

IGBP SYMPOSIUM
- ASIAN SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE -

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY

1. More than 170 scientists concerned with IGBP from the Asia-Pacific region and key global change research scientists participated in the Asian Symposium on Global Environmental Change held at the Auditorium of the Science Council of Japan in Tokyo, 1-2 Dec. 1992.

Representatives from 10 countries and territories, and of the IGBP Core Projects, presented progress reports on their activities. Exchange of information and experience was promoted through the Symposium.

In order to implement further research activities and promote them effectively and efficiently, a fruitful discussion was held among participants about the importance of cooperative research.

2. Through the reports and the associated discussion, the participants made the following conclusions:
 - 1) Exchange of information and cooperation among ministries, agencies, universities, institutes, etc. should be enhanced. For this purpose, presentation, analysis and interpretation of research results should be encouraged more.
 - 2) Cooperative Global Change Research among nations in the Asia-Pacific region should be greatly enhanced. Existing international global change research programmes, such as IGBP, WCRP, and Human Dimensions Programme(HDP), and interaction of these scientific programmes provide an effective mechanism for achieving this collaboration. They also provide the mechanism for establishing effective collaboration between scientists in the Asia-Pacific region and those from other regions around the world (for example, tropical Africa and the Amazonian region of South America).
 - 3) Collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region should involve several elements:
 - exchange of data
 - capacity-building(education and training)
 - collaborative research
 - links to policy makers
 - public awareness
 - 4) To achieve such collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region, effective funding and supporting mechanisms are strongly required. The participation of scientists is essential for setting priorities for the research to be funded. Note was taken of the IGFA (International Group of Funding Agencies) process as a mechanism for interaction between the global change science community and national funding bodies.

3. Recognizing the above, the participants agreed to continue the utmost effort in each area of the IGBP programme. Moreover, much effort is necessary to get support for IGBP from international organizations and governments.

In this context, the participants sincerely welcome the governmental initiatives to establish regional global change networks, such as IAI and APN, and recommend that such networks are developed as components of the START concept to ensure efficient communication between the international global change research community and governments and policy-makers.

4. In addition, in order to consolidate our activities and cooperation, the participants agreed that this kind of symposium should be held periodically, and proposed that the next meeting should be held within one to two years.

Regarding this proposal, China, Taipei offered to host the next Asian IGBP meeting in conjunction with the IGFA meeting 28 Sept. - 1 Oct. 1993. Also, China, Beijing expressed its interest in hosting the next symposium in 1994.

5. The participants expressed their appreciation to the Science Council of Japan and the Center for Global Environmental Research for their support of this symposium, and asked them to continue their effort for IGBP activities.

Masatoshi Yoshino
Chairman of IGBP Symposium