

Japanese contribution to IGBP and JGOFS-MESC

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Within the span of a single human generation at present, the earth's environment is changing more rapidly than it has been encountered in any period of human history. Much of this change may be due to the rapid development of economics and technology in the world-wide scale and may give considerable effects on the generations to come, however we know only little of such change at present. To understand and predict the change of the earth environment more precisely, the special committee for the International Geosphere and Biosphere Program (IGBP) identified seven established core projects, three proposed projects and two potential core projects until March, 1991.

After extensive discussions by the scientific groups within the Japanese Council of Scientific Union, the council adopted to send the recommendation concerning the Japanese Plan of IGBP (International Geosphere and Biosphere Program) to the Japanese Government in July of 1990. The Japanese Government distributed this recommendation to each of the governmental ministries and agencies, of which eleven responded to participate this program. Research projects recommended by JCSU are as follows;

- 1) Global Change in Atmospheric Trace Gases and its Interaction with Biosphere

- 2) Biogeochemical Cycle and Primary Productivity in the Ocean
- 3) Climate change and Terrestrial Ecosystem
- 4) Modelling of Climate Change with Special Reference of the Interaction between Atmosphere, Hydrosphere and Biosphere
- 5) Monitoring of Global Change
- 6) Past Global Change
- 7) Interaction between Global Change and Human Activity

Based on this recommendation, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (MESC) initiated to start making own plan for IGBP by the planning committee for IGBP under the umbrella of the Science Council of MESC. The council adopted following recommendation and decided to start IGBP-MESC from the fiscal year of 1992 if it is financed.

- 1) Atmospheric Trace Gases and Terrestrial Ecosystem
- 2) Geochemical Cycle and Marine Ecology
- 3) Terrestrial Ecosystem and Water Cycle
- 4) Modelling of Climate Change
- 5) Monitoring of Global Change
- 6) Past Global Change
- 7) Interaction between Global Change and Human Activity

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