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Introduction of CAWSES-II

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The ICSU-SCOSTEP (International Council for Science-Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics) which carried out the STEP program (1990-1997), the S-RAMP program (1998-2002) and the CAWSES (Climate And Weather of the Sun-Earth System) program in the period of Solar minimum for 2004-2008, has determined to promote the CAWSES-II (Climate And Weather of the Sun-Earth System - II) program toward Solar Maximum for 2009-2013 as an international collaborative research program with an aim of significantly enhancing our understanding of the space environment and its impacts on life and society. The main functions of CAWSES-II are to help coordinate international activities in observations, modeling, and applications crucial to achieving this understanding, to involve scientists in both developed and developing countries, and to provide educational opportunities for students of all levels.

CAWSES-II is internationally organized around 4 task groups and two foundation groups as following contents, 1 Task 1: What are the solar influences on the Earth's climate?, 2 Task 2: How will geospace respond to an altered climate?, 3 Task 3: How does short-term solar variability affect the geospace environment?, 4 Task 4: What is the geospace response to variable waves from the lower atmosphere?, 5 Capacity Building, 6 Virtual Institute. Corresponding to the international organization, the Japanese SCOSTEP Committee has determined domestic co-leaders and members for the 4 task groups and two foundation groups to promote CAWSES-II program. In particular, CAWSES-II focuses on the fundamental processes of the Sun-Earth system during the rising phase of solar cycle 24. These processes interact in nonlinear ways to produce effects that impact life and human society. To address these topics, CAWSES-II uses a research strategy that includes comparisons with other stellar and planetary environments to inform investigations into solar-terrestrial science.

Keywords: SCOSTEP, CAWSES-II, space weather, space climate, solar maximum, sun-earth system