

Opening Remarks
by
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The Second ARF Space Security Workshop
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Welcome to Japan! Welcome to the second ARF Space Security Workshop.

Almost two years have passed since Viet Nam and Australia co-hosted the first workshop in Vietnam. Since then, many countries have intensified their space activities.

Meanwhile, the collision risks that arise from increasing numbers of satellites and space-debris are becoming imminent. Securing safe and sustainable use of space is becoming ever more important. Thus, it is timely for us to gather here today for this workshop.

I am pleased to welcome about eighty government officials and experts from twenty-four ARF members. I sincerely thank everyone for your participation. My deep appreciation also goes to our co-hosts, the United States and Indonesia, as well as Australia, whose support was indispensable for making this workshop take place.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed Japan's determination to further contribute to the peace and stability of this region and the world. This is the policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation. In today's changing security environment, no country can maintain its peace alone. Under the banner of "Proactive Contribution to Peace," cooperation with ARF members is more essential than ever. Outer

space cooperation is no exception.

Through this workshop, I would like you to discuss and think together various benefits the use of space provides in the Asia Pacific region, and what we should do in order to secure safe and sustainable use of space. I am also confident that the workshop provides a good opportunity in terms of confidence building and preventive diplomacy promoted by the ARF.

Today, our social and economic activities rely on the 3,500 orbiting satellites for communication, broadcasting, positioning system such as GPS and natural disaster monitoring. If you turn your eyes to foreign and security policy, space assets such as communication and positioning systems are inseparably linked to military operations.

With no safe and sustainable access to satellites and other space assets, our social and economic activities would be hampered and our national security threatened.

In fact, as space becomes ever more crowded along with increasing number of satellites, satellite collisions are becoming a reality and the number of space debris is ballooning every year. Anti-satellite testing (ASAT) scatters debris in the outer space, thereby posing a serious threat to the safe and sustainable use of space as a global commons.

Against this backdrop, Japan places a great emphasis on the following three points to secure a safe and sustainable use of space.

The first is rule-making. Japan aims to develop international rules which provide a common understanding for the entire international community to deal with increasing space debris and actions that may cause instability in outer space.

Unfortunately, conflicts of interests among increasing number of space-users have impeded the formulation of a new treaty on outer space. Nobody would argue that it would take enormous amount of time and work to draft one in the near future.

Under such circumstances, the “International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities” proposed by EU in 2008 is worth keeping our attention. Its details will be introduced in the course of this workshop. This ICOC is not legally binding. But it may become an effective solution for minimizing both the possibility of collisions and the increase of space debris. Japan will continue to make an active contribution to its discussion in the belief that the ICOC will play a huge role in securing safe and sustainable use of space. I would like to call upon all ARF members to deepen their understandings on the significance and necessity of the code and work together to make it an effective one.

The second point that Japan attaches importance to is international cooperation. Cooperation with other countries is crucial to realizing effective and safe use of the vast outer space. A good example is the Space Situational Awareness. SSA leads to a lower risk of space collisions by observing the situation of space through earth-based light microscopes and radar facilities. Another example is the Sentinel Asia initiative on which Japan is taking a lead. It aims to mitigate damage caused by natural disasters and prevent them in disaster-prone Asia-Pacific region by using satellites.

Finally, the third is dialogues. Japan gives a high regards to dialogues to communicate with other countries and discuss possible cooperation from commercial as well as security perspectives. The day before yesterday marked the first “Japan-EU Space Policy Dialogue.” Japan and the United states hold a “Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space.” Indeed, this workshop is also a manifestation of such efforts on our part to conduct dialogues with our colleagues of the ARF members.

This morning, I touched briefly upon the space diplomacy policy of Japan. I would be grateful if you would put these points in your mind while engaging in open and vigorous discussions in this workshop.

Please also enjoy the trip tomorrow to JAXA Space Center in Tsukuba and take a good look at Japan's space technology.

I would like to close my opening remarks by wishing for a successful workshop. Thank you very much.