

PROMOTION OF SATELLITE DATA EXCHANGE AND UTILIZATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

The purpose of this document is to report the activities to promote Asia-Pacific satellite data exchange and utilization. JMA hosted the first and second meeting of “Asia-Pacific satellite data exchange and utilization” in February 1999 and in January 2000, respectively. The third meeting will be held in Melbourne in late January 2001.

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1. Introduction

In order to promote the advanced use of satellite data, it is important to review and analyze the status of their exchange and utilization in the world through the exchange of information and views among experts concerned.

2. Meeting on Satellite data exchange and Utilization

As one of opportunities to promote satellite data exchange and utilization, the "First Meeting on Asia-Pacific Satellite Data Utilization and Exchange" held in Tokyo on 2-4 February 1999 hosted by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and financially supported by the Ship & Ocean Foundation, was. More than twenty experts participated from Australia, China, Korea, U.S.A. and Japan.

This meeting is a forum for satellite operators, data producers and users and telecommunications experts in the Asia-Pacific region. The purpose of the meeting is to share information among the experts concerned, to expedite the process of satellite data exchange, and to promote more advanced and effective utilization of satellite data by the national Meteorological Services in this region.

The Second Meeting was held by JMA in Tokyo on 31 January and 1 February 2000 in accordance with the recommendation of the first meeting. An expert at Hong Kong Observatory participated as a new member. In the meeting, the status of satellite data utilization and product development, requirements for satellite data were reported. Further, the coordination of satellite data exchange was discussed among participants. In addition, from the point of view that in-situ data be extremely important in various fields of applications, topics of Japan's wind profiler network and ARGO system were reported and welcomed. As one of recommendations of the meeting, more stress should be placed on exchange of data and products. The participants found this meeting was very useful and unanimously agreed that the meeting should continue in the future.

The next meeting will be coordinated by JMA and held by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Australia, in Melbourne in late January 2001.