

Preface

Because of its geographical and climatological conditions, Japan is subject to frequent natural disasters such as typhoons, torrential rains and heavy snow as well as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) contributes to the safety of people in the country by providing a range of meteorological, oceanographic, seismological and volcanic information.

JMA improves its services by incorporating advanced technologies and checking the management and performance of its operations continuously with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of its activities to cope with new demand. Examples of such improvements include the initiation of five-day forecasts for typhoon tracks as well as Tornado Watch and Earthquake Early Warnings.

In recent years, climate-related matters have become a serious issue worldwide; many nations, including Japan, are concerned with the increased frequency of extreme weather events (such as torrential rains and heatwaves) associated with climate change. National Meteorological Services around the world are required to play an increasingly important role in enhancing disaster prevention and in adaptation to current and future climate conditions. Against this background, JMA constantly strives to improve its services and to promote research on climate change and variability.

As international cooperation is indispensable in implementing meteorological services, JMA regularly contributes to such collaborative projects, particularly in the areas of exchange of data and products, sharing of expertise on meteorology, oceanography, seismology and other related scientific fields, and capacity building for developing countries.

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