

CURRENT AND FUTURE MONSOON RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN

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ABSTRACT

In 1989, six government agencies/institutes including the Meteorological Research Institute (MRI) embarked on the 10-year research project titled, "Japanese Experiment on Asian Monsoon (JEXAM)" under the sponsorship of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (STA). One of the motivations which started this project was to make an initiative for the nationwide research activities toward the study of Asian monsoon. In the fact JEXAM was one of the first few projects to which STA committed as a long-term research project. The main objective of JEXAM was to investigate the atmosphere-land-ocean interaction surrounding the Asian continent. During the first five years since 1989, major research activities of JEXAM have been focused on three areas. They are, 1) Analysis of satellite data, 2) Investigation of the land-surface processes over the East Asia, and 3) Observation over the Indian Ocean.

Although JEXAM was started as a national research project as mentioned above, it was clear from the beginning that we need international cooperations to carry out the above-mentioned study of Asian monsoon. As for the analysis of satellite data, we have made a bilateral agreement with India Meteorological Department for the cooperation titled, "Utilization of INSAT and GMS Data for Research in Asian Monsoon". As for the land-surface observations, the formal agreement for the cooperation between P.R.C. was signed in March 1992. During the working group meeting in this year, P.R.C. officially requested the Japanese cooperation in the ocean observation related to SCSMEX.

Currently we are planning to shift our research/experiment activity toward the more international framework. The GEWEX program will be our guideline for the late 1990's. We have reorganized the JEXAM in such a way that we can better collaborate with the GEWEX Asian Monsoon Experiment (GAME). In addition, we plan to utilize the Global Research Network System (GRNS) initiated in 1993 for the information and human exchange among Asia/western Pacific. The problem is how we can internationally unite our efforts toward the common objective. We see this PSA conference is an important milestone to hammer out the substantial international project on Asian monsoon.