UNISPACE+50
Space Symposium
Heads of Space Agencies Panel

Statement by KARI Representative

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Opening Remark

Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues,

I'm honored to be here today representing KARI.

I would like to thank COPUOS Member States and UNOOSA (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs) for inviting space agencies to this important event.

It is important to recognize that all space agencies, irrespective of the size of their space programs or technological capabilities, are participants in the exploration and use of outer space.

In that sense, KARI will also take part in contributing to the 'Space 2030' Agenda, as an implementing body of South Korea's space program.

KARI Contribution to 'Space 2030' Agenda

Earlier this year, Korean government established the "3rd Master Plan for Space Development and Promotion."

Under this plan, KARI will develop and operate a number of satellite series.

Currently, KARI operates 1 GEO satellite and 4 LEO satellites for earth observation that may contribute to UN-SPIDER and International Charter. By 2030, we'll launch more than 30 additional satellites that would be able to service a wide range of applications.

In the geostationary orbit, we will place a pair of follow-on satellites by next year. These satellites will perform meteorological observation, ocean and Earth environmental monitoring as well as space weather observation.

In the low-earth orbit, in addition to upgrading the high resolution optical and radar satellite fleet that we now operate, a new series of medium-class satellites will be introduced to cater to public sector demands in areas such as land, forestry, and water resource management, with the initial launch taking place next year. By the mid-2020s, they will be joined by a constellation of micro-satellites dedicated for satellite-based disaster monitoring.

In addition, KARI envisions becoming a provider of satellite navigation service in the next decades. We will begin by servicing an augmentation signal from geostationary orbits around 2020. As a next step, we will build a regional navigation satellite system by the 2030s. KARI also plans to build communications satellites in the coming decades.

These satellite systems, as part of global satellite-based infrastructure, will serve to advance the societal and economic benefits of satellite applications

KARI's space activities are not limited to satellite development and operation.

We are currently developing a lunar orbiter, scheduled to be launched in 2020. This will mark Korea's first space exploration mission. It would also become one of the first exploration missions to be carried out by a latecomer country in space.

As KARI continues to engage in space exploration, we seek to establish new partnerships and join the efforts in making space exploration activities more open and inclusive on a global scale.

KARI also seeks to become a contributor to capacity building.

We are now exploring ways to establish a partnership with UNOOSA, and a joint declaration will be signed during UNISPACE+50 toward this end. As an initial step, we plan to host a joint event with UNOOSA next year, in conjunction with the ten-year anniversary of KARI's International Space Training – KARIST.

KARIST is a 2-week long training program offered to participants from countries with nascent space activities. So far, 215 participants from 31 countries have attended this program. As a latecomer, KARI understands the challenges and needs of new comers in space; sharing KARI's experience and knowledge would prove to be valuable to them.

Concluding Remark

Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues,

I believe that space agencies, including KARI, would be able to make greater contribution to 'Space 2030' Agenda if we engage in cooperative initiatives. I welcome suggestions from other space agencies and the broader space community for working together to achieve our shared goals.

Thank you for your attention.