

Singapore can contribute to space industry in Asia: official

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SINGAPORE, Jan. 28 (Xinhua) -- The space industry in Asia is poised to grow rapidly as many Asian nations set targets for their national space programs and Singapore can contribute to it, a Singapore official said on Thursday.

Speaking at the **Global Space and Technology Convention- Satellite Technology Asia 2010**, Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Education S Iswaran said that China, Japan and South Korea are all making development in aerospace projects, adding that Singapore can potentially contribute to the rapidly developing space industry in Asia in several ways.

He said Singapore can leverage its traditionally strong aerospace, precision engineering, and electronics ecosystems. Singapore's pro-business environment and technology and market-savvy workforce can also help complement the growth of satellite service providers in Asia.

More so, Singapore is building up its research capabilities in space related technologies. Its Center for Research in Satellite Technologies (CREST) has growing research and development ties with its counterparts overseas and has recently developed and integrated the first micro-satellite in Singapore.

He also hoped that through related space challenge programs, talented youth will be inspired to join the space industry and contribute to greater innovation in space related technologies.