

The Second GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium **The role of Earth observations in tackling climate change**

**National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation
Tokyo, Japan, 14 – 16 April 2008**

The Asia-Pacific region is extremely vulnerable to climate change. According to the most recent assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), supplies of freshwater throughout most of the region will decline by the 2050s. Other threats include floods, droughts, sea-level rise and damage to biodiversity and natural resources.

Improved Earth observation can help the region adapt to these expected impacts. By monitoring and predicting changes to climate patterns, the hydrological cycle and ecosystems, governments can identify adaptation priorities and secure the needed funding. They can use Earth observations to craft policies and regulations that encourage the private sector and civil society to minimize their vulnerability to climate change. And by strengthening the capacity of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) to monitor global change, the Asia-Pacific region can use Earth observations to further minimize emissions, for example by identifying new opportunities for clean energy or for forest conservation.

Climate change will feature at the top of the agenda of the upcoming G-8 Summit, which Japan will host in Hokkaido Toyako. The report of the Second GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium will be submitted to the G-8 as an input to their discussions on how to advance global action on climate change.

The Symposium agenda

Day One: Plenary session, featuring a keynote speech by IPCC Chair Dr RK Pachauri and reports on national activities

Day Two: Breakout sessions

- Monitoring and predicting climate change
- Earth observations for sustainable water management
- Using GEOSS to manage ecosystems, protect biodiversity and implement the Climate Change Convention

Day Three: Report and conclusions

Sponsored by the Group on Earth Observations (www.earthobservations.org)

Organized by the Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan (RESTEC)

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