

Preface

The Third International Workshop on the Terrestrial Change in Mongolia was held on November 9 to 10, 2004 at University of Tsukuba located in Tsukuba, Japan, with 43 presentations and some 130 participations including 9 Mongolian colleagues. This is a large increase in size from previous meetings of the first workshop held in December, 2002 in Tokyo (30 papers and 100 participations) and the second on December 2-3 in Yokohama (32 papers and 106 participations). Also we are pleased to have observed that the majority of the speakers have shifted their presentations from the initial analysis or research plans to those of more complete, in-depth investigations. This clearly reflects the nature of the workshops which has enhanced exchange of ideas and information and collaboration among participants.

This third workshop has been organized jointly by three projects related to the hydrologic cycle, *i.e.*, AMPEX (ADEOS II Mongolian Plateau Experiment for Ground Truth), IORGC (Institute of Observational Research for Global Change, formerly Frontier Observational Research System for Global Change) and RAISE (The Rangelands Atmosphere-Hydrosphere-Biosphere Interaction Study Experiment in Northeastern Asia), under the close contact with the main cooperative Institution of Mongolia, Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, NAMHEM. These three projects have had common scientific goals to clarify the present conditions of atmospheric and hydrologic cycle and ecosystem in the regions in Mongolia and surrounding areas and to predict their possible changes in the future. The three objectives of the Workshop can be summarized as follows:

- 1) To introduce data, observational plan and results of observation of the three projects and other ones
- 2) To discuss previous, present and future conditions of natural environment in Mongolia
- 3) To investigate the way of scientific cooperation system of the three projects and other ones

The Workshop also has aimed to communicate recent activities of these three projects and other projects (*e.g.*, IHP, CEOP/GEWEX) related to the terrestrial change in Mongolia. As you can easily recognize by going through the abstracts published in this proceedings, those aims and what the word "workshop" implicitly indicates, *i.e.*, the production of something through intensive discussions and activities, have been fruitfully achieved with much success.

Finally, the organizers would like to express their gratitude to Ms. Y. Sawaguchi, Ms. Y. Ichino, Mr. T. Sato, Dr. S-G. Lee, and other members of University of Tsukuba and of JST for facilitating local logistics. They are also grateful to Dr. T. Yamanaka and Ms. A. Shiozawa for their supporting role of the meeting as well as their editorial works of the proceeding publication, with support from the Terrestrial Environment Research Center, University of Tsukuba.

The next meeting with more enhanced and extended scopes than the past three workshops, the First International Symposium on Terrestrial and Climate Change in Mongolia, is expected to be held on July 26-28 of 2005 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

March 10, 2005

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

Michiaki Sugita

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