

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

Minutes of the teleconference held on Tuesday, 24 June 2014, 14 UTC

Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Hendrik	Zwenzner	DLR
2	Tobias	Schneiderhan	DLR
3	Stefan	Voigt	DLR
4	Peter	Zeil	EC
6	Nathaniel	Raymond	HHI
7	Fabio	Giulio Tonolo	ITHACA
8	Brian	Tomaszewski	RIT
9	Stephen	Clandillon	SERTIT
10	Antje	Hecheltjen	UN-SPIDER
10	Lorant	Czaran	UN-SPIDER
12	Brenda	Jones	USGS

Main Outcomes

During the teleconference, the following points were discussed.

- **Short report on IWG-SEM spring meeting at Munich**

Presentation and discussion of the main agenda items and decisions of the IWG meeting held at Munich during 20/21 May. All participants agreed to the slightly modified text of the “Vision” and “Mission” statement of the working group. These will be updated on the website and in the guidelines at the next possible occasion.

- ⇒ The action list resulting from the Munich meeting was talked through and a status for each action was given:
 - A01 - To prepare standard information material, e.g. PDF document with informative slides (ITHACA, ongoing)
 - A02 - To contact EARSC inviting them to be part of IWG-SEM, identifying a representative with the adequate expertise to actively participate to the group activities (SERTIT, completed – so far no reply)
 - A03 - To update the web-site content “Mission statement” (DLR, new text agreed, update at next occasion)
 - A04 – To update section 1.2 of the Emergency Mapping Guidelines (DLR, new text agreed, update at next occasion)

- A05 - To identify major events to which IWG-SEM members are planning to participate, with the goal to organize the IWG-SEM meeting accordingly as a back-to-back meeting (DLR, suggestions to the chair welcome)
- A06 - To verify the flexibility of the current GDACS hosting solution for IWG-SEM webpage (EC-JRC, ongoing, negative response by Unosat)
- A07 - To stimulate the Technical Discussion Group on GeoRSS (EC-JRC + DLR, pending – further activity planned for July/next telco)
- A08 - To share the GeoRSS minimum metadata content proposal with the GeoRSS Technical discussion group moderator (DLR, completed)
- A09 – To verify if some IWG-SEM member is available to draft the event specific sections (DLR, ongoing)
- A10 – To contact expert for checking their availability to draft a first version of the flood-related section of the guidelines (DG-ENTR, completed / USGS, ongoing).
- A11 – To integrate guidelines on nomenclature of crisis layer in section 2.7.1 (SERTIT, pending)
- A12 – To investigate the possibility to have an intern working on Future Activity (UN-SPIDER, postponed to 2015)
- A13 and A17 – To insert the proposed topics in the agenda of future meeting(s) (DLR, ongoing)
- Action A14/15 (merged) – To lead the discussion related to the integration of Early Warning Systems in emergency mapping procedures. Possibly draft a white paper on integration/exploitation of early warning systems into emergency mapping procedures, including pre-alerts, pre-tasking of satellites and possibly auto-activation (DG-ENTR, supported by SERTIT, pending)
- A16 – To invite a representative from the volunteer mapping community to the next meeting (DLR, ongoing - first contact with HOT/OSM, currently no reply)

- **Emergency mapping guidelines: towards hazard related sections**

Version 1.0 of the IWG-SEM EM guidelines has been distributed via the web page and e.g. the UN-SPIDER newsletter/portal. To date, no major responses were received by the group/chair on publishing the guidelines. Currently the most important work is to complete hazard/event specific sections, also referred to as “thematic” sections. First priority is given to the completion of the flood section, while second priority is given to the earthquake section.

- ⇒ Flood section: Peter Zeil (EC-ENTR) has confirmed his availability to coordinate further editing work on this section. Brenda Jones (USGS) is to confirm with Rob Brakenridge (DFO) whether he can support Peter with this task. The flood section and its table of content shall serve as an example/template for further thematic sections.
- ⇒ Earthquake section: For this section Lorant Czarán (UN-SPIDER) will clarify with his colleagues, if and how UN-SPIDER can support the compilation and editing of this section.

- **Technical discussion group on GeoRSS**

Prior to the teleconference Jan Kucera (EC-JRC) has already confirmed that he remains committed to coordinate the work of this technical subgroup and that he plans to take further action on this topic during the months to come. It will be important to agree and finalize the metadata tags of GeoRSS feeds to be broadcast for emergency mapping activities by all involved actors. Furthermore, dedicated “Aggregators” of GeoRSS are key to be implemented at different web portals (IWG, EC-Copernicus, etc.). It was agreed that the metadata tags should follow respective ISO standards to the extent possible. It is suggested to dedicate a good part of the July teleconference to the matter of GeoRSS. One example of Emergency Mapping GeoRSS aggregation and visualization can already be accessed and used from:

<http://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/georss-feeds-aggregated>

- **IWG-SEM future activities**

Main current activities and actions of the WG are summarized in the action list of the Munich meeting given above. With respect to “high priority future” activities of the WG, identified during the Munich meeting, the following points were raised:

- Web representation/hosting of IWG-SEM web page is a currently very important action.
- GeoRSS => actually a “current” activity, rather than a “future” one
- Encourage Members to be more active / review modus operandi => continuous task
- Increase outreach: ongoing action by the chair and all active members of the group

It was agreed to consolidate, at the time being, current actions, rather than take on board too many new, challenging task with the given limited working capacity of the group.

- **Outreach**

Following a written request from Unosat to the IWG-SEM to discontinue hosting of the central IWG-SEM web site on the gdacs.org portal, next relevant steps of action were discussed. As the IWG website was centrally established under GDACS (<http://portal.gdacs.org/data/IWG-SEM>) with support of GDACS steering committee more than two year ago, two ways to respond to this request for discontinuation were agreed:

- a) Seeking confirmation of the GDACS chairmen, that the request to discontinue the hosting is endorsed by the GDACS steering committee
- b) Establish alternative hosting solutions for the IWG-SEM web page, most likely via the UN-SPIDER portal.

With respect to further outreach activities it was agreed that IWG-SEM members should try to engage more actively in the WG activities, spread the word about the group to interested parties and make reference to the group activities on web portals (note, link, reference page, mirror central page, aggregator), in presentations etc. In addition to this, it was discussed, that the next physical meeting of the group could be considered to be attached to some other international meeting in the domain.

- **Any other business**

- ⇒ The next IWG-SEM teleconference will be held on **July 22, 2014, at 14h UTC.**
- ⇒ The **August teleconference will be skipped** due to summer holiday season of most active members
- ⇒ The September teleconference will be held on **Sept. 16, 2014, at 14h UTC**
- ⇒ Suggestions for suitable meetings are welcome and should be made to the chair

The conference call ended at 15:15 UTC