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Statement

of Tokyo International Conference on the Forest Governance Initiative

- Partnership for Global Contribution to Forest Conservation, Sustainable Forest Management, and Climate Change Mitigation -

October 25, 2017

We, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the co-organizers of the "Tokyo International Conference on the Forest Governance Initiative" held in cooperation with the Forestry Agency of Japan and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), met participants representing partner countries, international and regional organizations, development partners, the private sector and civil society in Tokyo from 24 to 25 October 2017.

We recalled that the Forest Governance Initiative came into existence taking the opportunity of the UNFCCC COP 21 in 2015, where the Paris Agreement on Climate Change was adopted. The Initiative was launched with the commitment of JICA and JAXA based on recognition of that forest shall play a crucial role in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In light of this, effective monitoring of changes in global forests is critical to reducing deforestation and forest degradation and improving forest governance.

We further recalled that the JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics (JJ-FAST), developed under the Initiative, constantly watches for deforestation and forest cover change in the tropical regions using cloud penetrating technologies of ALOS-2 and provides open access to its findings for improving forest governance.

During the Conference, challenges faced by the partner countries and international community in improving forest governance using the tools of forest monitoring and forest management were discussed. We recognize the many opportunities to address these challenges through the effective use of satellite technology such as JJ-FAST and other satellite-based systems combined with appropriate policy measures. More specifically, we wish to highlight the following findings:

- *There are various opportunities for effective forest monitoring and sustainable forest management with current available global satellite data, systems and tools, which include the Global Forest Watch, GLAD, SEPAL, Open Foris, in addition to country specific systems;*
- *How can we use satellite technology to 'decision making' as well as 'action taking' on the ground - technology or system cannot be a single solution for forest-related challenges and climate change. Good forest governance, to address deforestation and to promote sustainable forest management, requires effective policy, law enforcement, institutional arrangement, capacity building, necessary*



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resources and so forth in addition to systems and tools. Good coordination among related authorities, the private sector, civil society, communities are critical;

- How to improve forest monitoring and management can be defined by purposes, needs, deforestation patterns, available data and information of developing countries. County-led approach is premise;*
- Development partners can strengthen their contribution to support developing country's efforts and global development agendas by further harmonizing their activities and modalities with other organizations and systems;*
- JJ-FAST can be an effective tool for forest monitoring and management by being incorporated in country's forest monitoring system and management plan based on their needs and objectives. More studies would be beneficial to seek effective utilization of JJ-FAST for enforcing regulations on addressing illegal deforestation activities, tracking legally-harvested wood and wood products, appropriate concession management, and so forth.*
- The function of JJ-FAST can be strengthened and it can be used more effectively by developing countries' and all stakeholders' use with other available systems and tools complementarily and comprehensively.*

We reacknowledged that forest conservation and sustainable forest management are indispensable for sustainable development of the world as forests are profoundly related to economic development, people's life and livelihood, food security, water sanitation, ecosystem conservation, and so forth.

Therefore, we need to accelerate our actions towards sustainable forest management and climate change countermeasures, and we can do more effectively through the effective use of satellite technologies and enhanced partnerships among the stakeholders. In this connection, we are grateful for all participants for their contributions to the conference.

We, believing that forest can change the world for the better, call upon all participants here today commit ourselves to work together under the Forest Governance Initiative towards a more sustainable and equitable world with no one left behind.

Tokyo, 25 October, 2017

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)

Witnessed by 144 participants from 24 countries and partner organizations to the Conference