

(Attachment)

IBUKI-2 (GOSAT-2) Successful Launch and Completion of Critical Operations Phase

[The message from the President of the National Institute for Environmental Studies]

The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), under a joint project with the Ministry of the Environment and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, has been developing research to process the observation data from the greenhouse gases Observing SATellite-2 "IBUKI-2" (GOSAT-2) and estimate the concentrations and global fluxes of CO₂ and methane, major greenhouse gases, in succession to "IBUKI" (GOSAT) launched in January 2009. It is my great pleasure that GOSAT-2 successfully went into its designated orbit yesterday and completed its critical operation phase without accident today.

The GOSAT-2 data will be distributed to domestic and foreign researchers and utilized for climate change research. In addition, it is expected to contribute to the promotion of climate change measures including the Paris Agreement.

This success is a first step toward the contribution. I would like to express my sincere congratulations and appreciation to all people involved in this effort. NIES is willing to take charge of the GOSAT-2 data processing and distribution and work diligently on climate change research. We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation.

October 30, 2018

Chiho Watanabe, Ph.D.

President

National Institute for Environmental Studies