

Activities to enhance climate services at the national level in Japan

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Abstract

In Japan, the Meteorological Council* (hereafter, the Council) has been established as an advisory body to the Director-General (DG) of the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). In 2011-2012, the Council was composed of experts in various fields such as climatology, adaptation science, engineering, information science, communication study, agrometeorology, retail business, energy, and a weather caster. At the request of the DG, the Council deliberated on how to improve and strengthen JMA's climate services for climate affected sectors to avoid and mitigate losses and damages caused by climate variability including extreme events and climate change. The Council submitted to the DG a report including three recommendations in February 2012:

1. Establishing mechanisms to develop and widely share best practices for climate risk management in collaboration of climate information providers and users
2. Improving user accessibility to climate information
3. Contributing to improvement of risk management for extreme climate events happening in the world, and promoting international contribution

Based on the recommendation 1, JMA has been developing techniques of climate risk management and putting it into practice by conducting pilot projects in collaboration with domestic climate information providers and users in Japan. As for the recommendation 2, JMA plans to enrich climate database and improve its accessibility and continues efforts to improve climate prediction information. As for the recommendation 3, JMA has been improving information services to domestic users regarding extreme climate events abroad which may affect economic activities in Japan. Also, JMA has been enhancing activities of the Tokyo Climate Center (TCC), designated as World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Climate Center (RCC), to further assist National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in their climate services.

*It is officially called "the Meteorological Subcommittee of the Council for Transport Policy".