

Australian Bureau of Meteorology and WMO RA V Pacific RCC-Network perspective

Long lasting international cooperation between the Bureau, the China Meteorological Administration and Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) contributes for decades to overall success of the space-based observing systems program of the World Meteorological Organization.

From July 2015, the Bureau has been receiving satellite observations data from Himawari-8, a geostationary satellite operated by the JMA. Himawari-8 data are used extensively within the Bureau to assist in real-time analysis and forecasting, and are also fed into the Bureau's numerical weather prediction (NWP) models.

Small island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) of WMO RA V are among most vulnerable to hydro-meteorological disasters related to tropical cyclones (e.g. cyclone Pam, March 2015, affected Vanuatu, about 70% of houses have been destroyed, more than half of country's population have been impacted); extreme rainfall (e.g. the January and March 2012 Fiji floods which resulted in damage to infrastructure estimated at FJ\$40M and FJ\$70M, respectively), and drought (e.g. the 2011 drought in Tuvalu when the Government declared a state of emergency due to critical shortage of portable water).

Satellite remote sensing data and derived products are vital for Climate Information Services and Early Warning Systems e.g. for tropical cyclone analysis and prediction, extreme rainfall and drought monitoring etc. It is essential to spread the benefits of sophisticated satellite technology, especially from China and Japan, to less advanced countries including SIDS and LDCs of WMO RA V strengthening capacity of NMHSs and improving their ability to provide better service to society.