

**Introductory Remarks**  
**Presented by NAITO Yasushi, Consul-General of Japan in Perth**  
**On the occasion of the “Innovation and Sustainability Opportunities with Japan” session**  
**at the Indo-Pacific Space and Earth Conference (IPSEC)**  
**Monday October 23, 2023**

Good afternoon,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Before I make my introductory remarks ahead of this session’s panel, I would like to thank the organizers for the invitation extended me to participate this conference.

I was surprised during my preparation for this event to learn of the considerable depth of cooperation between Japan and Australia on space was long established and producing concrete achievements. Indeed, bilateral scientific collaboration was formalized way back in 1980 through a research and development cooperation treaty in science and technology.

After decades of collaboration between Australian Space Agency (ASA) and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) including having JAXA’s ground station in Australia, the formal memorandum of cooperation on space utilization was signed between ASA and JAXA in 2020.

In December of the same year, with the cooperation of Australia, the capsule of the asteroid explorer Hayabusa 2 was recovered, as had that of Hayabusa 1 in 2010, in Woomera in South Australia. The samples by Hayabusa 2 from asteroid Ryugu containing five and a half grams of the most pristine pieces of the solar system ever to be studied, were analyzed by many experts, and were found to contain amino acids that could have given rise to life on Earth.

Furthermore when we received Prime Minister Kishida to Perth exactly one year ago, at the Japan-Australia Summit with Prime Minister Albanese on 22nd October 2022, a statement was issued that Australia would support Japan's MMX (Martian Moons eXploration), which is scheduled to be launched in 2024, and scheduled to bring back geo-samples from Phobos, one of Mars two moons in 2029.

In this way, the Japan-Australia partnership in the space field is expanding and this likely to continue. We are also glad to know that provision of data by JAXA at the 2019-2020 bush fire disaster in Australia has been highly appreciated by CSIRO.

Indeed, in November 2024, APRSAF (the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum) will be held in Perth, co-hosted by MEXT (Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), JAXA and Australia.

We are happy to have JAXA officials participating IPSEC today including Ms TATESHITA Yumiko, Executive Secretary of APRSAF who will make presentation on APRSAF tomorrow.

But briefly, APRSAF was established in 1993 to enhance space activities in Asia Pacific regions. It is an open and flexible regional cooperative framework including sharing of data for disaster management, holding annual forums in different countries.

The milestone 30th forum of APRSAF (APRSAF-30) will be held next year, in November 2024 in Perth thanks to Western Australian Government, where over five hundred of space experts and officials from more than 40 countries gather to discuss a range of cooperation in space in the region. As a recent trend of space cooperation is innovation application with industries and start-ups, there is no better place than Perth to host the biggest regional meeting for space, as Perth is global mining capital showcasing automatic mining operation at extreme condition by remote central operation system.

I had the privilege of visiting the West Angelas Mine in Pilbara Rio Tinto and Mitsui Iron Ore JV. There gigantic driverless Komatsu trucks and driverless Hitachi rail, the heaviest and longest Robot in the Guinness Book of Records were operating massively and controlled from operation center near Perth Airport. Thus, Japanese industries have accumulation of knowledge and experience in this field.

Additionally, in June this year, the Japanese government decided on a new Basic Plan on Space Policy, which sets out the direction of the country's space policy for the next 10 years. The Space Policy aims the space system to contribute solving various issues on the earth in collaboration with industries and start-ups.

The Basic Plan also includes Space Security Initiative to collaborate with likeminded countries to maintain stable use of and free access to outer space and to secure safety of nationals from threats through use of space systems.

With those introductory remarks, I look forward to hearing the panel's thoughts on the opportunities for companies, institutions and experts to work with Japan in the space.

Thank you for your attention.

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