Recognizing the growing need for improved Earth observations, 89 member countries, the European Commission and the other international organizations have been collaborating through the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) to establish a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) for almost 10 years since 2005.

GEOSS Asia Pacific (AP) Symposium has contributed to uniting stakeholders and facilitating their cooperation in this region since the 1st symposium in January 2007 in Tokyo. Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan (RESTEC) organized the past 4 symposiums in Japan under the collaboration between GEO secretariat while 4th symposium was held in Indonesia and 6th was in India.

GEO and RESTEC organized and held the 7th GEOSS AP symposium in Tokyo on 26-28 May 2014 with the theme of “Benefits for Society from GEOSS evolution toward addressing Sustainable Development Goals”. The president of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) made a keynote speech highlighting the importance of sustainable development and welcomed future collaborations with the related activities. The representatives of GEO members made their country reports and shared the information on current status with 237 participants. They also joined one of 5 working groups which were; WG1: Asian Water Cycle Initiative, WG2: Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network, WG3: Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) Towards Long-Term Carbon Management, WG4: Ocean Observation and Society (toward realization of "Blue Planet" in AP region), and WG5: Agriculture and Food Security (GEO GLAM).

On the last day, on behalf of the participants, GEO secretariat adopted “Tokyo Statement” where, the participants encouraged the development partners to break out of the silos of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) framework and build much needed cross-sectoral linkages and add trans-disciplinary activities as GEO designs the next development post-2015 framework.