

Second Panel Discussion (RL to chair):
GEOSS Capability and Needs of Stakeholders:

Introductory presentations will be made by each panelists (panelists from embassies and aid agencies will be offered a modified set of questions). Panelists are asked to focus on one question in more detail and then comment on one other question that they feel is important. The suggested presenters for each question are given in parentheses.

- 1) Considering the overall area of responsibility and trends what would you say are the information needs in your geographic area that will increase in the future? (Madan Kumar Bhatlari, Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Masayuki Tamagawa)
- 2) What types of decisions does your organization make in relation to water and water management? Where do you get your information to assist in making these decisions? (Yusuke Amano, Yoshiaki Kinoshita)
- 3) How could the existing information available in the local communities for decision making be improved (quantity, accuracy, timeliness, access, etc)? (Douglas Cripe, Toshio Koike)
- 4) In assessing the priorities for supporting water activities how does your agency decide which projects should receive funding? (Masami Fuwa, Mikio Ishiwatari)

The ensuing discussions would provide clarification on these points and allow the audience to add their views. It would provide an overview of regional capabilities and the needs of Stakeholders.

Panel Discussion at the end of Day 2:

The open discussion period will be introduced by Prof. Koike and Rick Lawford who will outline their impressions of the discussions and identify points which either have not been addressed or need to be addressed in more depth. The audience will then be invited to comment on these points and to give their views on how these points can be best addressed within the AWCI, AfWCCI and GEO frameworks. Specifics of the discussion will be developed just before the session.

Final Panel Discussion on Day 3:

The following points would be addressed first in short statements from the panel members and then through discussions and interventions from the audience.

From plans to implementation:

A. The current status of AWCI and AfWCCI activities

Based on the presentations we heard over the last two days what is our present situation with respect to current needs in different basins and nations, present programmes and capabilities, and our ability to coordinate and deliver on these programmes?

B. The future plans for AWCI and AfWCCI activities. Emphasis should be given to the PDMs that will be circulated before the workshop.

What do we want to achieve in 10 years(?) 5 years(?) 2 years(?) through the efforts of GEO activities in Asia and Africa? Special consideration should be given to the ways in which AfWCCI and AWCI could contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

C. This discussion will provide guidance on how we move from the current situation to future milestones. This topic will be the centerpiece for the discussions.

Given the needs of stakeholders, the capabilities of participating organizations and the funding interests of ODAs what steps do we need to take now? Specific issues that should be addressed include 1) the means of implementation (tools, data, funds and other resources, capacity building; 2) how to organize among agencies and on-going activities to address our needs; 3) identifying the ways in which AfWCCI can take advantage of linkages with AWCI and GEO infrastructure and vice versa. These should include steps that will involve incremental improvements in the ability of responsible services to deliver a programme.

D, Given that this Symposium represents a unique opportunity to bring together Asian and African experts, what ongoing coordination functions and activities can be developed to maximize the benefits of this collaboration on an on-going long-term basis?