



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Second United Nations International UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop: "Disaster Management and Space Technology - Bridging the Gap"

Organised by the

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
and the
German Aerospace Center (DLR)

With the support from the

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction -
Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (ISDR/PPEW)

and the

United Nations University -
Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)

Bonn, Germany, 13- 15 October 2008

Langer Eugen UN Campus, Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10
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1. Introduction/ Background

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), through its UN-SPIDER Programme (United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response) together with the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and with the support from the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction - Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (ISDR/PPEW) and the United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), are organising the above mentioned workshop to promote the access and use of space-based technologies and solutions for disaster management and emergency response within relevant communities.

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 of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, to provide universal access to all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations to all types of space-based information

and services relevant to disaster management. UN-SPIDER supports the full disaster management cycle by being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, serving as a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities, and being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries.

As part of the UN-SPIDER outreach activities, several workshops are being organized in 2008 to raise awareness within the user community of the benefits of using space-based information and solutions, to assess its needs and to contribute to specific activities of the programme. Specifically, this second international workshop in Bonn will provide an opportunity to bring together decision-makers and experts from both the space technology and disaster management communities, international scientific organizations, knowledge transfer and educational institutions, as well as internationally active private companies, with the intention of sharing their best practices and to bring their knowledge, products and technologies for risk and disaster management, humanitarian aid and emergency response.

The first workshop held in Bonn, which was organized jointly with DLR and with the support of the Government of Germany, brought together 90 participants from 39 countries. The following organizations were also involved in organizing the workshop: the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University, UNESCO, the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Group on Earth Observations and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction.

The programme of the first workshop was centred on the activities assigned to the UN-SPIDER Bonn office. It included plenary sessions, during which 11 presentations were given, and discussion sessions, in which participants were divided into four working groups. Group 1 discussed the platform for fostering alliances and user requirements, in coordination with task DI-06-09 of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), Group 2 also discussed the platform for fostering alliances but focused on horizontal coordination, Group 3 discussed the knowledge portal and Group 4 discussed knowledge management and capacity-building (activity 11, in coordination with GEOSS task CB-07-02). More information on the outcome of the workshop and the presentations made during the workshop are available at <http://www.unspider.org>.

2. Workshop Topics

Topics of the second workshop will include:

- Relevant space-based solutions and information for risk and disaster management support and emergency response including on-going and planned initiatives, case studies and best practices, available geospatial data for disaster studies and capacity building opportunities.
- Presentations and discussion of the contribution of space-based technologies to existing Early Warning Systems as well to the development of Risk Modelling and Vulnerability Assessments.
- Presentation of the prototype of the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal (communication and information platform).
- Presentations and discussion of the contribution of space-based solutions in the field of Emergency and Disaster Medicine.
- GEO Tasks DI-06-09 (Use of Satellites for Risk Management) and CB-07-02 (Knowledge Sharing for Improved Disaster Management and Emergency Response).
- Harmonisation of the various existing initiatives that are contributing to helping developing countries access and use space-based technologies for disaster management and risk reduction.

3. Target audience

The workshop will provide a platform for brainstorming and in-depth discussion, as well as thematic presentations. It will bring together a total of 100 decision-makers and senior experts from the following groups.

- National and regional institutions responsible for providing risk and disaster management support, for the implementation and maintenance of early warning systems, as well as for risk and vulnerability assessment;
- National and regional institutions responsible for Emergency and Disaster Medicine
- National and regional institutions responsible for capacity building in and promoting the use of space-based technologies;
- UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices and National Focal Points;
- UN agencies and NGOs involved in disaster management mitigation and relief;
- Space agencies;
- Academic and research institutions;
- Geospatial Information Management and IT companies.

4. Participation requirements

Participants should hold managerial or professional positions at governmental agencies, international, national and regional institutions, NGOs or private industry with programmes or activities relating to providing support to disaster management and emergency response activities, early warning systems, risk and vulnerability assessment, or development of space technology capabilities and/or solutions. Applicants who demonstrate that the topics of this event are central to his/her professional activities/responsibilities will be considered on a priority basis.

5. Language

The working language will be English.

6. Further Information

If you wish to receive further information, including the Second Announcement (with the Application Form) please send an e-mail to:

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7. Back-to-Back Meeting

The following meeting is being organised back-to-back with the second international Bonn workshop: "**5th UN-wide Meeting on the Use of Space Technologies for Emergency Response and Humanitarian Assistance**" in Bonn, Germany, 16 to 17 October 2008. For further information on this meeting please contact **Mr. Georg Magerl** – e-mail: georg.magerl@unoosa.org.