

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



Minutes of the teleconference held on Thursday, 24 Sept. 2015, 15.45 UTC

Participants

	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Antje	Hecheltjen	OOSA/UNSPIDER
2	Alexander	Mager	DLR
3	Fabian	Selg	University Bonn
4	Brenda	Jones	USGS
5	Manzul Kumar	Hazarika	Jaxa (AIT)
6	Stephen	Clandillon	SERTIT
7	Ramesh	Sivanpillai	Uni Wyoming
8	Elena	Lobo	DMCii
9	Blake	Girardot	HOT OSM

Main Outcomes

The minutes of the 16th July teleconference were circulated before the teleconference and adopted with no changes by participants.

During the teleconference, the following points were discussed:

- Metadata standards:
 - USGS has been working on the metadata for maps standards.
 - It was decided to have metadata standards as an agenda item for the fall meeting.
- IWG-SEM participation in upcoming conferences:
 - FOSS4G 2016: UNOOSA updated on the possibility to organize IWG-SEM side event at FOSS4G 2016 (24-26 August 2016, <http://2016.foss4g.org/>). Out of the nine participants of the conference call, four (Elena, Manzul, Ramesh, Brenda) are not planning to attend FOSS4G, for two (Alexander, Stephen) it is still too far ahead, and three (Fabian, Blake or a H.O.T. OSM colleague, Antje) are planning to attend. Fabian proposed as a topic “geocollaboration efforts in emergency response operations”.
 - 36th EARSeL symposium 2016: UNOOSA updated on the possibility to organize IWG-SEM side event at EARSeL symposium 2016 (19-24 June 2016, www.earsel.org/symposia/2016-symposium-Bonn/). Five (Elena, Manzul, Ramesh, Brenda, Blake) are not planning to attend, for two it is still too far ahead (Alexander, Stephen) and two (Fabian, Antje) are planning to attend.
 - Eye on Earth summit (Abu Dhabi, 5-9 Oct. 2016, <http://www.eoesummit.org/>): UNOOSA will participate and use this as an outreach opportunity for IWG-SEM. No other members are participating.

- It was agreed to put IWG-SEM side events on the agenda for the fall meeting for further discussion and final decision on participation and possible topics for side events. UNOOSA to provide further information on deadlines and general topics.
- Revision of membership policy (AI8 of spring meeting in Bonn 2015):
 - Background: During the spring meeting in Bonn 2015 it was concluded that “the group is open for all types of actively contributing entities. However, if an organization is not actively participating in meetings, telecons and work of the group, they will be considered as inactive and will be removed from the mailing lists after two years. Thus the group will open up to any type of member as long as they contribute to the group’s work. This proposal needs to be confirmed at the next telecom. If approved, the membership policy criteria statement on website needs to be revised. Existing members must be notified about the new membership policy and asked once again about their willingness to stay in the group. ” In the 16 June 2015 telecon, it was agreed that the IWG “should welcome participation of any relevant and interested commercial partners or data suppliers. [...] Commercial partners [...] can formally request membership through the chair. Membership in general will be evaluated on a yearly basis to assess interest and participation, exclusions could be proposed in case of inactive members.” (cf. respective minutes)
 - Some members, especially those not present at the Spring 2015 Meeting were surprised and uncertain of that development. The following questions were posed: What are the criteria for new candidates? If there are none (besides rule of active contribution over two years), will the group become too big? What do they contribute? How do we deal with information sharing with commercial companies? There were strong statements that some members would not share information anymore if private sector partners will join the group. Others highlighted that closer collaboration with companies like DG and ImageCat will be needed to improve emergency response.
 - It was agreed to re-open the discussion about private sector membership at the fall meeting and to agree on clear criteria for membership. Given the discussions related to membership expansion, all members are invited to read carefully these minutes and then provide the Chair with their eventual comments or positions regarding the agreement reached in Bonn on membership expansion to commercial entities. It is important that any reservations are clearly expressed before the fall meeting, so the planned discussion can consider all those positions before reaching a wider agreement hopefully.
- John Bevington (ImageCat) will send to the group an invitation to participate in survey on damage assessment in Nepal. SERTIT may only be able to provide input to the survey if they get paid (since it is a funded project).
- The next telecon will be held on Tuesday, October 20th 15.45 UTC.
- The date for the fall meeting will be announced after closure of the poll. Doodle link will be resent in case some have missed it.