

GEO Ministerial Summit (Geneva)
Draft Statement of the Japanese Government

January 17, 2014

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

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

On behalf of the Japanese government, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to the efforts for the construction of GEOSS.

Please excuse me for continuing my speech in Japanese.

(Circumstances affecting GEOSS)

One of the most critical problems we face today is global warming, which is considered to have a huge impact on the global environment. Indeed, we have already been feeling the immense changes taking place in the natural world; for instance, last year,

our neighboring country the Philippines suffered from disastrous damage caused by a super-sized typhoon, while a number of countries, including mine, experienced a record-breaking number of days of heat waves and heavy rains.

In order to monitor and address such global environmental changes and build resilient and sustainable societies, the utilization of objective observation data on a global scale is becoming increasingly important, and I firmly believe that GEOSS will greatly contribute to this global sharing of observation data.

(Japan's Contributions)

Ever since the first GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan was formulated in 2005, we have been working together, striving to prepare the observation network and to create rules for the sharing of observation data.

Japan, on its part, has been advancing modeling and projection capabilities while sharing remote sensing and in-situ data on land as well as sea with countries all around the world. For example, Japan

has been working hard to elucidate the water cycle in the Asian countries, swiftly provide relevant information during times of disaster, and contribute to the Global Mapping Project with partner countries. We will remain dedicated to constructing GEOSS through the acquisition of Earth observation data and the provision of information and data that will be of societal benefit.

More specifically, we plan to put strong emphasis on the following two points.

First is to make the best use of Japan's satellites for problem-solving and providing useful data.

The satellites we develop, launch, and sustain to acquire continuous observation data, which we then share, have a wide variety of capabilities, for example:

- To assess water-cycles and precipitation at the global level to greatly improve projections of torrential rains and tropical cyclones;
- To acquire detailed images over a wide area, for instance to check on the state of tsunami flooding and the damage to bridges and roads, even at

nighttime or regardless of the weather condition, in order to carry out emergency observations during disasters; and

- To measure the global distribution of greenhouse gas concentrations at the major metropolis level to deal with the issue of global warming.

The second point is the development of DIAS, a system for integrating and analyzing various kinds of Earth observation data and converting it into scientifically and socially useful information. Japan is linking DIAS, which was developed in Japan, to the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI). We hope to continue working in collaboration with other countries to address crucial issues, such as the reduction of flood and drought damage.

Moreover, in May this year, Tokyo will host the Asia-Pacific symposium in an effort to further promote the construction of GEOSS in the region. The main topic will be the new ten-year Implementation Plan for GEOSS, and we look forward to extensive participation in the symposium by each of the member countries.

(The Present and Future of GEOSS)

The Summit today has set a direction for the next ten years on how to collaborate to build upon and further advance the work we have done so far.

Without doubt, economic and societal ties between and among countries will only get closer; therefore, it is indeed vital for the world to unite together to overcome the global challenges of dealing with global warming, preventing and mitigating disasters and others.

I believe that the next ten years will be crucial for deepening the cooperation and collaboration among various stakeholders in the global communities and for further developing GEOSS in order to make full use of global observation data for sustainability.

In order for us to build societies where our children, grandchildren and following generations can live in safety, let us all move forward together hand in hand.

Thank you very much.