May 2020 News from Sentinel Asia Project Office

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(1) Severe Flood at Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Several areas in the city of Banda Aceh have been hit by flooding due to high intensity rain that occurred in the capital of Aceh Province since 5th May until 7th May. On behalf of Indonesian National Board for Disaster Management (BNPB), ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) sent EOR to Sentinel Asia. As of 25 May, among Data Provider Nodes (DPNs), JAXA, ISRO, and NARL provided their satellite imagery and among Data Analysis Nodes (DANs), AIT, EOS, JAXA, LAPAN analyzed the satellite data and provided the products. The information on the latest response by Sentinel Asia is available from the following link.

https://sentinel-asia.org/EO/article20200508ID.html

Product by AIT
Cyclone Amphan in India and Bangladesh

On 20 May 2020, Cyclone Amphan made landfall near Jammu Island, West Bengal, near Bangladesh, at 5.00 pm BST with 130-140 km/h wind speed. An Indian newspaper, The Times of India reported that at least 72 people have died in West Bengal and United Nations estimates that around 10 million people in Bangladesh are impacted, with half a million families potentially having lost their homes. The rains and heavy winds caused massive damage to crops and infrastructure in Odisha, India too.

In this case, well prior to the actual landfall of the cyclone, National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC), ISRO (for Indian Area) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) on behalf of Disaster Management Department, Bangladesh (for Bangladeshi area) promptly sent Emergency Observation Request to Sentinel Asia for India and Bangladesh respectively. Also, the EOR for Bangladeshi area was escalated to the International Disasters Charter as “Sentinel Asia Escalation”, with Dr. Giriraj Amarnath of IWMI playing the role of Project Manager for the Disasters Charter.

As of 25 May, among Data Provider Nodes (DPNs), JAXA provided their observation data. Also, among Data Analysis Nodes (DANs), AIT, EOS, and Yamaguchi University analyzed the data and provided their products. The information on the latest response by Sentinel Asia is available from the following link.

https://sentinel-asia.org/EO/article20200518IN.html (India)
https://sentinel-asia.org/EO/article20200518BD.html (Bangladesh)
2. [Announcement] Kobe University joined JPT as DAN

Research Center for Urban Safety and Security (RCUSS) of Kobe University in Japan became a Joint Project Team member of Sentinel Asia as well as a member of DAN in April 2020. RCUSS was established in 1996, about one year after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. The mission of RCUSS is to make contributions in building safe and secure urban society by developing the visions towards such society and by conducting research and education on suitable methodologies and frameworks in realizing such society.

On their participation, Professor Kenichio KOBAYASHI of RCUSS comments, “We are delighted to be a member of Sentinel Asia and excited to support Sentinel Asia colleagues by generating and providing VAPs in the upcoming EORs”.

http://www.rcuss.kobe-u.ac.jp/English/index-e.html
3. [Announcement] New Geospatial Analysis Knowledge materials on the Sentinel Asia website provided by Yamaguchi University, Japan

Yamaguchi University provided new technical materials on Geospatial Analysis for capacity building for the benefit of the Sentinel Asia community. Professor Masahiko NAGAI, Director, Center for Research and Application of Satellite Research Sensing at Yamaguchi University, said “We would like to introduce and share our E-Learning contents with Sentinel Asia members. These technical materials are produced by Yamaguchi University as a Geospatial Analysis Knowledge Portal. We are delighted to contribute to Sentinel Asia activity. This work was supported by the Coordination Funds of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan for Promoting AeroSpace Utilization.”

The materials are available from the Sentinel Asia Web site: https://sentinel-asia.org/e-learning/TechnicalMaterials.html
4. [Events]

Upcoming Events:
- The 8th Joint Project Team Meeting (JPTM), Fall 2020 (TBC), LAPAN, Indonesia

5. How to send Emergency Observation Request

JPT member organizations are entitled to send Emergency Observation Request (EOR) for disasters in the Asia-Pacific region. Please refer to https://sentinel-asia.org/e-learning/Emergency_Observation_Request.html

EOR Order Desk:
Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)
HP: http://www.adrc.asia/
E-mail: sarequest@adrc.asia
FAX: +81-78-262-5546,
TEL: +81-78-262-5540

6. Using Sentinel Asia Operation System, OPTEMIS

The Sentinel Asia launched new operation system, OPTEMIS. Please refer to the website how to create the account of OPTEMIS.
https://sentinel-asia.org/e-learning/Emergency_Observation_Request.html

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Sentinel Asia Project Office
Satellite Applications and Operations Center (SAOC)
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
Ochanomizu Sola City, 4-6 Kandasurugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8008 Japan

E-mail: Z-SENTINEL.ASIA@ml.jaxa.jp
TEL: +81-3-6435-6785
FAX: +81-3-5777-1580