

3rd IAASS Keynote Speech

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Congratulations to all for the third IAASS Conference. We are gathered here today, thanks to the efforts of President, Mr. Sgobba. Let me first express my deep appreciation for his efforts.

Exchanging information and opinions regarding space safety is extremely important. Not only for the International Space Station and future Moon & Mars exploration missions, but also for further progress of space development worldwide, it is essential to solicit participation of various sectors possible to discuss the way to assure safety.

With the state-of-the-art science and technology we, mankind, possess today, what and how should Safety, as a discipline, contribute in sending humans further away, to where no one has ever gone? Traditionally, safety was not the most important factor in spacecraft development. But, for future spacecrafts that will be more accessible to the general public than before, what should the role of space safety be? I am looking forward to discussing with, and sharing thoughts with, you, world-leaders of space safety.

Now I would like to introduce to the audience recent topics related to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, JAXA.

Two of three elements of the Japanese Experiment Module, or “KIBO” in Japanese, were mated with the on-orbit International Space Station successfully in March and June this year by Space Shuttle flights as you can see on the screen. KIBO has started its operation and experiments. To our delight, KIBO is performing more successfully than expected. Cooperation and support of International Partners were the keys to this success. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to all those who supported and continue to support KIBO.

Through the development of KIBO for the last two decades, we learned a lot about human space safety including safety requirements, safety assessment methodology, and safety review implementation. KIBO’s current success and JAXA’s human space safety achievement would not have been accomplished, except for the kind and sincere support by NASA.

Soyuz TMA-13 launched successfully on 12th of this month. Congratulations to our Russian Partner. Soyuz TMAs are crucial in continuing International Space Station operations. I know that Russian Partner worked very hard and thoroughly to increase safety of Soyuz

after the ballistic return of TMA-11 this past April.

This (on the screen) image of the earth is a very good symbol of JAXA achievements in the last year. This is a high-resolution picture taken by JAXA's lunar exploration spacecraft "KAGUYA" launched in September 2007. Although general public enthusiasm toward space seems to have withered since Apollo missions to the moon, I believe KAGUYA has reminded the Japanese public of the beauty, mystery and charm of space and has created opportunities to turn their eyes to space again. I am very proud of KAGUYA's achievements in this regard, needless to say, in addition to valuable scientific research results. KAGUYA's scientific achievements shall be published soon.

In March 2008, JAXA completed the first Mid-term Plan. The second Mid-term Plan covers April 2008 through 2013. During the first Mid-term Plan period, 8 (eight) H-IIA launch vehicles and 3 (three) M-V launch vehicles were launched; and 9 (nine) satellite missions were completed successfully. During this second period, the priority of JAXA was shifted from "R&D and demonstration of technology" to "utilization of technologies for society." JAXA is determined to go further along this direction in the second Mid-term Plan period, and put our emphasis on "contributions for the society and economy." JAXA will contribute in conserving environment with earth observation spacecrafts such as Greenhouse Gases Observation Satellite, GOSAT, and Global Change Observation Mission, G-COM, and in mitigating natural disasters with disaster monitoring spacecrafts. GOSAT launch is scheduled in the first year of the second Mid-term Plan period. We will also continue our endeavor to develop a new launch vehicle H-IIB that will be used for launching H-II Transfer Vehicle to carry cargos to the International Space Station as well as for launching Moon and Venus explorers.

The next year will be the year of change for JAXA. In May of this year, "Basic Space Law" was enacted. Space development in Japan is now going through vigorous governmental review. In August of this year, the Strategic Headquarters for Space Policy headed by the Prime Minister was established within the Cabinet Secretariat. This means that space development has given higher priority by the Government of Japan, and will be promoted in line with the over-all national strategy. We look forward to the new challenges and continued cooperation with you all.

Thank you for your attention.

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