

Opening Remarks
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The 3rd meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II WIGOS Project

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Good morning, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure to deliver the opening remarks at the beginning of “the 3rd meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II WIGOS Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training” at the headquarters of the Japan Meteorological Agency, or JMA.

The WMO RA II WIGOS Project was originally established as the pilot project at the 14th session of RA II, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in December 2008. After the successful implementation of the pilot project for 4 years, the project was upgraded to one of the 7 RA II WIGOS Projects at the 15th session of RA II, held in Doha, Qatar in December 2012.

Very fortunately, we have a number of observers from our neighbors, RA V, in addition to RA II Members. I believe we, RAs II and V, can cooperate and work together in meteorological satellite matters, and I am anticipating active participation in the discussion from both RA II Members and RA V Members in this meeting.

Since the beginning of the project, the various activities of the project have assisted RA II Members to make better use of satellite-related information. For the next several years, a galaxy of new-generation satellites will be launched, including my Himawari-9. In order to secure a good user-readiness for the new-generation satellites, this project could be more and yet more active. I expect this meeting will serve as the catalyst of further progress of this project.

Before closing my address, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the WMO Space Programme for the preparatory works and great support for this meeting.

Finally, I hope you will have a fruitful discussion at this meeting and you will have a nice stay in Tokyo.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.