

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Third United Nations International
UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop:
“Disaster Management and Space Technology
From Concepts to Application”

Organised by the

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

and the

German Aerospace Center (DLR)

Bonn, Germany, 21– 23 October 2009

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) 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.

As part of the UN-SPIDER outreach activities, four workshops are being organized in 2009 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 Third 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 and the second workshop held in Bonn were organized jointly with DLR and with the support of the Government of Germany. The workshop in 2007 brought together 90 participants from 39 countries, and in 2008 120 participants from 38 countries attended.

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. One of the main goals of the second workshop in 2008 was to link both the space community and the disaster management community, and to provide results in terms of a way forward regarding the setup of an integrative information and communication platform. In order to reach this goal the workshop was divided into four thematic sessions as following: 1. Space technology in support of risk and disaster management, 2. Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, 3. Contribution of space-based technologies to existing and proposed Early Warning Systems, 4. Disaster Medicine, Telemedicine and Integrated Vector Management (IVM). Altogether 29 expert presentations reflected on the state-of-the-art knowledge related to the broad range of topics of this workshop. More information on the outcome of the workshops and the presentations made during the workshops are available at <http://www.unspider.org>.

2. Workshop Topics

Topics of the third 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.
- Presentation and common discussion on the beta-version of the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal (communication and information platform).

- Presentations and discussion on the contribution of space-based technologies to mitigate the impact and enhance adaptation to global climate change utilising innovative monitoring and analysing tools.
- Presentations and discussion on the contribution of space-based solutions to the field of Disaster and Emergency Medicine.
- Presentations and discussion on the activities and contribution of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices (RSO), National Focal Points (NFP), and institutional partners.
- Follow-up on the UN-SPIDER strategy on capacity development and institutional strengthening
- 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 an opportunity for cutting-edge presentations, brainstorming and in-depth discussions. It will bring together a total of 80-100 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 adaptation strategies to climate change and 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, National Focal Points, and Institutional Partners;
- 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

Another very important UN inter-agency meeting being organised back-to-back with this Third International Bonn Workshop is the **UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) 10th (Anniversary) Plenary**", between 19 and 21 October 2009. For further information on the UNGIWG Plenary please contact **Mr. Lorant Czarán**

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