

UN/JAPAN Workshop 2015 (Mar. 2, Mon)
Opening Remarks by President KUBO (9:00 a.m.-9:05 a.m.)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am Chiharu Kubo, President of Kyushu University.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Kimikazu IWASE (キミカズ・イワセ), Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to attend this opening ceremony despite his busy schedule. I appreciate Dr. Takao Doi (タカオ・ドイ) and Dr. Balogh(バルロー) from the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, and Dr. Nat Gopalswamy (ナツ・ゴパルスワミイ), Chair of SOC, Executive Director of ISWI, NASA, the United States of America, to participate in this important workshop.

And, I would like to welcome all space weather researchers and participants from all over the world. Welcome to Fukuoka!

During the next five days, more than 70 researchers from 33 countries will be able to discuss and debate the important issues of space weather. It is my great honor to host this workshop and receive participants from all over the world, under the auspices of the United Nations.

The specific host of this event is the International Center for Space Weather Science and Education, or as we call it, "Iku Sei (ICSWSE)". The center was re-established in 2012 with the purpose to push the frontiers of international space weather research and education forward. The efforts of Iku Sei to support the development of researchers in developing countries was recognized in The Abuja (アブジャ) Resolution, as a result of Iku Sei's strong commitment to International Space Weather Initiative. In terms of developing the technical and science skills of those working in developing countries, Iku Sei has shown its strong leadership. Also, Iku Sei has examined many of the outstanding problems of Geospace through the use of space engineering, physics, and mathematics. The crowning achievement of Iku Sei is the MAGDAS(マグダス) Project, where 93 magnetometers in 32 countries are sending data to Iku Sei in real time. As a result, we have a database containing 30 years worth of geomagnetic data.

Last September, Kyushu University was selected as one of the 13 venues for the 10 year-national project, "Top Global University Project," which aims to enhance the international compatibility and competitiveness of higher education in Japan. It is our hope that Iku Sei will play a vital role in this important initiative, and contribute to the further development of global human resources, and internationalization of the university itself.

In closing, I wish that all of you will find this workshop productive and meaningful. I thank all of you for participating in this United Nations event hosted by Kyushu University.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Professor YUMOTO in Kyushu University for his great contribution to research and education on space weather. Also, I would like to thank Professor HADA, Assistant Professor YOSHIKAWA and their team for their great efforts for organizing this event successfully. Thank you.

UN/Japan Space Weather Workshop, 2nd March, 2015

Good morning and おはようございます。

I am Kimikazu IWASE, Deputy Director-General for Policy Evaluation, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan. Thank you very much for having me here today. I would like to give a few words on behalf of the Government of Japan.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the workshop organizing committee members on having the UN/Japan Workshop on Space Weather this week here in Fukuoka, Japan. I would like to welcome all space science researchers and participants from all over the world.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) oversees the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and is committed to developing space science and technology.

Last December, MEXT and JAXA succeeded the launch of the Asteroid Explorer Hayabusa 2 and, I believe it was one of the biggest good news last year in Japan. Hayabusa 2 is now in an initial functional verification process operation.

Not only for these explorers but for many of the satellites, space storms can cause great damages. The Sun is often a quiet star, but occasionally it becomes violent and severely agitates the space environment around the Earth – creating hazards to astronauts, airplane passengers, artificial satellites and so on.

Thus, we are deeply aware that the research and education covered by this workshop is very important for the advancement of mankind into the applications, exploration, and exploitation, of outer space. Moreover, since coping with these complicated issues cannot be done by a single country alone, bringing together relevant researchers from all over the world by the United Nations, must be profoundly meaningful.

During this workshop, there must be excellent discussions and debates that can measurably lead to improving the safety and viability of the space environment both for humans and for machines.

For the space weather research, we have numbers of efforts. First, JAXA has a plan to launch a geospace exploration satellite, called Exploration of energization and Radiation in Geospace (ERG), in 2016. One of its missions is to reveal how space storms created and developed through the observation

of the electrons and ions near the equatorial plane in geospace. Of course, many of Japan's major space weather efforts will be highlighted during this workshop; for example, the global magnetometer network of Kyushu University, the large-structure radar of Kyoto University and NIPR, the solar observatories of NAOJ and Kyoto University, optical observations by Nagoya University, radio observations of planets by Tohoku University, and the cosmic ray investigations by Shinshu University. I also want to highlight this workshop's host - International Center for Space Weather Science and Education. This center has significantly contributed to the advancement of space weather research and education for more than a decade.

MEXT is very proud of these World Class and scientifically significant observation programs by Japanese institutions, and continues to support progresses in this area of study. The new Basic Space Plan, which was endorsed on January 9th of this year, also states that we should facilitate the advancement of space science on the basis of past achievements.

In closing, I would like to express my special thanks to the organizing staff for all of the work, time, and effort in preparing this important event. For these, I am confident that all participants of this workshop will enjoy great success during the next five days.

I hope you will take back to your country with good memories of Japan and of this workshop as well.

Thank you and ありがとうございます.