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A TRAINING PLAN FOR MTSAT/LRIT DATA UTILIZATION

This document describes the outline of a 3-year training plan and its implementation status of MTSAT/LRIT (Multi-functional Transport Satellite/ Low Rate Information Transmission) data utilization.

In the first fiscal year of the project, a seminar was held in Tokyo from 14 to 16 February 2001 inviting experts from relevant national Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). In the seminar, the introduction schedule, overview and contents of LRIT data and browsing software for disseminated data were explained, and the information on latest LRIT receiving system was provided.

JMA will hold "The Second International Seminar on MTSAT/LRIT Data Utilization" in Tokyo from 27 to 29 November 2001.

A Training plan for MTSAT/LRIT data utilization

1. Introduction

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) will launch Multi-functional Transport Satellite-1R (MTSAT-1R) as successor to GMS-5 in early 2003.

In advance of the introduction of new satellite system, JMA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), has been carried out a project including a series of seminar/workshops in the fiscal years of 2000-2002 and encourages national Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to highly utilize the MTSAT/LRIT data especially in Southeast Asia.

2. Outline of the project

The project will consist of:

- (1) a survey of LRIT data utilization plan of NMHSs and user requirements to the functions of LRIT browser software,
- (2) a seminar on the LRIT data utilization and consultations on the implementation of LRIT reception system,
- (3) training workshops on the integrated utilization of cloud imagery and meteorological data.

The seminar/workshops are a main part of this project which aims to support the NMHSs to introduce MTSAT/LRIT reception systems and to build up capacities of LRIT data utilization.

3. Implementation status of the project

In the first fiscal year of the project, a seminar was held in Tokyo from 14 to 16 February 2001 inviting experts from relevant NMHSs. In the seminar, the introduction schedule, overview and contents of LRIT data and browsing software for disseminated data were explained, and the information on latest LRIT receiving system was provided. In addition, a survey of LRIT data utilization plan of NMHSs and user requirements was conducted.

JMA will hold "The Second International Seminar on MTSAT/LRIT Data Utilization" in Tokyo from 27 to 29 November 2001 as a part of the second fiscal year of the project. In the Second Seminar, the enhanced utilization of newly distributed data will be focused on, i.e. digital satellite cloud image data and various meteorological data including numerical weather prediction products. Lectures will also be given on the review of the transition plan to LRIT and the new equipment for receiving LRIT data. In this regard, some experts who are in senior positions in the forecasting operation of the relevant NMHSs are to be invited.

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As one of outcomes of the second fiscal year of the project, JMA will provide NMHSs in MTSAT service area with a material which supports meteorologists to utilize LRIT data by themselves.