

Agenda Item 9– “Space-system-based Disaster Management Support”

---

On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I am pleased to present some of Japan’s recent initiatives and international cooperation activities related to this agenda item.

Recognizing the importance of the use of space technology in disaster management systems and of international cooperation, Japan has been leading a disaster management regional project called “Sentinel Asia”. Asia is often affected by a range of natural disasters, such as floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and typhoons. Sentinel Asia contributes to preventing, mitigating, and reducing damage from these kinds of disasters by co-sharing satellite data in the region. Over 100 organizations in the Asia-Pacific region participate in this framework and more than 300 emergency observations have been conducted in total since its launch in 2006.

One of Sentinel Asia’s remarkable characteristics is that it is composed of space agencies, disaster management organizations and international organizations. Recently Sentinel Asia has been working to build a stronger link with the disaster management community and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Last November, JAXA and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) co-organized Sentinel Asia’s annual general assembly meeting, called the “Joint Project Team Meeting (JTPM)” in Bangkok, Thailand. On this occasion, JAXA organized a one-day training workshop, to support member organizations to fully benefit from Sentinel Asia’s emergency observation mechanism. During the training workshop, experts from Sentinel Asia member organizations took turns in conducting trainings in the fields of their respective expertise. Shortly after the training workshop, Sentinel Asia received emergency observation requests from the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) of Fiji and the Central-Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences (CAIAG) of Kyrgyz Republic and promptly responded to them. It was an opportune moment to put our training into practice in real time. We are convinced that Sentinel Asia manifests the spirit of true cooperation, and that it has contributed greatly to strengthening preparedness and thus resilience to respond in an emergency, as stated in the Sendai Framework. Japan is fully committed to continuing its support for Sentinel Asia for the benefit of people in this disaster-prone region.

Now, I would like to share with you a case in which Japan benefited from space technologies and from international cooperation partners. In October 2019 typhoon Hagibis brought record-breaking rainfall and strong winds to eastern Japan causing widespread, devastating floods and mudflows. Over 100 people were killed, approximately 500 people were injured, and an innumerable number of houses were destroyed or affected by the disaster. Immediately after the disaster, a substantial amount of satellite data was offered to Japan by Sentinel Asia, the International Disaster Charter, and Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI). The data was useful to authorities engaged in emergency response activities and we were greatly encouraged by the support. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to all of you who extended Japan a helping hand during this time.

I would like to reiterate that space technology has a great role in managing natural disasters, and Japan will continue to strengthen international cooperation in this field.

Thank you for your attention.