

# International Working Group on



## Satellite-based Emergency Mapping (IWG-SEM)

Minutes of the teleconference held on Tuesday, 23 September 2014, 14 UTC

### Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Stefan	Voigt	DLR
2	Alexander	Mager	DLR
3	Peter	Zeil	EC
4	Fabio	Tonolo	ITHACA
5	Lorant	Czaran	UN-SPIDER
6	Francesco	Gaetani	GEO Sec
7	Isaac	Baker	Harvard HI
8	Brenda	Jones	USGS
9	Manzul K.	Hazarika	AIT / Sentinel Asia

### Main Outcomes

During the teleconference, the following points were discussed.

- **Update on “Flood – Thematic Section in IWG-SEM Guidelines”**
  - EC: Peter Zeil to work on this topic. Email with strategic thoughts concerning guidelines and future work will be sent to partners in the coming days. The aim is to finalize the Flood section of the guidelines until the next physical meeting to be held in November 2014. All partners are kindly encouraged to support Peter Zeil in this work.
- **Update on GeoRSS activities**
  - DLR: JRC (Jan Kucera) had sent out a working document for finalizing the discussion on an initial set of key metatags for the IWG-SEM GeoRSS standard. JRC plans to set-up and chair a telecon dedicated to GeoRSS. It is foreseen to complete, finalize and agree a first operational GeoRSS structure until next physical meeting to be held during November 2014.
  - UN-SPIDER: Metadata standards such as ISO should be reflected/implemented
  - ITHACA: The first of the three GeoRSS items proposed by JRC, the one with information on foreseen emergency mapping AOI and satellite data would be most important for international harmonization of activity and for planning purposes
- **IWG-SEM@GDACS / Hosting of IWG-SEM Website**
  - DLR reports on current situation. GDACS may not be the ideal place to host IWG-SEM-site in the long run. IWG-SEM-site had been deleted for some days from GDACS in summer, however, has been put back online now. An additional hosting option for the website was developed by UN-SPIDER during the past months. Link from GDACS to IWG-SEM-site will remain.
    - All partners agree to have the main IWG-SEM site hosted by UN-SPIDER in the future. Transition to be managed in the weeks/months to come

- Un-spider will provide login/User accounts for the forum of the page to provide a file repository and workspace.
- The UN-SPIDER based page for IWG-SEM is almost ready, but NOT formally launched. Refer to: [www.un-spider.org/network/iwg-sem](http://www.un-spider.org/network/iwg-sem)
- For general purposes the URL: [www.iwg-sem.org](http://www.iwg-sem.org) can be used and this will be redirected to the new page, once fully implemented

- **Past and future outreach activities**

- USGS: Would like to present IWG-SEM at International Charter meeting in South Korea and various meetings in the US.
- DLR: Presented IWG-SEM at an European Civil Protection congress in Bonn and in Beijing at an UN-SPIDER conferences. As a result several new contacts have been added to the member/distribution list.
- GEO Sec: World Disaster Risk Reduction conference in Sendai is coming up. Need to communicate goals and activities of IWG-SEM and satellite mapping in general to national delegations to the Sendai conference. Importance of earth observation and use of space information for disaster risk reduction to be emphasized towards national delegations. Mainstreaming in UN takes place with alignment to climate change policies. Strong role for EO desirable.
- UN-SPIDER: More outreach activities towards actors like MapAction, NGOs would be beneficial.
- AIT/Sentinel Asia: History of capacity building almost 20 Asian countries supported by JAXA. AIT to raise awareness of IWG-SEM in its network / partners.
- USGS expresses wish for standardized presentation slides
  - If partners are interested, DLR will share its slides.
  - Generally, all material/info from the website can be used and presented
- GEO Sec: Enhanced coordination between different international players needed. Players in GEO would like to know more about IWG-SEM.
- HHI: Suggest Very High Resolution satellite imagery/data providers to be also involved in the IWG-SEM

- **Food for thought: Improved satellite support for international Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)**

- DLR: Need for structured approach of feeding geospatial data/information into international PDNA process. According to informal communication, also EC/JRC and World Bank are thinking along these lines.
- EC: PDNA is standardized way of reporting undertaken by World Bank, JRC and UN. PDNA serves as basis for funding and is being carried out immediately and rapidly after disaster. Requirements of PDNA actors in terms of geospatial data should be known better. Recent example for use of geospatial data in PDNA: Flooding in western Balkans. Improvements on and support for PDNA useful, however, it is also important to support risk reduction measures by use of geospatial data, e.g. risk mapping.
- DLR: Reminds that risk mapping is the main focus of IWG-SEM activities. But: Overall concept for geospatial data as support for crisis cycle is desirable. Holistic approach should be taken where possible.
- UN-SPIDER: Emphasis on work in emergency phase. Cooperate closely with other players from disaster cycle. Connect actors and support them with geospatial expertise. Strongly agrees to consult PDNA actors such as World Bank and EC/JRC.

- AIT: Emergency mapping often serves as base for PDNA as happened for typhoon Haiyan. Damage assessment therefore closely related to PDNA. Also the Asian Development Bank is active in this field and could be presenting at a next physical meeting if this topic is on the agenda
  - ITHACA: Agrees with AIT and reminds the group of the importance of finishing the tasks of finalization of emergency mapping guidelines before opening new topics.
- **AOB**
    - Options for next physical meeting are Bangkok, Thailand or again Munich/Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany. DLR to set up an online calendar to schedule and place the meeting for interested participants.
    - Options for shifting the timing of the teleconferences were discussed to allow better connection for Asia and the America, but for now, now better timing was identified.
    - **Next teleconference to be held on Tuesday, October 21, at 14h00 (02:00 pm) UTC.**

The conference call ended at 15:20 UTC