

Greetings from the Organizer

from Aizu University

Your Imperial Highness Crown Princess Akishino,
Distinguished Guests and Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to welcome Her Imperial Highness Crown Princess Akishino to the opening ceremony of APRIM2023, the International Astronomical Union's Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on Astronomy, in Fukushima, Japan. On behalf of the University of Aizu the co-organizer of the conference, I would like to offer a few words of greeting.

The University of Aizu is a public university established by Fukushima Prefecture in 1993 as Japan's first university specializing in computer science and engineering. This year marks the 30th anniversary of its founding. Our founding philosophy is "to Advance Knowledge for Humanity," and we are committed to promoting education and research that lead the international community. After the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, we have been particularly active in various efforts to return the results of our research to society and working together with the national and prefectural governments to contribute to the reconstruction and revitalization of Fukushima Prefecture.

The University of Aizu has a deep relationship with astronomy

and space exploration. The university, together with companies in Fukushima, has joined notable space mission such as the Hayabusa and Hayabusa2 asteroid explorer missions. We have also been introducing the latest information science approaches to space exploration through the Aizu Research Center for Space Informatics, which has been certified as a Join Usage / Research Center by MEXT. Information science and astronomy have a high affinity for each other, sharing many topics in common, such as computer simulation and visualization. We also have the Astroinformatics session in this conference. A satellite meeting, “Workshop for Astroinformatics,” will also be held at the University of Aizu after this main event. We would be very honored if this effort to bridge astronomy and information science helps enliven APRIM2023.

Finally, I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing all the participants a pleasant stay in Fukushima as they witness its revitalization, as well as a fruitful conference that will lead to the development of astronomy in the Asia-Pacific region. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Qiangfu Zhao

Vice-President and Vice-Chairperson, the University of Aizu