

4th EU-Japan Workshop on Climate Change Research Brussels, 12-13 March 2007

The DG Research of the European Commission organised a workshop under the framework of the EU-Japan Science and Technology Forum. This fourth workshop, which was held in Brussels on 12-13 March 2007, followed those organised in Hakone in March 1999, in Brussels in January 2002 and in Yokohama in February 2005.

The aim of the meeting was to present research outcome on climate change and to discuss future EU-Japan co-operation. It was agreed that this fourth workshop focussed on the following subjects:

- Climate Research Policies/Strategies
- Carbon Cycle
- Climate Projection Modelling
- Atmospheric Composition
- Impacts on Water Cycle and Associated Hazards
- Response Strategies to Climate Change

From the European side, the climate change aspects of the 7th Framework Programme was presented, as well as related initiatives i.e. International Polar Year, GEOSS. Furthermore, activities and results from related EC projects was presented. Future research priorities of mutual interest were discussed.

As the only project focussing on nitrogen and its interactions with the carbon cycle and green house gas exchange, NitroEurope was presented, providing an overview on previous projects linking nitrogen with CO₂ and GHG exchange, presenting the overall idea and structure involving flux measurements at selected key ecosystems across Europe supplemented with a large number of manipulation experiments to highlight the effects of changes in drivers such as climate change, land management, land use and land use change on nitrogen cycling and green house gas exchange. Key examples of results from flux measurements and manipulation experiments, e.g. illustrating the impact of forest clear cutting, soil warming, elevated CO₂ and drought on CO₂ and greenhouse gas exchange were presented. Finally, collaboration as associated partners with NitroEurope was offered for Japanese research groups working within the same field.

Informal interactions with several Japanese research groups was achieved during the meeting.

A joint statement on the achievements from the meeting is being developed in Brussels.