

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



Minutes of the teleconference held on Tuesday, 10 February 2015, 14 UTC

Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Stefan	Voigt	DLR
2	Hendrik	Zwenzner	DLR
3	Fabio	Giulio Tonolo	ITHACA
4	Antje	Hecheltjen	UN-SPIDER
5	Jan	Kucera	JRC
6	Ramesh	Sivanpillai	UWYO
7	Brenda	Jones	USGS
8	Jerome	Maxant	SERTIT
9	Manzul	Hazarika	AIT/SA
10	Francoise	Villette	EC

Main Outcomes

During the teleconference, the following points were discussed.

- **Implementation of GeoRSS notifications at the different SEM partners**
 - DLR plans to implement IWG-SEM GeoRSS feeds by end of February and will inform JRC accordingly.
 - USGS: GeoRSS feeds are currently sent once satellite imagery becomes available via HDDS. USGS considers implementing and sending IWG-SEM GeoRSS feeds possibly also for the phase when activity on acquiring imagery on specific disaster events is initiated.
 - SERTIT: reports that it has already implemented the IWG-SEM GeoRSS feed accordingly. A consistency test should still be done and JRC needs to be informed
 - UN-SPIDER: is considering to send and broadcast GeoRSS, and is advancing its considerations to set up a respective aggregator on its web page.
 - General info: Once IWG-SEM Partners have implemented the respective feeds in their workflows and start broadcasting them they should inform all IWG-SEM partners and especially jan.kucera@jrc.ec.europa.eu and tomas.harmatha@ext.jrc.ec.europa.eu about this fact so they can be added to the aggregator at <http://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/georss-feeds-aggregated> . N.B. also at this site

respective IWG-SEM compatible GeoRSS feeds can be downloaded/reviewed for reference and consistency check.

- **Updated/refined input for flood section of the SEM Guidelines / general review**

- Some of the contributing authors asked for guidance from Peter Zeil (editor of the flood section) on how best to contribute and harmonize the respective inputs.

Info: In a telephone conversation held between the chair and Peter Zeil after the telco, Peter confirmed that he is currently preparing a document for guidance on the expected harmonized input. This info was sent to the contributing authors Feb. 16. By Peter Zeil.

- **"Normal" and "Emergency" communication via new e-mail lists and subscription policy**

- Two identical e-mail distribution lists have been established to improve the ease of communication among the IWG-SEM members.
- members@iwg-sem.org => should be used for "off-line" or "normal" group internal communication
- emergency@iwg-sem.org => same list/addressees – should be used for communication during emergency situation for cooperation/clarifications/general requests.
- It was agreed that the two addresses should mainly be used for internal communication among the group and should NOT be published on the website; external requests to the group can be sent via the official contact on the web site.
- It was suggested to generate a protected web-form to allow sending mails to the whole group on members@iwg-sem.org. UN-SPIDER will try to establish this.

- **IWG-SEM contribution to white paper on EO for WCDRR Sendai Conference in March 2015**

- As reported by the chair, there is a current initiative by UN-SPIDER, GEO, UNESCAP, Sentiel Asia, Int. Charter, Unosat, CEOS and others to write a white paper and form a partnership on "Earth observations in support of national strategies for disaster-risk management - A Synergy Framework for the integration of Earth Observation technologies into Disaster Risk Reduction"
- During the telecon there was a broad consensus among the participants that the work of the IWG-SEM is well in line with this initiative and that the chair should contribute a paragraph on the IWG-SEM for incorporation into the white paper.
- As a result, the following paragraph was sent out to the editors of the white paper: "The IWG-SEM brings together the EU, the UN as well as many national and international organizations and NGOs involved in satellite emergency mapping. The mission of the IWG-SEM is to "Establish best practices between operational satellite-based emergency mapping programs, stimulate communication and collaboration, support the definition of emergency mapping guidelines, strengthen the sharing of expertise and capacities and review relevant technical standards as well as protocols.

Work with the appropriate organizations to define professional standards for emergency mapping.” In 2014, the group had around 40 members including AIT, DLR, ITHACA, JAXA, UN-SPIDER, USGS, the European Commission and the World Bank. The IWG-SEM is actively supporting global cooperation in satellite-based emergency mapping and, building on this, also strengthens national and international efforts in disaster risk reduction. It is open to membership by representatives of not-for-profit organizations active in satellite emergency mapping and continuously seeks to strengthen collaboration with relevant organizations and actors in this field. For more details, see <http://www.iwg-sem.org>.”

- **Review of action items**

- The main actions items remaining from the last meetings are on the flood section of the Guidelines. Furthermore there are actions on involving the crowd sourcing community for the next physical meeting,

- **Next meeting / AOB**

- Next Telcon is planned for March 10th at 14h00 UTC
- UN-SPIDER will host next physical meeting of the IWG-SEM, on May 28-29th, back to back with the 2015 UN-SPIDER Conference in Bonn
- Website: IWG-SEM members area -> repository for documents with common login
u:iwg-sem p:iwg-s3m
- There will be different roles for editors and users
- Comment from F. Villette (EC): first paragraph on IWG-SEM webpage may be updated to a more future oriented and neutral perspective, as currently DLR is mentioned twice even in the first paragraph. There was a consensus among the group that this should be done accordingly. The new paragraph was agreed by the group and put online on Feb. 19th (iwg-sem.org)
- Several IWG-SEM members/member-organizations such as, USGS, EC, DLR, UN-SPIDER, JAXA, etc. will be present at the Sendai WCDRR 2015 Meeting. All members are kindly requested to send names and e-mail contacts of their organizations’ representatives to the chair so a link of the IWG-SEM delegates in Sendai can be made.

The conference call ended at 15:20 UTC