

UN-SPIDER August 2009 Updates

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1. UN-SPIDER Promotes “SPIDER Global Thematic Partnership” in Asia

On the occasion of the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction which was held last June in Geneva, UNOOSA and several partners launched the “**SPIDER Global Thematic Partnership**”. This partnership is foreseen as a forum to facilitate the networking of the global community of practitioners regarding the use of space-based information and solutions to support disaster risk management. UN-SPIDER had the opportunity to promote this new global partnership at the **ISDR Asia Partnership Meeting** which was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 13th to 14th August. UNOOSA is an active member of this regional platform. During the same week the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Government of the Republic of Korea opened ISDR’s Education and Training Institute for Urban Risk Reduction in Incheon, Republic of Korea as well as a new UNISDR Office, co-located with the Training Institute, which will assist the Northeast Asia Region in carrying out disaster risk management activities.

For more information >> [UNISDR](#) and [UN-SPIDER](#)

2. UN-SPIDER Expert Meeting in Central Asia

As a side-event to GISCA’09 UN-SPIDER co-organised the “**UN-SPIDER Expert Meeting – Managing Disasters Using Space-based Information in Central Asia**” in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on the 26th August. The meeting brought together 25 experts from both the geospatial community and the disaster management community, drawn from international and regional organisations, government institutions, academic institutions and representatives of the private sector. Issues put forward by the experts were grouped into three broad areas of concern: spatial data access and use, capacity building and networking in Central Asia, leading to relevant recommendations that should be taken into consideration by all those that are interested in supporting the further access and use of space-based information in Central Asia.

For more information >> [UN-SPIDER](#)

3. UN-SPIDER follows-up on Pilot Project on Namibian SensorWeb

From 19th to 21st of August UN-SPIDER hosted a Technical Expert Meeting in Bonn, Germany, to further develop the “**Namibian SensorWeb Pilot project on integrated flood management and water- and vector-borne disease modelling**”. This meeting brought together about thirty experts, representing the Department of Water Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry (MAWF) in Namibia, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), NASA, NOAA, Ukraine Space Research Institute (SRI), City University of New York, Johns Hopkins University – Bloomberg School of Public Health as well as from UN organisations such as UNU-EHS, UNISDR-PPEW and UNW-DPC. The experts also had the opportunity to present the pilot project initiative to the Namibian Ambassador in Germany, His Excellency Mr. Neville Gertze. The pilot project will combine high resolution satellite imagery with in-situ data and modelling approaches in order to derive useful flood and water-borne disease

forecasting tools for local decision makers within a scientifically sound, operational transboundary flood management system for the Southern African region.

For more information >> [UN-SPIDER](#)

4. UN-SPIDER further strengthens its role in the Asia Pacific region

UN-SPIDER was invited recently to participate and contribute to two major meetings in the Asia Pacific region: The first meeting was the 2nd Joint Project Team Meeting for Sentinel Asia Step 2 which brought together over 100 participants from 44 organisations from 18 countries, including new members from Central Asia and which was held in Bali, Indonesia from 15th to 17th July. Then the following week UN-SPIDER participated in the 13th session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific which was organised by ESCAP and which was attended by participants from the region as well as from International Organizations. The conclusions and recommendations included the need for a regional disaster management support platform on space-based information sharing and analysis. UN-SPIDER will be taking a leading role in the establishment and operation of this proposed platform.

For more information >> [UN-SPIDER](#)

5. DigitalGlobe launches Crisis Event Service

DigitalGlobe is a leading global provider of commercial high-resolution earth imagery products and services. Recently DigitalGlobe announced its Crisis Event Service, a new web service providing timely and accurate pre- and post-event satellite imagery to aid in emergency planning, response and recovery. The new online service is designed to provide a comprehensive picture for global crisis. Crisis Service images will be available online within one to three days of any given event through DigitalGlobe's online platform.

For more information >> [DigitalGlobe](#)

6. JAXA and DLR initiated R&D Cooperation in Satellite Disaster Monitoring

The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) concerning mutual cooperation for satellite disaster monitoring on 24 August 2009. In this LOI, both parties acknowledged the necessity to promote satellite application, especially Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites, as well as related applied research, and to pursue such activities in an international manner.

For more information >> [JAXA](#)

7. Nigerian Space Agency signs MoU with Infoterra

A delegation from the Nigerian National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) recently signed with INFOTERRA a Memorandum of Understanding defining a roadmap for a close cooperation over the years to come. Following two optical earth observation satellites, Nigeria is now considering a radar mission. The MOU focuses on collaborations that will enhance NASRDA's ability to acquire SAR imageries in real-time and more cost effective. **NASRDA is a UN-SPIDER regional support office.**

For more information >> [INFOTERRA](#)

8. PacRICS and disaster management

The Government of Tonga has commissioned a dedicated PacRICS (Pacific Rural Internet Connectivity System) system to handle communications for the investigation and search and rescue effort. PacRICS is the SPC/Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid) project designed to provide affordable Internet connections to rural and remote villages using a VSAT (very small aperture terminal) satellite system. Often in national disasters the normal communication systems get overloaded by public enquiries, causing delays in official efforts. PacRICS is a standalone system, completely separate from the existing national communications system and is ideal as a rapid response communications system for disasters.

For more information >> [SPC](#)

Conferences and Workshops:

We maintain a Calendar of Events with upcoming Conferences, Meetings and Events relevant to the area of space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response. The Calendar can be viewed at:

<http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=h1a93vb3rk6ud1tvrequisfk8s%40group.calendar.google.com>

AfricaGIS 2009: “Geo-spatial Information and Sustainable Development in Africa” in Kampala, Uganda, 26-30 October 2009

The "AfricaGIS 2009" International Conference is one of the leading geospatial conferences in Africa and provides a platform where geo-information professionals from Africa and around the world come together to learn and interact about geo-information technology and its applications.

For more information >> [Conference website](#)

Eurisy Workshop, 19-20 November 2009, Athens, Greece – First Announcement

"Eurisy" is announcing a workshop for local and regional authorities using satellite services to understand, mitigate and adapt to climate change on 19-20 November 2009, Athens, Greece. Satellites have had a unique and substantial contribution to identifying and recognising climate change. Today, they offer unrivalled, innovative tools for climate change mitigation and adaptation on a local level. This workshop will inform local and regional authorities and other potential users of satellite information and services of how they can better tackle climate change by using these tools. Good practice presentations will be the starting point of discussions about how such actors can finance and implement these innovative tools.

For more information >> [Eurisy](#)

Pacific Islands GIS&RS User Conference 2009, in Suva, Fiji, 1- 4 December 2009

The above conference will take place from 1 - 4 December 2009 at the University of South Pacific, Lower Campus, Faculty of Islands and Oceans, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. UN-SPIDER will be supporting this event and encourages all experts interested in joining the leading geospatial conference in the Pacific region to attend and contribute.

For more information >> [PACINET](#)

GI4DM 2010 Conference, 2-4 February 2010, Torino, Italy, Announcement and Call for Papers

Conference Theme: Remote Sensing And Geo-Information For Environmental Emergencies. Geomatics technologies are able to support management and recovery in the aftermath of manmade and natural disasters. However, disaster management also poses big challenges in all aspects of the geo-information cycle, from data acquisition, processing, management and delivery. For the sixth time, the International Symposium on Geo-information for Disaster Management (GI4DM) will bring together researchers, developers, data providers and users from all over the world to discuss these challenges.

For more information >> [GI4DM](#)

Upcoming UN-SPIDER Outreach Activities:

Further information on the following planned workshops can be obtained from the outreach activities section of the UN-SPIDER webpage:

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/unspider/workshops.html>

UN-SPIDER Regional Workshop: "Space Applications for Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response in Latin America", in Quito, Ecuador, 29 September - 2 October 2009

Third United Nations International UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop: "From Concepts to Application", in Bonn, Germany, 21-23 October 2009

UN-SPIDER Regional Workshop: "Space Applications for Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response in Africa", in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - early 2010.

Upcoming Events Supported by UN-SPIDER

II Escuela de Primavera sobre Soluciones Espaciales para el Manejo de Desastres Naturales y Respuestas de Emergencias (UN-SPIDER/GEOSS Spring School), Argentina, October 2009 (Organized by UN-SPIDER/GEOSS/CONAE/CRECTEALC) - Falda del Carmen, Provincia de Córdoba, Argentina - 26 - 30 Octubre de 2009.

AfricaGIS 2009: "Geo-spatial Information and Sustainable Development in Africa" in Kampala, Uganda, 26-30 October 2009

Pacific Islands GIS&RS User Conference 2009, in Suva, Fiji, 1- 4 December 2009

GI4DM 2010 Conference, 2-4 February 2010, Torino, Italy

*The **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)** implements the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. The Office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and assisting developing countries in using space science and technology. Headquartered in Vienna, Austria, UNOOSA maintains a website at <http://www.unoosa.org>.*

*In its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006 the United Nations General Assembly agreed to establish the "**United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response - UN-SPIDER**" as a programme within UNOOSA. UN-SPIDER focuses on the need to ensure access to and use of space-based solutions during all phases of the disaster management cycle.*