Development of the global earth observation system using satellites

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Global efforts to solve social and scientific issues related to the earth environment are ongoing globally and it is critical to develop and operate a global earth observation system. Especially, as also shown in “Yume road map”, the satellite-based observation system is indispensable tool from present to future. However, the Earth Observation Satellite, which simultaneously realizes the two functions of both scientific and practical observation, such as the GCOM series and the TRMM / GPM series, is marked as the “advancement of other remote sensing and sensor technologies” and there is no long-term plan beyond 2020 in the chart of the space basic program.

"Advanced Earth Science Research Working Group (WG)", one of the working groups of Task Force Remote Sensing Subcommittee (TF; 23 academic societies + 2 organizations), we created the "Earth Observation Grand Design" which shows the strategies for realizing the proposals of the Science Council of the scientific community and various institutions concerning Earth Observation after the successful endorsement at the TF general assembly. The purpose of this “Earth Observation Grand Design” is aimed at proposing Earth observation mission towards the space related ministries and agencies’ with brining consensus of new earth observation satellites missions from the academic societies and organizations in TF.

In the Earth Observation Grand Design published in 2018, the following five missions are proposing through a simple selection / review process as a mission to be realized in the short term, in addition to the mission described in the chart of space basic plan.

A) Mission on elucidating global climate change / water circulation mechanism

B) Mission for forest biomass estimation

C) Mission to reduce short life air pollution

D) Mission concerning elucidation of cloud and rainfall process

E) Mission concerning monitoring and elucidation of global environmental change (global radiation enforcement force and ecosystem change affecting global warming)

Based on the consent of the TF Executive Committee in late 2018, as a first step to evolve the above selection process with revision of Earth Observation Grand Design, we called for new satellite earth observation missions from a wider field and selected those missions, including ongoing satellites series missions such as high resolution optical and SAR mission, GHGs missions and geostationary observation missions, while ensuring fairness and transparency. We will make a primary selection of the proposal and
will discuss further by JpGU’s special session coming. As a result, we will select additional missions as well as deepen consideration of promising proposals and establish a feedback process from experts toward realizing the mission.

By using those proposed missions, global climate change and water circulation mechanism will be studied to solve various social problems such as improvement of accuracy of global warming prediction, high accuracy of weather forecast, disaster, etc. These missions will also be expected to contribute to the achievement of Society 5.0 and UN / SDGs that compatibility of social tasks.

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