

Keynote Lecture

【Speaker】

Mr. Chikara Ishikawa

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Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)



【Speaker Biography】

Mr. Chikara Ishikawa joined the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) in 2006. He began his career at the Tanegashima Space Center, where he was involved in on-site rocket launch operations. He later led the H-IIA Launch Vehicle Enhancement Project and successfully carried out Japan's first launch of a commercial satellite for an overseas customer. After gaining experience in planning and budgeting roles, he became a key member of the H3 Launch Vehicle Development Project.

In this role, he has been responsible for overall planning, budgeting, and risk management. Following the failure of H3's Test Flight No. 1, he promptly formulated and executed a plan to relaunch the project. He is currently working on finalizing the development plan for the upcoming new H3-30 test flight.

【Presentation Title】

**"The H3 Launch Vehicle: Overcoming the Setback of the First Test Flight
- Insights into the Rebuilding of the Project Amidst Adversity-"**

【Lecture Abstract】

The H-IIA rocket, developed in 2001, served as Japan's flagship launch vehicle for many years. However, in recent times, it has faced declining competitiveness in the global market. In response, JAXA launched the development of the H3 rocket as a next-generation flagship vehicle. After a decade of dedicated development, expectations were high for its first test flight—but it unfortunately ended in failure.

In this lecture, Mr. Ishikawa will share an inside look at the project: the investigation into the cause of the failure, the team's efforts to recover and rebuild, and the real-world challenges of steering a national space program through adversity.