

Remarks by Director-General KAZEKI at the conference “Making Space Our Home: Technological challenges in Japan and France for a sustainable life in space”

Closing remarks

Kazeki Jun

Director-General, National Space Policy Secretariat, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

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Good evening, everyone. My name is Jun Kazeki, Director-General of the National Space Policy Secretariat, Cabinet Office. Thank you for inviting me to today's space conference, “Making Space Our Home: Technological challenges in Japan and France for a sustainable life in space”.

In this morning, I understand that French and Japanese representatives gave various presentations on the space exploration including the French strategy for exploration by Mr. Jean-Marc ASTORG, Director of Strategy, CNES, and the experience of living in space by astronaut, Mr. Akihiko Hoshide.

In the afternoon, I recognize that there were discussions about tools

to support astronauts including ensured mobility, radiation protection, and maintenance of health in space. I am also aware that there was a discussion regarding how industries can contribute to support human space activities.

Although Japan does not currently have its own manned launch vehicle, it has gained more than 30 years of experience in human space activities, starting with the first mission of astronaut Mr. Mamoru Mori on the Space Shuttle “Endeavour” in 1992. By March this year, Japan had conducted 26 crewed space missions, and the total time spent in space by JAXA’s astronauts had reached about 2,100 days.

JAXA has been involved in the International Space Station (ISS) program from the outset, working with the European Space Agency (ESA) where France is the one of core members. JAXA has been responsible for the construction and operation of the Japanese Experiment Module (JEM) ‘Kibo’ of the ISS. JAXA has also been involved in supplying the ISS with transporting materials using

Japanese Space Station Resupply Vehicle, called HTV Kounotori' series. Through this experience, Japan has acquired various technologies. They include pressurized structures, meteorite debris protection, air circulation and temperature and humidity control for the Kibo. When it comes to the HTV, one of important technologies is a safe approach called the 'capture and berthing method'.

At the Japan-US summit meeting in last April, it was agreed that Japan will provide and maintain a pressurized manned lunar rover, while the United States will allocate opportunities for two Japanese astronauts to land on the moon in future missions under the Artemis program. In this regard, the technologies and experience gained through the operation of Kibo and HTV series will contribute to achieve the goals of the Artemis program,

The Japanese government revised its Basic Plan on Space Policy in June 2023. It provides the goals and future vision including national security, national resilience, global issues, innovation, creation of

knowledge in space science and exploration, and the strengthening of the technological, industrial and human resource bases. The Space Policy Committee formulated the 'Space Technology Strategy' in March this year. The strategy provides a roadmap and identifies important technologies including lunar exploration and human space activities in the post-ISS era. Furthermore, the JAXA Act was amended and JAXA's strategic and flexible funding function for private companies and universities was strengthened. The Space Strategy Fund started this year which will provide support over a 10-year period around 1 trillion yen.

France and Japan have been close partners in space activities, supporting projects such as the ISS together. Our two countries have held intergovernmental talks on space policy regularly and we are also partners, in the Artemis program led by the United States. In terms of cooperation between space agencies, JAXA and CNES are in a close cooperative relationship, with the three agencies of JAXA, CNES and DLR working together on the 'First Stage Reuse Flight Experiment

Project' called CALLISTO. I hope future progress of this important three agency project.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my hope that today's conference will be an opportunity for Japanese and French space experts to deepen mutual understanding, and to further develop cooperation in the space field between Japan and France. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity today.