An Early-Career–Led Research Network for Earth Observation Satellite Science in Japan

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Earth observation satellite research spans a wide range of disciplines, including atmospheric, terrestrial, and oceanic sciences, as well as sensor development, data processing, and operational and applied studies. However, opportunities for interaction among early-career researchers are often limited to individual projects or missions, making it difficult to foster dialogue that transcends disciplinary boundaries and institutional affiliations.

In response to this situation, early-career researchers have taken the initiative to plan and operate the "*Early-Career Earth Observation Satellite Research Network*". This network aims to provide an oppotunity where researchers of the same generation can freely exchange ideas across disciplinary and organizational boundaries, while fostering a peer-driven research network that explores opportunities for future collaboration. Since 2023, a total of three workshops have been held continuously in a hybrid format. Each workshop has featured research presentations by participants and invited talks, as well as sessions in which early-career researchers and professionals from private companies introduce their work to students, thereby emphasizing peer interaction and career development. Participants include researchers and students from universities and research institutes, as well as members of private companies, including those based overseas. The size of the network has steadily expanded, from 22 participants at the first meeting to 38 at the third. The areas of expertise represented are also diverse, covering atmospheric, land, and ocean observations, satellite missions, sensor and algorithm development, and data utilization.

In this presentation, we will synthesize the insights gained through the activities of this network and discuss the challenges and prospects for its future development. In particular, we aim to solicit broad feedback on strategies for developing the network beyond a one-off exchange event into a community that fosters sustained collaboration.

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