

Japan Item 6 – “Remote Sensing”

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to present Japan’s recent activities in remote sensing technologies.

Mr. Chair,

To begin with, I would like to highlight Japan’s remote sensing activities to tackle climate change beginning with GOSAT, the Greenhouse gases Observing Satellite series that are capable of monitoring Greenhouse Gases (GHG). Together the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) and JAXA have developed and launched two satellites so far, namely GOSAT, the world’s first satellite dedicated to GHG monitoring launched in 2009 and GOSAT-2 launched in 2018. GOSAT-2 is equipped with sensors that can observe carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and carbon monoxide (CO) for estimating global anthropogenic emissions. By leveraging the cutting-edge GOSAT series, Japan will continue to support countries’ efforts to reduce GHG emissions to combat climate change under the Paris Agreement using global observation to monitor the sources of anthropogenic GHG emissions and to estimate emissions and their removal on a global-scale.

Another example is the satellite named Global Change Observation Mission-Climate, GCOM-C, which was launched in 2017 to conduct surface and atmospheric measurements related to the carbon cycle and radiation budget, such as clouds, aerosols, ocean color, vegetation, snow and ice. These observations will help improve the accuracy of predicting future environmental changes.

Japan supports the work of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), an integrated observing system and data sharing infrastructure system for Earth observation. Japan also proactively engages in the full range of GEO governing bodies, including the Paris Agreement, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Additionally, Japan leads the Asia-Oceania GEO (AOGEO), a regional cooperative framework designed to coordinate the implementation of GEO activities. Nine task-based multilateral cooperative mechanisms (Task Groups 1 to 9) utilize remote sensing technology to tackle thematic regional tasks, such as disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, food security, drought, and regional capacity development. As a co-leader of Task Groups 1 to 5, Japan demonstrates strong leadership by using a co-design and co-production approach to address regional challenges.

Every year, Japan and the GEO secretariat organize a regional forum (AOGEO symposium), with the aim to support the exchange of broad scientific and technical views on Earth observations, and their applications, which are reported to the Task Groups. The 15th AOGEO symposium brought together experts and stakeholders to review their achievements and discuss challenges in the Asia-Oceania region. The symposium played an important role as a hub for regional cooperation and collaboration by holding special sessions to provide valuable opportunities for sharing best practices and further developing ideas on remote sensing activities in the region. The symposium concluded with the adoption of the AOGEO statement, identifying continued efforts to strengthen engagement with diverse stakeholders along the Earth Observation value chain, and new opportunities to use remote sensing data in key areas such as biodiversity for sustainable society and economy, while building on past successes.

Mr. Chair,

Japan believes that remote sensing technologies can continue making positive contributions to our lives and will continue to further develop these technologies.

Thank you for your attention.