

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

Minutes of the teleconference held on Thursday, 10 December 2013, 14 UTC

Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Andrea	Ajmar	ITHACA
2	Marco	Broglia	EC-JRC
3	Lorant	Czaran	UNOOSA
4	Fabio	Giulio Tonolo	ITHACA
5	Brenda	Jones	USGS
6	Jan	Kucera	EC-JRC
7	Nate	Smith	GWU
8	Stefan	Voigt	DLR

Main Outcomes

During the teleconference, following points were discussed.

- **Emergency Mapping Guidelines: finalization process**

Ithaca provides an update on the current status and on the proposed timeline for the finalization process. The general section of the guidelines is now completed, amended on the basis of the Washington meeting outcome: during the last conference call it was agreed to finalize and circulate the general part of the Guidelines leaving the event-specific part out (for the moment) if no further contributions are received (a further request for contribution on the flood section will be sent when distributing the draft).

A draft version will be circulated for internal commenting to the IWG-SEM mailing list. USGS already confirmed their kind availability to carry out the editing/proof-reading during the first half of January 2014. An additional final reading should be carried out by DG-ENTR and DG-ECHO (ERCC), as agreed during the Torino meeting.

While sending out the draft for internal commenting, it will be highlighted that:

- the deadline (27.12.2013) is to be intended as a strict deadline due to the tight schedule (and considering the current delay with respect to the original agreed timeline);
- the comments should focus on the content and not on the language;
- the group is kindly asked to provide not only general comments, but specific alternative sentences/phrasing for the part they deem require a content editing;

- **Sharing of metadata related to emergency mapping activities: GeoRSS work-plan definition**

While finalizing the general part of the guidelines, IWG-SEM should start focusing on the operational development of the GeoRSS-related activities (especially defining standard metadata content, viewer functionalities and getting ready to broadcast the feeds), since it was clear during the Philippines event the need for a similar standard to share information about emergency mapping activities.

It is agreed to try to have an operational solution by the end of the first quarter of 2014.

The work-plan will be communicated to GDACS (UNOSAT) to check their availability to develop it under GDACS (by the agreed deadline). In parallel, IWG-SEM members will start testing technical aspects and feasibility of GEO-RSS broadcasting and reception/display to better understand and handle this technology for the purposes of the IWG-SEM. To this purpose, a dedicated e-mail will be sent out to the IWG-SEM mailing list (including GDACS) to define a restricted mailing list for a technical discussion group focused on the aforementioned issues.

The GeoRSS feeds broadcasted in the framework of Copernicus GIO-EMS (emergency.copernicus.eu) can be considered as a first prototype which can be used for testing purposes.

- **Emergency mapping for the Philippines typhoon: follow-up on the proposal to develop an approach to capturing lesson learnt**

During the November TC, GWU proposed that IWG-SEM develops an approach to capturing lessons learnt from the emergency mapping activities related to the Haiyan Typhoon in the Philippines. The proposal is evaluated positively and two major points are discussed:

- concerning the Philippines event, one of the possible solution to capturing lesson learnt could be to organize a workshop focused not only on the satellite emergency mapping perspective but also on the overall picture related to the use of geo-spatial data. None of the attendees has the resources to autonomously organize such event. In case a similar event will be organized in the framework of other initiatives, it is deemed relevant for IWG-SEM representatives to attend and potentially contribute to the sections devoted to the satellite-based emergency mapping: for this reason, all members are encouraged to share a calendar of any relevant event, in order to better organize IWG-SEM potential attendance. UNOOSA informs that experts supported by the Eye on Earth (EoE) initiative are now in the Philippines carrying out an assessment on the use of geospatial data for the emergency response phase.
- from a general perspective, it is confirmed that the identification of a mechanism to capture lesson learnt from the response to major disaster is a priority future activity for IWG-SEM, trying to exploit what is already in place in the different emergency mapping mechanisms as well as exploiting synergies from other ongoing initiatives such as the "Recovery Observatory" for satellite data and products (CEOS Disaster Risk Management area) which should be aimed at gathering all information for a particular disaster into a single platform per event, as pointed out by NASA during the November TC.

- **AOB**

- **Next IWG-SEM Meeting**

The next IWG-SEM meeting should be held on late-April/early-May 2014.

UNOOSA confirms the possibility to host the meeting at the UN premises in New York, in conjunction with the UNGIWG meeting (scheduled for 14-16 May 2014). DLR will also check the possibility to host the meeting. The following steps are agreed:

- to send an e-mail to the IWG-SEM mailing list checking for other realistic possibilities for the next IWG-SEM meeting venue;
- to set-up an on-line poll to identify the meeting solution which will allow the maximum number of attendees to join.

The conference call ended at 15:10 UTC