

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

Minutes of the teleconference held on Tuesday, 8 April 2014, 14 UTC

Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Isaac	Baker	HHI-SP
2	Marco	Broglia	EC-JRC
3	Stephen	Clandillon	SERTIT
4	Fabio	Giulio Tonolo	ITHACA
5	Antje	Hecheltjen	UNOOSA
6	Jan	Kucera	EC-JRC
7	Nathaniel	Raymond	HHI-SP
8	Tobias	Schneiderhan	DLR
9	Brian	Tomaszewski	RIT
10	Stefan	Voigt	DLR

Main Outcomes

During the teleconference, the following points were discussed.

• IWG-SEM: member updates

ITHACA provided a brief updating on the IWG-SEM members, specifically:

- new members: Harvard Humanitarian Initiative - Signal Program (HHI-SP) introduced by Human Right Watch;
- change of representatives from JAXA: Noriko Aso will be replaced by Mr.Miyazaki, supported by Mr.Kaku.

It is discussed if a member, joining a profit company, can still be kept in the IWG-SEM mailing list. It is highlighted that for-profit companies can be valuable and that a potential compromise could be to allow their participation with an observer status. Anyway it is agreed for now to keep the current IWG-SEM membership policy as it is and to re-discuss the issue during the next meeting in May.

• Emergency mapping guidelines: first version available for download.

ITHACA informed that the draft version 1.0 of the guidelines was finally made available for download on the IWG-SEM website, after the last round of internal commenting and a layout editing (kindly carried out by UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER).

The group received a formal request from ReliefWeb to post the guidelines on their portal: everyone is obviously in favor of allowing ReliefWeb, and everyone in general, to re-post the emergency mapping guidelines, being the document aimed at being widely disseminated. As a general approach, it is agreed to ask entities posting the guidelines on their website to redirect to the IWG-SEM official website for the document download, with the goal to i) assure that the latest version of the document is always made available for download and ii) retrieve statistics related to the number/types of download (e.g. through Google Analytics).

Everyone is invited to advertise the Emergency Mapping Guidelines through their usual communication channel (as UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER already [did](#)). HHI-SP suggested to advertise the document in the Crisis Mappers community. Since a wide dissemination may lead to several comments, IWG-SEM should be prepared to actively process and discuss the received comments. During the next meeting in May, it should be discussed if a distribution based on a Wiki approach may facilitate the document commenting management.

- **Next IWG-SEM meeting (20-21 May 2014, Oberpfaffenhofen, Munich, Germany @DLR): confirmed participants, logistics and draft agenda**

As agreed, the next IWG-SEM meeting will be hosted by DLR in Oberpfaffenhofen, Munich, Germany on 20-21 May 2014. A draft agenda and the logistical details (including suggested hotels and driving directions) have already been provided: none of the attendees had specific comments to the provided documents.

ITHACA informed that about 7 members confirmed their willingness to join the meeting so far. DLR is willing to welcome a wide number of participants to the meeting, and in case remote connections are required they will try to arrange also this possibility.

HHI-SP suggested to invite OSM-HOT to join IWG-SEM. RIT suggested to invite MapAction. DLR highlighted that other actors should be involved, like the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices. It is highlighted that all the organizations fulfilling the IWG-SEM membership are welcome to join the group, and in case anyone would like to invite other organizations they can send an e-mail to the interested people copying the IWG-SEM chairman, which will follow-up sending general information about the group vision and activities.

- **AOB**

- **Technical discussion group on GeoRSS**

- JRC informed that no major updates have been provided by the people enlisted in the technical discussion group mailing list. HHI-SP expressed the willingness to be enlisted in the mailing list. HHI-SP suggested to take into account in the technical discussion also the encryption/security related issues.

- **Copernicus Expert Group**

- JRC highlighted that the European Commission decided to establish a [Copernicus Expert Group](#) (to provide independent advice concerning the status and evolution of the Copernicus Earth Observation programme) which may be relevant for most of the IWG-SEM members. After a brief discussion, it is agreed that JRC will send a message to the IWG-SEM mailing list.

The conference call ended at 15:05 UTC