

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



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

Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Stefan	Voigt	DLR
2	Francoise	Villette	EC
3	Fabio	Giulio Tonolo	ITHACA
4	Brian	Tomaszewski	RIT
5	Stephen	Clandillon	SERTIT
6	Jerome	Maxant	SERTIT
7	Antje	Hecheltjen	UN-SPIDER
8	Lorant	Szaran	UN-SPIDER

Main Outcomes

During the teleconference, the following points were discussed.

- **State of implementation of GeorSS Feeds**

- DLR informed that the implementation of the GeorSS at DLR is about to be completed. Final tests of the implementation are yet to be completed and final publication is still missing.
- DLR observed that the field “Date and Time of event” requires local time **AND UTC offset: +/- HH** in the format. This needs correction within the reference document on the website as well as in the reference implementation n.b. on <http://feeds.feedburner.com/CopernicusEMSMMappingNonrushModeActivations>
- It is important to note that the field “**Activation Notification date and time (UTC)**” is mandatory and is read from the standard RSS item “pubdate” and should thus normally not be edited manually. The field called “**Activation date and time**” in the reference implementation is an additional field used by EC/JRC for managing their service and is not mandatory in the sense of the IWG-SEM.
- UN-SPIDER has commenced work on a map based aggregator for their Knowledge Portal and is further more preparing for GeorSS notifications on mapping/data availability on a case by case basis for major disaster incidences and on request.
- ITHACA reconfirmed passively using the GeorSS feeds for managing emergency mapping activities however, not sending them out actively, as their main mapping is done in the domain of EU-Copernicus with its own RSS feeds implemented.

- Brian Tomaszewski <bmtski@rit.edu> offered to review and test feeds when implemented.
- SERTIT has implemented feeds for their activations. Test and validation of consistency with respect to IWG-SEM specifications yet to be completed.

- **Guidelines/Flood Section (Update)**

During the telcon the current state of editing of the Flood Section was discussed and final suggested for arranging some parts of the content were made. Main points addressed were:

- Eliminating the separation of “grading/impact” (which may cause confusion) and use the term “impact” only
- ITHACA suggested a change in what layers were considered as “mandatory” in the reference mapping (for flood) and will send a suggestion to DLR/EC
- It was confirmed that the terminology “potentially affected” is recommended to introduce a degree of uncertainty into the mapping and may be used as flag in the context of impact mapping.
- Just as within the “flood extent and impact” section it is suggested to provide a table on the relevant layers also in the “reference map” chapter. (DLR)
- File/Vector naming section should be fused with and brought to the general part of the guide lines (DLR).
- It is recommended to provide quantitative measures of impact whenever these can be established reliably (!) from the satellite imagery, however, they are by no means mandatory.
- UN-SPIDER to provide suggestions and high level recourse/references for reference projects and general sources of reference data. This shall be done for the flood section as well as for the general guidelines in particular.
- RIT suggested to use an appendix for listing the relevant reference data sources and projects. In this context it was also discussed that the UN-SPIDER portal with its living resource documents/lists may be references here, to avoid list from being outdated too fast within a more or less static document.
- The visualization and relevant examples were discussed. It was suggested to possibly gather good visualization examples from different mapping/visualization “cultures” from around the globe (“flood mapping products gallery”). As this may not be feasible due to time/resource constraints DLR will once again try to suggest sketches to illustrate generic visualization features for flood mapping without directly imposing visualization details.
- All agreed edits, suggestions and materials should be sent as concrete edits and not as comments to Peter Zeil and Stefan Voigt by March 20th.

- **Initial thoughts and preparation of next physical meeting**
 - The next IWG-SEM physical / web based meeting will be held on May 28/29 2015 at UN-SPIDER office in Bonn/Germany. This meeting will be held back-to-back with the “United Nations/Germany International Conference on Earth Observation – Global solutions for the challenges of sustainable development in societies at risk” (see also <http://un-spider.org/post2015>)
 - Set-up, content and topics for the next physical meeting were discussed. It was agreed that “crowd-sourcing”, including “social media” and “collaborative mapping” should be the main thematic element of the upcoming meeting in Bonn, while also using a part of the time for scoping/drafting the content of the next thematic chapter of “earthquakes” for the EM guidelines and discussing general business of the IWG-SEM.
 - People/organizations potentially to be involved in the discussions of crowd-sourcing: Crisis Mappers, DG Tomnode, OSM/HOT, R&D Projects
 - The agenda for the next meeting will be jointly developed between the chair and the host of the meeting.
 - The agenda will be designed such that it will allow repeated addressing of key topics and thus possibly contributions via web/video from different times zones from around the globe.

- **Communication/Website**
 - UN-SPIDER has worked on the implementation of a contact form for the website. Final testing still pending.
 - There was a request to make a list of all IWG-SEM members (including name, organization, e-mail and phone contacts) available on the password protected member area of the IWG-SEM website. If any IWG-SEM members have objections to this practice, they should inform the chair about this until April 1st 2015. After this date the address list will be put on the member area of the website.

- **Update on WCDRR/Sendai**
 - The chair informed about the contribution of the IWG-SEM to a “white paper” 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” generated in preparation of the WCDRR/Sendai meeting.
 - The white paper can be accessed at: <http://www.wcdrr.org/conference/events/877>
 - Additional background papers prepared for the conference on technology can be accessed at: http://www.wcdrr.org/wcdrr-data/uploads/877/White_paper_Earth%20observations%20for%20DRR.pdf
 - Further activities and engagement of the IWG-SEM within this process will be discussed after the WCDRR

- **Review of action items since last meeting**

- Main open action items were identified in the context of the flood section of the guidelines. These will be followed up while finalizing the flood section.

- **Next meeting / AOB**

- Next telephone conference is planned for April 14th, 2015 at 14h UTC/GMT
- If partners know about suitable telephone conference tools/provides, with hopefully many local/national call-in numbers or highly performant web conference tools for hosting the monthly telecons of the IWG-SEM: please inform the chair about this.

The conference call ended at 15:25 UTC