Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

Geospatial Applications for Disaster Risk Management

Organized by

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

Centre for Space Science & Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAAP)
Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), ISRO
IIRS Campus, 4-Kalidas Road
Dehradun, India 248001
Overview: Geospatial Applications for Disaster Risk Management: A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

Learning objectives

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific (Affiliated to the United Nations) are launching a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on “Geospatial Applications for Disaster Risk Management”. This MOOC is a free and flexible online training programme available to everyone who wants to enhance their capabilities related to the use of geospatial and Earth observation technologies in disaster risk management.

During the challenging times of the COVID-19 outbreak, MOOCs are an effective way of reaching a large number of participants to share knowledge. The proposed MOOC aims to strengthen efforts of disaster management professionals to contribute to achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement stemming from the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Target audience

Government officials and professionals, educators, university students and other stakeholders working in the field of disaster management.

Sessions by experts from the following organisations

- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Austria
- Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific (Affiliated to the United Nations), India
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Delta State University, United States of America
- Bonn University, Germany
- Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- National Disaster Reduction Center of China
- University of Salzburg, Austria
- International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka
- Indian Space Research Organisation, India
- Central Building Research Institute, India
- Maxar Technologies, Singapore
### Structure of the MOOC

The MOOC is structured in two tracks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tracks</th>
<th>Track-1 (Basic Module)</th>
<th>Track-2 (Advanced Module)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who Can attend</strong></td>
<td>Professionals interested in enhancing awareness of the latest trends in disaster risk management and how geospatial and Earth observation technologies contribute to it.</td>
<td>Professionals interested in sharpening skills in use of geospatial and Earth observation technologies in all phases of disaster management. Track 1 is a prerequisite for participating in Track 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Track-1 to Track-2</strong></td>
<td>Candidates completing Track-1 can either leave the training programme or continue with Track-2</td>
<td>Track-2 can only be undertaken if Track-1 is completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certification</strong></td>
<td>Candidates completing Track 1 will receive a certificate for completing the Basic Module</td>
<td>Candidates completing the basic and advanced module will receive a certificate for the entire MOOC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Track Overview** | **Module 1:** Overview of disaster risk management (DRM) and the relevance of geospatial technologies  
**Module 2:** Earth observation and disaster management | **Module 3:** Earth Observation and geospatial intelligence for disaster management  
**Module 4:** EO system and Hydro-meteorological disasters  
**Module 5:** EO system and geological disasters  
**Module 6:** EO system and environmental disasters |
| **Assessment** | Each Module ends with a quiz. The completion of the quiz allows participants to access other modules |  |
| **Language** | All lectures and training materials will be in the English language |  |
| **Duration** (including video session, assignments and quiz) | Track 1 and Track 2 training modules are designed to be completed within 12 hours each.  
With a flexible schedule, the MOOC can be completed anytime between 15 September 2020 and 15 December 2020 |  |
| **Course Fee** | Free |  |
Opportunities for participants attending the MOOC

- Access to experts from institutions and practitioners around the world
- Networking with a global network of experts and policymakers
- Insight into international frameworks related to disaster management, sustainable development and climate change from organizations such as the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), and mechanisms like the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters"
- Unleash the potential of open datasets and tools needed for disaster risk management
- Access to the methodologies for effective utilization of space-based and other geospatial information for disaster risk reduction and emergency response

Course content

Track 1: Basic Module

Basic course suitable for non-experts (a person without professional or specialized knowledge of the subject)

This track aims at the imparting basic knowledge on disaster risk reduction, remote sensing and geospatial technologies with few assignments and targets. The participants need not have specific knowledge or expertise in the areas of disaster management, geospatial technologies or Earth observation to complete Track 1.

Remarks by Dr. Simonetta Di Pippo, Director, UNOOSA

Remarks by Dr. K. Sivan, Chairman, ISRO

Introduction to Track 1: Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director, CSSTEAP

Module 1: Overview of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and the Relevance of Geospatial Technologies

- Session 1: Overview of disasters, causes and impact – Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand
- Session 2: Concept of DRM, disaster management terminologies, methods and tools – Prof. Talbot Brooks, Delta State University, USA
- Session 3: International cooperation for promoting space technologies in disaster management – Dr. Shirish Ravan, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Austria

  - Module 1 Quiz
Module 2: Earth observation and disaster management

- Session 4: Geospatial technologies to support disaster risk management – Dr. SP Aggarwal, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, ISRO, India
- Session 5: Earth observation systems for disaster management – Dr. Valerie Graw, Bonn University, Germany
- Session 6: National/regional disaster support systems/mechanisms
  - International Charter Space and Major Disasters: Jens Danzeglocke, German Aerospace Center
  - Copernicus EMS (ESA): Ms Annett Wania, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
  - National Disaster Management System in China: Li Suju, National Disaster Reduction Center of China
  - India Disaster Management System: Dr. P.V.N. Rao, National Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO, India

- Module 2 Quiz

Use cases

Case 1: Landslide hazard mapping – Dr. P.K. Champati Ray, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, ISRO, India
Case 2: Flood hazard mapping – Mr. C.M. Bhatt, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, ISRO, India
Case 3: Use of very high-resolution satellite images for post-disaster damage assessment – Mr. Abhineet Jain, MAXAR
Case 4: Case study on vulnerability assessment – Dr. Stefan Kienberger, University of Salzburg, Austria

Track 2: Advanced Module

Applications of earth observation and other space technologies in disaster management

The participants who have completed Track 1 successfully can access Track 2, which is more technical and aims at developing skills of the participants in the use of Earth observation in assessing various disasters.

Introduction to Track 2: Dr. Shirish Ravan, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

Module 3: Earth Observation and Geospatial Intelligence for Disaster Management

- Session 1: Fundamentals of remote sensing, Overview of EO systems and data availability – Ms. Shefali Agrawal, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, ISRO, India
• Session 2: Geospatial intelligence for crisis management – Prof. Talbot Brooks, Delta State University, USA
  o Assignment: Open source Earth observation data and software (weblinks to UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal, Copernicus Open Access Hub, etc.)
  o *Module 3 Quiz*

**Module 4: EO system and Hydro-meteorological disasters**

• Session 3: Flood mapping, monitoring and modelling – Dr. KHV Durga Rao, National Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO, India
• Session 4: Drought mapping, monitoring & forecasting – Dr. Giriraj Amarnath, International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka
  o Assignment: Links to the recommended practices for flood and drought mapping (UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal, IIRS)
  o *Module 4 Quiz*

**Module 5: EO system and geological disasters**

• Session 5: Landslides mapping and monitoring – Dr. D.P. Kanungo Central Building Research Institute, India
• Session 6: Earthquake-induced post-disaster damage assessment – Dr. P.K. Champati Ray, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, ISRO, India
  o Assignment: Links to the recommended practices for landslide and earthquake damage assessment (UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal, IIRS)
  o *Module 5 Quiz*

**Module 6: EO system and environmental disasters**

• Session 7: Forest degradation and forest fire monitoring and damage assessment – Dr. Arijit Roy, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing of ISRO
• Session 8: Land degradation and soil erosion assessment and monitoring – Dr Ajai, Space Applications Centre, ISRO, India
  o Assignment: Links to the recommended practices for landslide and earthquake damage assessment (UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal, IIRS)
  o *Module 6 Quiz*

**Concluding session:**

Take away from the MOOC sessions from key persons
General Information about MOOC

Registration:
ISRO LMS (https://eclass.iirs.gov.in)

System Requirements:
Minimum Browsers Requirements: Google Chrome 11, Firefox 4, Safari 5, Internet Explorer 8

Recommended Settings:
✓ Make sure that the browser is set to accept cookies
✓ JavaScript must be enabled

Course Coordinator and contact point: Mr. C.M.Bhatt, Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP), Affiliated to the United Nations (Email: cmbhatt@iirs.gov.in)

Copyrights:
CSSTEAP & UNOOSA
www.cssteap.org
www.unoosa.org
www.un-spider.org

Cover images:
First row: ESA; DLR.
Second row: ISRO/CSSTEAP
Third row: UNOOSA; UN Photo/Logan Abassi; UNOOSA
Fourth row: Unsplash/ Donald Giannatti; ISRO/CSSTEAP