GPM Planning Workshop
May 16, 2001
8:40 a.m.
University of Maryland Inn and Conference Center

Mary Cleave - Welcome

- I would like to welcome everyone to the NASA-NASDA hosted Workshop on Global Precipitation Measurement.

- I am very excited by the large turnout here today and the level of international participation and I look forward to these three days of intense discussions.

- Dr. Asrar, NASA's Associate Administrator for Earth Science, asked me to relay his regrets at not being able to be here this morning. But he looks forward to joining you later today.

- We are honored to have Dr. Furuhama, NASDA's Executive Director for the Office of Satellite Technology, Research and Applications here with us this morning.

- In 1997, NASA and NASDA joined together to launch the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission.

- TRMM continues to be more successful than anyone could have predicted, clearly demonstrating the value of precipitation measurement from space.

- TRMM has allowed scientists to make significant advancements in climate change, weather and hydrologic applications.

- Scientists using TRMM data have been able to monitor and predict climate variations such as El Nino and La Nina.

- The TRMM data has improved the predictability of hurricane tracks and intensities and has led to promising studies in hydrology.

- And, TRMM has shown the utility of precipitation information for the improvement of numerical weather forecasts and climate modeling.

- Now, we need to build on the legacy of TRMM but on a global scale. We need to continue to identify trends in the Earth's global water cycle, to analyze the extent to which changes in the frequency, strength and path of weather systems, which produce clouds and rain, and replenish fresh water resources, can be related to such climate trends, and what climate surprises may lie ahead.

- In the next decade, NASA's ESE will focus on missions that will increase our understanding of the Earth system forcing and responses, and improve our ability to predict climate, weather and natural hazards.

- Global precipitation measurements are a natural and essential next step.

- NASA and NASDA are proposing the Global Precipitation Measurement Mission, GPM, with the aim of understanding the global structure of rainfall and its impact on climate and the Earth's habitability.

- GPM with its dual frequency radar and constellation of satellites will improve weather and hydrology studies by providing more frequent measurements of the precipitating systems. GPM will monitor the intensity of rainbands of hurricanes, typhoons and precipitation for use by farming, coastal communities and government agencies in flood forecasting.

- GPM aims to be global in its observation and in its partnerships. We are inviting participation from all corners of the globe in the potential provision of the components of the GPM constellation, its ground systems and the associated scientific research.

- One of the unique aspects of GPM will be the flexibility for participants to provide enhancements incrementally.

- Partnerships will be key to the success of GPM. So I urge you to debate and consider all aspects of this proposal and I think you will be as excited as we are and ready to forge ahead with us.

- Thank you.