

**Statement of the Japanese Government**  
**at the 2010 GEO Ministerial Summit in Beijing**  
**by Kumiko Hayashi, Vice Minister**

**Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology**

November 5, 2010

Mr. Chairperson, thank you for giving me the floor.

First, allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the Chinese government for hosting this Ministerial Summit.

On behalf of the Japanese government, I would like to affirm our efforts for the construction of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

**Circumstances affecting GEOSS**

This summer in Japan, we experienced scorching heat. Day after day, the temperatures in Tokyo exceeded 30 degrees Celsius, setting a record of 71 days, which was the highest ever since records began. Indeed, I was able to experience firsthand the immense changes taking place in the natural world.

The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change noted that the observed increase in global average temperatures is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations. In order to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, the utilization of objective observation data on a global scale is becoming increasingly more important, and I firmly believe that there are high expectations of the role to be played by GEOSS in promoting the global sharing of observation data.

**Japan's Contributions**

Five years have passed since GEOSS was first launched and, thus far, Japan has been providing observation data to countries all around the world, and has contributed to the construction of GEOSS through clarifying the water cycle and through disaster management especially in the Asian countries, and through working on the Global Mapping Project, which offers digitalized data. In the future, we would like to continue contributing to GEOSS through the dedicated acquisition of Earth observation data and the provision of information and data which will be useful in societal benefit areas.

In particular, we would like to focus our efforts on the two following points.

The first point is observation using satellites. In January of last year, Japan launched GOSAT, a satellite to observe greenhouse gases and has been releasing

observation data such as the concentration distribution of the entire globe.

In addition, with respect to ALOS, the advanced land observation satellite launched in 2006, since the satellite is able to make observations regardless of the weather condition or even in nighttime, we have been able to take advantage of the characteristics of the radar sensors, which make global observations possible within a short space of time. For example, we carried out emergency observations with regard to the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile which occurred this year, and have published and provided such data.

Also regarding the Indonesian volcano in eruption presently, Japan conducted the emergency observation and provided the data to the government of Indonesia through the Sentinel Asia project.

Furthermore, such capabilities are also being utilized in forest observation and, at this time, I am pleased to announce that we have been successful in creating a forest/non forest map of the entire globe using 10m resolution satellite images, and have presented this map to the whole world. In the future, we hope to be able to actually help with forest conservation by utilizing this data and collaborating with each country.

In addition, we created Global Digital Elevation Model Data by combining satellite data and observation data from the ground and sea and we will be publishing the data as fundamental information for the purpose of sophisticated analysis.

The second point is the development of a system for integrating and analyzing the observation data. In Japan, we have developed DIAS, a data integration and analysis system, which integrates various kinds of Earth observation data and converts it into scientifically and socially useful information. This system is due to be completed very shortly. In the future, through the use of such data, we hope to contribute to the improvement of water resources management and disaster monitoring in collaboration with other countries.

Moreover, as we approach the halfway point of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan, we should further promote measures for the construction of GEOSS in the Asia-Pacific region, and therefore next spring, we will be holding an Asia-Pacific symposium in Tokyo on the theme of data sharing, and we look forward to extensive participation by each of the member countries.

### **The Present and the Future of GEOSS**

Ever since the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan was formulated in 2005, we have been striving to prepare an observation network and to create rules for the sharing of observation data. At the Summit today, which marks a milestone of five years, in addition to constructing a portal site for data sharing and drafting implementation guidelines for data sharing, clear strategic goals will be presented for the coming five years.

Without doubt, I believe that the remaining five years is a period for us to

achieve results. We must further advance our preparations for a system to collect, share and provide various kinds of satellite, terrestrial and marine data and complete GEOSS as we head towards 2015. It is indeed necessary for all of humankind to unite together to overcome the global challenges of global warming, disaster prevention and the management of water resources and, therefore, let us all advance forward together hand in hand.

Thank you very much.