



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

REPORT

THE 31ST SESSION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL SPACE AGENCY FORUM (APRSAF-31), CEBU - PHILIPPINE

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FORUM (APRSAF-31), CEBU - PHILIPPINE.**

Participant Timor Leste

No	Name	Position
1	Leonel Da Costa Xavier	National Diretor DNCSH-INCT

List of Contend

	Page
I. Introduction	1
II. Objective	2
III. Result	3
4.1 General Information	3
4.2 Specific Information	4
V. Conclusions and recommendation	5
5.1 Conclusions	5
5.2 Recommends	5
VI. Attachment	6
6.1 Documentation & Photography	6

I. Introduction

The 31st session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-31) was convened in Cebu, Philippines, from November 18-21, 2025. Under the theme "**Space Innovation for a Sustainable and Resilient Asia-Pacific**," the forum provided a critical venue for key players in the regional space sector to converge.

This document introduces and summarizes Instituto Nacional De Ciência e Tecnologia de Timor Leste (INCT) participation in this pivotal event. Our involvement was driven by the strategic objectives of gaining insights into emerging trends in Earth observation and small satellite technology, expanding our professional network, and exploring concrete avenues for international partnership. This report outlines our activities and the key findings from the forum, providing a foundation for the subsequent analysis and recommendations.

II. Objectives

The Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) is the premier space conference in the Asia-Pacific region, co-organized by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, and the host country. APRSAF-31 was hosted by the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA).

The primary objectives of my participation were:

- To stay abreast of the latest trends, technologies, and policies in the regional space sector.
- To network with representatives from other space agencies, academic institutions, and private companies.
- To explore potential partnerships in areas of mutual interest, such as Earth observation, satellite technology, and capacity building.

III. Result

3.1 General Information.

Based on an official assignment letter from the President of INCT, I, as the Director of DNCSH-INCT, undertook a work trip to Cebu, Philippines, from **16th to 23 November 2025**.

The journey to and within Cebu was completed successfully. It is worth noting that logistical arrangements, including airport transfers to the accommodation and return, as well as daily travel to the forum venue, were self-arranged, requiring me to find my own taxi services for commutes between the airport, my hotel, and the Shangri-La Mactan.

Despite these logistical challenges, I was able to participate in all scheduled events calmly and productively, ensuring my full engagement throughout the entire forum.

3.2. Specific Information .

Summary of Daily Activities

Day 1: 18 November 2025

- **Morning:** Arrived at the Shangri-La Mactan hotel and completed the official registration process, paying the participant fee of 2900 Pesos. Received the participant kit, including identification credentials and an event shirt.
- **Towards Noon:** Visited the exhibition booths and engaged in productive discussions with exhibitors regarding satellites in orbit and their applications.
- **Afternoon:** Attended a technical seminar featuring presentations by experts from Europe, Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, and other nations.
- **Evening (5:30 PM - 7:30 PM):** Attended the **Welcome Reception** at the Ocean Pavilion, which included cultural music performances, welcoming remarks from the Mayor of Cebu, and a fellowship dinner, providing an excellent opportunity for initial networking.

Day 2: 19 November 2025

- **Morning:** Attended a seminar presented by academics from Japan, followed by a further visit to the exhibition hall.
- **Bilateral Meeting (11:45 AM - 12:10 PM):** Proceeded to the scheduled bilateral meeting at the Camote Room. Unfortunately, upon arrival and after waiting until 12:05 PM, the meeting room was found to be unoccupied, and no other ASEAN representatives were present.
- **Afternoon (1:00 PM - 6:00 PM):** Actively participated in the **Southeast Asian Space Leader Forum** at the Ocean Pavilion. As the representative of Timor-Leste, I was seated at the front and contributed to the discussions in accordance with the agenda.

Day 3: 20 November 2025

- **Evening (6:00 PM - 8:00 PM):** Attended the **Evening Reception** at the Beachfront venue. The event facilitated informal networking and concluded with an exchange of commemorative gifts with fellow ASEAN participants.

Day 4: 21 November 2025

- **Afternoon:** Departed Cebu, traveling via Manila and Bali, before returning to Dili, Timor-Leste, the following day.

IV. Conclusion and recommendation

4.1. Conclusion of the Forum

The Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) was an exceptionally important activity for me personally and for Timor-Leste in general. Through this event, I learned a great deal from the other participants and I hope that one day Timor-Leste will be capable of undertaking initiatives similar to those of other ASEAN nations.

4.2. Recommendations

I recommended that through forums such as this, It will be better if we include participants from; Academic, Industry, and Government be involved in attending future events in the coming years, because other ASEAN countries consistently have representatives from these three key backgrounds in attendance, ensuring continuity and sustained engagement year after year.

I hope that Timor-Leste can also achieve this events in the future. This is crucial for gaining in-depth knowledge about satellites, their operational mechanisms in orbit, how data is transmitted to Earth, and how experts analyze this data—all of which are of vital importance for humanity.

VI. Attachment

6. Documentations & Photography

Day 1.



Day 2



Day 3

