSAF Side Events and the closing date for submission is **30 June 2017**. The Guidelines and Application Form are in **Appendix-B**. Relevant information is available on the APRSAF website: http://www.aprsaf.org/annual_meetings/aprsaf24/side_events.php

Points of Contact for APRSAF-24

Please direct all inquiries concerning APRSAF-24 to:

Ms. Kumiko Tanabe

APRSaf-24 Secretariat, c/o Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

Ochanomizu Sola City, 4-6 Kandasurugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 101-8008, Japan

E-mail: secretariat@aprsaf.org / FAX: +81-3-5209-3205

Other Matters

Further details about APRSAF-24, including program updates, logistics arrangements and online registration will be made available in due course. Please check for the latest information on the APRSAF website at <http://www.aprsaf.org>.

Information about the APRSAF will also be provided via APRSAF News Mail and APRSAF News Letter. To subscribe to them, please visit https://www.aprsaf.org/newsmails_newsletters/form/.

Participation in APRSAF-24 is free, although participants are responsible for covering their travel and accommodation costs.

Attachments

Appendix-A Tentative Program of APRSAF-24

Appendix-B APRSAF Side Event Guidelines and Application Form

APRSAF-24 Program (Tentative)

	Monday, 13 November	Tuesday, 14 November	Wednesday, 15 November	Thursday, 16 November	Friday, 17 November
	INITIATIVE WS	WORKING GROUPS	WORKING GROUPS	PLENARY	MAIN PLENARY
9:30	SAFE WS Kibo-ABC WS	SA WG ST WG SEU WG SE WG	SA WG ST WG SEU WG SE WG	Country and Organization Reports: Focus on Policy	Opening Ceremony
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch
	SAFE WS Kibo-ABC WS	SA WG ST WG SEU WG SE WG	SA WG ST WG SEU WG SE WG		Heads of Agency Session
					Executive Panel Discussion
				ISRO Facility Tour	Space Leaders' Roundtable
17:45			ISRO Special Events		Joint Statement
		Evening Session TBD	Evening Session TBD	Reception TBD	Evening Session TBD

* Time or title of each session is subject to change. Details will be announced in due course.



APRSAF Side Event Guidelines

1. An “APRSAF Side Event” is a meeting, conference, contest, outdoor event, or other similar event, relating to the peaceful uses of outer space, proposed and performed by APRSAF participating organizations, such as a ministry, space agency, university, academic society, international organization and private company. This is distinct from an “APRSAF Activity,” which is a meeting, conference, contest, outdoor event, or other similar activity born in the plenary meeting, working groups or initiatives of APRSAF including, but not limited, workshops held by initiatives and Water Rocket Event.
2. The proposed side event should be related to APRSAF goals and objectives, and be relevant to the theme of the APRSAF annual session in any way possible. As general guidelines, side events should:
 - i. Address the common interests of the Asia-Pacific region;
 - ii. Meet the societal needs of the region; and
 - iii. Be implemented through regional collaborative efforts, rather than bilateral efforts.
3. Side events may be held on any day during the APRSAF annual session, and are open to all participants of the APRSAF annual session, but are independent from the APRSAF program.
4. If the proposed event aimed for an exclusive audience (such as a closed conference), organizers are advised to consider alternative locations outside the APRSAF venue.
5. Organizations interested in hosting a side event should use the APRSAF Side Event Application Form to obtain approval from the co-organizers of APRSAF and the APRSAF Executive Committee. Upon receipt of the form, the co-organizers and the Committee will review the event purpose and description. As a result of the review by them, the APRSAF Secretariat might decline the application.
6. All side events will appear in APRSAF announcements, but publicizing the event is the responsibility of the event organizers. Printed materials can be distributed

during the APRSAF annual session, but the APRSAF Secretariat will authorize removal of materials considered to be inappropriate.

7. Side event organizers should, on their own responsibility, arrange a meeting room and all equipment they need for the event. The APRSAF Secretariat will play no role in the arrangement of the venue, and all costs of the events shall be covered by the event organizers.
8. A Side Event Application Form should be submitted via e-mail to the address below, about four months before the APRSAF annual session. The specific submission deadline will appear in the Application Form. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

APRSAF Secretariat

Tel: +81-50-3362-5880 Fax: +81-3-5209-3205 E-mail: secretariat@aprsaf.org

9. Side event organizers will receive written notification of the acceptance or rejection of their application following a review by the co-organizers and the Executive Committee.
10. Side event organizers should report the results of their side event to the APRSAF Secretariat after completion of the event.

For further information, please contact:

APRSAF Secretariat

Ochanomizu Sola City, 4-6 Kandasurugadai,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8008 Japan

Tel: +81-50-3362-5880

Fax: +81-3-5209-3205

E-mail: secretariat@aprsaf.org

The 24th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum
14 - 17 November 2017

APRSAF-24 Side Event Application Form

Submission Deadline: 30 June 2017

Organization:

Contact Person:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Description of the organization (400 words) or attach your organization/company brochure:

Title of the Event:

Event Purpose (400 words):

Event Description (400 words):

Preferred Date(s):

13 Nov.

14 Nov.

15 Nov.

16 Nov.

17 Nov.

Other ()

I have read and understood the APRSAF Side Event Guidelines. All costs related to the side event will be covered by:

Name of Organization:

Signature:

Printed Name:
