

February 22, 2011



ILRS Governing Board Members:

Graham Appleby, Great Britain,
Chairman

Giuseppe Bianco, Italy

David Carter, USA

Yang Fumin, China

Ramesh Govind, Australia

Georg Kirchner, Austria

Vincenza Luceri, Italy

Jan McGarry, USA

Horst Mueller, Germany

Juergen Mueller, Germany

Carey Noll, USA

Secretary, ILRS Central Bureau

Erricos Pavlis, USA

Michael Pearlman, USA

Director, ILRS Central Bureau

Bob Schutz, USA

ILRS Representative

Zuheir Altamimi, France

President IAG Commission 1

Central Bureau

International Laser Ranging Service

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Code 690

Greenbelt, MD 20771

USA

Tel: 301-614-6542

Fax: 301-614-6015

Internet: ilrs-cb@lists.nasa.gov

<http://ilrs.gsfc.nasa.gov>

Hidekazu Hashimoto
Special Staff to the Manager,
Space Technology Demonstration Research Center
JAXA
2-1-1, Sengen, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 805-8505
JAPAN

Special Staff to the Manager Hidekazu Hashimoto:

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate you on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Ajisai Mission. This satellite has been on the Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR) schedule of the International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS) since its launch in 1986 and it continues to be used by investigators doing scientific research.

The launch of Ajisai came at a time when we had few dedicated geodetic satellites and demand for precise SLR tracking data was increasing each year due to the major efforts underway to improve the gravitational model for Earth. The data from Ajisai was a major contributor to gravity field models of the time and continues to play an important role not only in gravity field modeling but also for instrument performance assessment and calibration. The satellite legacy will continue through its long-term contribution to studies of the secular and periodic variations of Earth's low degree zonal harmonics. Along with LAGEOS and Starlette, Ajisai its long historical impact will be felt in the record of gravitational variations that continues to be vital in the study of climate change.

Please extend our congratulations and appreciation to all of those who made the Ajisai Mission a reality.

With our best wishes and regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Pearlman".

Dr. Michael Pearlman
Director, Central Bureau
International Laser Ranging Service

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gm Appleby".

Dr. Graham Appleby
Head, Governing Board
International Laser Ranging Service