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Japan Greenhouse Gas Center established to consolidate greenhouse gas information and scientific findings —strengthening collaboration among relevant organizations to accelerate climate change mitigation and decarbonization

Ministry of the Environment, Japan
National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan
The University of Tokyo
Hiroshima University
Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology
Meteorological Research Institute
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), the University of Tokyo, Hiroshima University, the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), the Meteorological Research Institute (MRI), and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), entered into an agreement to jointly establish and operate the Japan Greenhouse Gas Center (the “Center”). The Center will commence operations upon completion of all required procedures.

The Center is Japan's first integrated, all-Japan information hub for greenhouse gases (GHGs). To date, GHG data and related scientific findings, including analysis and assessment results, have been dispersed across universities, research institutions, government agencies, and other organizations in Japan. The Center brings these resources together, providing one-stop access to and dissemination of GHG information.

1. Background and significance

Information essential for addressing global climate change, such as GHG observational data, model simulation results, and emissions estimates, has been collected, generated, and disseminated separately by various operational and research organizations in Japan. Achieving sustained GHG emission reductions into the future requires a framework for providing observation-based scientific evidence

and continuously accumulating the latest scientific findings. To this end, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) and other relevant organizations, working closely with the Ministry of the Environment, developed a concept for the establishment of the Center.

Japan has one of the world's most comprehensive GHG observation networks and decades of observational and research expertise. Establishing an information hub in Japan would provide an ideal platform for consolidating and organizing GHG observational data and research outputs from across institutions, offering a clear and accessible picture of the state of GHGs in Japan and around the world. Furthermore, such information and scientific knowledge are expected to strengthen the evidence base for policymaking and business activities, while contributing to international collaboration and the development of international standards and frameworks.

2. Objectives and activities

(1) Objective

The Center aims to generate and consolidate GHG-related information and scientific findings across organizations through strengthened collaboration and cooperation. By providing and disseminating the best available scientific knowledge to policymakers, private companies, and citizens in Japan and abroad, the Center seeks to advance efforts to reduce GHG emissions and contribute to global climate change mitigation.

(2) Activities

i Generation of GHG-related information and scientific findings through observations, analyses, research, model development, and other related activities
ii Consolidation of GHG-related information and scientific findings generated by relevant organizations through activities described in (i)
iii Provision and dissemination of GHG-related information and scientific findings to stakeholders in Japan and abroad
iv Collaboration with international partner organizations and participation in related international initiatives and frameworks
v Development of next-generation experts and education for students
vi Other activities necessary to achieve the objectives

(3) Other Information

The Japan Greenhouse Gas Center Office, established within the Earth System Division of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), serves as the secretariat of the Center.

The Center’s website (https://esd.nies.go.jp/ghg-information/en/index.html) functions

as a one-stop information platform for GHG-related information, navigating users to information provided by participating organizations.

3. Participating and supporting organizations

The Center is operated by the following organizations (in no particular order) in accordance with their respective roles and responsibilities:

- National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)
- UTokyo Center for Climate Solutions, The University of Tokyo
- Seto Inland Sea Carbon-neutral Research Center, Hiroshima University
- Research Institute for Global Change（RIGC）, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)
- Meteorological Research Institute (MRI), Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)
- Space Technology Directorate I, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

In addition to the organizations listed above, the following organizations (in no particular order) have endorsed the establishment of the Center. The Center anticipates collaboration and cooperation with these organizations in areas aligned with their respective expertise.

- Ministry of the Environment, Japan
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)
- Forest Research and Management Organization

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