



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

INFORMATION NOTE

United Nations/Indonesia International Conference on Integrated Space Technology Applications to Climate Change

**Hosted by
National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN)**

**In cooperation with the
European Space Agency (ESA)**

Jakarta, Indonesia, 2 - 4 September 2013

1. Introduction

The United Nations and the Government of Indonesia are jointly organizing the United Nations/Indonesia International Conference on Integrated Space Technology Applications to Climate Change under the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

The Conference will take place in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 2 to 4 September in 2013, hosted by the National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN). This International Conference will bring together experts from the space and the climate change community as well as decision makers to discuss methods to use space-based applications to support the identification and implementation of adaptation measures, as well as to share experiences and lessons learned on the use of such applications in the context of mitigation.

“Adaption” was centered as one of the cornerstones for a strengthened future response to climate change in the Bali Action Plan, adopted at the Conference of State Parties 13 (COP 13) in December 2007. In focus is the sustainable and continuing cooperation and achievements in order to effectively and entirely strengthen the implementation process of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) beyond 2012.

During COP 15 in Copenhagen the Conference took note of the necessity to create a comprehensive adaption programme. The signatories, among them Heads of State, Heads of Government and Ministers, agreed that urgent action and global cooperation on adaption is needed. Finally at the Cancun Climate Change Conference in December 2010 the parties agreed upon and created the Cancun Adaption Framework (CAF) with the focus of improving and emending actions on adaption. Important fundamentals of the CAF comprehend a work programme to address loss and damage from climate change, preparation of National Adaptation Plans by the Least Developed Countries, and the formation of an Adaptation Committee within the UNFCCC.

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In December 2011 the parties improved the implementation of the CAF by agreeing on: Modalities, procedures and composition of the Adaptation Committee; Activities to be undertaken under the work programme on loss and damage and Modalities and guidelines for the national adaptation plans.

United Nations/Indonesia International Conference on Integrated Space Technology Applications to Climate Change will bring together representatives from the space and climate change communities; from Member States and from national, regional, and international organizations to become aware of the most recent advances in the use of space applications to target the challenges posed by climate change and to discuss strategies to improve the utilization of such applications particularly in countries experiencing the impacts of climate change.

2. Background and Objectives

In recent years, Climate Change has been recognized as a process which may deter sustainable development throughout the world. As a global phenomenon, climate change poses a threat to the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In the context of peaceful uses of outer space, governments reiterated the need to protect the Earth's environment, and to promote international cooperation on the use of satellite applications for such topics as climate change. Satellites offer a unique point of view to observe climate change-related variables and features at the global level such as sea-level rise, deforestation trends or carbon emissions; and to measure on a permanent basis other parameters which may be too difficult or costly to observe from the ground such as changes in polar ice-caps and glaciers, and social trends such as increasing exposition of vulnerable communities to phenomena related to Climate Change.

The objectives of this International Conference are:

- 1) To discuss ways in which countries affected by climate change can make better use of space applications to assess vulnerability to climate change.
- 2) To identify potential alternatives in the context of mitigation and adaption to climate change
- 3) To improve synergies among space agencies and organizations targeting efforts on climate change.
- 4) To strengthen international and regional cooperation in this area.
- 5) To raise awareness on the recent advances in space-related technologies, services and information resources which can be use to assess the impacts of climate change and the effects of measures implemented to reduce such impacts.

4. Participants

The International Conference is expected to bring together participants from national, regional, and international organizations from:

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- Government agencies including ministries of environment, health, natural resources, space agencies.
- National, regional and international organizations involved in climate change studies.
- Academic and research institutions.
- Non-governmental organizations.
- Private Sector and industries.

Applicants must have a well-established professional working experience in a field related to the theme of the Conference. Applicants should ideally be involved in the planning or implementation of relevant space programmes in relevant governmental organizations, international or national agencies, non-governmental organizations, research or academic institutions or industry.

5. Financial Support to Selected Participants

Within the limited financial resources available to the co-sponsors, a number of qualified applicants from developing countries, who have expressed the need for financial support will be offered financial support to attend the Conference. This may include the provision of a round-trip air ticket between Jakarta and the applicant's international airport of departure and daily subsistence allowances to cover board and lodging for the duration of the Conference. En-route expenses or any changes made to the air ticket must be the responsibility of the participants.

Due to a limited availability of financial resources, it is usually not possible to provide assistance to all qualified applicants who express the need for financial support. Applicants and their nominating organizations are therefore strongly encouraged to find additional sources of sponsorship to allow them to attend the Conference.

6. Language of the Expert Meeting and Presentations by Participants

Conferences and Workshops organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs are generally conducted in English. Selected participants who are funded by the co-sponsors of the Conference will be required to prepare a presentation of approximately 10 to 20 minutes on topics relevant to the Conference objectives and the programme. Presentations on actual on-going projects will be of particular interest to participants of the Conference.

7. Dates and Location of the Conference

The Conference will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2-4 September 2013. All selected and invited participants will receive information with details on board, lodging and other local arrangements.

The Conference is expected to include keynote addresses, plenary presentations and discussions to reach the proposed objectives. UNOOSA will work together with the host country to contribute to the event through financial and in kind contributions related to accommodations and meals of funded participants from developing countries, provision of conference facilities and technical support staff, visits to key institutions or sites of interest, local transportation, and logistical support.

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8. Deadline for Submission of Applications

The deadline for applications is **31 May 2013**. Detailed information for applications will be made available in a timely manner ahead of the Conference. UNOOSA is planning to receive applications via various application possibilities e.g. mailing or online application. Once advertised, only complete applications, with all requested information and signatures, will be considered.

Information on the application process will be made available at: <http://www.unoosa.org> and <http://www.un-spider.org/climatechangeconference>

9. Life and Health Insurance

Life and major health insurance is the responsibility of each selected participant or his/her nominating institution or government. The co-sponsors will neither assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance nor for any other expenses related to medical treatment or accidental events.

10. Points of Contact

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Please frequently check <http://www.unoosa.org> and <http://www.un-spider.org/climatechangeconference> for the latest information about the Conference.