

press release - For immediate release

## **Yokohama to host 2019 IEEE IGARSS**

18 February 2016, Yokohama, JAPAN:

Yokohama has been chosen as the site for the 2019 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium.

Last held in Tokyo in 1993, the conference returns to Japan after a 26 year hiatus.

The IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) is responsible for organizing the event and the local host will be the IEEE GRSS All Japan Chapter.

In addition to the annual IGARSS discussion of remote sensing and geoscience in general, the 2019 conference theme will be "Environment and Disasters."

Topics to be addressed:

- Use of remote sensing satellites to observe natural phenomena, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding, etc.
- Use of collected data to forecast disasters and reduce their impact.
- Use of this technology to measure the increase in CO2 and effect on grain yields resulting from the loss of forestland.
- Applications in automatic vehicle control, collision avoidance systems, and visualization techniques to increase safety.

According to University of Tokyo Professor, Akira Hirose (General Chair of IGARSS 2019), one main reason Japan was chosen as host country was the launch of JAXA's highly regarded advanced land observing satellite called "Daichi#2" (or ALOS-2) in May of 2014. Japan's presence in the field of remote sensing was highlighted by this event. The success of that program was the result of the strength of Japanese electronics and aerospace firms.

Says Professor Hirose, "The city of Yokohama was primarily chosen because of the presence of many major electronics and aerospace firms such as Mitsubishi Electric Corp., NEC, Toshiba, Mitsubishi Space Software Co., etc and also research institutes like JAXA-ISAS in the area. With the groundwork set for a multitude of research partnerships in place, both Japan and the city of Yokohama itself have proven on the world stage that they are at the forefront of this science and technology and will continue to be so in the future."

“And for geoscience scholars, Hakone, Mt. Fuji and similar nearby natural formations offer an excellent opportunity for geodetic and volcanic study,” continues Professor Hirose.

Within close proximity of the conference hall there is an abundance of hotels, restaurants, shopping centers, and more. The convenience of downtown Yokohama provides a perfect setting for the conference.

This prestigious symposium, which will be held at the PACIFICO Yokohama over six days in July of 2019, will attract an estimated 1,400 delegates.

Note to Editors:

The Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau is a non-profit organization funded mainly by the City of Yokohama. In addition to motivating and supporting the Japanese association community to bid for conferences to Yokohama, it also provides assistance for business events planners considering Yokohama for their upcoming events.

Photos to accompany this media release are available from:

<http://www.welcome.city.yokohama.jp/eng/convention/media-center/>

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