

Japan Item 9 – “Space and sustainable development”

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Japan is convinced that space technology and international cooperation are indispensable for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In June 2020, the Japanese government updated the Basic Plan on Space Policy to include Japan's contributions to the SDGs by leveraging space technology.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Allow me to share some examples of our contributions to this end.

Japan has been promoting the utilization of “Kibo” to maximize its outcomes. Various experiments have been conducted aboard the Japanese Experiment Module including on material/physical science, medical science, life science, and capacity building. Such experiments are expected to contribute to SDGs 3, 4, 9, and 17.

One example is the high-quality protein crystal growth experiment aboard “Kibo.” The detailed information of protein crystals obtained from this experiment is expected to contribute to the design of innovative drugs for infectious diseases, cancer, and lifestyle-related diseases.

In addition to this, Japan is contributing to the capacity building of developing and emerging countries. We provide them with opportunities to deploy CubeSats from “Kibo” through programs such as “KiboCUBE.” So far, CubeSats developed by teams from Kenya, Guatemala, and Mauritius, winners of the first, second and third round, have been deployed from the ISS through the KiboCUBE programme. Each of the CubeSats is their country’s first satellite. Japan hopes that the experiences acquired in the KiboCUBE programme will be applied to developing their future satellites. Currently, teams from Indonesia, Moldova, SICA, Mexico and Tunisia, the winners of the third to sixth rounds, are developing their CubeSats.

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Japan promotes the utilization of satellite data to address global challenges such as disaster risk reduction, climate change, and deforestation, data which is expected to

contribute to a wide range of SDGs.

By leveraging the knowledge gained by utilizing L-band radar and optical Earth observation satellite data, Japan was able to publish the annual global mangrove map, called “Global Mangrove Watch” for free. In 2020, this map was designated by UNEP as the official mangrove dataset for SDG 6.6.1 reporting. We hope that these data can be used to support decision making for the sustainable conservation of mangroves.

Another example is an international cooperative project for disaster monitoring in the Asia-Pacific region, known as “Sentinel Asia.” This is a collaborative project in the region to reduce damage caused by natural disasters by sharing disaster-related information acquired from satellite images and other data with 94 organizations from 28 countries and regions as well as 17 international organizations. Last year, 33 emergency observations were conducted. The latest case was the Tropical Depression Agaton in the Philippines.

Japan also promotes research and development for a range of Earth observation satellites that contribute to forest monitoring, estimation of sink and sources of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases with the aim to combat climate change, and prevent health hazards caused by air pollution through the release of aerosol data.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Japan firmly believes that space technology has the potential to support sustainable development and we will continue to contribute to this important issue.

Thank you for your kind attention.