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Message from Earth Remote Sensing Data Analysis Center (ERSDAC), Japan

It is a great pleasure to see that the International Symposium on GeoInformatics for Spatial-Infrastructure Development in Earth and Allied Sciences (GIS-IDEAS) be held in September 2004 in Hanoi, Vietnam. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the efforts of the organizers of this event.

At Earth Remote Sensing Data Analysis Center (ERSDAC), we are operating the Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER), an optical sensor developed in Japan, onboard the US Terra satellite launched in December 1999. Earth observations are successfully performed and a great number of ASTER data are processed for utilization in various research areas including earth environmental issues. As of August 2004, ASTER has acquired over 800,000 scenes all over the world. In addition, in 2005, the Phased Array type L-Band Synthetic Aperture Radar (PALSAR) is scheduled to be launched onboard the Advanced Land Observing Satellite (ALOS). The operations of PALSAR and its data utilization will also begin in the near future.

I hope that ASTER and PALSAR be widely used and they contribute to further development of industries in Vietnam.

Through our participation in this symposium, we hope to strengthen friendship between Vietnam and Japan and our cooperation in the field of earth remote sensing technology.

H. Watanabe

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