

**First Announcement
3 July 2017**

**11th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium
Strengthening Regional Cooperation through AOGEOSS
for the SDGs, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework
Kyoto, Japan, 24 – 26 October 2018**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), it is my pleasure to announce that the 11th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium will be held in Kyoto, Japan, from 24 to 26 October 2018. The Symposium is being organized by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) with support from the GEO Secretariat.

The Symposium will provide decision-makers, practitioners, researchers and engineers from the Asia-Oceania region with a forum to exchange information and discuss cooperation on specific initiatives and activities in each of the Asia Oceania GEOSS (AOGEOSS) Initiative's thematic areas, to promote the effort of GEOSS, and to enhance regional collaboration under AOGEOSS.

The theme of the 11th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium is "Strengthening Regional Cooperation through AOGEOSS for the SDGs, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework." The Symposium will focus on understanding how GEO's three priority areas are addressed by each AOGEOSS Task Group's activities, cooperation between the Task Groups, and opportunities for new activities and contributions.

Future actions under AOGEOSS will be identified in the Kyoto Statement, which will be adopted at the Symposium and shared at the GEO Week 2018 Asia Oceania Day side event.

The participants will share information and discuss topics through the following parallel Task Groups:

- Asian Water Cycle Initiative (AWCI);
- Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON);
- GEO Carbon and GHG Initiative (GEO-C);

- Ocean, Coast, and Island (Blue Planet);
- Agriculture and Food Security (GEOGLAM);
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Drought in Asia-Oceania Region;
- Environmental Monitoring and Protection;
- Himalayan GEOSS;
- AO-GEOSS Data Sharing Infrastructure;
- Develop Regional GEOSS Data Set; and
- User Engagement and Communication

A detailed agenda will be included with the 2nd announcement to be sent in September.

The Symposium will take place at Kyoto Terrsa, in Kyoto, Japan. Details on registration and logistics are available on the Symposium website: <https://geoss-ap-symp11.org>.

Further information on the AOGEOSS Initiative is available on the AOGEOSS Website: <https://aogeoss.com/en>.

Please feel free to contact the Symposium Secretariat in Japan with any questions:

11th GEOSS AP Symposium Secretariat

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We look forward to seeing you in Kyoto.

Yours sincerely,



Gilberto Camara
Secretariat Director