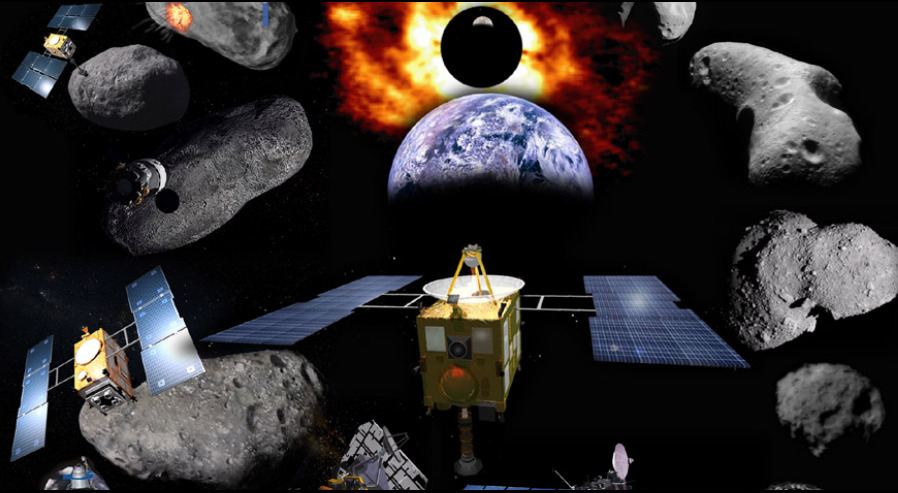


# International Primitive Body Exploration Working Group (IPEWG)



First Meeting, January 14-16, 2008

Okinawa, Japan

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## PURPOSE:

- To promote the free and open access of scientific information and archived data.
- To promote international cooperation and coordination by offering a forum to exchange information.
- To promote international coordinated activities to grow and expand the exploration of primitive bodies, while retaining autonomy of partner nations.

## TARGETS:

Primitive bodies that orbit the Sun, including:

- Comets
- Asteroids
- Trojans
- Centaurs
- KBOs
- Dust
- Phobos and Deimos and other irregular planetary satellites

## MOTIVATION:

The number and diversity of past, ongoing and planned missions to asteroids and comets by many nations and groups of nations and the prospects for science and engineering, planetary defense, deep space human spaceflight and potential in-situ resource utilization.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

- Coordinate primitive body exploration activities.
- Provide findings/inputs to groups interested in primitive body missions (including ISECG, COSPAR).
- Promote cooperation through observation and characterization, using ground-based and space-based facilities, as well as sample analysis and curation.
- Promote timely information exchanged on PHAs.
- Ensure mission data is publicly archived under IPDA standards.
- Enhance public awareness

## STEERING COMMITTEE:

Composed of space agencies

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Meetings to be held at least every two years.
- Steering Committee will create sub-working groups as needed.
- JAXA maintains IPEWG website and records.

## FIRST MEETING SUMMARY:

- Usual presentations of current mission accomplishments and future plans, but with interesting discussions in Q&A.
- Steering Committee discussions were restricted to national agency representatives.

## MY TAKE ON THE MEETING:

International coordination & cooperation is very valuable, however it is unintentionally undermined as a consequence of differences in science cultures. These differences cover:

- Level of hierarchical control over operations, planning & data analysis
- Level of inclusiveness of science communities
- Ownership of data
- Data accessibility and usefulness to whom

## CHALLENGES:

In order to maximize the benefits from and workable context for international cooperation in primitive body missions:

- Science culture differences need to be acknowledged and the philosophy of each agency articulated by that agency in a way that is understood by all.
- Avoid being judgmental.