



International Civil Aviation Organization

INFORMATION PAPER

**TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP
(MET SG/20) OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC AIR NAVIGATION PLANNING
AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APANPIRG)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 6 – 9 June 2016

Agenda Item 6: Research, development and implementation issues in the MET field

6.1 Observations, reports, forecasts, advisories and warnings
(including MET/S WG Report)

**INTRODUCTION OF THE HIMAWARICAST SERVICE AND IMPORTANT
INFORMATION ON RELATED SATELLITE SWITCHOVER**

(Presented by Japan Meteorological Agency)

SUMMARY

This paper gives an overview of the Japan Meteorological Agency's new-generation geostationary meteorological satellite, Himawari-8, and the related data dissemination service known as HimawariCast. The switchover from JCSAT-2A to JCSAT-2B as the HimawariCast communication satellite is scheduled to take place in July 2016. HimawariCast users will need to complete the necessary transition work to enable receipt of data via the service with the new satellite.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) began operation of its new-generation geostationary meteorological satellite, Himawari-8, on 7 July 2015. Himawari-9 is also scheduled for launch in 2016 as a backup and successor satellite. Both will be located at around 140 degrees east and will observe the East Asia and Western Pacific regions over a period of 15 years using the new Advanced Himawari Imager (AHI), which has 16 bands and twice the spatial resolution of the predecessor MTSAT-series of satellites. With these imagers, full-disk imagery is obtained every 10 minutes and regional observation is conducted at 2.5-minute intervals. These significant improvements are expected to bring higher levels of performance in nowcasting services and short-range weather forecasting systems. (See MET SG/19-IP/11)

1.2 JMA launched the HimawariCast service, by which primary sets of satellite imagery are disseminated via a communication satellite, in January 2015. MTSAT-2 imagery was initially provided via the service, and Himawari-8 imagery was introduced in July 2015. The HimawariCast service provides full-disk images captured at 10-minute intervals.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The HimawariCast service is provided to disseminate Himawari-8 full-disk images captured at 10-minute intervals along with related information such as numerical weather prediction (NWP) data, ground-based observation data and ASCAT ocean surface wind data. The service can be used by any operator with the required reception equipment. Details of the HimawariCast dataset and the specifications of the equipment needed are available at

http://www.data.jma.go.jp/mscweb/en/himawari89/himawari_cast/himawari_cast.html

2.2 The JCSAT-2A communication satellite used for the HimawariCast service will be replaced by the JCSAT-2B satellite between 03 UTC on 6th July and 03 UTC on 20th July 2016. During this time both satellites will disseminate the same information to support user transitions. JCSAT-2A and JCSAT-2B have the same downlink frequency but polarization directions that differ by 90 degrees. During the transition period, HimawariCast users must take the necessary steps to enable receipt of HimawariCast data via JCSAT-2B. Details of these steps are provided on the above webpage.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper.
