

Executive Comment

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He graduated Kyoto University graduate school of engineering.

He joined The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in 1976. He has been engaged in the space communication policy related work and he occupied space-related important positions such as the head of space communication Policy Division. Now, he controls the whole technological policy including the research and development and the standardization in the telecommunication field including the space communication.

Introduction

I was appointed as the Director-General for Technology Policy Coordination, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) in August last year and I am now controlling Space related R&D at MIC. I had been engaged in space communication field for total of 7 years that include the 5 years work at Space Communications Policy Division, and the work at the Defense Agency. As one of the people involved in space R&D, I think that the activities of the Japan Forum on Satellite Communication in the satellite communication field are very joyous.

Basic strategy on space development and utilization

In September, 2004, "The Basic Strategy for Space Development and Utilization in Japan" that had foreseen about ten years in the future was arranged in Council for

Science and Technology Policy that played a center role in studying the way of the space development and utilization of our country. In this basic strategy, importance of the space development and utilization is confirmed as the national strategic technology, showing the improvement of securing people's safeties, the development of economy and society, and the quality of the people's life.

Approach for securing safety

Recently, correspondences for securing the safety of the people are requested from the events of large-scale disasters occurred inside and outside the country including the Niigata Prefecture Chuetsu-earthquake in 2004. The expectation rises to space communication system that has definite advantages in anti-disaster, the broadcasting ability, and the large service area, and the MIC will progress the further approach for securing safety, improving the crisis-management system and the disaster information system.

Discussion for decision of the third stage Science and Technology Basic Plan

Moreover, the discussion for the third stage Science and Technology Basic Plan that provides basic direction of the science and technology policy for five years until 2010 is undergoing. I think that the approach for the technology improvement in space communication field causes the rapid progress of the technology in a wide field, and it doesn't stay only in the filed of space development and it is necessary to discuss space communication development more widely.

Approach of the Ministry of Internal affairs and communications

The launch schedule of the satellite that has been vague because of launch failures has become bright by the launch success of H-II A F7 last year. MIC will positively support the satellite communication R&D activities, advancing the development of Engineering Test Satellite-VIII (ETS - VIII) and Wideband InterNetworking engineering test and Demonstration Satellite (WINDS).

Bright topics surrounding space R&D activities

In the trend of a recent space development and utilization, the following, bright topics are seen.

- Manned space vehicle "Shenzhou No.6" was launched in China in October, 2005. It achieved the flight time of about 105 and a half hours that were five times long period of about 21 hours in the Shenzhou V flight in October, 2003.
- Galileo Project is advanced in Europe, and the Galileo satellite for the verification is scheduled to be launched by the end of this year.
- Astronaut Noguchi went the space station by space shuttle "Discovery" in July this year, and executed extravehicular activities (assembly and the repair of the International Space Station) three times in total.
- "Hayabusa" launched in May, 2003 landed, for the first time in the world, on planetoid "Itocawa" in November this year. Return to the earth is scheduled in 2007.
- TRMM (Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission) that had been launched in November, 1997 offered rainfall 3D data of hurricane "KATRINA" that had caused big damage to the United States southern part in August this year. TRMM is operating normally although more than eight years has passed after its launch.
- H- II A F8 was successfully launched on January 24, 2006, and the Advanced Land Observing Satellite "Daichi" has been put into the orbit.
- H- II A F9 was successfully launched on February 18, 2006, and the Multi-functional Transport Satellite 2 (MTSAT-2) has been put into geostationary orbit.

Expectation for AIAA JFSC

Now, the satellite communication service that started by BS-CS about 20 years ago has developed into big businesses. It will be indispensable to concentrate wisdom of industries, universities and government for a further leap of the space communication activities in the future. Therefore, the activity of the AIAA Japan Forum on Satellite Communication composed of the people with the enterprise, the university, and the official body is expected to become a strong spark plug for the future evolution of the space communication.

This concludes my comment.