



FEBRUARY 2016 UPDATES

UN-SPIDER at a glance

UN-SPIDER presents its annual report of activities to the STSC in Vienna

The UN-SPIDER programme reported on its annual activities to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) during the 53rd session of the STSC which was held in Vienna from 15 to 26 February 2016. In this session, Mr. Luc St Pierre, Senior Programme Officer of UNOOSA and Coordinator of the UN-SPIDER Programme made his statement during the STSC to present a summary of the activities conducted in 2015 and to outline those activities to be conducted in 2016. For additional information please visit:

<http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/news/un-spider-presents-its-annual-report-activities-stsc>

UN-SPIDER presents the SEWS-D project to Members of COPUOS during the 53rd session of the STSC

Since the fall of 2015, several partners and government agencies in Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras began to work on a project to strengthen national drought early warning systems through the incorporation of national drought policies, the strengthening of drought early warning systems through the use of space-based products such as FAO's Agricultural Stress Index System (ASIS), the UN-SPIDER Recommended Practices on drought indices, and an integrated geospatial visualization system.

The partners in this project include UN-SPIDER, FAO's Sub Regional Office for Mesoamerica, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the International Centre for Research on the El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN), the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (RECTEALC), the Central American

Agricultural Council (CAC) and the Central American Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention (CEPREDENAC) of the Central American Integration System, the Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute in Colombia (IGAC), the Mexican Space Agency (AEM) and the Federal University of Santa Maria in Brazil (UFSM); as well as government ministries and institutions of several countries in Central America and in the Caribbean. The project will target National Food Security and Nutrition Commissions or Committees, Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response agencies and Ministries of Agriculture and Environment. For additional information please visit:

<http://www.un-spider.org/projects%20/%20SEWS-D-project>

UN-SPIDER launches Recommended Practice on the SVI to support drought monitoring efforts

Drought monitoring is an important component in drought early warning systems. Researchers at the Universidad Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM) in Brazil have developed a Recommended Practice focusing on the Standard Vegetation Index (SVI). This Recommended Practice has been developed in the context of the project entitled Strengthening Early Warning Systems for Drought (SEWS-D) which UN-SPIDER, UFSM and other international, regional and national partners are conducting as a way to support Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras; which are experiencing severe droughts since 2015. UN-SPIDER uploaded this recommended practice to its Knowledge Portal so that it can also be applied in other countries affected by drought worldwide. To view this Recommended Practice please visit:

<http://www.un-spider.org/advisory-support/recommended-practices/recommended-practice-drought-monitoring-using-standard>

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UN-SPIDER at a glance (cont.)

UN-SPIDER launches a Recommended Practice on Exposure Mapping

UN-SPIDER launched a Recommended Practice developed in its Bonn Office on the use of satellite imagery and quantum GIS to generate maps depicting exposure of vulnerable communities to natural hazards. The Recommended Practice makes use of the WorldPop data set to acquire data on the number of people which could be exposed to hazards such as floods. To view this Recommended Practice, please visit:

<http://www.un-spider.org/advisory-support/recommended-practices/recommended-practice-exposure-mapping>

News from the Community

International Charter activated for cyclone Winston in Fiji and the earthquake in Taiwan

The International Charter Space and Major Disasters was activated twice in February 2016. It was activated on 6 February 2016 for the earthquake in Taiwan at the request of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) on behalf of the National Applied Research Laboratories of Taiwan (NARLabs); and on 19 February 2016 for cyclone Winston in Fiji at the request of UNITAR/UNOSAT on behalf of UN OCHA. For additional information please visit:

<https://www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/activations/charter-activations>

Second Edition of the Remote Sensing Applications Competition (MBRSC)

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) announces the Second Edition of The Remote Sensing Applications Competition. This competition aims at promoting the utilization of the DubaiSat-2 mission data. The registration and proposal submission period has been extended from 26 Nov. 2015 to 26 April 2016.

For more information on the rules of this competition, please visit the dedicated website:

<http://mbrsc.ae/en/page/remote-sensing-applications-competition-rsac-2015>

Upcoming events

World Humanitarian Summit 2016

The first World Humanitarian Summit will be conducted by UN OCHA in Istanbul, Turkey, from 23 to 24 May 2016. The Summit has three main goals:

- Reaffirm our commitment to humanity and humanitarian principles
- Initiate actions and commitments which enable countries and communities to prepare for and respond to crises and be more resilient to shocks.
- Share best practices which help save lives around the world, placing affected people at the centre of humanitarian action and alleviating suffering.

For additional information please visit:

<https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/>

United Nations / Austria Symposium on "Integrated Space Technology Applications for Climate Change"

During the 21st Conference of Parties on Climate Change, parties to the convention on climate change launched the Paris Agreement outlining the plan of action to address this defining challenge of our times. UNOOSA and the Government of Austria are organising this Symposium with the support of ESA from 12 to 14 September 2016; which will be conducted in the Space Research Institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. It will address the use of integrated space technology applications in the contexts of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, loss and damage related to climate change and on examples on the use of such integrated space technology applications. For more information please visit:

http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/schedule/2016/symposium_austria_climatechange.html