

Attending APRSAF-17

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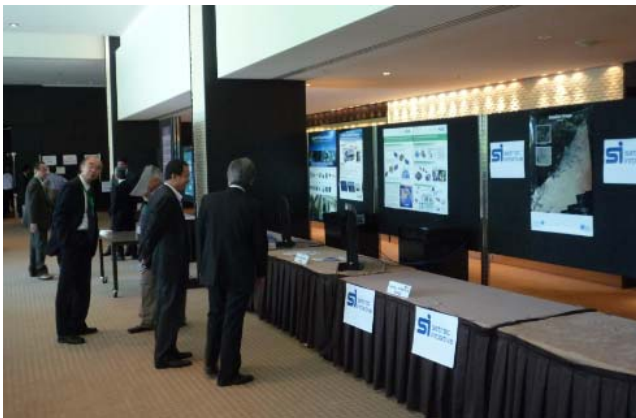
Special Advisory of the Editorial Board

The 17th Session of the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-17) was held in Melbourne, Australia from 23rd November to 26th November, 2010. The APRSAF was inaugurated under the leadership of Japan in 1993 in order to build up space related activities in Asia Pacific region. Space agencies, government organizations, international organizations, industrial firms, universities and research institutes among this region gather in the forum and have opportunities to discuss international collaboration in space related activities. Now, the forum consists of four working groups, Earth Observation WG, Communication Satellite Applications WG (CSAWG), Space Education and Awareness WG and Space Environment Utilization WG. The author attended the CSAWG and reports mainly about the sessions held at CSAWG.

The venue of the forum was Crown Conference Center located in the Crown Promenade Hotel in Melbourne City. The WGs were held on 23rd and 24th and a plenary session which wrap up and conclude the forum was held on 25th and 26th.



▲ Entrance of the Crown Promenade Hotel



▲ Exhibition by participating organizations

The number of the attendee to CSAWG was 29 from 5 countries (Japan, Australia, Indonesia, Chili, Thailand) and 2 international organizations (SIAP: United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, UNOOSA: United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs).

Prof. Parfit from University of South Australia and Mr. Hiroki Kohata from JAXA served as co-chairmen of the CSAWG.

5 sessions were held in sequence and the outlines of the discussions are as follows.

First Day

Session 1 Communications Satellite System and Applications

First, JAXA made a presentation on its satellite related programs and activities. Then Optus, MELCO, Intelsat and JSAT made their presentations on their organizations and their activities in the satellite field. Various active discussions were made related on the plan of commercialization, hosted payloads, cost sharing, science, GPS applications and future Ka band utilizations.

Session 2 Activity report on the Communication satellite Application Satellite System Experiment

JAXA, NEC and JAMSS made a presentation respectively on the results of their experiments using WINDS satellite. Information of various applications such as tele-education, remote diagnosis, Internet broadband communication, image transmission were exchanged and issues on the rain attenuation effects in Ka-band and possibilities of cooperative experiments in Asia Pacific region were discussed.



▲ CSAWG session

Session 3 Activity report on the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)

Concerning to the satellite positioning system, JAXA explained the outline of the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS). UNOOSA made introductory presentation on the activities of a committee (Secretariat: UNOOSA) on global navigation satellite system. It is pointed out that many GNSS systems such as GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, Beidou, IRNSS(indo), QZSS are operated or planned in Asia and therefore the concern on the interoperability of these system is very high in this region. There were lots of discussions on the various applications using GNSS in the session.

An Australian participant told that the Australia is providing the place of monitoring stations for many GNSS system and is highly concerned with the GNSS. As for the QZSS, Australia is expecting the improvements of positioning accuracy using its downlink augmentation signal.



▲ CSAWG session

Session 4 GNSS Workshop Report

A report was presented on the 2nd Asia Oceania Regional Workshop on GNSS held before the APRSAF. In the report, proposals of an experiment on the usage of plural GNSS system simultaneously were explained and information on receivers which corresponds to plural GNSS system was provided.

Second Day

Session 5 Activity reports on the Communications Satellite Application (Cont'd)

Consecutively to the session 2 in the first day, NICT, ARIB, Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB) and SIAP made a presentation respectively on the results of their experiments using WINDS satellite. And the Bureau of Meteorology, LAPAN (National Institute of Aeronautics and Space, Indonesia) and Chilean Space Agency (Chile) made a presentation respectively on their activities in satellite communication system developments, studies and plans toward practical usage and necessity of satellite systems for each

country.

After the 5 sessions described above, a concluding session was held and recommendations from CSAWG for the plenary session was discussed and wrapped up as follows.

(cf. http://www.aprsaf.org/annual_meetings/aprsaf17/recommendation.php)

Communication Satellite Applications

Agree to share the experiences and opportunities in order to expand the use of applications regarding tele-education, tele-medicine, disaster management and mitigation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Agree to discuss mechanisms for technology transfer with the aim of not only demonstration but also continuous use including possibilities for hosted payloads with appropriate planning with the active participation of private sector.

Recognize achievements of the WINDS satellite experiments promoted with the Asia-Pacific regional cooperation through the APRSAF.

Welcome the successful launch of the QZS-1 satellite and the establishment of the Multi GNSS demonstration campaign in the second Asia Oceania regional workshop on GNSS, and recommend the promotion of the Multi GNSS applications through the campaign with support of APRSAF.