

Status of Next Generation Japanese Geostationary Meteorological Satellites Himawari-8/9 and Their Products

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The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) plans to launch and operate Himawari-8 and Himawari-9, which are the next generation Japanese geostationary meteorological satellites following the currently operational satellite MTSAT-2 (Himawari-7). JMA plans to launch Himawari-8 in 2014 and commence its operation in 2015, when MTSAT-2 is scheduled to complete its designed period of operation. JMA also plans to launch Himawari-9 in 2016.

Himawari-8 and -9 carry the Advanced Himawari Imager (AHI) units, comparable to the Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI) on board GOES-R, which is also the next generation satellite planned to be launched by the National Ocean and Atmosphere Administration / the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NOAA/NESDIS) in the United States. The observing functions of AHI will be enhanced from those of MTSAT-2 as follows:

- Multi-channel capacity (16 channels)
- High spatial resolution (0.5 -1.0km for visible and 2km for infrared)
- Fast imaging (a full disk scan within 10 minutes)
- Rapid scanning with flexible area selection and scheduling

Observation images of AHI are expected to contribute to improvement of weather watch, tropical cyclone analysis, numerical weather prediction and climate/environment monitoring. Development for the utilization of the AHI images is ongoing. JMA makes a strong effort, in particular, to upgrade Atmospheric Motion Vector (AMV) products and develop new products of volcanic ash and yellow sand analysis.

JMA has set up a web page with information on Himawari-8 and -9 at <http://mscweb.kishou.go.jp/himawari89/index.html>. This page provides information on the schedule, specifications of the spacecraft and AHI, including estimated spectral response functions (SRF) and simulated AHI proxy data.

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