

*Formal Statements from Members and Participating Organizations on key events and activities*

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First, let me to express my sincere gratitude to the Switzerland's for hosting and to the four co-chairs and the GEO Secretariat for their tireless work to make today's Plenary possible.

I would like to highlight the following three Work Plan Tasks Japan has implemented as a part of its efforts to contribute to the construction GEOSS. Firstly, for Asia-Rice of GEOGLAM, Japan has been providing JAXA's remote-sensing data taken by satellites such as ALOS, GCOM-W and TRIM while taking the leadership in various activities as a task lead. Secondly, as a contribution to GFOI, Japan is making *NEW Global forest/non-forest maps from ALOS palsar data* available. Having two more satellites, GPM and ALOS-2, scheduled to be launched this year, you can expect an increased level of contribution from our side. Lastly, Japan is deeply involved in applying AWCI model to implement a parallel effort in Africa under AfWCCI, African Water Cycle Coordination Initiative.

Besides those tasks, Japan annually co-hosts the GEOSS Asia Pacific Symposium in order to promote the Group in the region; next and the seventh session is held in Tokyo this May. Japan is highly committed to the regional node activities, which is recommended by GEO Plenary to be recognized as a next core function of GEOSS.

Last year, JAXA re-examined its distribution policy of Earth observation, and at the end, the agency, in principle, has decided to guarantee free and unlimited access to its low to medium resolution satellite data. With this change, Japan will continue to support and further enhance the GCI and GEOSS Data Sharing Principles.

Also, if you are interested, please visit Japan GEO booth where all these details and more information on Japan's major contribution to Earth observation activities for GEOSS are well exhibited.

After tomorrow's Ministerial Summit where the continuation of GEOSS is expected to be approved, we must ensure a widespread dissemination of the outcomes of Earth observation. In order to do so, GEOSS needs to accelerate its level of cooperation and collaboration with global societies and various stakeholders and receive and reflect many active inputs from the users. Japan is eager to work with you to achieve this goal. Thank you very much.