Indonesia and Japan reach agreement to introduce new remote sensing technology by JICA Project “THE PROJECT FOR THE SUPPORT ON FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT THROUGH LEVERAGING SATELLITE IMAGE INFORMATION”

Indonesia and Japan reach agreement to introduce new remote sensing technology

The governments of Indonesia and Japan (through the Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA) recently reached an agreement to introduce the new PALSAR (cloud-free remote sensing) technology into Indonesia’s Forest Resources Monitoring and Assessment System. Remote sensing technologies have contributed substantially to better understanding of the status of forests conditions and changes. One of the weaknesses of conventional technologies that use optical sensors, such as those of Landsat-TM and MODIS, is their inability to penetrate through clouds.

The MOU will be signed on September 10, 2008, at 10:00 between Dr. Ir. Yetti Rusli, M.Sc, the Director General of Forestry Planning Agency, Ministry of Forestry and Mr. Takashi Sakamoto, Resident Representative of JICA Indonesia office, at the office of DG of BAPLAN, Ministry of Forestry.

Cloud-penetrating SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) technologies that use microwave-based sensors have become available. With Japan’s assistance, PALSAR (Phased Array type L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar) technology will be tested to monitor forests in Indonesia. Recent studies indicate that this technology is unique even among other SAR technologies. In addition to monitoring forests, it allows experts to estimate biomass and CO2 carbon equivalent volumes at earlier stages of ecological succession relatively economically. The use of PALSAR technology in CO2 carbon inventories will also be tested. The same technology is contributing to monitoring illegal logging and deforestation in the Amazon.

The work to introduce PALSAR to Indonesia is expected to start in September 2008 and will continue for three years. Training opportunities for those who are involved in forest resources monitoring and assessment in Indonesia will be provided. The PALSAR sensor is currently on the ALOS (Advanced Land Observing Satellite) launched by JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) in 2006.

Seeing clearly: PALSAR (left) compared to MODIS (right) image of Kalimantan (23 May 2007)
<Further Information>

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