

# **GEO-XI**

## **Formal Statement of the Japanese Government**

November 14, 2014

I would like to thank the Swiss Confederation for hosting the meeting and commend the efforts of four co-chairs and the secretariat in preparation.

On behalf of the government of Japan, I would like to report its Earth Observation activities since the last Plenary.

Japan has succeeded three satellite launches, first of Global Precipitation Measurement, GPM's Core Observatory Satellite on February 28<sup>th</sup>, then of Advanced Land Observing Satellite on May 24<sup>th</sup>, and most recently of advanced geostationary meteorological satellite on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Japan's Earth Observation network is further enriched by the three.

Through these satellites, Japan will continue its contribution to related areas in GEOSS.

Next, I would like to report the 7th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium held in Tokyo this May as Japan's contribution to the regional implementation of GEOSS. The symposium with approximately 240 participants from 20 countries mostly from Asia Pacific and 10 international organizations, yielded the region's recommendation for the consideration of 10 year Implementation Plan, called the Tokyo Statement.

Furthermore, in our efforts to contribute to the GEO Engagement Strategy, Japan with the GEO secretariat is planning to hold a working session with relevant agencies including UNOOSA in the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) scheduled to be held in Japan next March.

Earlier, I mentioned about the launches of Japan's newest satellites. Indeed, strengthening Earth Observation network would greatly contribute to the reduction of disaster risks.

In the upcoming WCDRR working session, we intend to increase the recognition of the effectiveness of Earth Observation technology in Disaster Risk Reduction in the post Hyogo Framework of Action by highlighting the good practices of Disaster Risk Management using Earth Observation, such as Sentinel Asia.

Japan regards the area of disaster risk reduction as one of the most critical issues for

the GEOSS to work on, and therefore intends to increase its contribution to the issue at both global and regional levels through the utilization of data taken by the GPM's Core Observatory Satellite and the Advanced Land Observing Satellite.

In the implementation of next 10 years of GEOSS, we think it is essential to deepen GEO's collaboration with stakeholders in the international society and reflect data user's input so that outcomes of Earth Observation can widely utilized by the societies.

In order to do so, Japan intends to support GEOSS activities from the following two areas.

First is earth observation, which directly addresses emerging challenges. This needs to be done through close collaboration with the very users in the problem-affected region or country and other stakeholders including funding agencies.

It is important to collaborate and continue to support partner countries so that they can utilize the technology and data to address their own challenges themselves. I would like to emphasize the need to build GEOSS that able to support such activities through GEO initiatives.

Next point I have is the need of observation that accumulate scientific knowledge commonly used by the humanity and to prosper. Through the continued efforts to build GEOSS, it is critical to establish the knowledge base which can foster international cooperation and contribute to the global challenges.

Based on the agreed elements of strategic plan, discussion on specific targets and deliverables will start from next year, and Japan announce its willingness to continue its contribution.

Thank you very much.