

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 14, 2004

Reply to Attn of:

IY

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of NASA, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the European Space Agency (ESA) it is my pleasure to invite you to the 4th workshop on Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM). This endeavor, using a constellation of satellites and ground based observations, seeks to clearly demonstrate the feasibility of monitoring precipitation globally. The Global Precipitation Measurement is one of the NASA Earth Science Enterprise's highest priorities.

JAXA is presently studying joint global precipitation monitoring with NASA via Japan's GPM/Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar program. ESA is concurrently studying a constellation satellite contribution through its candidate Earth Explorer mission, EGPM. NASA, JAXA and ESA believe that your participation at this workshop would significantly benefit the workshop, contribute to our respective planning for the post 2004 era of cooperation, and expand international participation in all segments of GPM.

The very successful NASA-JAXA Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) continues to provide unprecedented scientific data on the structure of rainfall in tropical and semi-tropical regions. GPM will seek to address the increasing scientific demand for high quality, high resolution rain measurements used to understand the global atmosphere, surface hydrological analysis, and the potential to improve weather forecasting.

I hope that you will be able to attend this important event and I look forward to the discussions.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ghassem R. Asrar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ghassem R. Asrar
Associate Administrator for
Earth Science