Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2012

(May 20-25 2012 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

©2012. Japan Geoscience Union. All Rights Reserved.

ACG37-P07



Time:May 22 17:15-18:30

The 2010 draining episode of an ice-dammed lake in West Greenland: Further evidence for accelerated melting?

FURUYA, Masato^{1*}, LIU, Lin², KHAN, Abbas Shfaqat³, WAHR, John⁴

¹Hokkaido University, Graduate School of Science, ²Stanford university, ³Technical University of Denmark, ⁴University of Colorado at Boulder

Furuya and Wahr (2005, GRL) detected unloading deformation signals around Lake Tiningnilik in West Greenland, an icedammed lake located ~40 km to the south of Jakobshavn Isbrae. We associated the signal with a draining episode of the icedammed lake in 1993 and 2003, and explained the rate and pattern of the signal, assuming 7.5 meter/year increase in water level over an elastic body.

Previous field-based observation indicate that the draining episode takes place every 10 years (Braithwaite and Thomsen, 1984; Bogglid, personal communication, 2004), and thus we thought the next draining would happen around 2013. However, it turns out that the latest event occurred in 2010, which is 3 years earlier. Recent studies based on InSAR and GRACE indicate an accelerating loss of ice at Greenland. Our very localized observation may be a further evidence for the recent accelerated melting in Greenland.

We also detected accelerated flow velocities in the nearby glacier. The acceleration was probably caused by the sudden increase of subglacial water flow from the ice-dammed lake.

Keywords: Greenland, ice-dammed lake, Jokulhaups, Synthetic Aperture Radar, glacier flow