

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

Minutes of the teleconference held on Tuesday, 10 September 2013, 14 UTC

Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Andrea	Ajmar	ITHACA
2	Noriko	Aso	JAXA
3	Stephen	Clandillon	SERTIT
4	Fabio	Giulio Tonolo	ITHACA
5	Jan	Kucera	EC-JRC
6	Antje	Siebert	SsBCh

Main Outcomes

During the teleconference, following points were discussed.

- Emergency Mapping Guidelines: status update**
 ITHACA provided a status update on the Emergency Mapping Guidelines. No comment/feedback have been received so far on the latest version of the guidelines sent to the contributing members on August, 1st. The flood-related chapter is expected to be integrated by September, 15th. The new version will be then circulated for a last round of internal commenting (especially on the points raised by JRC and DLR), in order to have a complete document available for the Washington meeting, which will be exploited also to finalize the guidelines (there are still several comments in the documents that need to be addressed and integrated in the text before the final proof-reading and the final reading). SsBCh expressed her willingness to be included in the distribution list to actively contribute to the guidelines. JAXA asked about the intention to include other (than floods) disaster types in the disaster-related section of the guidelines: ITHACA confirmed that the original idea was to start with a specific disaster type (flood) using a general structure to be then adapted to other disaster types (earthquakes were considered as the next disaster type to be added, according to the Geneva MoM).
- GeoRSS status**
 EC-JRC provided a brief summary of the GeoRSS feed proposal detailed in the mail sent on September, 6th, highlighting that comments are expected to tailor the feed content to the IWG-SEM requirements. ITHACA proposed to include the AOI geometry (which is currently broadcasted only when a map product is available) as soon as it is defined, in order to exploit the GeoRSS as an operational cooperation tool: EC-JRC agreed on that point, but specifying that, in order to make this solution efficient, a standard and structured workflow should be operational within each cooperating mechanisms. Furthermore ITHACA confirmed that the feed embedded in GoogleMap works properly and is indeed user friendly. JAXA proposed to organize a brief demo section in Washington focused on the GeoRSS feed and EC-JRC agreed to prepare a demonstration with operation examples.
- Washington Meeting**
 ITHACA provided a summary of the confirmed attendees to the meeting in Washington (6 institutions currently) and the potential additional ones (3-4 institutions): the meeting is therefore confirmed. Since some of the European located members informed they will not

manage to participate, it has been requested to the hosting institution to kindly arrange the possibility to join remotely the meeting (Skype or Videoconference system). For the same reason, it is proposed to schedule the meeting to start early in the morning, to minimize the impact of the time zone difference on the members willing to join remotely from Europe. USGS, who is kindly taking care of the organization, will provide the logistics information (including suggested hotels) as soon as possible. Nate Smith, one of the IWG-SEM core members, asked by e-mail to the IWG-SEM chairman about the possibility for him to attend the Washington meeting also without the SERVIR affiliation: all participant to the teleconference had no objections (*note: Nate Smith informed after the teleconference that he will be affiliated with the George Washington University where he is currently an adjunct professor*).

Logistics: logistics details will be provided as soon as possible. The confirmed venue of the meeting is:

Department of Interior
1849 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20240
United States

Agenda: after a consultation with the organizing institution (USGS, not attending the teleconference but providing its inputs to ITHACA in advance), it is proposed to structure the agenda as follows:

10 october 2013 (IWGS-SEM members only):

- Mapping guidelines
 - analysis of the latest version and discussion on potential open issues raised in the comments;
 - quality assurance section: way forward
 - flood-related section: analysis and discussion of possible cooperation scenarios during flood events
 - re-scheduling of the step forward (proof-reading and final reading)
- GeoRSS: demo session and discussion

11 october 2013 (open to US-based SEM institution/agencies). One of the reason we chose to organize the meeting in a different continent was to broaden the participation to the IWG-SEM. To this purpose USGS kindly offered to arrange presentations from other agencies located in Washington dealing with satellite emergency mapping, proposal that was accepted by all the meeting attendees.

- Presentation of the activities carried out by US-based SEM institution (e.g. NASA, USAID, FEMA, RED CROSS, Dept. of Agriculture)
- Presentation of IWG-SEM: vision, mission, current activities and analysis of synergies
- Mapping guidelines: continuation
- Wrap-up

No further points to be added in the agenda are proposed during the teleconference. Further comments/proposals will be provided after the first tentative agenda will be disseminated.

The conference call ended at 14:50 UTC