Japan's submission regarding its views on the content of the workshop

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit the following information on the content of the workshop[1] as requested in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the conclusion reached at SBSTA 37 (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.25):

- Japan's satellites acquire and accumulate information on technical and scientific aspects of ecosystems with high-carbon reservoirs, such as coastal marine ecosystems. For example, the Global Change Observation Mission – Climate (GCOM-C) satellite scheduled for launch in 2015 is particularly useful for coastal observations as it provides information on oceanic carbon fixation rates by observing phytoplankton distribution and environmental conditions such as sea surface temperature and solar radiation. The satellite is also equipped with higher spatial resolution compared to those of existing global observation instruments of its kind. The Greenhouse-gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT) also collects information on high-carbon reservoirs that contribute to grasping the carbon cycle (mainly for terrestrial rather than marine ecosystems) through space-based observation. By way of example, its chlorophyll fluorescence measurements are expected to contribute to the estimation of biomass quantities and they might also contribute to the estimation of land-related carbon fixation.

- In Japan, inter-tidal flats and seaweed beds are restored and created using dredged materials to improve port and coastal environments. In relation to such activities, the Port and Airport Research Institute (PARI) is currently collaborating with other research institutions, through fieldwork, laboratory experiments and data analysis to clarify the mechanism behind carbon dioxide capture and storage, develop measurement technology and investigate key environmental drivers controlling the rate of carbon dioxide capture and storage.

[1]The workshop will be organized to consider information on the technical and scientific aspects of ecosystems with high-carbon reservoirs not covered by other agenda items under the Convention, such as coastal marine ecosystems, in the context of wider mitigation and adaptation efforts.