



Postscript to the Special Issue on “Global Warming and Its Impacts”

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The year 2007 is a monumental year for Global Environmental Studies, because of the publication of the IPCC 4th Report. It is our great pleasure to publish this Special Issue in 2007, which contains the results of recent studies in Japan. Our journal “Global Environmental Research” has just passed the ten-year mile stone, and we are very glad for the good reaction and encouragement to our journal from all over the world.

Japanese researchers have been publishing their results in diverse international as well as national journals in English in various fields in recent years. It is not always easy, however, to approach their works from the standpoint of readers, because they are found in so many different journals, reports or proceedings from the respective fields of environmental studies. The present special issue is dedicated, therefore, to presentation of their new results under various themes to policy makers, media, other researchers, etc., who have an interest in the broad fields of global environmental problems.

Japanese environmental studies have been developing mostly in association with the WCP, IGBP, HDP, etc., since the 1980s. The results presented in this special issue were obtained mainly in Japan during the last several years. Based on the results in these papers, it can be summarized that the following activities are important and should be planned in the near future:

- (A) To organize a project for describing the past and present status under the influence of global warming,
- (B) To strengthen cooperative studies by researchers in natural sciences and social, cultural and human sciences,
- (C) To encourage closer communication internationally, inter-regionally and also among different fields of science,
- (D) To examine the processes and structures of literature collection (study results), writing, editing, reviewing and refereeing, the systems of which have not always been ideal in the case of the IPCC and MA. This problem affects not only international bodies, but national ones as well, and Japan should examine these processes and structures for itself,
- (E) To intensify the activities of the Science Council of Japan, a national correspondence body for the ICSU. The Council should commit itself more strongly to global environment researchers, and
- (F) To help foster research on global environmental problems in developing countries.

It is hoped that the present issue will be useful in carrying out the tasks and solving the problems mentioned above.

Many of the articles in this special issue were translated from the Japanese Journal version of ‘*Global Environmental Research*’ (*Chikyu Kankyo*) Vol. 11 No. 1. In some articles, further information was added.