

# JAXA's Activities on Water Cycle Variation & Climate Change Studies, and Recent Evolution in Satellite-Model Collaboration

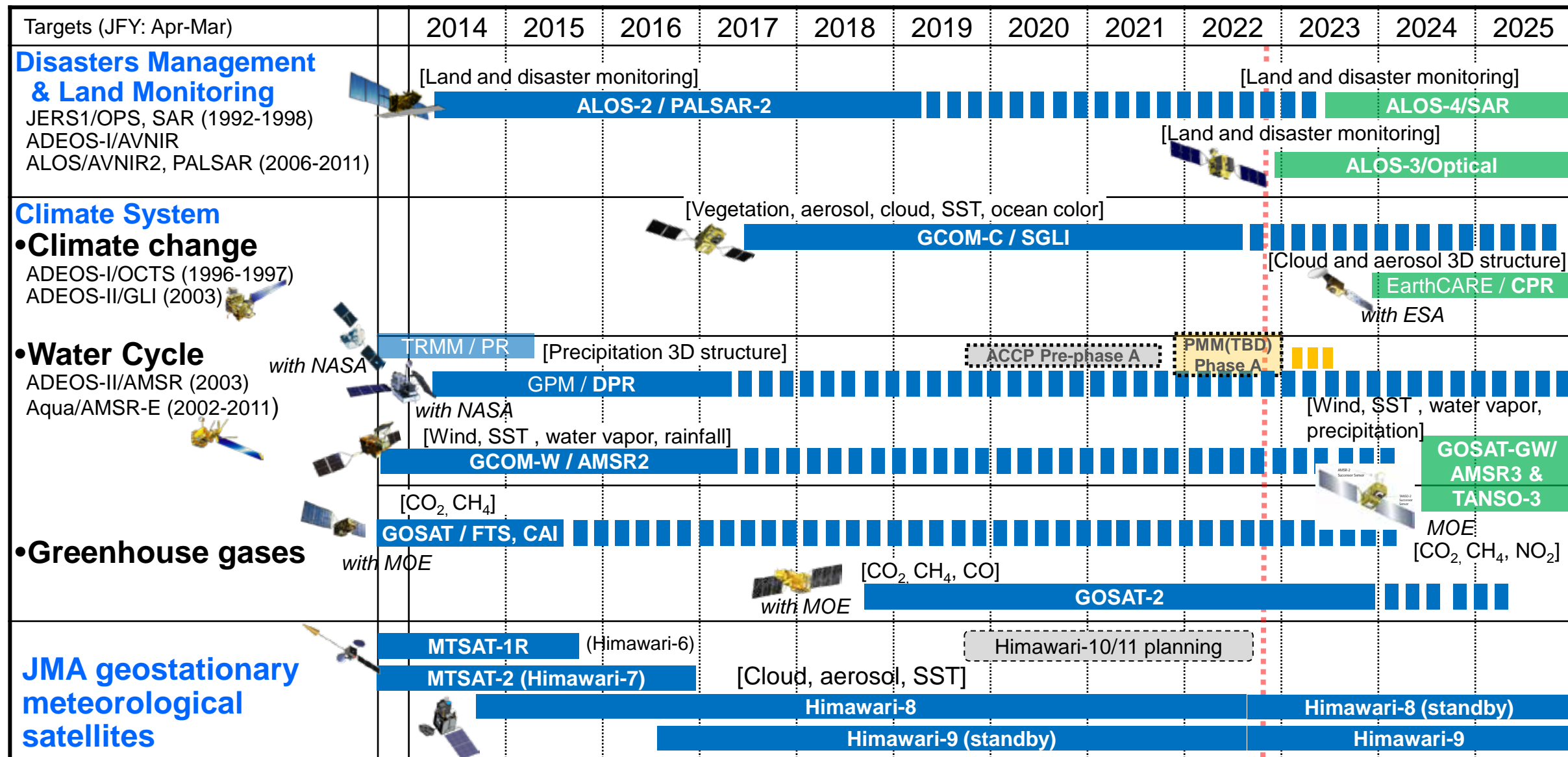
Riko OKI

Director

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

CEOS/CGMS WGClimat-18  
Feb. 28, 2023, Tokyo, Japan

# Japanese Earth Observation Satellites/Sensors



Mission status Completed On orbit Development Pre-phase-A Phase-A



# Water Cycle, ECVs and JAXA's Satellites

## JAXA's Satellites

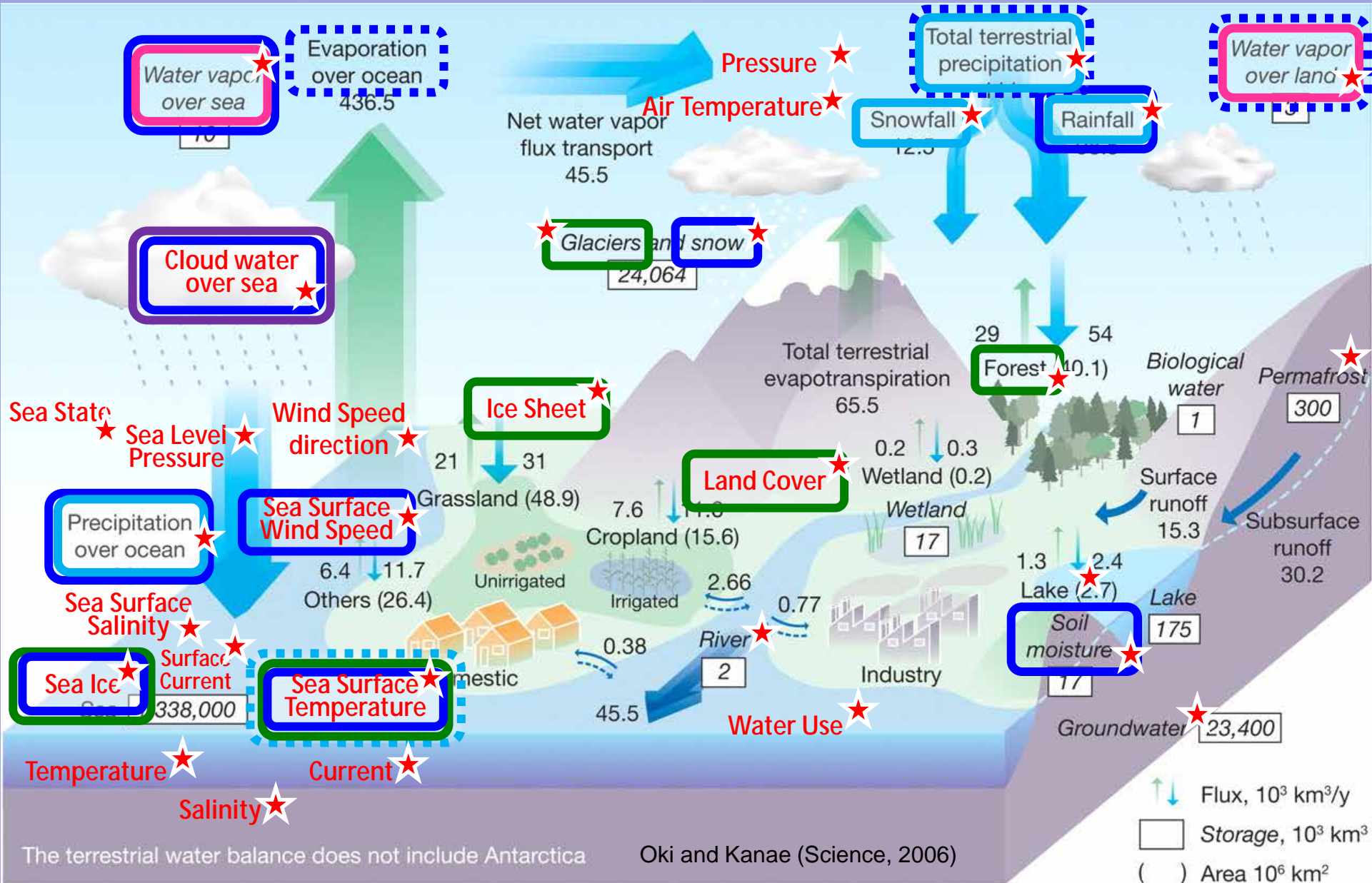
GOSAT

GCOM-W

GPM

GCOM-C

EarthCARE



★ ECVs

Essential Climate Variables

Variables enclosed by broken line are observable under some conditions

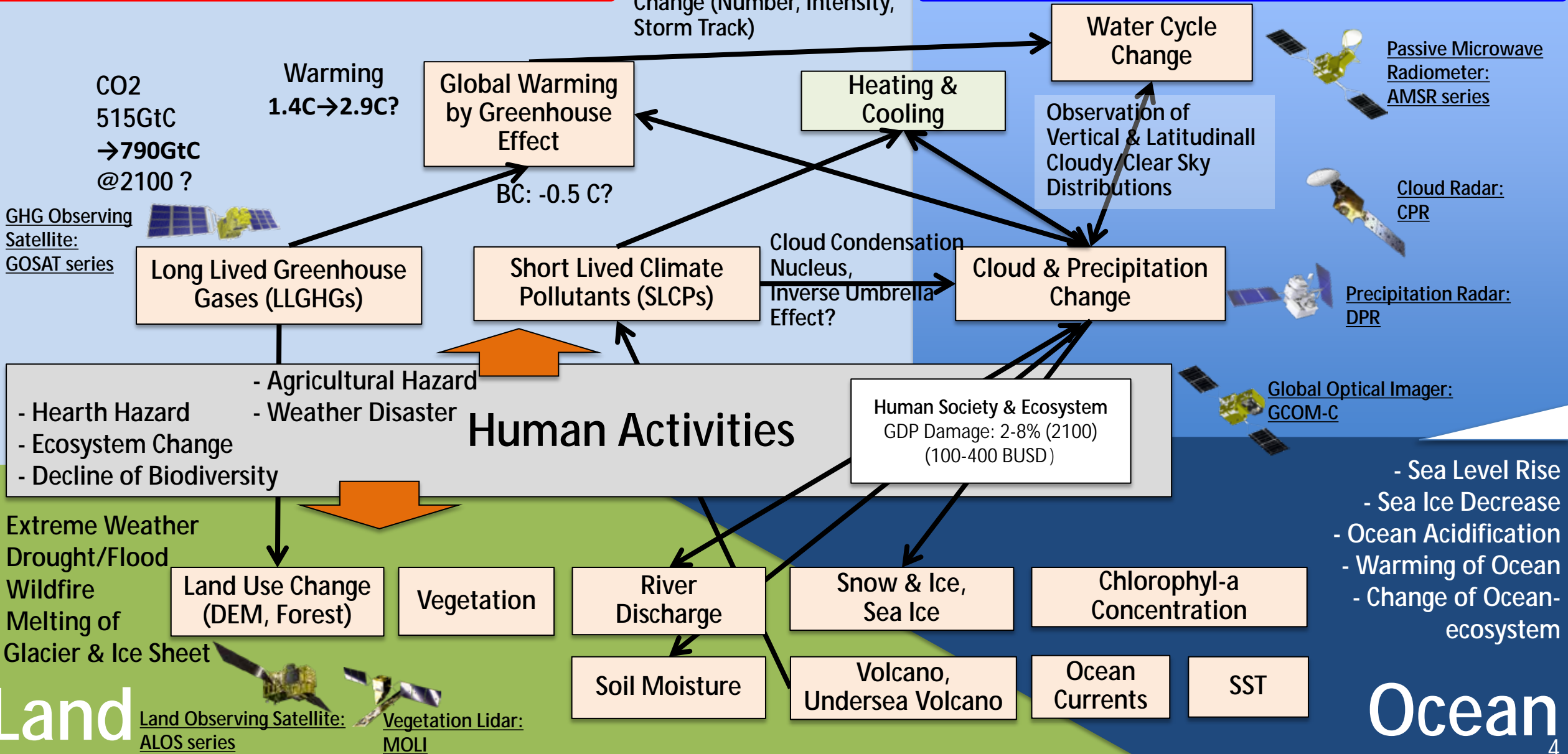
# Climate Change & Global Earth Observation System

# Atmosphere

## Forcing (Assessing Radiative Forcing)

Extreme Weather, Cyclone Change (Number, Intensity, Storm Track)

## Interactions (Assessing Climate Sensitivity/Convection)



# Water-related Microwave Missions in Japan

1985      1990      1995      2000      2005      2010      2015      2020      2025      2030



**TRMM/PR**

Ku-band (13.8GHz) radar

1997 - 2015

From tropics to mid latitudes  
& from single to dual freq.

Overlap to  
**CAL/VAL**



**EarthCARE  
/CPR**

W-band (94 GHz) radar  
with Doppler

2023-



**GPM/DPR**

Ku- (13.6GHz) & Ka-band (35.5GHz) radar

2014 -



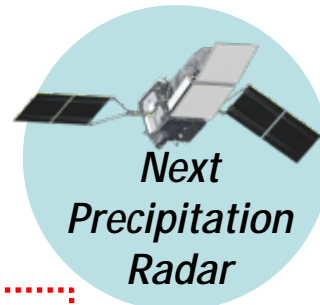
**Aqua/  
AMSR-E**

C-to-W-band microwave imager

2002 - 2011

slow rotation mode

Overlap to **CAL/VAL**



**Next  
Precipitation  
Radar**



**GCOM-W  
/AMSR2**

C-to-W-band microwave imager

2012 -



Overlap to **CAL/VAL**



**MOS-1/1b  
/MSR**

K-band microwave imager

1987



**ADEOS-II/  
AMSR**

C-to-W-band  
microwave imager

2002-2003



**GOSAT-GW/  
AMSR3**

C-to-X-band  
microwave imager

2024 -



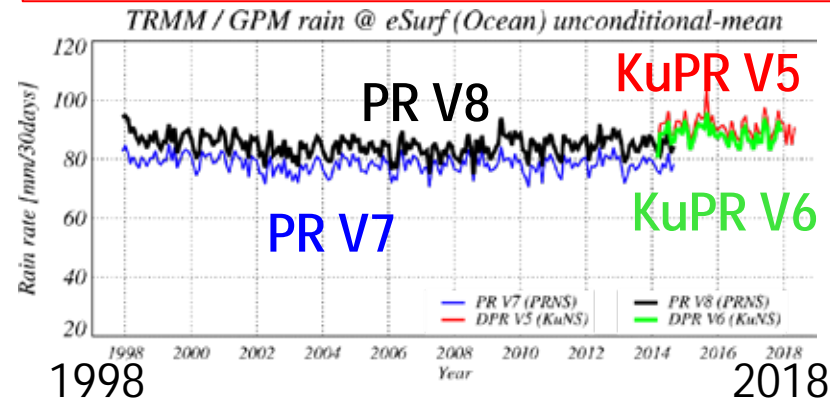
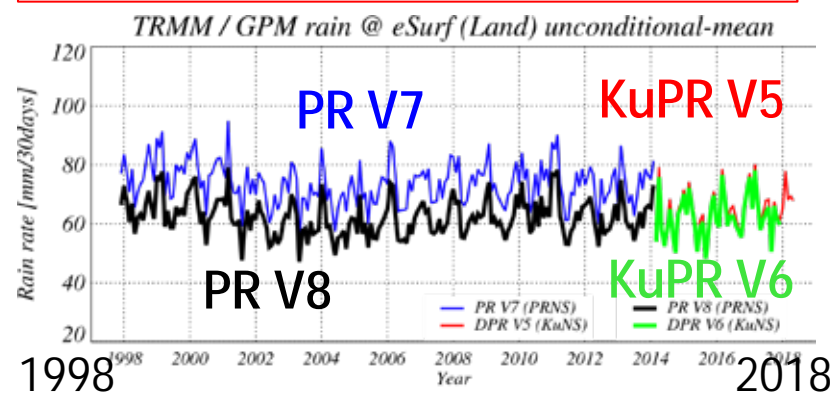
# Monitoring of long-term precipitation radar datasets by TRMM/PR (1997-2015) and the GPM/DPR (2014-)



- GPM/DPR's calibration factors was changed in V05 released on May 2017, and **TRMM/PR's calibration factors was also changed** in TRMM/PR-L1 V8 (GPM TRMM V05) L1 released on Oct. 2017.
- Better continuity was realized in the TRMM/PR-L2 V8 (GPM TRMM V06) and GPM/DPR-L2 V06 released in Oct. 2018, by using **common precipitation estimation algorithms** between the TRMM/PR and the GPM/KuPR.

**Over-land** surface precipitation rates averaged in 35S-35N.

**Over-ocean** surface precipitation rates averaged in 35S-35N.

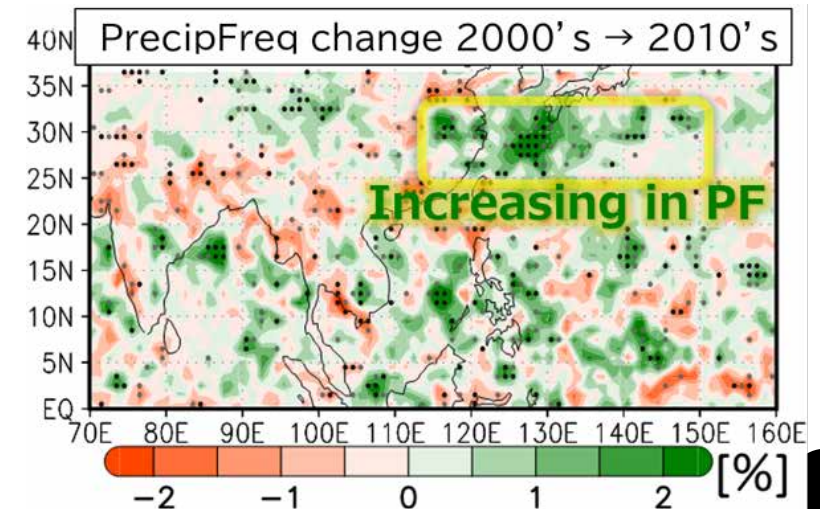


→ These dataset was used long-term precipitation analyses.  
Takahashi, H.G., Fujinami, H. Recent decadal enhancement of Meiyu-Baiu heavy rainfall over East Asia. *Sci. Rep.* 11, 13665 (2021).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-93006-0>

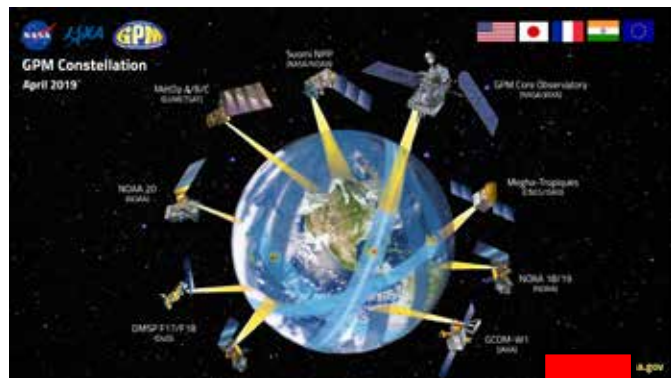
<https://earth.jaxa.jp/en/earthview/2021/08/02/5584/index.html>

Takahashi and Fujinami (2021) showed **recent decadal enhancement of Meiyu-Baiu heavy rainfall** over the East Asia using the TRMM/PR & GPM/DPR dataset.

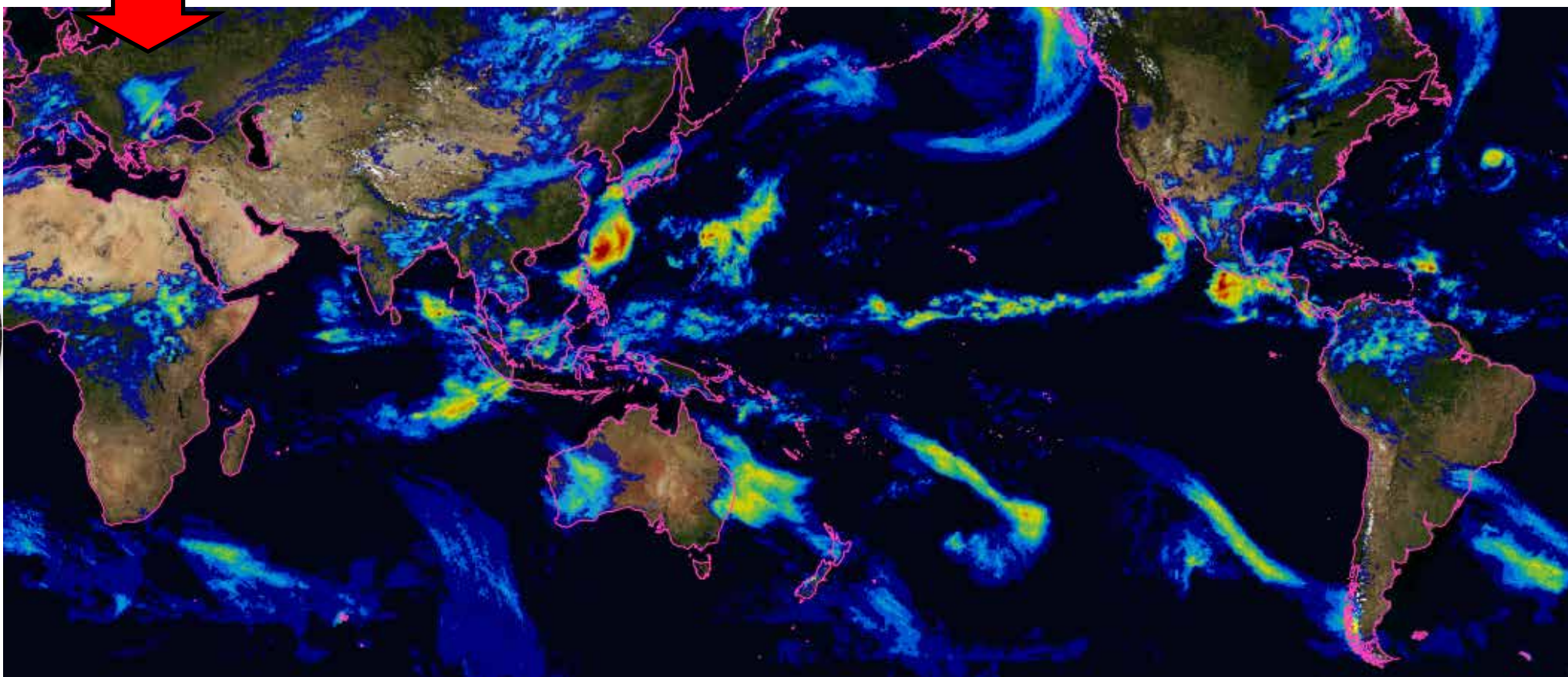




# Monitoring of Hourly Global Precipitation



- JAXA has developed the Global Satellite Mapping of Precipitation (GSMaP) under the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission
  - GSMaP is a blended Microwave-IR product in hourly and 0.1-degree grid
  - Near-realtime & realtime availability, available since Mar. 2000
  - <https://sharaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GSMaP/index.htm>





# Monitoring of Weather and Climate

- JAXA attends **WMO** Space-based Weather and Climate Extremes Monitoring (**SWCEM**) project and provide the **GSMaP product** with about 22yr-climate data to National Meteorological and Hydrological Service in **Asia and Pacific regions**.

Based upon experiences in the WMO SWCEM, the JAXA has operated our homepage "**JAXA Climate Rainfall Watch**" since Mar. 2020, which shows the heavy rainfall/drought indices with the GUI.

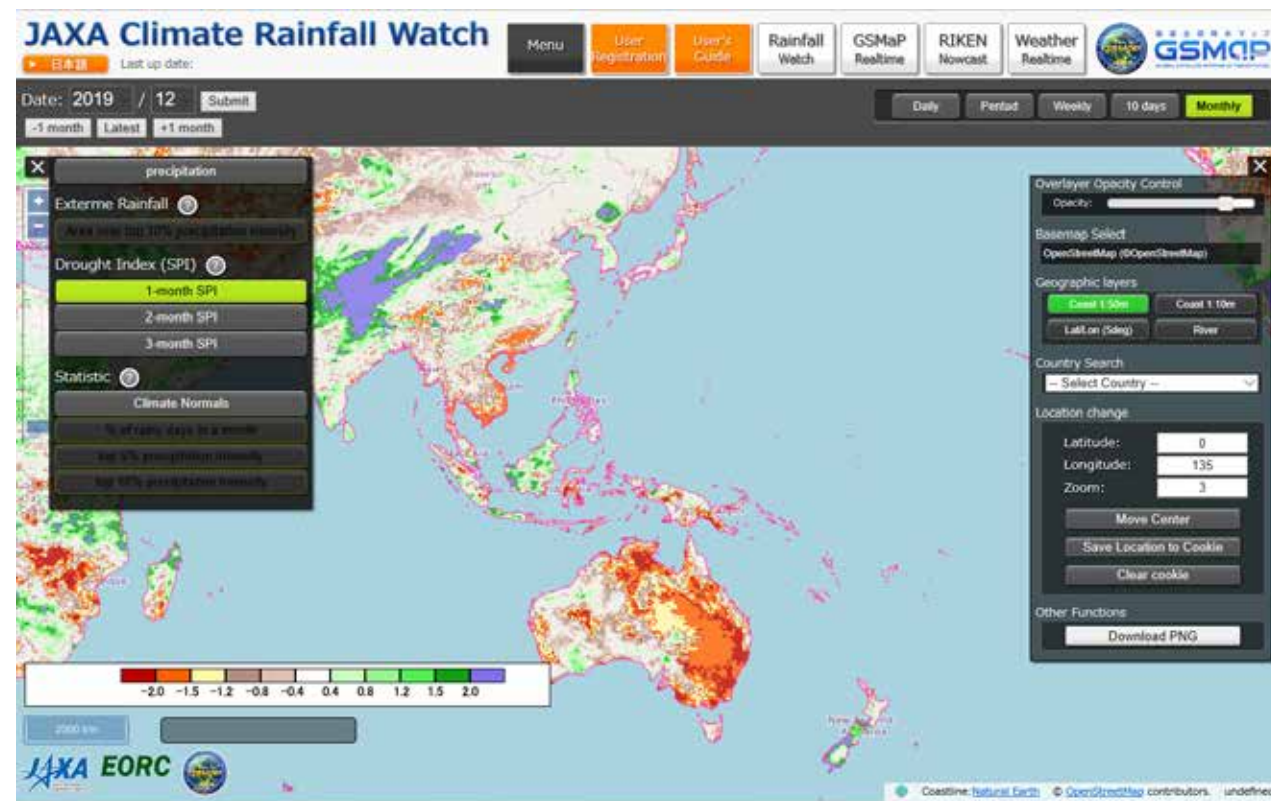


Based upon results of this WMO project, results including JAXA GSMaP were described in the 2019 Australia drought article of the **WMO Statement on the State of the Global Climate 2019**.

WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas at UN headquarters in New York (11<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2020)



<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/state-of-climate-report-released-un-and-wmo-chiefs>



[https://sharaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GSMaP\\_CLM/index.htm](https://sharaku.eorc.jaxa.jp/GSMaP_CLM/index.htm)





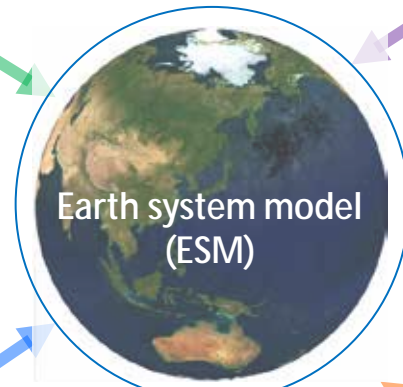
# Earth Environment Monitoring by Optical Imager

## GCOM-C observation:

- ü Spatial distribution
- ü Seasonal change
- ü Year-to-year change
- ü ...

The SGLI 380nm channel clearly shows aerosols (fire smoke) as brown color areas

ü Aerosol and cloud processes and radiative forcing

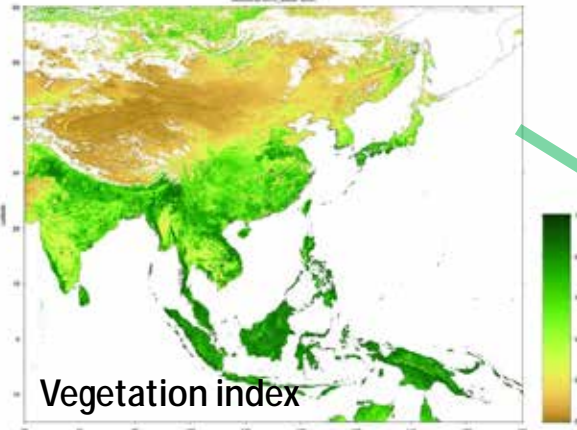


JAMSTEC, Tokyo Univ.

- ü Model-Observation comparison
- ü Correlation among variables
- ü ...

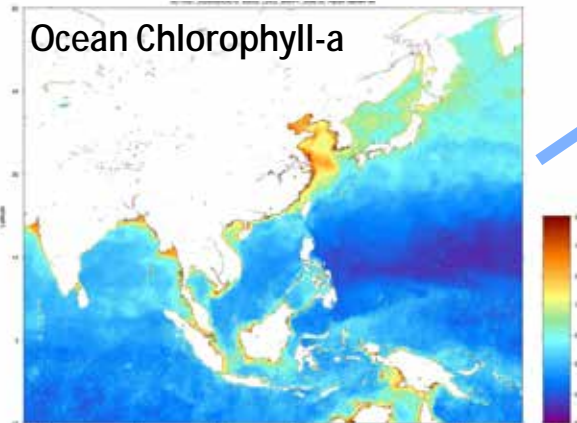
- ® Improvement of the ESM
- ® Improvement of future prediction of the future global environment

## Global ecosystem change



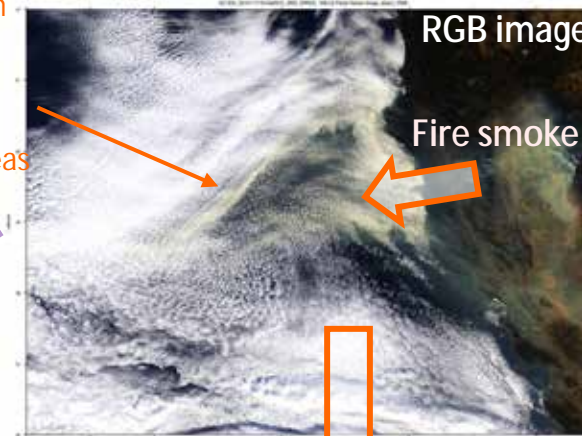
Vegetation index

## Ocean Chlorophyll-a



8-day mean during 24-31 Mar. 2020

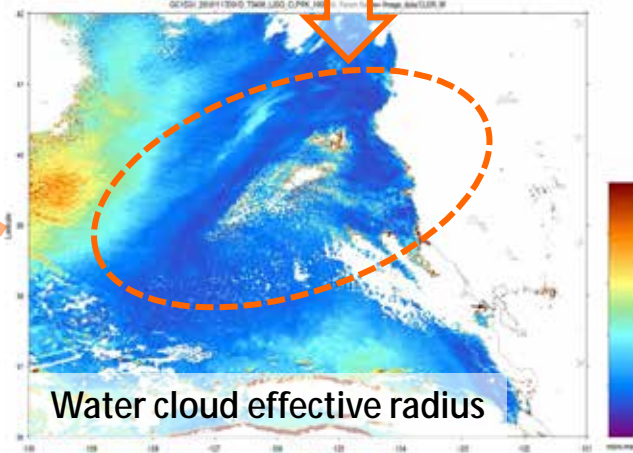
## Aerosol and clouds by SGLI bands



RGB image

Fire smoke

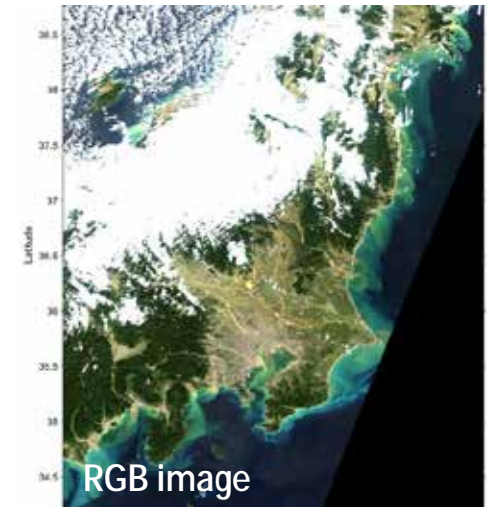
Cloud particle radius is affected by the aerosol



Water cloud effective radius

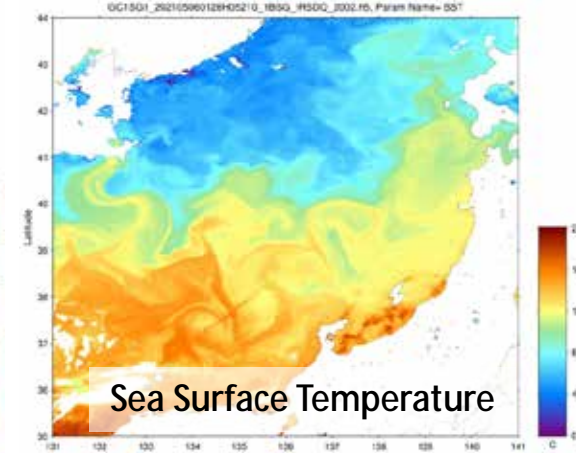
Offshore California on 17 Nov. 2018

## Environmental monitoring by 250m



RGB image

Total suspended matter



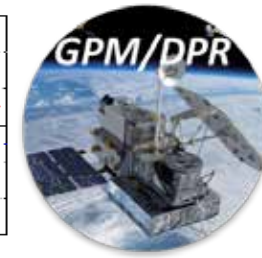
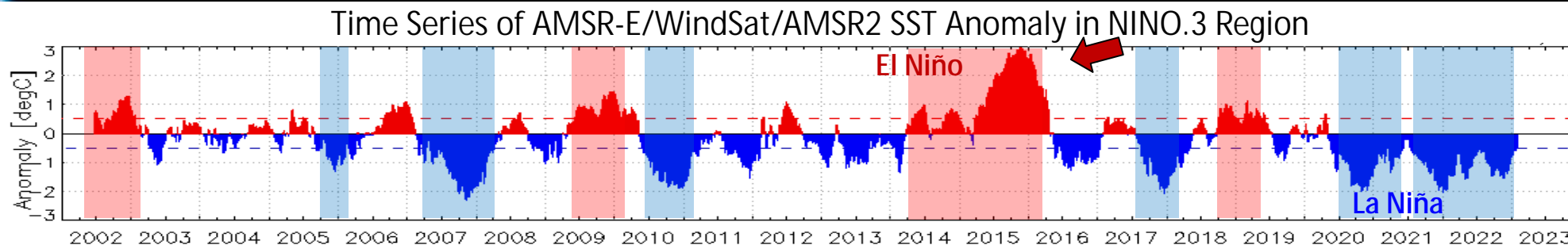
Sea Surface Temperature

Around Japan Sea on 6 May. 2021

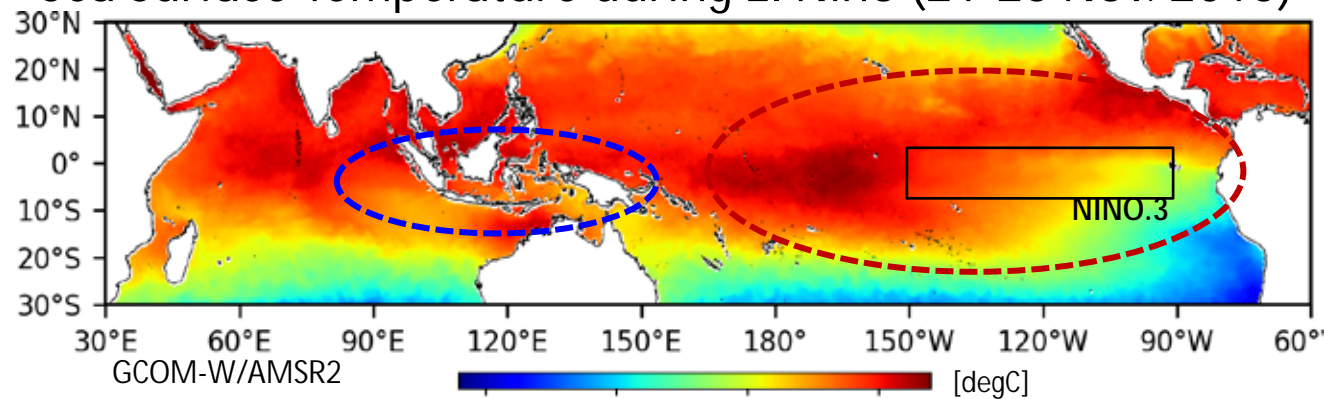




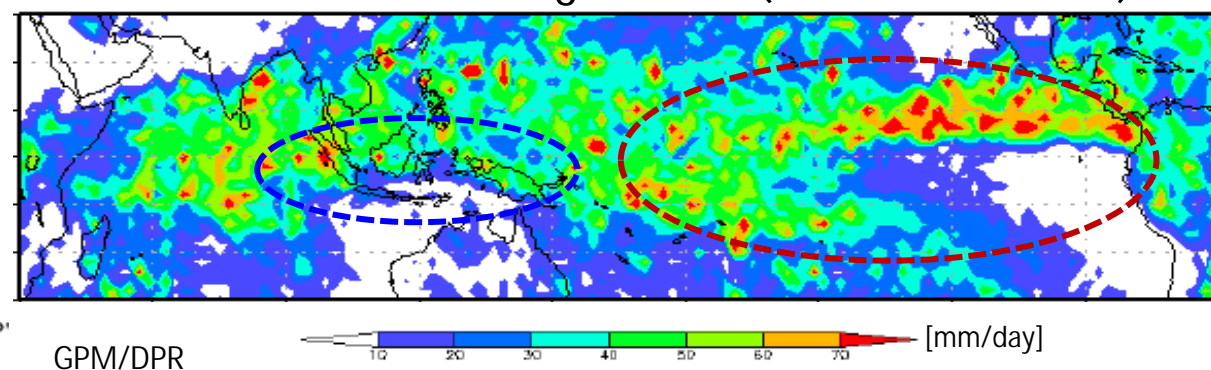
# Monitoring of Large-scale Air-Sea Interactions



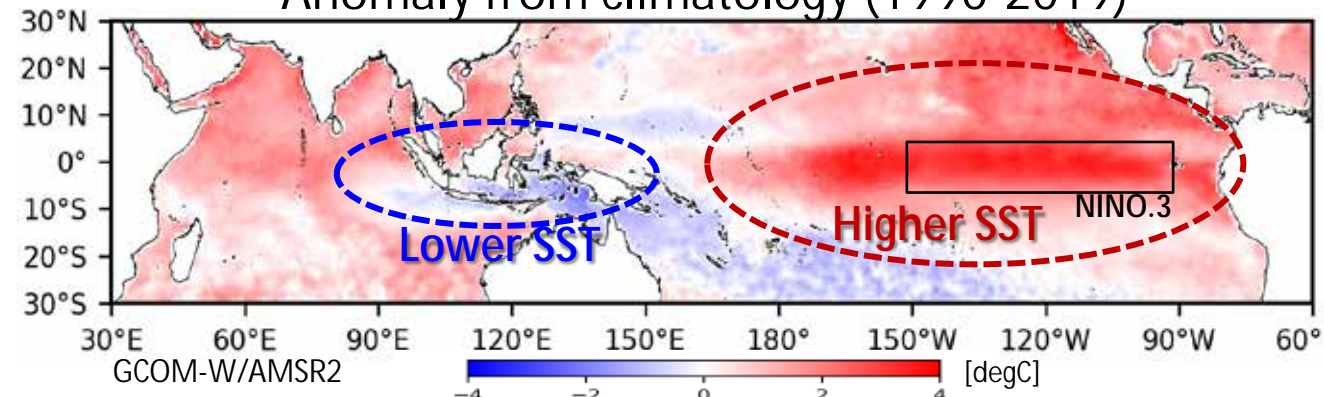
Sea Surface Temperature during El Niño (21-25 Nov. 2015)



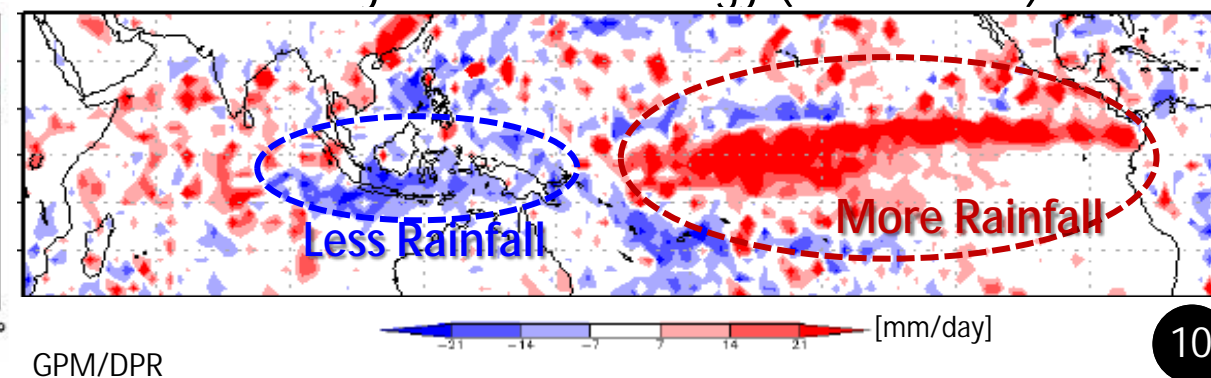
Surface Rainfall during El Niño (Oct. - Nov. 2015)



Anomaly from climatology (1990-2019)



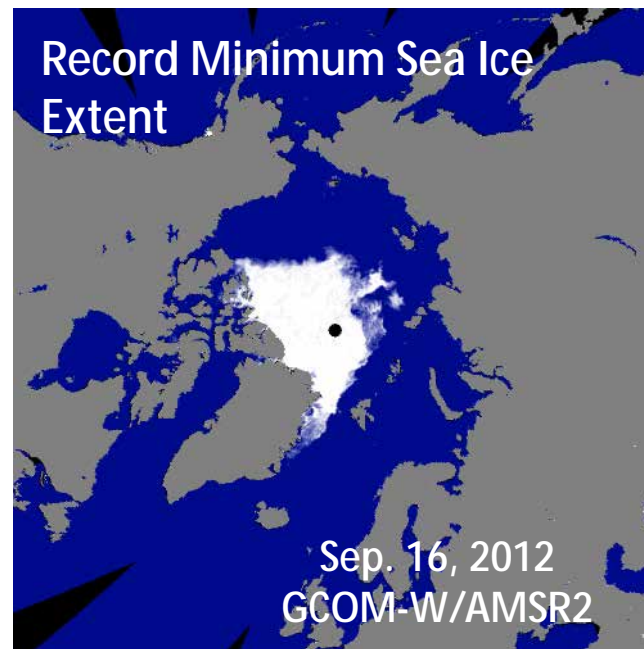
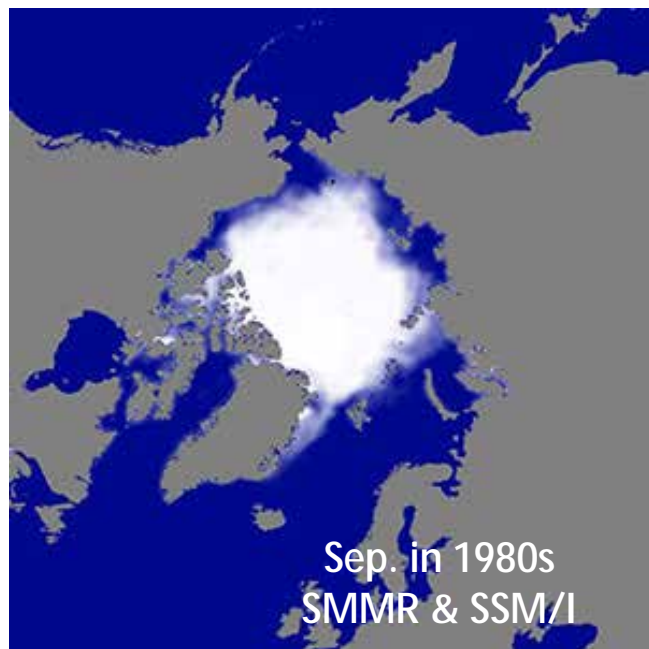
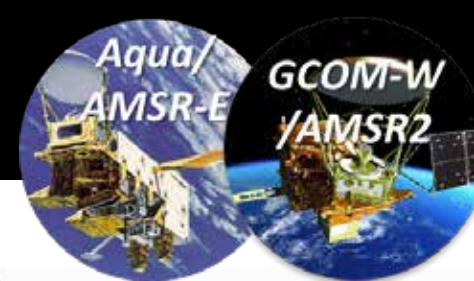
Anomaly from climatology (2014-2021)



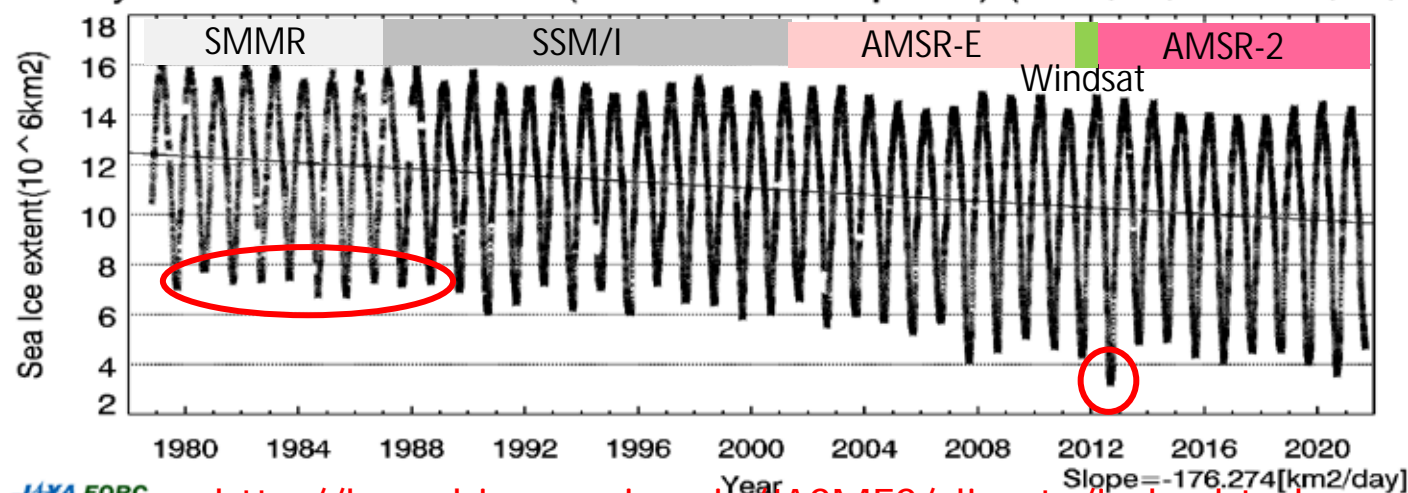




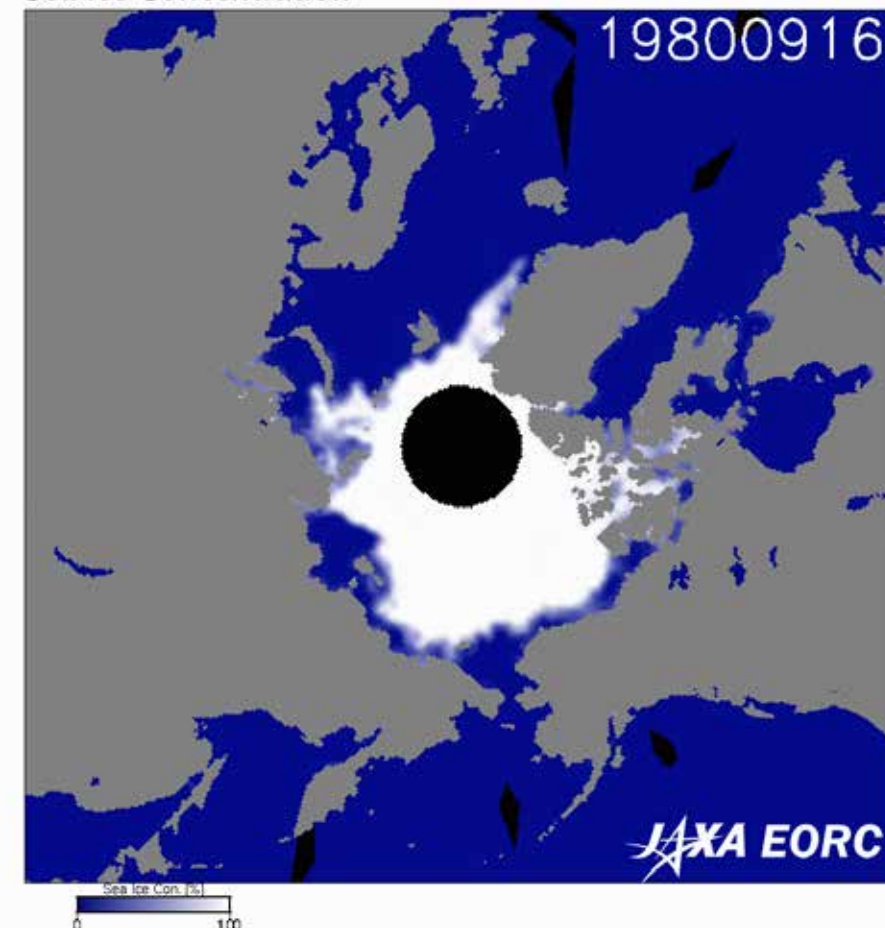
# Monitoring Arctic Sea Ice by Passive Microwave Imagers



Daily Sea Ice Extent Trends (Northern Hemisphere) (1978/11/01-2021/09/17)



Sea Ice Concentration

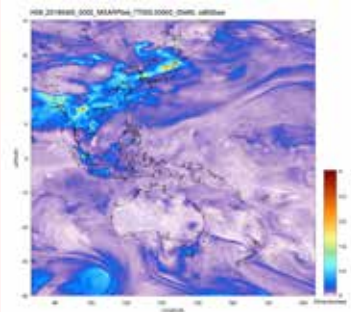


Variation of Arctic sea ice distribution on the day of Sep. 16 from 1980 to 2021, except 1982, 1985, 2002.

# Satellite and Model Collaborations toward Earth Environment Predictions

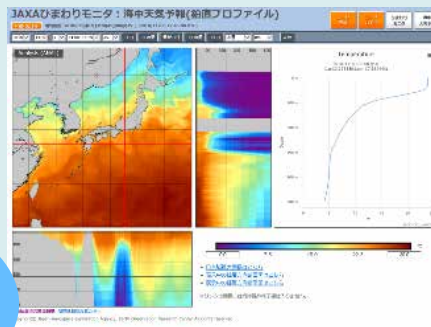
Alert for  
Public Health

with JMA, MRI, NIES, Kyushu Univ.



Aerosol Model

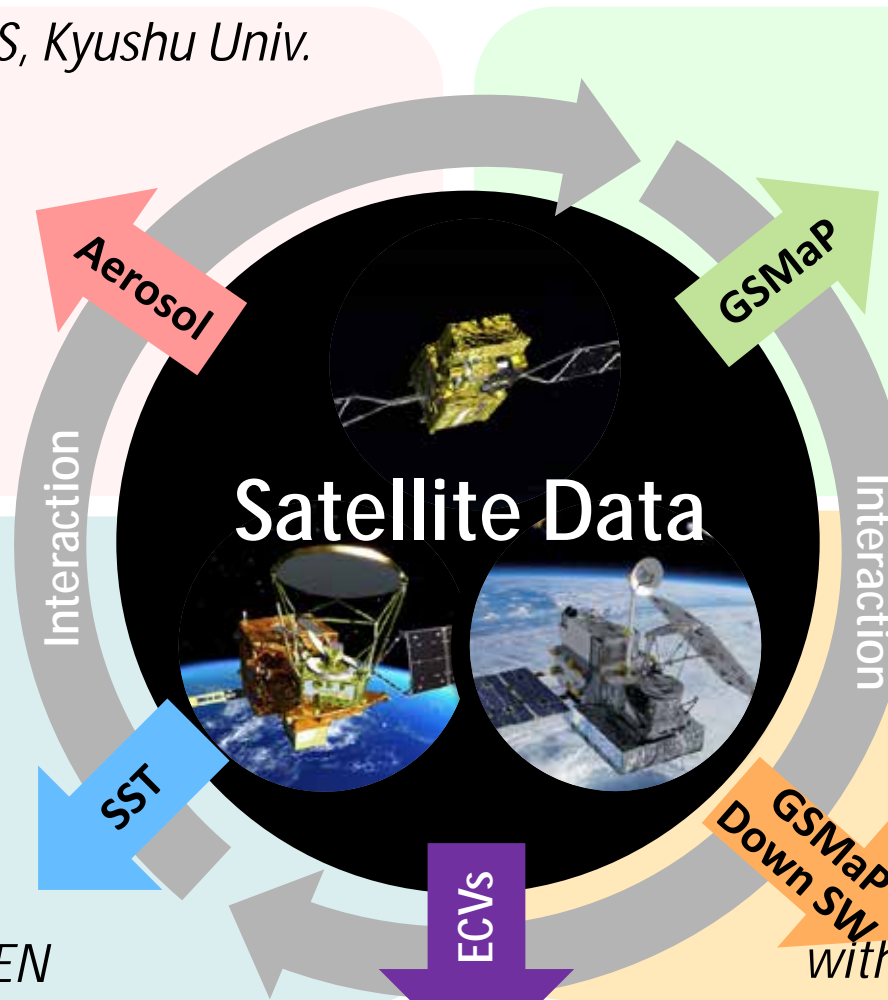
Ocean Model



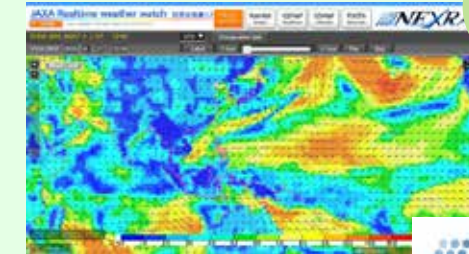
Fisheries,  
Ocean Transport,  
Climate

with JAMSTEC, RIKEN

Climate Model &  
Earth System Model



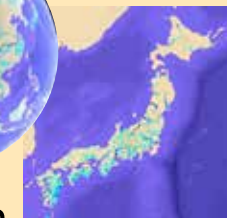
with U. Tokyo, RIKEN



**NEXRA**

Atmospheric Model

Land/River Model



Drought, Flood,  
Water-related  
Hazard

with U. Tokyo

GSMaP  
Down SW

ECVs



with U. Tokyo, JAMSTEC, NIPR, etc.



# “JAXA Realtime Weather Watch” GSMaP Assimilation in JAXA Supercomputer System (NEXRA)

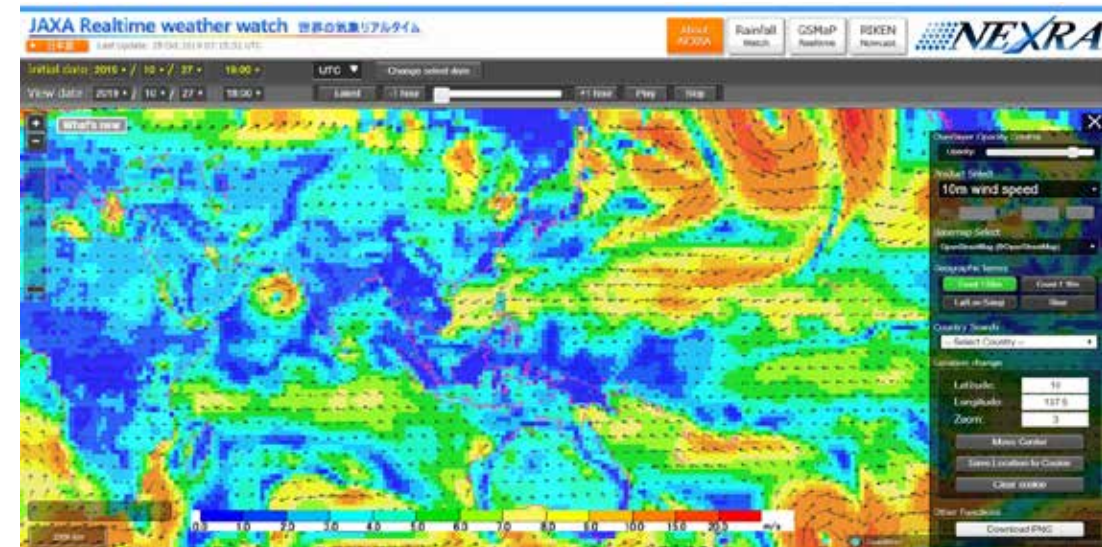
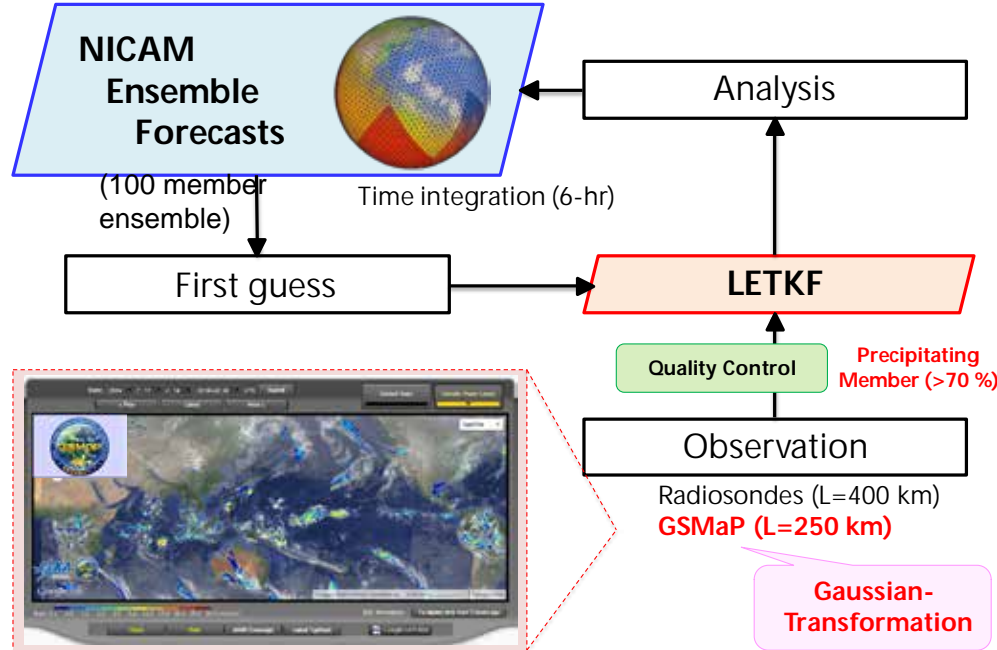
- JAXA, Univ. Tokyo and RIKEN installed the NICAM-LETKF data assimilation system using the GSMaP at JAXA supercomputer system generation 2 (JSS2) and has experimentally operated it in near-real time (Kotsuki et al. 2019, SOLA).



NICAM-LETKF at JAXA Research Analysis  
= NEXRA

14 km res.  
Global scale

Assimilating GSMaP with NICAM-LETKF

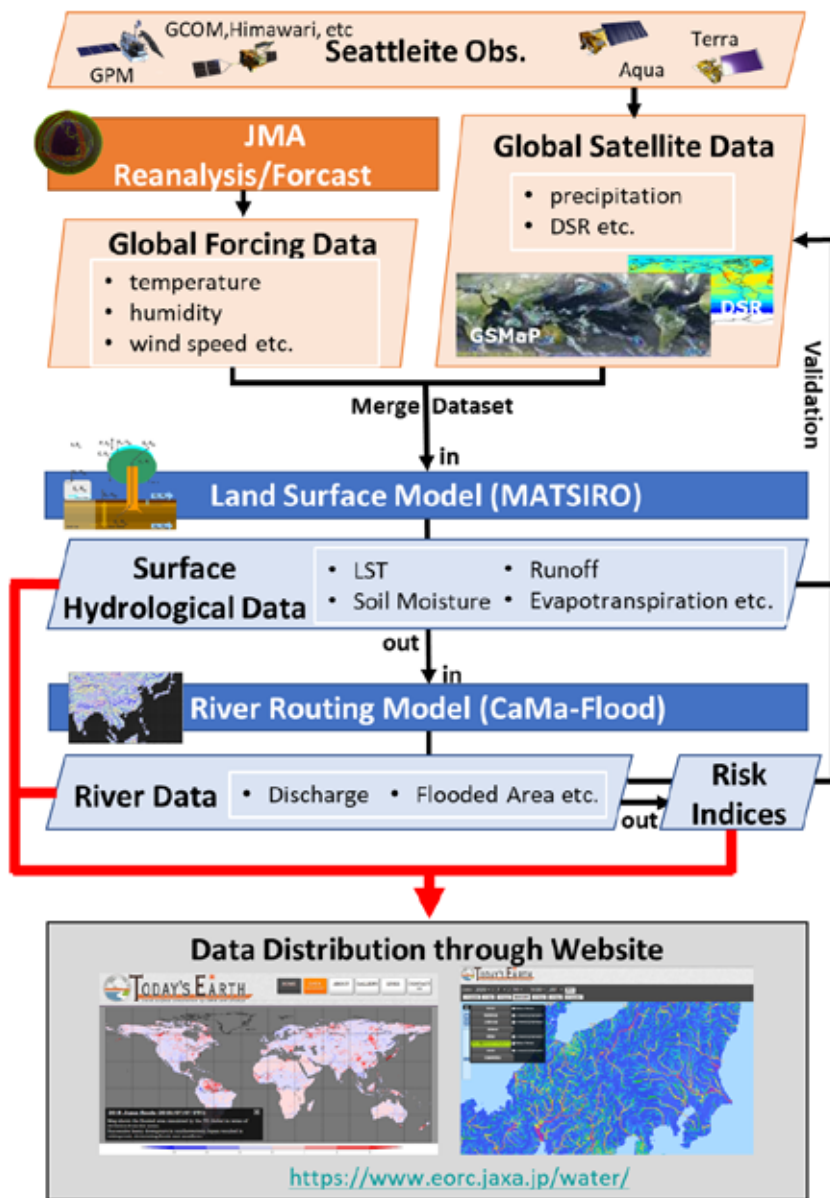


Monitoring home page of the NEXRA is now available as “JAXA realtime weather watch”.

<https://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/theme/NEXRA/>

Kotsuki et al.,  
2019: Predictability  
of Record-Breaking  
Rainfall in Japan in  
July 2018: Ensemble  
Forecast Experiments  
with the Near-real-  
time Global  
Atmospheric Data  
Assimilation System  
NEXRA. SOLA, 15A,  
<https://doi.org/10.2151/sola.15A-001>.

# Global Terrestrial Hydrological Simulation System; Today's Earth



- JAXA has developed the "Today's Earth", the satellite merged global terrestrial hydrological simulation system, under the joint research with the University of Tokyo.

<https://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/water/>

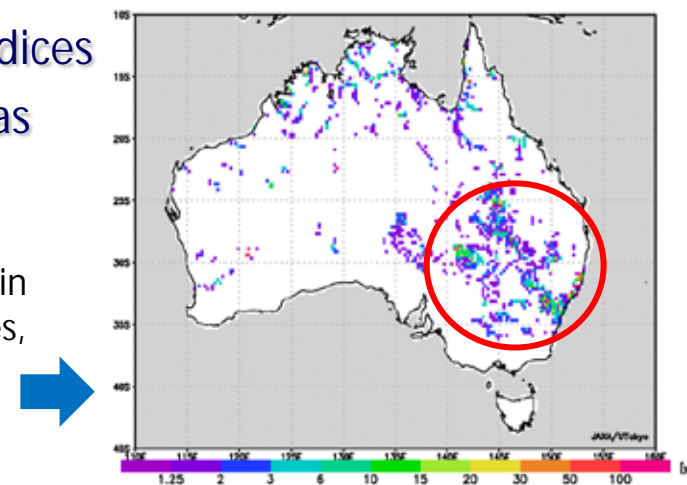


	TE-Global (Global System)	TE-Japan (Regional System)
Horizontal resol. (lat/lon)	Land : 0.5 deg., River : 0.25 deg.	1/60 deg.
Temporal resol.	Every 3 hour	Every hour
Latency	About 3 days	<b>Real-time</b> *forecast data distribution is limited within research purpose due to the Japanese law
Satellite data used in the System (in prep.)	GSMap, Terra/Aqua MODIS, SRTM30, NOAA AVHRR, (AW3D, GCOM-C)	SRTM30, NOAA AVHRR, (GSMap, Himawari-8, ALOS HRLC)
Product	River discharge, Flooded area, Soil moisture, Snow amount, Latent heat flux, etc.	

- Today's Earth can visualize risk indices in terms of return period as well as various hydrological products.

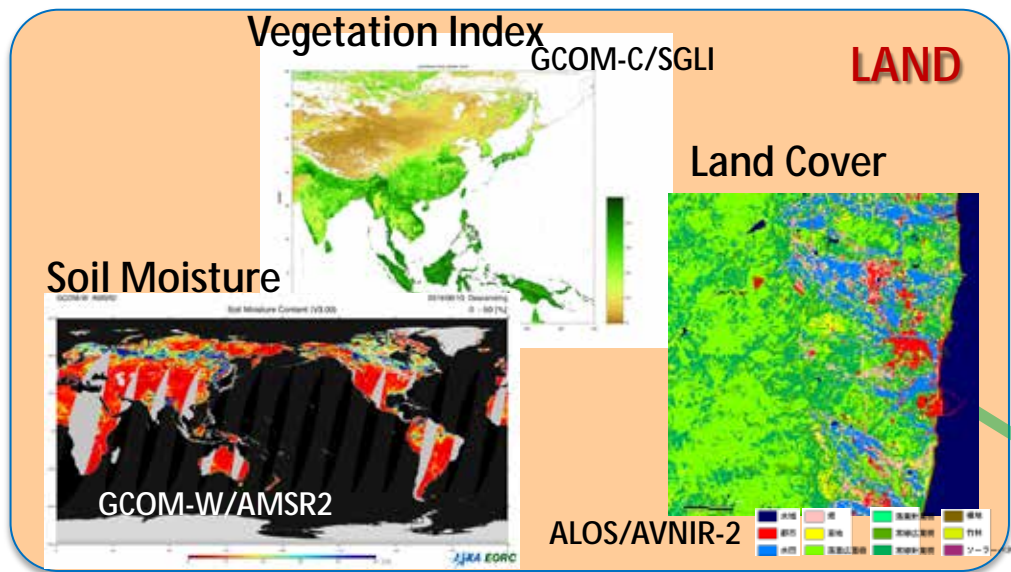
Example of flood risk estimation by TE-Global in the case of the sever flood in New South Wales, Australia, March 2021

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/21/australia/australia-flood-natural-disaster-intl-hnk/index.html>



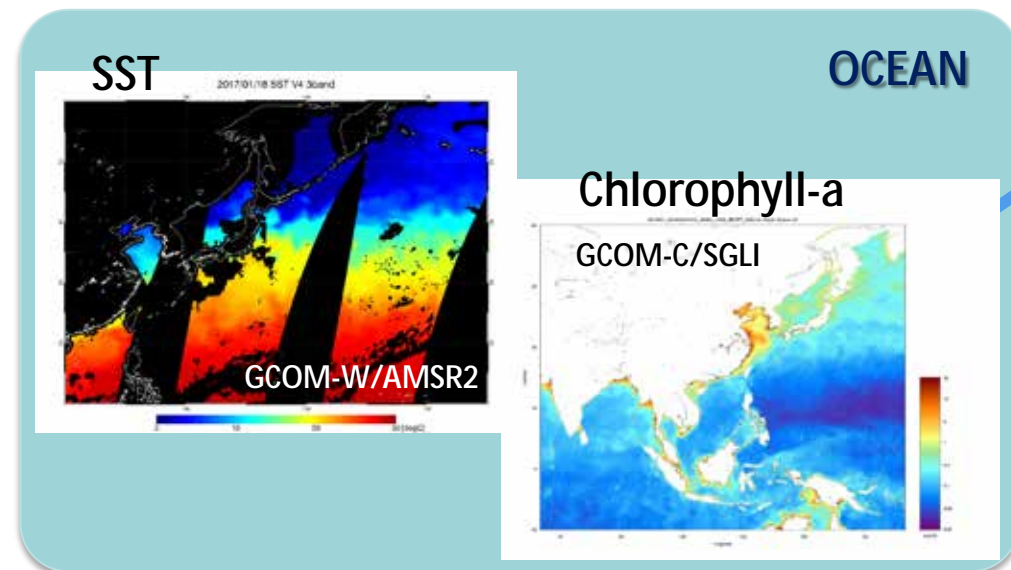
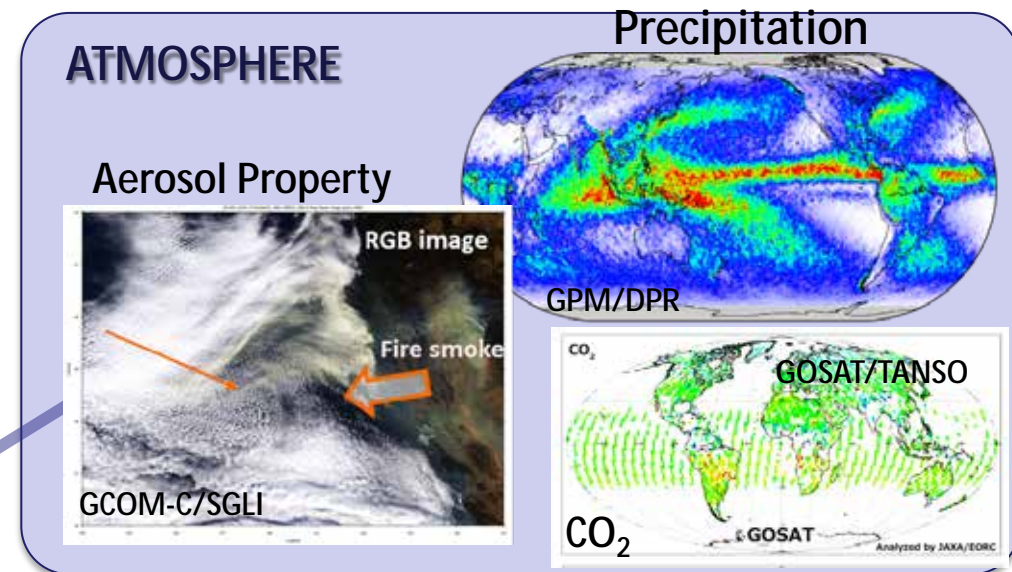


# Satellite Data for Improving Climate Change Studies

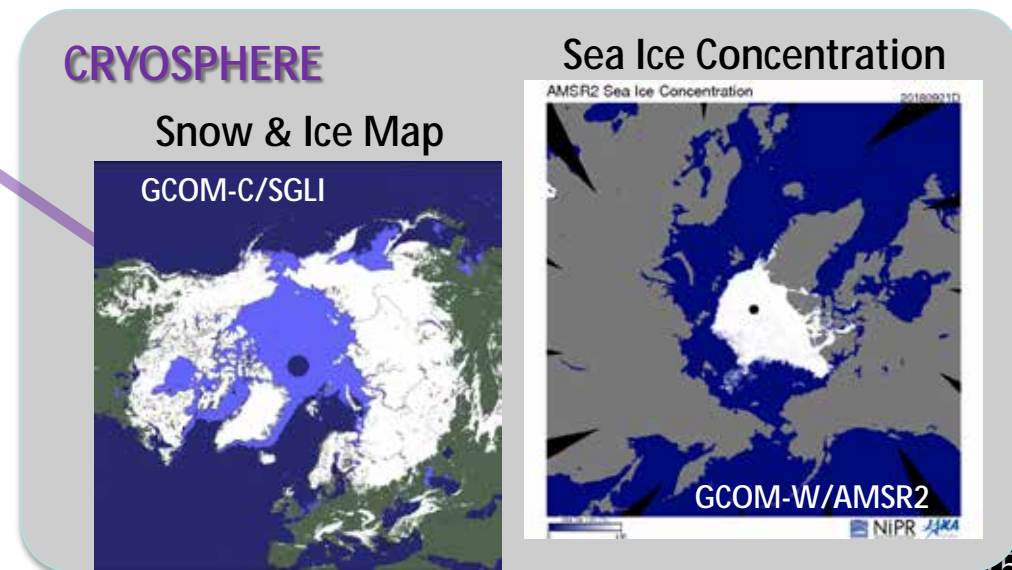


- Comparison of model & observation
- Correlation between parameters
- ...

- Ⓡ Improvement of ESM
- Ⓡ Improvement of future prediction of Earth environment

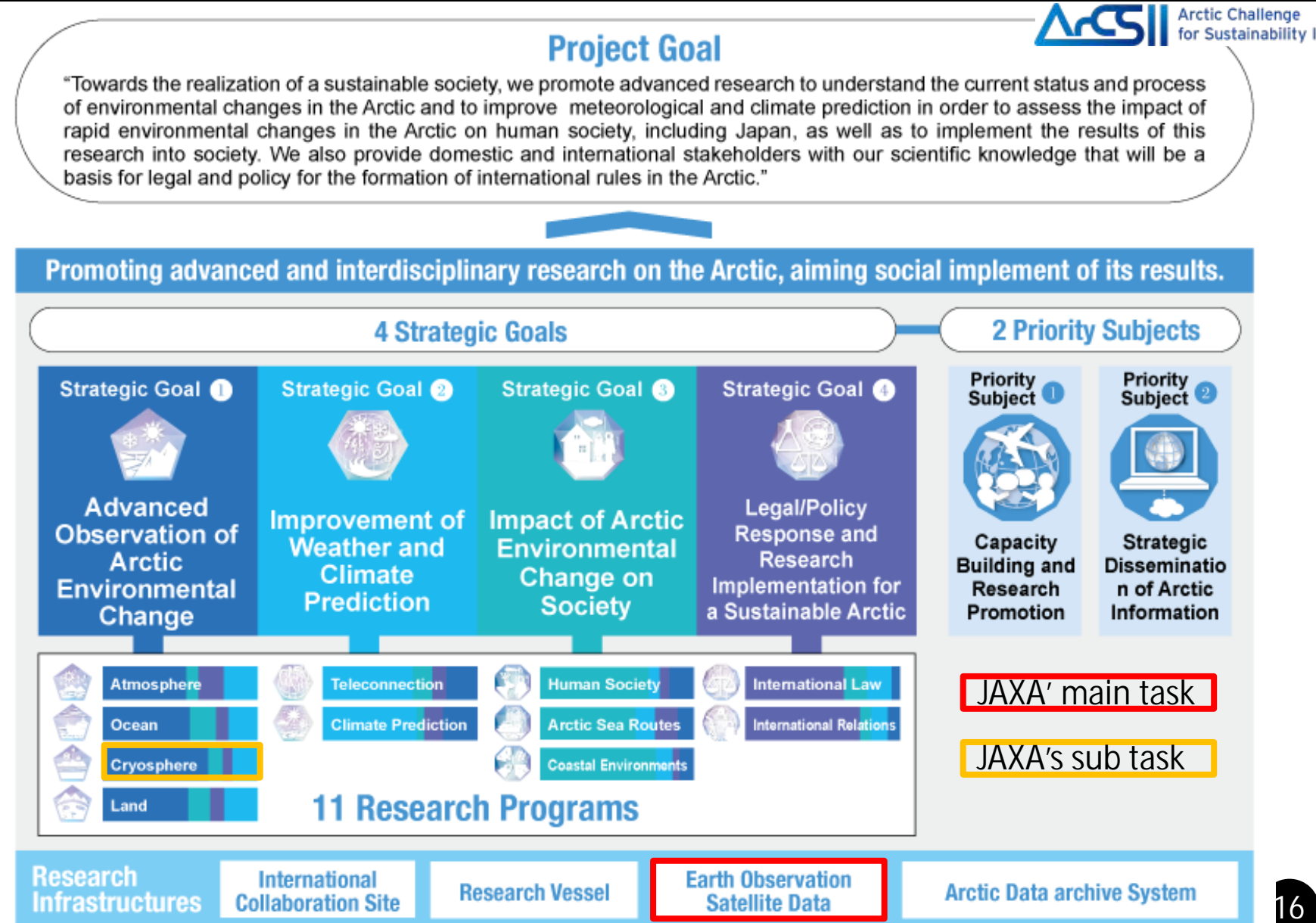


- Natural Disasters
- Water Resources
- Ecosystem
- Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Health



# MEXT Project for the Advanced Studies on the Arctic (ArCSII)

- “ArCSII” is a 5-year project for the advanced and interdisciplinary research on the Arctic, led by the National Institute of Polar Studies (NIPR), and funded by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology - Japan (MEXT) from Jun. 2000 to Mar. 2025, succeeding previous “ArCS” project
- JAXA leads one of four research infrastructures to provide the Earth observation satellite data, including GCOM-W, GCOM-C, and ALOS-2, to ArCSII research programs and support data utilization in their researches.





# MEXT-Program for the Advanced Studies of Climate Change Projection (SENTAN)

- SENTAN is a 5-year program for climate change studies funded by MEXT from Jun. 2022 to Mar. 2027, succeeding previous "TOUGOU" program
- JAXA collaborates with both TOUGOU and SENTAN to utilize satellite-based data in their activities.

## Area 1: Predictive understanding of Earth system changes based on physical evidence

*PI: Prof. Masahiro Watanabe, the University of Tokyo*

- Advanced studies for global climate simulations
- Attributing and Predicting Earth System Variability

## Area 2: Biogeochemical modeling and climate simulations for carbon budget assessment

*PI: Dr. Michio Kawamiya, JAMSTEC*

- A hierarchical approach to advancing Earth system modeling
- Development of an integrated framework for Earth system research
- Earth-human system interaction and future scenario analysis
- Technical and clerical support for inter-theme cooperation

## Area 3: Increasing the sophistication of climate change projections around Japan

*PI: Dr. Izuru Takayabu, Japan Meteorological Business Support Center*

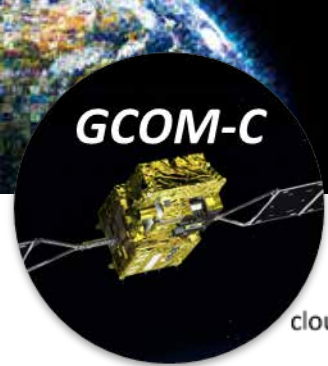
- Development of projection system and analysis of mechanism for climate change around Japan
- Creating climate change projection information and elucidating extreme event mechanisms for promoting regional and basin scale adaptation measures
- Creation of high-accuracy climate projection datasets for vulnerable regions in the world

## Area 4: Development of an integrated hazard projection model

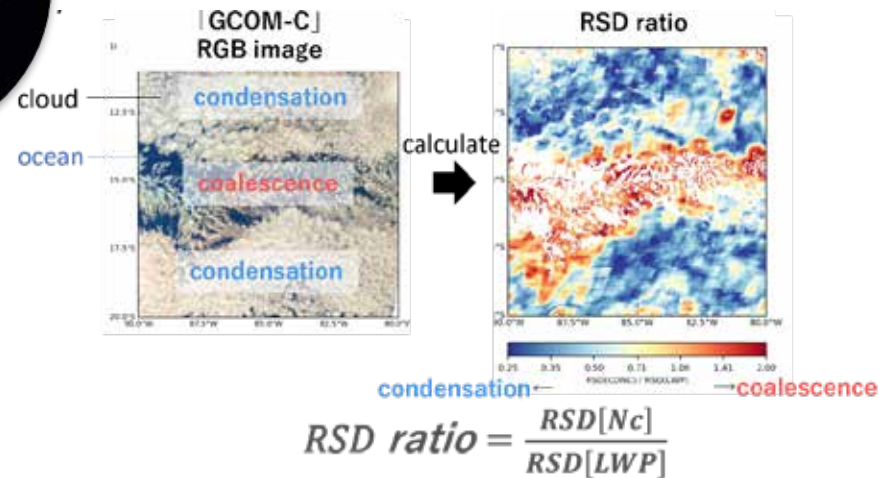
*PI: Prof. Nobuhito Mori, Kyoto University*

- Integrated hazard modelling and nationwide future projections
- Elaborate hazard model development and hazard mechanism elucidation
- Quantification of climate change factors in extreme hazards
- International cooperation for hazard and risk assessments in the Asia-Pacific region
- Flexible adaptation strategies to the future changes in hazard and society

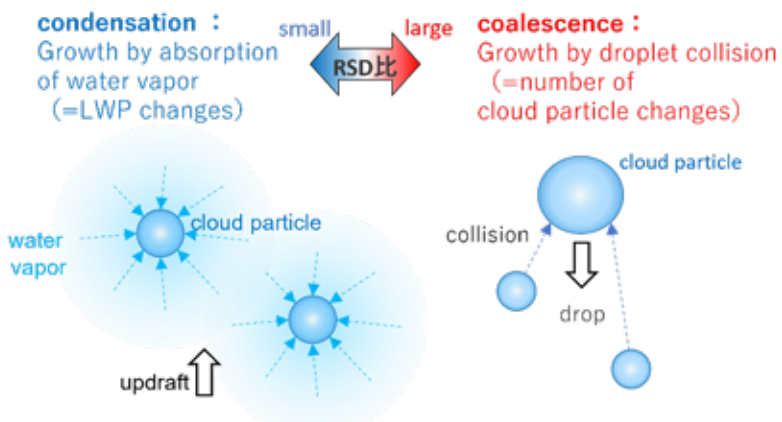




# Satellite-Climate Model Collaboration Example: Research to improve cloud growth process by using GCOM-C/SGLI



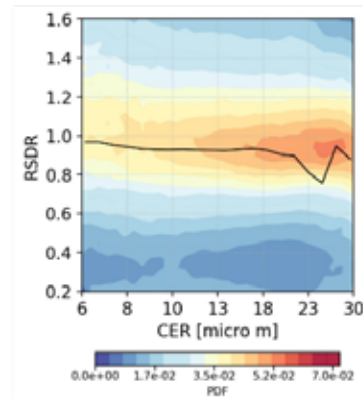
RSD ratio represents the dominance of the **condensation** or **coalescence** in cloud droplet growth



Successfully **quantified the cloud grain growth process** by analyzing the horizontal structure of clouds using cloud microphysical property products (cloud grain size and cloud optical thickness) at 250 m resolution.

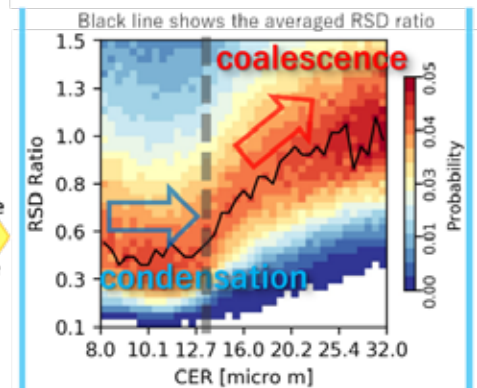
- BACKGROUND: Uncertainties abound in the setup of cloud microphysical processes (related to cloud particle growth and the formation of raindrops and ice crystals) in numerical models.
- RESULTS: Successful **quantitative evaluation of cloud grain growth processes** through horizontal structure analysis of cloud microphysical characteristics (cloud grain size and cloud optical thickness) utilizing the 250m resolution of SGLI. It was shown that **SGLI can observe features of the cloud growth process that have not been reproduced by models**.
- FUTURE PLAN: Improve the climate models by multivariate composite analysis with the polarization channels and multiple wavelengths in "SENTAN" program.

RSD vs. CER(cloud particle radius)  
calculated by numerical model(NICAM)



The numerical model does not show the difference of cloud microphysical process.

RSD vs. CER(cloud particle radius)  
calculated by GCOM-C/SGLI



The transition from condensation to coalescence process around CER=13 μm is detected by GCOM-C satellite observation.

Compare  
&  
improve



# Satellite-Climate Model Collaboration Example: Fire Modeling by using Satellite Data

Plan under JAXA-SENTAN collaboration

- By setting various parameters related to the combustion environment, burned area, and material release in the fire model based on the observation results of SGLI, etc., an Earth system model reflecting the effects of fire (contribution to material circulation and radiation budget) will be constructed, aiming to improve the prediction accuracy of climate change.

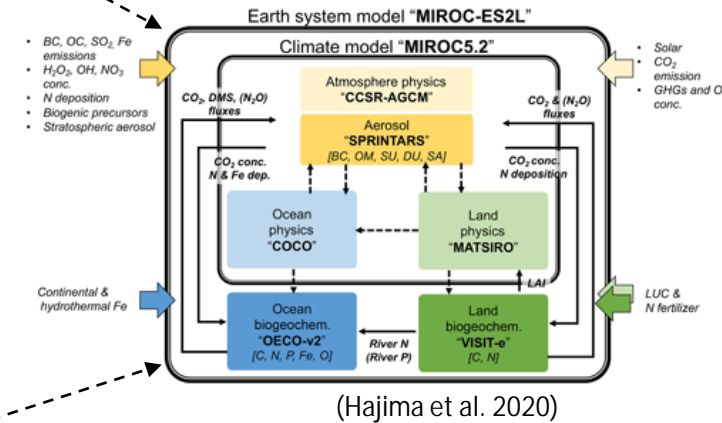
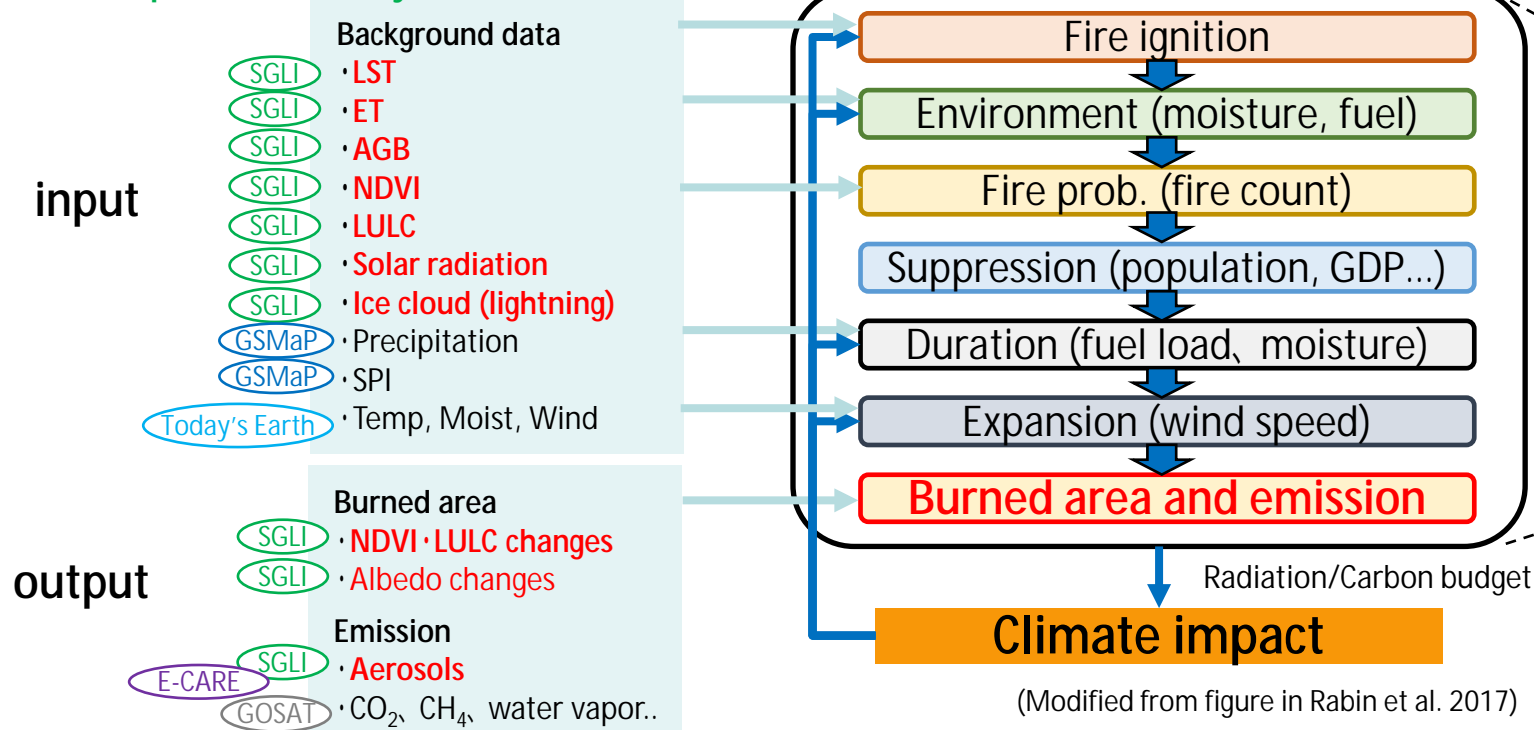
**SENTAN Program Objective:** To improve the accuracy of climate change prediction by upgrading Earth system models

- Area 2:** Biogeochemical modeling and climate simulations for carbon budget assessment

- Improvement of models for fire-related processes

- Marine ecosystems
- Terrestrial vegetation
- ...

Input to the model through JAXA's product development and analysis studies



To improve the coupling process between subsystems

(Modified from figure in Rabin et al. 2017)

# Summary

- Climate Change and Roles of Earth Observing Satellites
  - Monitoring of climate change and essential climate variables
  - Reducing large uncertainties in the future prediction of climate
  - Evaluation of numerical simulations and improvement of models
- JAXA's Satellites
  - Climate change and water cycle: GCOM-C, GCOM-W, GPM, EarthCARE (JFY2023), GOSAT-GW (JFY2024)
  - Greenhouse gases: GOSAT, GOSAT-2, GOSAT-GW (JFY2024)
  - Natural Disasters: ALOS-2, ALOS-3 (JFY2022), ALOS-4 (JFY2023)
- Collaboration and Combined Analysis with Numerical Models
  - GSMaP: Multi-satellite precipitation product from a blended Passive Microwave radiometer(PMW)-IR algorithm
  - NEXRA: GSMaP assimilated atmospheric model with high spatial resolution
  - Today's Earth : Global & regional terrestrial hydrological simulation system
  - Air Pollution : Aerosol assimilation for weather and alert for public health
  - Ocean : SST data assimilation for climate, weather, fishery
  - ArCSII: Various satellite data for the advanced and interdisciplinary research on the Arctic
  - SENTAN: Various satellite data for Earth System Model to improve future prediction
  - Collaborations with WMO, JMA and other agency/institution/private companies

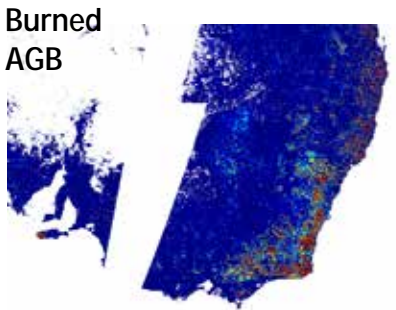
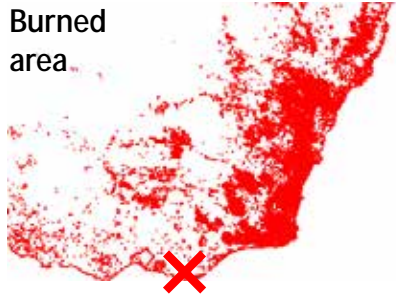




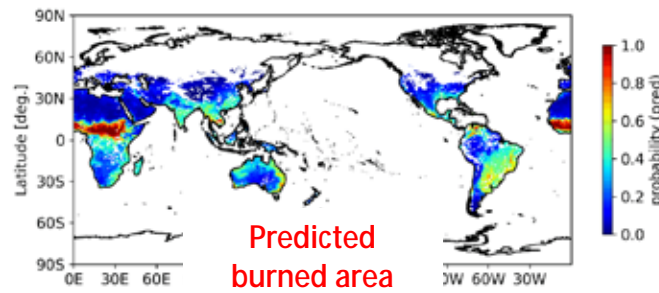
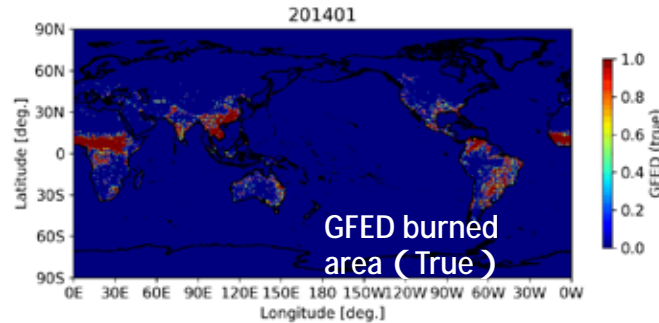
# backup

# Satellite-Climate Model Collaboration Example: Fire Modeling by using GCOM-C/SGLI

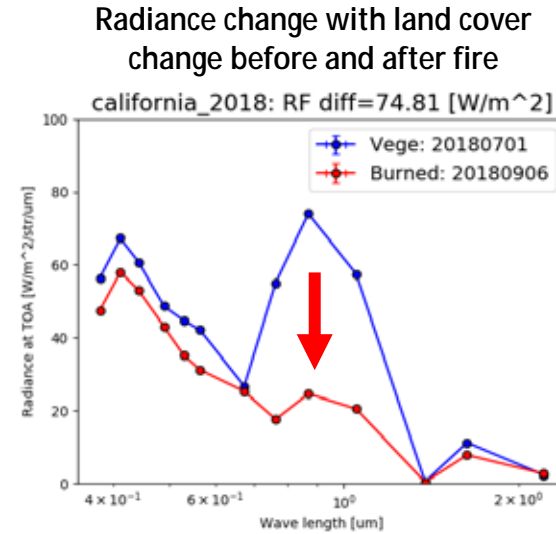
- BACKGROUND: According to IPCC AR6, the contribution of **wildfires have not yet been fully considered in Earth system models**.
- RESULT: Based on the discussions in "TOUGOU" program, started collaboration with **JAMSTEC** on **fire modeling** by taking advantage of **SGLI, a multi-wavelength optical sensor capable of comprehensive observation from fire occurrence to disturbance and climate effects** (burned area, carbon emission, aerosol radiative forcing, etc.).
- FUTURE PLAN: Newly participated in "**SENTAN**" program (FY2022-) to improve Earth system model through **fire process** modeling studies based on SGLI observations.



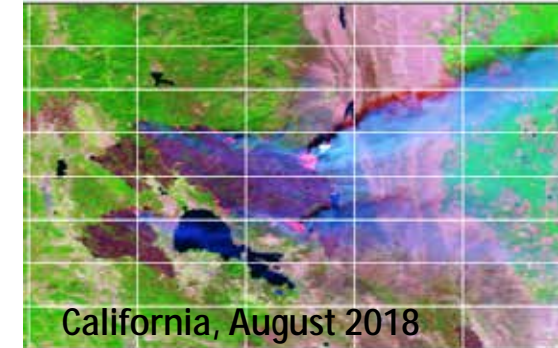
Estimation of carbon release using burned area (NDVI) and amount of biomass burned (AGB)



Prototype fire occurrence prediction model using SGLI physics



Radiance spectra before and after fire @TOA



- Improving the accuracy of **vegetation regeneration models** by monitoring post-burn cover changes.
- Estimation of the effect of global **land cover change on radiative forcing**.  
→Feedback to the model.

A collaborative framework with "SENTAN" program has been established through research results on cloud growth and fire generation processes that take advantage of the features of SGLI. In the future, we aim to contribute to the IPCC through the advancement of climate and earth system models based on observations.