

Forum for the future of Japan Argo

Toshio Suga (JAMSTEC/Tohoku Univ)

- Brief history of “Japan Argo”
- Series of Forums
- Outcomes
- Follow up



Brief history of “Japan Argo”

- **2000-2004** Institutional national project
 - part of “Millennium Project” of the Japanese government, aiming to build the “core Argo array”
 - MLIT(JMA, JCG), MEXT (JAMSTEC), MOFA, MAFF (FRA), universities
- **2005-** JAMSTEC research project
 - 80-100 floats/year (core Argo) + dQC/PARC
 - Some Argo equivalent with additional sensors
 - with some legacies of “Millennium Project”
 - DAC operation continued by JMA
 - “Japan Argo Promotion Committee” as a “liaison and coordination committee”
- **2005-** JMA: Argo equivalent for NW Pacific
 - 15 floats (5 day cycle)
 - 27 floats (5 day cycle) since **2010**

Series of forums

- Back ground:
Lack of effective mechanisms to define clear objectives of Japan Argo tended to cause vulnerable funding situation especially after the “completion” of the 3000 float array.
- **March 2010**
JOS Symposium “Future direction of Argo”
- **June 2010**
Japan Argo promotion committee approved “Forum for the future of Japan Argo” to be held.
- **July 2010** 1st Forum
- **November 2010** 2nd Forum
 - to build consensus on the future direction of Japan Argo among scientists, governmental officers and relevant private sectors, following the vision built as an outcome of OceanObs`09

Outcomes

- Consensus

Japan Argo should continue to

- 1) contribute the core Argo by sustaining current level of float deployment and data management activities.
- 2) construct new integrated ocean observing systems, based upon the Argo core array, which will increase the climate monitoring and research capability and provide information on the marine environment to meet society's needs better.

- Pronouncement by Japan Argo Promotion Committee (February 18, 2011)

- Importance of establishing advanced integrated ocean observing system in the North Pacific, based on Argo array, to facilitate effective climate monitoring and scientific research and to provide ocean information for society's benefit

Follow up

- Recommendations by Science Council of Japan (March 7, 2010)
 - “Academic large-facility/large-scale study: development of master plan”, adopting some of the ideas from the forums.
- Japan Oceanographic Society (JOS) Committee for the Future Vision (2012-)
 - Aiming to contribute to revision of the master plan
 - Recognizing the outcomes from the forums as an important elements of the future vision