Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2011

(May 22-27 2011 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

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ACG032-21 Room:105 Time:May 27 15:15-15:30

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

Jun Matsumoto^{1*}, Hisayuki Kubota², Ikumi Akasaka², Nobuhiko Endo², Jun-Ichi Hamada², Kooiti Masuda², Masumi Zaiki³, Manabu D. Yamanaka², Shuichi Mori², Hideyuki Kamimera², Taiichi Hayashi⁴, Toru Terao⁵, Fumie Murata⁶, Masashi Kiguchi⁷, Yusuke Yamane⁸, Junpei Hirano¹

¹Tokyo Metropolitan University, ²JAMSTEC, ³Seikei University, ⁴Kyoto University, ⁵Kagawa University, ⁶University of Tokyo, ⁷Kochi University, ⁸Tokoha University

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 Grantin-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