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International cooperation in using space for sustainable development: Towards a ‘Space2030’ agenda (1)

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ROLE OF ASIA PACIFIC SPACE COOPERATION ORGANIZATION IN SUPPORTING
INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ATTAINMENT OF SPACE2030 AGENDA

Abstract

The international space community and the governments at large, have realized and emphasized that space tools are highly relevant for the attainment of the global development agendas (that include SDGs, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement) either directly, as enablers and drivers of sustainable development, or indirectly, by providing essential data for the indicators used to monitor the progress of global development agendas. The fulfillment of these global agendas requires improved access to space-based data and applications and space infrastructure, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries. The “Space2030” Agenda and its implementation plan being developed under the auspices of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer (UNOOSA) is a visionary and forward-looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of global agendas, addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind.

International cooperation is one of the key elements in attainment of the objectives of “Space2030” Agenda. Thus for actualization of the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan, importance is attached to global partnerships and strengthened cooperation among various stakeholders. The role of intergovernmental organizations is central to such cooperation. International/intergovernmental space organizations provide an effective mechanism through which resources could be pooled and complex technologies and applications could be developed relatively quickly and cheaply for mutual benefits.

In November 2018, the Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) celebrated its 10th Anniversary during which the Member States of APSCO signed the APSCO Development Vision-2030. This vision would steer APSCO to the next development phase, opening a new chapter in space cooperation and further enhancing prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. Owing to its unique mandate and position at promoting the international and regional cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space and regional governance of outer space activities, APSCO has developed its Vision 2030 in line with “Space2030” Agenda.

This paper provides a case study on how APSCO aligns its Vision 2030 with “Space2030” Agenda to support member states in achieving sustainable development goals through application of space technology. This paper covers APSCO’s role in promoting “Space2030” Agenda at the international and regional level. It also covers a detailed analysis of the programs and initiatives taken, including best practices and effective mechanisms of international cooperation, to utilize space technology for achieving global agendas, particularly “Space2030” Agenda.