Re: Invitation to the Tokyo International Conference on the Forest Governance Initiative
- Improving Forest Governance using Forest Early Warning Systems and Satellite Technologies -
October 24-26, 2017
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Sir / Madam,

We have the honor of announcing to you that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), in cooperation with the Forestry Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, will hold the "Tokyo International Conference on the Forest Governance Initiative: Improving Forest Governance using Forest Early Warning Systems and Satellite Technologies" on October 24-26, 2017 in Tokyo, Japan.

JICA and JAXA have promoted the Forest Governance Initiative, which aims to encourage better use of satellite technology and multi-stakeholder partnerships to contribute to global tropical forest and biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. Under the initiative, JICA and JAXA have developed the JJ-FAST (JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics), which tracks deforestation and forest loss with JAXA's Advanced Land Observing Satellite-2 (ALOS-2).
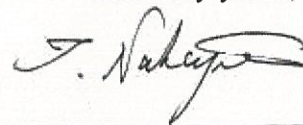
This international conference aims to provide participants with opportunities to exchange views on how developing countries can effectively promote forest management (including tackling illegal deforestation activities) by using the JJ-FAST and other remote sensing satellite technologies along with necessary policy measures, and how development partners can support them.

You are cordially invited to attend the conference. Please find the attached concept note of the conference. The notification of your attendance (with the registration form attached) by 25 September is highly appreciated.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Tokyo.

Sincerely yours,

Takahiro Morita
Senior Deputy Director General,
Global Environment Department,
Japan International Cooperation Agency

Teruyuki Nakajima
Director,
Earth Observation Research Center,
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Tokyo International Conference on the Forest Governance Initiative

- Improving Forest Governance using Forest Early Warning Systems and Satellite Technologies -

October 24-26, 2017

Hotel Metropolitan Edmont Tokyo

As of 30 August, 2017

Background

Forests are vital for all life on earth. Forests provide rich biodiversity, food and water, economic opportunity through timber, foster culture, and support people's livelihoods. Recently, the role of forests in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation has been increasingly gaining attention worldwide as deforestation and forest degradation accounts for more than 10 percent of total CO2 emissions. While everyone affirms the importance of forests, there was a 129 million hectare forest net loss between 1990 and 2015[1]. The loss of tropical forests continues unabated due to agricultural expansion, wood extraction, infrastructure expansion, illegal logging and other factors, making it high on the global political agenda to address those drivers in order to stop such losses. Under such circumstances, satellite technology has been developed and widely adopted by countries and relevant organizations as the effective and indispensable forest monitoring systems and tools in recent years.

In this context, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) announced the **Forest Governance Initiative** (see Annex 1) at the UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris in December 2015. The initiative led to the creation of a new **JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics (JJ-FAST)** (see Annex 2) that tracks deforestation and forest loss with JAXA's Advanced Land Observing Satellite-2 (ALOS-2). JJ-FAST constantly watches for deforestation and forest loss in tropical regions of the globe and provides open access to its imagery findings. The system using ALOS-2 can monitor forest cover changes in tropical forests even under the cloud cover conditions typically found in the tropics. With resolution of up to 50 meters, the JJ-FAST findings are updated about every six weeks on average to the JJ-FAST website.

The possible use of the JJ-FAST can go even further. Based on its relatively frequent data collection intervals and its capacity of surface monitoring under cloud cover, the JJ-FAST is expected to function as an early warning system to improve forest governance. Authorities can keep their eyes on forest changes with the JJ-FAST for tracing possible illegal deforestation activities to facilitate countermeasures to curb them. The constant monitoring of forest changes by the

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[1] Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015, FAO

JJ-FAST through a whole year is expected to make deforestation activities transparent; thus this would raise deterrent effects on those who may engage in illegal activities.

The initiative also promotes the capacity development of personnel for efficient use of the JJ-FAST to improve forest governance in developing countries through training courses in Japan and regional seminars on the JJ-FAST and other measures which can be used for forest monitoring. The initiative disseminates knowledge about good practices on forest monitoring around the world through the JJ-FAST web-site and international conferences.

It is expected that global efforts, including those through the Forest Governance Initiative, will help countries to promote effective forest management and to control the reduction of forests in line with legitimate national land use policies. Those efforts are counted on to contribute to fight against climate change.

Objectives

This two-day conference provides participants with opportunities to exchange views on how developing countries can effectively promote forest management, including by tackling illegal deforestation activities, by using the JJ-FAST and other forest early warning systems and remote sensing satellite technologies along with necessary policy measures, and also how development partners can support the country's efforts. The seminar will focus on two different aspects, which are "governance" and "satellite technology".

As for the governance aspect, participants are expected to discuss how the countries can improve forest governance by effectively using of forest early warning systems including the JJ-FAST and satellite technologies, along with policy measures such as policy making and implementation, law enforcement, and close collaboration among stakeholders responsible for forest management.

As for the satellite technology aspect, the topic will be how the countries can strengthen their national forest monitoring system by using the JJ-FAST and other systems / tools, incorporating JJ-FAST into their national forest monitoring system, improving monitoring accuracy through grand surveys.

The conference also expects participating countries and organizations to strengthen networks and partnerships to collectively address the deforestation of developing countries and global climate change.

Date, Place, Co-organizers, Expected Participants and Working Language

- **Date:** October 24 -26, 2017 * Third day is a visit program
- **Place:** Hotel Metropolitan Edmont Tokyo (3-10-8 Iidabashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8130, Japan)
- **Co-organizers:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) in cooperation with Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
- **Expected participants:** Around 150 (High-level and senior officials responsible for forest management of partner countries, representatives from international organizations, bilateral donors, NGOs, private companies, related organizations of Japan and so forth)

  Participants for the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program; Tropical Forest Conservation using the Forest Monitoring System with ALOS-2 Satellite (around 10 participants from various countries), will join this conference.

- **Working Language:** English (translation to/from French will be available)

Tentative Agenda

Day 1

Time	Length	Topic	Presenter/Moderator
Session I: High-level / Opening Session			
09:30	10	Opening Remarks	Representative of Forestry Agency of Japan
09:40	10	Welcome Remarks	Ms. Noriko Suzuki, Senior Vice President, JICA
09:50	15	Keynote Speech 1: Current situation, challenges and opportunities in forest management	H.E. Mr. Amy Ambatobe Nyongolo, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of the Congo
10:05	15	Keynote Speech 2: Forest monitoring using JAXA satellites	Prof. Teruyuki Nakajima, Director, Earth Observation Research Center, JAXA
10:20	15	Keynote Speech 3: Support for forest management of developing countries	Dr. Gerhard Dieterle, Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
10:35	15	Keynote Speech 4: Private sector engagement in forest management	Private sector
10:50	20	Interventions from the floor (Q and A)	Moderator
11:10	20	Coffee break	
11:30	30	Introduction of the Forest Governance Initiative and demonstration of JJ-FAST	Mr. Takahiro Morita, Senior Deputy Director General, Global Environment Department, JICA and the JJ-FAST Development Team

12:00	90	Lunch	
Session II: Sustainable Forest Management Using Forest Early Warning Systems and Satellite Data			
13:30	60	Presentations and Q & A	Partner countries and organizations
14:30	30	Coffee Break	
15:00	90	Panel Discussion: Improving Forest Governance using Forest Early Warning Systems and Satellite Technologies	Moderator and Panelists
16:30		Closing	

Day 2

Time	Length	Topic	Presenter/Moderator
<u>**Session III: Separate Sessions**</u>			

* French translation service will be available only at the Group 1.

Group 1（Governance Session）: Improving forest governance using the JJ-FAST and satellite technologies along with policy measures (tentative)

Moderator: Mr. Kei Suzuki, JAFTA and Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO

Objective: To discuss how the countries can improve forest governance by effectively using of the JJ-FAST and and other satellite-based systems / tools along with policy measures such as policy making and implementation, law enforcement, and close collaboration among stakeholders responsible for forest management. This session seeks possible solutions of the countries to fight against illegal deforestation activities including illegal logging and other challenges to promote sustainable forest management.

Group 2（Technical Session）: Strengthening national forest monitoring based on the JJ-FAST and satellite technologies (tentative)

Moderator: Dr. Masanobu Shimada, Tokyo Denki University

Objective: To discuss how the countries can conduct national forest monitoring based on the JJ-FAST and satellite technologies in sustainable manners. In this session, current issues / challenges and expected solutions using the JJ-FAST and satellite technologies to achieve the purpose mentioned above will be discussed from a technological aspect. The discussion will include how the countries can use the JJ-FAST with other systems and other satellite technologies complementarily, for instance, the combination of radar and optical sensor data.

09:30	150	Separate Sessions: Presentation & Discussions	
12:00	90	Lunch	
13:30	60	Separate Sessions (continue and wrap-up)	

Session IV: Wrap-up Session			
14:30	45	Wrap-up session: Reporting from each separate session group	Moderator and Rapporteurs
15:15	15	Announcement of Communique on the Forest Governance Initiative	Moderator
15:30	10	Closing Remarks	Mr. Kazuo TACHI, Technical Counselor, Senior Chief Officer of Space Applications, JAXA

Visitor Program for Overseas Participants (Day 3)

Overseas participants including participants from partner countries invited by JICA will be invited to a half-day visitor program (JAXA Tsukuba Space Center) on Day 3, October 26 (optional).

Forest Governance Initiative

Forest can change the world – The Forest Governance Initiative aims to encourage better use of satellite technology and multi-stakeholder partnerships to contribute to global tropical forest and biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

JICA and JAXA launched the Forest Governance Initiative at UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris in 2015. JICA and JAXA have committed to the initiative through developing "JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics (JJ-FAST)", promoting capacity development and spreading good practices on forest conservation to fight against deforestation in developing countries and global climate change.

JICA and JAXA call development partners and private companies to join the initiative to work together to change the world for the better.

Outline of Forest Governance Initiative
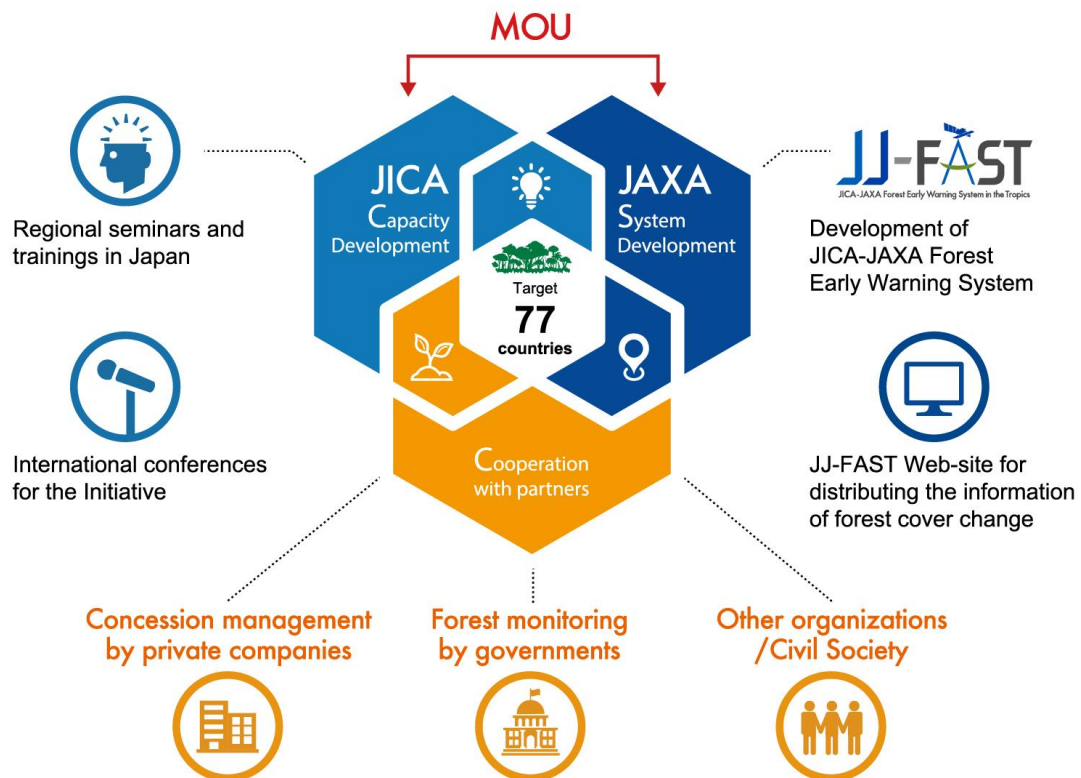
Annex 2

JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics: JJ-FAST

Monitor global tropical forests with ALOS-2

JICA and JAXA launched the JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics (JJ-FAST) in November 2016 as their commitment under the Forest Governance Initiative, which was announced at UNFCCC COP21 in Paris in 2015. JJ-FAST is a web-based system using JAXA's ALOS-2 to monitor tropical forests in 77 countries every 1.5 months and release deforestation data, even in the rainy season. Uses can easily access the data for deforested areas from PCs and mobile devices and download the data.

Advantage of the PALSAR-2 aboard ALOS-2

The state-of-the-art L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar-2 (PALSAR-2) aboard ALOS-2, which is active microwave radar using the 1.2GHz frequency range, have enhanced performance compared to the DAICHI/PALSAR in responding to society's needs. The PALSAR-2 can observe day and night around the clock.

Uniqueness of the JJ-FAST

- <u>Any time of day or night</u>   Since other sources of light such as the sun are unnecessary, SAR present the advantage of providing satellite images regardless day or night.

- <u>All-weather</u>   The L-band frequency for transmitting and receiving microwaves is less affected by cloud cover and rain.

- <u>Land surface observation</u>   L-band microwave can reach to the ground partially penetrating through vegetation to obtain information about the current vegetation and ground surface.

■ **Target Countries**

Area		Country
Latin America	South America 9 countries	Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela
	Central America and the Caribbean 9 countries	Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago
Africa	West Africa 12 countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
	East Africa 12 countries	Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda
	Central Africa 8 countries	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe
	South Africa 11 countries	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Asia	14 countries	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam
Oceania	2 countries	Papua New Guinea, Solomon

■ **JJ-FAST Web-site**

http://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/jjfast/