

Japan Item 8 – “Space and sustainable development”

Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Japan is convinced that space technology and international cooperation are indispensable to achieving 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 using space technology. Japan would like to continue to provide its unwavering support for the achievement of the SDGs.

Chair,

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

Japan has been promoting the use of the Japanese Experiment Module “Kibo” on the ISS to maximize its outcomes. Various experiments have been conducted aboard Kibo 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 development of innovative drugs to combat cancer as well as infectious and life-style related diseases.

Japan has also contributed to building the capacity of developing and emerging space faring countries. Through programs such as KiboCUBE, we are able to offer various countries the opportunity to deploy their own developed CubeSats from Kibo. So far, CubeSats developed by teams of academic researchers from Kenya, Guatemala, Mauritius, Indonesia, and Moldova, the winners of the first, second, third and fourth round, have been deployed from Kibo. With the exception of Indonesia, each of the CubeSats is their country’s first satellite. Japan hopes that the experience gained from each country in the KiboCUBE programme can be applied to the development of their future satellites. Teams from SICA, Mexico and Tunisia, the winners of the fifth and sixth rounds, are currently developing their

CubeSats.

Chair,

Japan is expected to contribute to a wide range of SDGs with satellite data. Such critical data can address global challenges in the field of disaster risk reduction, climate change and deforestation.

By leveraging the knowledge gained from the use of L-band radar and optical Earth observation satellite data, Japan was able to publish the annual global mangrove map, known as “Global Mangrove Watch” free of charge. 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 whereby disaster-related information acquired from satellite images and other data is shared with 96 organizations from 29 countries and regions as well as 17 international organizations. Last year, 28 emergency observations were conducted. The latest case was a landslide in Indonesia.

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.

Chair,

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.