

## **National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan**

### **Submission to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

**September 2007**

#### **Data and observations**

At its 25th session, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit information on their relevant programmes, activities and views on data and observations. The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) welcomes this opportunity to submit the information on its work in this area.

In recent years, there has been increasing emphasis placed on earth observation to help explain global environmental issues such as global warming and natural disasters. The GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems) 10-Year Implementation Plan was adopted at the third Earth Observation Summit in Brussels in February 2005. In Japan, the Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP) released its Earth Observation Promotion Strategy in December 2004. It proposes the establishment of a national Earth observation alliance to enhance cooperation among organizations, ministries, and institutions. Following this, the Earth Observation Promotion Commission was established to survey and deliberate the promotion of earth observation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). As climate change is one of the most important issues in Earth observation, the Japanese Alliance for Climate Change Observation (JACCO) was launched by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) in April 2006. The Office for Coordination of Climate Change Observation (OCCCO), located in the Center for Global Environmental Research (CGER) of the NIES, supports the activities of JACCO.

The objective of JACCO is to develop a comprehensive and integrated climate change observation system that takes user needs into consideration. In order to achieve this objective, JACCO will (1) identify requirements for climate observations based on the need for monitoring and prediction of climate change, (2) coordinate the observation plans of each organization so that the whole observation system meets the requirements in the most efficient and effective manner, and (3) issue annual implementation plans for climate change observation by the relevant organizations. JACCO will develop a comprehensive and integrated system of climate change observation based on user needs in cooperation with international programs such as the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), and other international observation programs under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP). Through our cooperation with these organizations, JACCO aims to meet the needs of a GEOSS and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

OCCCO's activities include (1) investigating the need for climate change observations, (2) enhancing the accessibility of observation data, and coordinating the use of observational platforms in collaboration with the Scientific Working Group, (3) convening meetings, and (4) managing public relations activities. Through these activities, OCCCO will facilitate the alliance for climate change observation on both inter-fields of science and inter-organizations. It will help to capture and project the direct and indirect effects of climate change on a more timely basis.

The detail information about JACCO can be referred at OCCCO's web page.

[http://occco.nies.go.jp/e\\_index.html](http://occco.nies.go.jp/e_index.html)