

Asia-Oceania Space Weather Alliance (AOSWA) Report of the First Workshop

Space Weather and Environment Informatics Laboratory, Applied Electromagnetic Research Institute

The first AOSWA (Asia-Oceania Space Weather Alliance) workshop was held at the Imperial Mae Ping Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand, from February 22 to February 24, 2012. This workshop was hosted by Space Weather and Environment Informatics Laboratory, NICT Applied Electromagnetic Research Institute. Kingdom of Thailand Chiang Mai University and NICT Asia Center co-hosted the workshop.

Various disturbances in the space environment caused by solar activity have an impact on satellites (eg. communications and broadcasting satellites), shortwave communication, manned space flight, and other things. Understanding the current condition of these disturbances and predicting the future condition of them is referred to as space weather forecast. In space weather forecast, the solar and the solar wind monitoring is the most important, because the solar activity is the driver of space weather disturbances. However, the constructing a regional, and global observation network to monitor ionospheric and geomagnetic condition is also important. Asia-Oceania countries are beginning to focus on space development and space utilization and recognize the need for space weather forecasting. As a result, the establishment of the center has occurred successively.

Based on these background, in order to promote data (particularly ionospheric and geomagnetic observations) exchange, which are now collected independently by Asia-Oceania countries, and produce regional cooperative structure in space weather research and space weather forecast, NICT established the AOSWA with the 13 institutes from 7 countries in 2010. Thereafter, NICT has held meetings, and has transmitted information through Web as a leader organization. And AOSWA has come to hold its first workshop this time.

The workshop began with a greeting of the chair Dr. Toshio Iguchi, Director General of NICT Applied Electromagnetic Research Institute. 76 people in total participated in the workshop from 30 research institutes in 10 countries. We had 41 oral and 21 poster presentations related to the space weather research and services in the workshop. Every presentation generated a lot of interest, and extensions of the lecture time occurred successively. We think this is the reflection of the fact that space weather forecast and space weather research are pushed forward lively in Asia-Oceania area.

Because this was the first workshop, the presentations were focused on introducing each institutes in order to know well each other. On the last day, it was announced that the 2nd AOSWA Workshop would be held by Chinese space weather research institutes in 2013. Our workshop ended in a great success.

For more details on AOSWA and the workshop, please visit the link below.

AOSWA: <http://aoswa.nict.go.jp/index.html> Workshop: <http://aoswa.nict.go.jp/workshop.html>



● Workshop participants/registrants and institution distribution map of countries (10 countries, 30 institutes, 76 people)



● Chair's greeting: Dr. Toshio Iguchi (Director General of NICT Applied Electromagnetic Research Institute)



● Co-chair's greeting: Dr. Akachai Sang-In (Former Vice President of Chiang Mai University)



● Facility tour (NICT Ionosonde Observation Site)



● Group photo of participants