

27 October 2005

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twenty-third session

Montreal, 28 November to 6 December 2005

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Research and systematic observation

Views on the report on progress made towards implementing the initial ocean climate observing system, and on the final report on the analysis of data exchange issues in global atmospheric and hydrological networks

Submissions from Parties

Addendum

1. In addition to the seven submissions contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2005/MISC.15, one further submission has been received (on 26 October 2005).
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

* This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

FCCC/SBSTA/2005/MISC.15/Add.1

GE.05-63989

SUBMISSION FROM JAPAN

Japan's Views on the Report on Progress Made towards the Initial Ocean Climate Observing System and the Final Report on the Analysis of Data Exchange Problems in Global Atmospheric and Hydrological Networks

Submission by the Government of Japan

Japan expresses its appreciation to the GCOS secretariat for providing the Report on the Progress Made towards the Initial Ocean Climate Observing System and the Final Report on the Analysis of Data Exchange Problems in Global Atmospheric and Hydrological Networks. Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on these reports.

Japan also welcomes that the twenty-second session of the SBSTA agreed to consider the reports in the context of its consideration of the *Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for the Climate in Support of the UNFCCC* (hereinafter "GCOS Implementation Plan") at its twenty-third session.

1. Views on the Report on the Progress Made towards the Initial Ocean Climate Observing System

The report addresses that progress has been made in a number of the components of the initial ocean climate observing system. Japan, as a country that has been making efforts to promote the Argo Project, especially welcomes the significant progress in the implementation of the Argo sub-surface profiling buoy network highlighted in the report.

Japan, however, notes that the report also identifies several challenges in order to complete the initial ocean climate observing system by 2010. While all Parties are encouraged to make their utmost efforts within their capabilities in responding to these challenges, Japan believes that it is extremely important to take a coordinated and integrated approach among the activities of countries, related organizations and initiatives, so that limited resources are best and most efficiently utilized, and duplication is minimized for achieving the goal of the Global Observing System for the Climate, including the initial ocean climate observing system.

In this regard, together with the decision of the COP at its ninth session, Japan recalls that the twenty-second session of SBSTA welcomed the endorsement of the 10-year Implementation Plan at the third Earth Observation Summit in February 2005, which establishes the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) as an important development in systematic observation to contribute to the enhancement of climate change research, as well as the continuing contribution of the Global Climate Observing System to this process.

Japan considers that the Global Observing System for the Climate, including the initial ocean climate observing system, represents primary and essential components of GEOSS. "Understanding, assessing, predicting, mitigating and adapting to climate variability and change" is one of the nine societal benefit areas identified in the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan. It is also stated that one of the purposes of GEOSS is to further the implementation of international environmental treaty obligations.

Therefore, although it is not fully discussed in the report, Japan would like to emphasize that the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan and the GCOS Implementation Plan, including establishment of the initial ocean climate observing system, should be implemented in a coordinated and harmonized manner.

In particular, Japan suggests that the GCOS should input relevant information to the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), so that identified actions in the GCOS Implementation Plan are fully considered in the elaboration of the GEO annual work plan to implement GEOSS.

2. Views on the Final Report on the Analysis of Data Exchange Problems in Global Atmospheric and Hydrological Networks

Japan appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the analysis in the report through the activities of the Japan Meteorological Agency as the GCOS Surface Network monitoring center.

For the understanding and prediction of climate change, acquisition and exchange of long-term, global, high-resolution, and high quality data is necessary. Therefore, Japan believes that exchange of data and products in a full and open manner is highly valuable. On the other hand, we are aware of deficiencies arising from full and open exchange and access to data because of various policies and standards on data exchange of national, relevant intergovernmental and international organizations. Therefore, detailed examination of data exchange and access issues from both technical and management perspectives, including such an analysis on specific examples as given by the report, is necessary and important.

The report provides that in light of the requirement to address the data exchange and access issues highlighted in the GCOS Implementation Plan and the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan, the insights given by the report can be used as the specific examples for the case of atmospheric and hydrological climate data in the GCOS context.

In the consideration that in the establishment of GEOSS, one of the key issues is data management, in particular, the promotion of data exchange, Japan believes that the information in this report gives us an important implication for the establishment of GEOSS.

In the framework of GEO, the Standing Committee on Architecture and Data which addresses the architecture and data aspects of GEOSS, including the data exchange and access issues, will be established upon the approval of the second GEO Plenary (GEO-II) to be held in December, 2005. Japan is willing to lead and contribute to the discussion in the Standing Committee.
