International Working Group on Satellite based Emergency Mapping (IWG-SEM)

Minutes of the teleconference held on Wednesday, 18.7.2012, 14-15:15 UTC

Moderator: JRC: Jan Kucera

Participants: DLR-ZKI: Stephan Voigt

NASA/SERVIR: Nate Smith

SERTIT: Arnaud Durant, Paul de Fraipont

ITHACA: Fabio Giulio Tonolo

USGS: Brenda Jones

UNOSAT: Melanie Fournier, Harry Kendall, Wendi Pedersen

During the teleconference, following points were discussed. Each point contains short summary of what has been accomplished so far and the future action with deadline and actor involved.

1. Communication tool

Summary: The JRC looked at the existing possibilities of communication platform. Because of changes in JRC's IT setup, the online CMS (SharePoint) is not available anymore. JRC looked at the usage of Google Webpages, but they do not fulfill the required needs (easy to use, enough space for documents etc.).

All participants agreed that the communication tool should be hosted in a stable and long-lasting IT environment and under organizational setup.

Action: JRC will look more deeply on the possibility of using GDACS modules as communication platform for IWG-SEM. In case it is not possible to use GDACS, DLR offered to host the communication platform.

Deadline for decision: 31.8.2012 (more time is allowed because of holiday time, GDACS key persons are on holiday).

2. GIO-EMS Rush Mode Mapping notifications to IWG-SEM

Summary: JRC acts as technical coordinator of European GMES Initial Operations (GIO) Emergency Management Support (EMS). In that context JRC has set-up the online logging system (OLS) which is used to monitor each step in production of emergency maps during GIO-EMS activation. The OLS is capable to send automatic email alerts after each step of the activation. So far the email alert system was used within JRC and selected departments of EC. It has proven to be sufficiently stable and alerts can be sent also to external actors. JRC offered to add to the alerting system the members of IWG-SEM if they wish. Once their emails are inserted to OLS, they will receive email whenever there is a new activation of GIO-EMS Rush Mode.

The initiative was welcomed by member of IWG-SEM as a good start for sharing information about emergency activations. DLR has correctly pointed out that we should not focus on one-to-many communication only, but to to expand to many-to-many as soon as possible. This was approved by other members and this is the state the group should reach.

Actions: JRC will add the email address to OLS of IWG-SEM members if they wish to be there. Group members have to send to JRC email address to which they want to receive GIO-EMS activation alert.

Deadline : anytime, JRC will act upon request

3. GDACS Satellite Mapping and Coordination System (SMCS)

Summary: UNOSAT provided basic information about the SMCS. Members of the group welcomed the initiatives and are interested on hands-on training on the tool. UNOSAT offered they can provide such course either remotely (using WebEx tools etc.) or physically during the next meeting of the IWG. The course was very welcome by the members of the group.

Actions: JRC and UNOSAT will look at the possibilities of organizing the hands-on training on the SMCS tool.

Deadline for decision: 14.9. (the connection with next IWG-SEM meeting is highly desirable)

4. Invitation of other organization to the group

Summary: During the last meeting of the group in April, the group identified other organizations which should be either member of the IWG-SEM or should be cooperating with it. During the discussion whether or not to invite other entities to the group, it was concluded that only entities active in satellite-based emergency mapping should be part of the group. Once the group is better implemented and accepted more widely, other entities will be invited to join in or to cooperate with IWG-SEM.

Actions: All current members will identify which entities active in satellite based emergency mapping are missing and communicate it to the JRC. JRC will invite those to the group. JRC will also examine the list drafted during the April meeting .

Deadline for communication of other potential members: 31.8. 2012

5. Setting dates for regular teleconferences

Summary: The organization of regular TC was agreed during the April meeting. The group agreed to organize the TC every first Wednesday every moth at 14:00 UTC.

Actions: The next TC will be held on Wednesday, 5.9. at 14:00 UTC. (16:00 CEST)

Deadline for invitation to TC: JRC will send reminder and agenda approc 2 weeks before TC.

6. Organization of the next meeting

Summary: The next meeting should be held in October. It was agreed that it would be more convenient to held the meeting in Europe before or after 9-10.10.

Actions: JRC sets up the Doodle page with dates. In the meantime JRC will negotiate the most convenient venue and organizer.

Deadline: JRC sets up Doodle on 23.7. All memebers of the group (including those not participating during this TCf) should answer by27.7. The date and place should be ideally fixed by 3.8.