

## International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry

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Dr. Tokuda Hideyuki  
President of National Institute of  
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15 April 2021

### Ref: Letter of appreciation for 22 years of service to the IVS

Dear Dr. Tokuda-san,

The International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS) is a collaboration of organizations performing globally organized Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) observations for Earth science investigations, predominantly supporting the monitoring of Global Change phenomena. It was founded in 1999 and NICT, previously called CRL, was one of the first institutions to commit several components to the IVS such as several radio telescopes, a correlation center, a data center, an analysis center, and a technology development center (TDC). NICT was designated as a VLBI TDC for the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) in 1990 and continued to be a TDC through transition to the IVS. It had developed the Japanese VLBI terminal series K3/K4/K5/K6 and continuously promoted VLBI research activities in Japan in collaboration with the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) and National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR).

With regret we learned that NICT has terminated most of its VLBI and IVS activities, and disbanded the NICT space-geodesy group at Kashima at the end of March 2021. With this letter we like to express that the IVS has always recognized the invaluable contributions of NICT and that we appreciate the long-term efforts of the VLBI group of NICT. We look forward to continued contributions from the VLBI station at Koganei. In the name of the IVS Directing Board, let me convey our sincere thanks for many contributions to the IVS and to VLBI.

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#### International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry Directing Board Members:

Rüdiger Haas, Sweden (*IERS Representative, Chair*)  
James Anderson, Germany  
Dirk Behrend, USA (*Coordinating Center Director*)  
Johannes Böhm, Austria (*IAG Representative*)  
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Also from my personal perspective, I regret very much the reduction in VLBI activities and the discontinuation of the Kashima space-geodesy group. In 1998, more than 20 years ago, I enjoyed spending two months as a guest researcher at CRL working with geodetic VLBI. During my stay I learned a lot from the many excellent researchers working in VLBI at CRL. At that time CRL was operating the Keystone project in the Tokyo metropolitan region. With its small, stiff and rather fast antennas, 24/7 observations, e-transfer and very low latency for the final results the Keystone project can in a way be regarded as a pathfinder and inspiration for today's VGOS. It was very impressive for me as a young researcher at that time to have the opportunity to work at CRL, and I had a lot of benefit from this research stay and I am very thankful for it. For the IVS I would really appreciate to see that the Koganei station at NICT can continue contributing in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rüdiger Haas'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Haas  
Chair of the Directing Board  
International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry  
c/o Chalmers University of Technology, Onsala Space Observatory

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