

Establishment of an Advisory Panel on Extreme Climatic Events

1. Mission

- Climatological analysis and research on extreme climatic events
- Advice on information that JMA prepares on extreme climatic events including causes and, if possible, outlooks of the events
- Recommendation on the application of results from climatological research on extreme climatic events to JMA's services and activities

2. Scope

The Panel discusses extreme climatic events that are mainly caused by variations in the atmospheric general circulation and continue for a long time (about two weeks or more), e.g. heat waves in 2004, heavy snow in 2005/06 and warm winter in 2006/07 in Japan. The Panel may discuss, as necessary, shorter events including typhoons, heavy rains and wind storms to provide advice on relations to large-scale atmospheric variations and global warming, etc.

3. Membership

The Panel consists of 10 prominent experts from universities and research institute as listed in Annex. Professor Masahide KIMOTO of the University of Tokyo has been selected as chairperson. The Panel may invite, as necessary, experts outside of the Panel to discuss specific issues. The Panel will establish a working group to prepare materials to be discussed by the Panel.

4. Functions

The Panel is to initiate discussions when an extreme climatic event has occurred or is expected. JMA has established a system to share related information with the Panel members through web to open preliminary discussions on-line. Following the preliminary discussions, the Panel holds a session at the JMA headquarters. The session may be held on-line in urgency. Shortly after the session, JMA is to issue a statement including causes and, if possible, outlooks of the event based on the advice of the Panel and other relevant information. The statement will be provided to decision makers, industries and the general public to help them avoid or minimize adverse effects from extreme climatic events. The Panel is to review its activities at its annual sessions.

5. Others

The first session was held on 12 June 2007 to select the chairperson and vice-chairperson, decide the Panel's mandate and agree upon its future activities.

For further information on the Panel, please contact the secretariat as follows:

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Members of the Advisory Panel on Extreme Climatic Events

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YAMAGATA, Toshio	Professor Graduate School of Science University of Tokyo
KIMOTO, Masahide (Chairperson)	Professor Center for Climate System Research University of Tokyo
NAKAMURA, Hisashi (Vice-Chairperson)	Associate Professor Graduate School of Science University of Tokyo
YASUNARI, Tetsuzo	Professor Hydrospheric Atmospheric Reseach Center Nagoya University
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