



JANUARY 2013 UPDATES

UN-SPIDER AT A GLANCE

Temporary job opening: Associate Information Systems Officer/Knowledge Portal Specialist – P2

This position is located in the Bonn Office of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). The incumbent will work under the direct supervision and guidance of the Head of the UN-SPIDER Bonn Office, and the overall guidance of the Senior Programme Officer and UN-SPIDER Programme Coordinator, Space Applications Section (SAS), UNOOSA. The position will be temporary for 8 months. The deadline for application to recruitment@unvienna.org is **6 February 2013**.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

Partnerships: UN-SPIDER organizes Matchmaking Workshop

On 14 January 2013, around 20 participants from the Austrian Earth Observation Community followed an invitation by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft / FFG) and UN-SPIDER for a one day Matchmaking Workshop in Vienna, Austria. One essential cornerstone of UN-SPIDER's success is the strong collaboration with the Austrian government and various Austrian partners. Such events are very effective tools to present the challenges ahead, to focus on the steps accomplished and to strengthen the existing collaboration

efforts. UN-SPIDER could effectively use this opportunity to better interact and network with the Austrian community and is looking forward to following up on the matchmaking results and proposals made during this workshop.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER activates Disasters Charter for Floods in the Middle East

On 10 January 2013 the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" was activated for floods in the Middle East to provide satellite imagery and derived maps. UN-SPIDER/UNOOSA requested the activation on behalf of UNOCHA, Pt Jerusalem Office. The international mechanism had been triggered after strong snow storm had hit parts of Israel, Palestine and Jordan.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

UNOOSA launches Social Media presence

UN-SPIDER has been active on Social Media channels such as Facebook, Twitter or Google+ for almost two years. Its implementing office, the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), has now launched a Facebook and a Twitter channel as well. On these media, UNOOSA will regularly post updates on its activities as well as interesting and relevant stories about the peaceful uses of outer space.

Like and follow UNOOSA: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

NEWS FROM OUR REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICES

ADRC co-organizes Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2013

UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office, the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), in cooperation with the Government of Japan (Cabinet Office) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) organized the

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2013. The conference took place on 23 January 2013 in Kobe, Japan. ACDR 2013 promoted information sharing, exchange opinions, and enhanced partnerships among participating officials from member countries.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)





NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

ESA: Ice mission satellite has high potential for flood mapping

ESA's ice mission CryoSat is now giving scientists a closer look at oceans, coastal areas, inland water bodies and even land, reaching above and beyond its original objectives. Originally developed to measure changes in the thickness of polar sea ice, scientists have now discovered that the altimetry readings have the potential to map sea levels closer to the coast, and even greater capabilities to profile land surfaces and inland water targets such as small lakes, rivers and their intricate tributaries. Under the title of CryoSat+, several scientific projects have been implemented. "Thanks to CryoSat being operated over some inland water targets in high resolution mode, we were able to distinctly chart the contours of a flood that occurred last March at Rio Negro in the Amazon," said Salvatore Dinardo, working for ESA on CryoSat+.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

Disaster Risk Reduction: UN task team develops second Thematic Think Piece

The UN system task team on the post-2015 UN development agenda has developed their second Thematic Think Piece on Disaster Risk and Resilience to support discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. The paper outlines the modus operandi of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction partnership in working with and empowering stakeholders to build partnerships and political legitimacy for international agreements in the context of disaster risk reduction. With this approach the paper refers to the directions outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

Roscosmos: Plans for GLONASS Programme

Russia will build and launch 13 GLONASS-M and 22 GLONASS -K satellites between now and 2020, according to an outline of the nation's space program published on the Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) website, as Inside GNSS reported. GLONASS (Global Navigation Satellite System), is a radio-based satellite navigation system operated for the Russian government. The document, "Space activities of Russia in the years 2013-2020," described plans for the GLONASS program's 326.5 billion-ruble (US\$10.77-billion)

budget during those years. The programme has a stated goal of providing 1.4 meter positioning accuracy by 2015 and 0.6-meter accuracy in 2020.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

Azerspace: Azerbaijan's first satellite to be launched

Azerbaijan's first satellite Azerspace/Africasat-1a will be launched on 7 February 2013 with the Ariane 5 rocket from the spaceport in French Guiana. Azerspace/Africasat-1a was designed and built by Orbital Sciences Corporation based on its STAR-2 platform, under contract to the Republic of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies—which is the sole shareholder in the country's national satellite operator, Azercosmos. Azerspace/Africasat-1 will weigh approximately 3,250kg. at liftoff, and has a designed mission life of 15 years.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

International Charter activated for floods in Mozambique

On 21 January, 2013 the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" was activated to obtain satellite-derived maps for torrential rains and high winds in Mozambique. The mechanism was activated by UNITAR/UNOSAT on behalf of UNICEF. Continuous storms had destroyed 6,000 cashew trees, power supplies, farm animals and crops. 4,000 people have lost their homes and four others have died. Gaza and Maputo are the worst affected areas.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

Beidou: China opens Navigation System for Civilian Use

China recently opened Beidou (its version of GPS or "Global Positioning System") to civilian use and expects to grab a major share of the satellite navigation market from the original US GPS system by the end of the decade, as the website Strategypage reported. Currently, China has 14 of 35 Beidou ("Compass") navigation satellites in service. This is sufficient to provide GPS type service for all of China. By the end of the decade, all 35 satellites will be up and the entire planet will have access to Beidou.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)





German Center for Satellite Based Crisis Information launches regular operations

From the research stage to full operation – The German Center for Satellite Based Crisis Information (ZKI) is now on call around the clock. This service facility established in 2004 provides up-to-the minute satellite-based maps for activities related to natural and environmental disasters, humanitarian aid, and civil security worldwide. It is a service of the German Aerospace Center's (DLR) Remote Sensing Data Center. On 22 January 2013, DLR in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Germany officially launched regular ZKI operations.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

11-22 February 2013: Fiftieth session of the COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) will be held in Vienna, Austria from 11 to 22 February 2013. COPUOS was established in 1958. Its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) holds an annual session in Vienna. UNOOSA provides substantive secretariat services to the subcommittees and its working groups. Relevant documents, such as the provisional agenda, past STSC sessions and other online documents are available on UNOOSA's website.

Read more: [UNOOSA](#)

13-15 February 2013: Fourth Africa regional platform for disaster risk reduction

Governments from over 50 countries in Africa will meet in Arusha, Tanzania from 13-15 February 2013 for the Fourth Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (ARP) to address the challenges of building a disaster resilient society. The event will be a major milestone in providing recommendations on the future of the Hyogo Framework for Action - the 10-year international framework for reducing disaster risks and building community resilience which ends in 2015. In addition to organizing the Africa Regional Platform back-to-back with the UNDP Drylands Drought Forum, UNISDR will also be organizing media training on disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

World Disasters Reports 2012 highlights Forced Migration and Displacement

The African Union Commission (AUC), together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), launched on 21 January 2013 the World Disasters Report 2012, with a focus on Forced Migration and Displacement. The report both widens and sharpens the focus on the complex causes of forced migration – conflict, natural disasters, development, climate change – and the diverse consequences and impacts for both affected populations and humanitarian actors. For the 2013 edition of the World Disaster Report focusing on space-based information, UN-SPIDER was invited to provide an Issue Expert on the Editorial Board.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

11-15 March 2013: United Nations/Pakistan International Workshop on Integrated Use of Space Technologies for Food and Water Security

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Government of Pakistan are jointly organizing a Workshop to promote the use of space technologies for the benefits of developing countries. The Workshop will be held in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 11 to 15 March 2013, hosted by the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. The Workshop will explore how present-day space technologies help to identify and monitor the relationships between mountain environment (as a source of water), sustainable water resources and how these affect food security on an international and regional scale. It will therefore also link to the context of the Rio+20 Summit Declaration and to the evolving United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Read more and apply online: [UNOOSA](#)

