

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Since ancient times, water has been a major concern for humankind. We have always strived to secure water for drinking, for everyday life usage, and to mitigate damage to societies caused by water-related natural disasters, such as floods. Shortage of clean water caused by rapid urbanization as well as population growth in developing countries has become a serious problem directly affecting the health and lives of local residents. In addition, climate change, an emerging global concern, has become a serious threat for stable water management, as it has caused serious droughts as well as water related disasters all over the world. Without a doubt, water has become one of the most important issues in sustainable development discussions.

With the above in mind, Japan is committed to helping tackle water-related issues through a variety of initiatives including space applications. The Global Change Observation Mission-Water, GCOM-W, is one such example. GCOM-W was launched in 2012

to observe precipitation, water vapor amounts, wind velocity above the ocean surface, sea surface temperature, sea ice information, soil moisture of land surface, and snow depths. These data are used worldwide for weather forecast, sea ice monitoring, and climate and water cycle studies. Observing and understanding the mechanisms of global water cycles help to facilitate water resource management and forecasts of water related disasters. Such water cycle observations need to be conducted globally and frequently, and the use of satellites is, to this day, the most effective means of doing so.

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Precipitation data is important for weather forecast as well as water related disaster management, such as flood, typhoon, and landslide. Because of the observation difficulties utilizing rain gauges and weather radars on the ground, satellite observation plays a vital role to monitor precipitation distribution both locally and globally.

To address water related disasters utilizing satellite data, JAXA

has developed a precipitation data system known as GSMaP. GSMaP offers multi-satellite global precipitation map under the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Mission, by using Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR) onboard GPM core satellites, other GPM constellation satellites, and geostationary satellites. This system provides hourly global precipitation information and thereby contributes to a wide range of disaster management. It also enhances flood forecasting and management capacity of the Typhoon Committee Region, an intergovernmental organization established under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Meteorological Organization.

JAXA is cooperating with our international partners for the improvement of accuracy in GSMaP data. For example, JAXA and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) are cooperating on the joint validation, improvement, and application of rainfall products of both agencies by using both satellite and ground data. JAXA and ISRO also aims to contribute to the enhancement of satellite data applications especially in the Asia-Pacific region

where there is heavy annual rainfall. Taking this opportunity, Japan would like to extend JAXA’s appreciation to ISRO for this valuable cooperation.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

I would like to end my statement by reiterating that Japan will continue to contribute to solving water-related issues through the application of space-based technology.

Thank you for your attention.