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**Statement of Dr. Keiji Tachikawa,
President, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
before the Review of U.S. Human Space Flight Plans Committee.**

1. Introduction

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to make remarks at the Review of the U.S. Human Space Flight Plans Committee.

First of all, I would like to pay tribute to NASA for taking leadership in the ISS program and overcoming many challenges with its indomitable will and superb technological capability.

Let me briefly explain Japan's space policy situation.

This June, the Strategic Headquarters for Space Policy, headed by Prime Minister Taro Aso, established the Basic Plan for Space Policy.

The Basic Plan states that the Japanese Government will make a decision on Japan's involvement in the ISS program beyond 2016.

It also states that the government will set a policy on space exploration, with the moon as a primary target, a year or so after it completes its study of possible goals, expected accomplishments and so on, with a view of collaborated activities of humans and robotics.

JAXA is an Independent Administrative Agency responsible for research and development of Japan's space activities and utilization, and I will make comments from JAXA's point of view today.

2. The International Space Station Program

Japan has been taking part in the ISS program for a quarter century, and has contributed significantly to the success of this international program to build and operate the largest space facility ever constructed.

NASA Administrators frequently mention that "Japan is a most reliable partner." Japan and the United States—or JAXA and NASA—have fostered a relationship of mutual trust through the ISS program.

The upcoming launch of Space Shuttle Endeavour is the third flight to carry the Exposed Facility and components, which will complete the Japanese Experiment Module "Kibo".

Kibo utilization started last summer and Japanese researchers and private companies have great expectations Kibo to achieve good results.

So, JAXA would like to continue the Kibo operation for a wide variety of experiments even beyond 2016 to reap a rich harvest from Kibo.

Currently, Japanese Astronaut Koichi Wakata is on the ISS during his three month stay.

Achievements of JAXA astronauts and their successful collaboration and

friendship with ISS international partners have given courage and aspiration to the young generation of Japan.

This year, the Japanese cargo transfer vehicle to ISS called HTV (H-II Transfer Vehicle) will be launched by a Japanese H-IIB rocket.

ISS international partners have great expectations in HTV to carry supplies indispensable for ISS operations and utilization even after Space Shuttle retirement.

ISS international partners have overcome a number of challenges during the implementation of the ISS program thanks to strong partnership, and such international cooperation is absolutely necessary in the future as well.

For the continuation of the ISS program, a decision by the United States, which is responsible for the overall management and coordination of the program, is very important.

I sincerely hope that the United States will soon make a decision on the operation of the ISS beyond 2016.

3. Space Exploration

JAXA has produced scientifically meaningful results in the area of space exploration, through such space exploration projects as the lunar explorer “Kaguya” (SELENE: Selenological and Engineering Explorer) and the asteroid explorer “Hayabusa”, which are highly valued in the international academia.

These exploration projects have gained strong support and much attention from the Japanese public, and they, like our astronauts, bring dreams and hope to the younger generation.

JAXA is now contemplating a number of plans for future exploration of the moon and other planets.

JAXA is also playing an important role as one of the core members of the International Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) of 13 space agencies, which has been convened based on the U.S. Vision for Space Exploration.

JAXA would like to strive toward lunar exploration through the collaboration of humans and robotics and in cooperation with the U.S. and other international partners, by making the most of not only its scientific and technological abilities but also its international trust and good relations.

These have been fostered through JAXA's active involvement in space science research, the ISS program, and exploration missions.

While the Government of Japan will set a policy on lunar exploration in a year or so, JAXA would like, among others, to propose:

- to conduct robotic lunar exploration by around 2020, and to apply the results obtained by "Kaguya", as well as to conduct technological demonstrations necessary for human lunar exploration; and
- to acquire further human space technologies through the ISS Program

and improved space transportation capability by applying HTV technology.

4. Concluding Remarks

As the President of JAXA, I believe the United States has played a pivotal role in past and present international human space activities, and that its unshakable commitment will be also vital to the implementation of any human space program in the future.

I strongly hope that this Committee will reaffirm the significance of the role of the United States in international cooperation in human space activities, and that constructive review will be made accordingly.

Once again, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to make remarks today.