Long-term rainfall data and data rescue in Asian monsoon region

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As for the long-term Asian monsoon variations, datasets in India, such as All Indian Homogeneous Monthly Rainfall (1871-2008), and Longest Instrumental Rainfall Series of the Indian Regions (1813-2006), have been famous and now available freely from the web page of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). On the other hand, the rainfall data during and prior to the World War-II have been very limited in other Asian monsoon countries. Under the International Asian monsoon project, MAHASRI (Monsoon Asian Hydro-Atmosphere Scientific Research and prediction Initiative) in GEWEX/WCRP, we have tried to reveal the long-term precipitation changes in Asian monsoon region by installing own observation network, and/or by rainfall data collection including data rescue for the old document data. We found the rainfall and typhoon track data during Spanish and American colonial periods in the Philippines on paper format, and then try to digitized these data including those in other countries with financial supports by the Data Integration and Analysis System (DIAS) of the National Key Technology, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan funded JAMSTEC, by the Global Environment Research Fund (B-061 and B-092) of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan funded Tokyo Metropolitan University, and by the various Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for the authors. Long-term rainfall variations since the pre-World War II period and data rescue in Asian monsoon region will be introduced in the presentation.

Keywords: rainfall, Asian monsoon, typhoon, long-term climate changes, data rescue