

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

Minutes of the teleconference held on Thursday, 14 November 2013, 14 UTC

## Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Stuart	Frye	NASA
2	Francesco	Gaetani	GEO
3	Fabio	Giulio Tonolo	ITHACA
4	Brenda	Jones	USGS
5	Josh	Lyons	HRW
6	Antje	Siebert	SsBCh
7	Nate	Smith	GWU

## Main Outcomes

During the teleconference, following points were discussed.

- Brief updating on IWG-SEM participation to GDACS annual meeting**  
 GDACS appreciated IWG-SEM participation to the GDACS stakeholder meeting. The IWG-SEM position on the sharing of metadata on emergency mapping activations has been presented and it is seen as an approach which can be integrated in to the existing SMCS v2.0: the main complementary seems to be the possibility to have general information (automatically) available at the beginning of the emergency mapping activations and not only when satellite imagery is delivered.  
 Unosat is available to cooperate on this topic, testing the integration of the IWG-SEM GeorSS proposed approach under GDACS. IWG-SEM highlighted the need for the centralised web-page (aimed at displaying the GeorSS feeds broadcasted by SEM organisations) to be open.  
 As far as the participation to the IWG-SEM activities, is concerned, Unosat is pleased to be an observer for the moment, becoming more active on specific topics (e.g. GeorSS integration in GDACS).
- Current status of the Emergency Mapping Guidelines wrt the agreed deadline (15 Nov 2013)**  
 ITHACA highlights that currently none of the expected contributions to the guidelines has been provided by the expected deadline. The risk of not being able to fulfill the newly agreed deadline (end of the year) for having a version ready to be circulated is therefore quite high. A gentle reminder will be sent to the expected contributors, with the goal to be able to fulfill the deadline. USGS will check if the proposed timeline related to the final proof-reading (1-15 december 2013) is manageable from their side (*Note: Brenda Jones already confirmed USGS availability to take care of this action*).  
 The flood section is still pending, and NASA kindly offered to check if they have the possibility to contribute to the section.

In case the event-specific section will not be available by the end of the year, it is agreed to finalize and circulate the general part of the Guidelines leaving the event-specific part out for the moment.

- **Review of the Washington meeting minutes**

No comments or request of clarifications are raised by the TC attendees.

- **AOB**

- GEO introduces the CIMA foundation (<http://www.cimafoundation.org>), an Italian Civil Protection centre of excellence for wildfires and flooding, which would be interested in joining the IWG-SEM. IWG-SEM chairman will get in touch with CIMA (*note: done on 14/11/2013*) to provide the relevant information, including the need to fulfill the IWG-SEM membership policy.
- GWU proposes that IWG-SEM develop an approach to capturing lessons learnt from the emergency mapping activities related to the Cyclone in the Philippines, as soon as the ongoing effort carried out by several IWG-SEM members will be over. All the TC attendees evaluate the proposed initiative as extremely interesting and relevant to the IWG-SEM. ITHACA highlights that this is also in line with the "lesson-learned activity" already listed in the potential future activities of the Group (Washington minutes). HRW and USGS highlight the need to carefully managed the mechanism to avoid criticisms on specific SEM organizations, keeping it at a general level. HRW proposes to use a flexible and dynamic operational tool to carry out this activity, e.g. Wiki pages. GEO offered to share their Web-EX infrastructure if needed. NASA points out that - as part of the recently approved CEOS Disaster Risk Management area - the "Recovery Observatory" for satellite data and products should be aimed at gathering all information for a particular disaster into a single platform per event. IWG-SEM may therefore benefit from staying abreast of the developments under this new activity especially as it makes progress on data management and tools in this regard.

The conference call ended at 15:00 UTC