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The Grand Challenges of ICSU and GLP - A Japan View

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Land is one of the vital resources for human being, but it is under a mounting pressure from competing land uses, land degradation, reckless land transformation, ecosystem disturbances, land-related hazards, water shortages, nutrient depletion, massive mineral extraction, etc. Global Land Project (GLP) has been involved in such hot environmental issues for years, but its research efforts have been relatively modest in the light of the rapidly worsening situation. The Grand Challenges, an international decadal research guideline for global sustainability announced by ICSU (International Council for Science) in October 2010, offers a great opportunity of activating research related with GLP under a joint partnership of natural and social scientists. The present paper discusses what GLP-Japan should do in cooperation with the geosciences community in Japan under the framework of the Grand Challenges.

Keywords: GLP, ICSU, Grand Challenges, sustainability, land use, human geosciences