

Welcome Address
II Canadian Space Mission to Brazil

INPE - Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação

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Good Morning

In the name of INPE I would like to welcome you to this second session of the Second Canadian Space Mission to Brazil.

I would also like to specially welcome all the representatives from Canadian and Brazilian organizations and companies here present.

To all attendees my most warmth welcome.

The event focuses on the promotion of the cooperation between *Canadian and Brazilian organizations and companies* in research and development for the space area.

The first session was held yesterday, at Parque Tecnológico de São José dos Campos, under the general heading “Building R&D Bridges”. Our Institute is very much honoured in hosting this second session, under the title “Data Gaps and Bridges: Identifying Satellite Application Opportunities”.

Since the schedule is very tight, I will try to be very brief and take the opportunity to say a few words about international cooperation at INPE and the importance of this event.

The mission of INPE may be briefly stated as: “to be the national reference in Space Science, Space Technology and space applications, while providing direct returns to society in terms of products and services, industrial policy and diffusion of knowledge”.

With about 1000 staff, among researchers, technologists and technicians, our Institute attempts to implement the whole innovation cycle, which goes from Basic Research, through Applied Research and Development, up to making available to society innovative products and services that impact social and economic life.

INPE’s activities, as already mentioned yesterday, may be organized in three layers: Access to Space, Ground Infrastructure and Applications.

The applications area comprises *research, development and projects* in Space Sciences, Weather Forecasting and Climate Studies, Earth Observation and Earth System Science.

Conscious of the essential role played by the advancement of knowledge in the

innovation cycle mentioned above, the Institute strives to promote national and international cooperation which promote the diffusion and exchange of knowledge and experience in the areas of activities of the Institute.

Regarding the Access to Space layer, INPE has been the main Brazilian executor of a long standing international cooperation with China aimed at jointly integrating, launching and operating remote sensing satellites. In the last ten years, INPE has launched three satellites under the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite (CBERS) cooperation, which was established in 1988: CBERS-2B was launched in 2007, and operated successfully for almost three years; CBERS-3, launched in 2013, was lost due to a failure in the third stage of Long March 4B launcher; CBERS-4 was successfully launched in 2014, and is currently operational, producing high quality images from the Brazilian and Chinese Territory. CBERS-4 carry on-board four sensors. The MUX and WFI sensors, provided by the Brazilian side, have been entirely designed and manufactured by Brazilian Industry and INPE.

This has been a major example of South-South international cooperation, which has brought important advances for space activities in Brazil.

As far as the Ground Infrastructure layer is concerned, INPE has engaged in international cooperation aimed at providing support for the launching and early orbit phase (LEOP) of international missions, such as the Manned Shenzhou-9 Chinese mission in 2009 and the Indian PSLV-C29 launching which injected six satellites in orbit in 2013. Currently, with close cooperation with the Chinese counterpart, INPE is responsible for the control of the CBERS-4 satellite.

Finally, as concerns the Applications layer, examples of international cooperation, some of them with a paradigmatic characteristic, may be found in all four INPE's application areas.

From the programme of the current event, displaying the scheduled presentations and discussions, it may be seen that important examples in this area will be covered in the presentations, dispensing with further comments in these introductory remarks.

I am plainly convinced that today's presentations and discussions will very much contribute for the dissemination of state-of-the-art knowledge among our scientists and researchers, therefore contributing to our mission.

To all participants, my wishes of a very fruitful day of work, wishing you are having a nice stay in São José dos Campos.

Finally, I would like to express my congratulations to all the personnel involved in the organization of the workshop, in particular to the team from the Consulate of Canada in São Paulo and to the teams from INPE's International Cooperation and Chief of Staff Offices.

Thank you.