



## AUGUST 2013 UPDATES

### UN-SPIDER AT A GLANCE

#### **UN-SPIDER team: Presenting Coen Bussink**

UN-SPIDER is happy to present their newest staff member, Mr. Coen Bussink. Coen joined UN-SPIDER in August and he will be providing technical and scientific support to the Programme. He is also responsible for organising and leading UN-SPIDER's activities in Africa. Coen has been using GIS and remote sensing in the area of land use planning, crop monitoring and geographic modelling for development purposes for about two decades. Coen brings valuable experience to the UN-SPIDER team regarding satellite image interpretations, collecting field (aerial/ground) data with new techniques, and performing accuracy assessments and risk analysis with geo-statistical approaches.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

#### **Call for experts: UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory Mission to Ghana**

For the upcoming Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) to Ghana, UN-SPIDER is looking for professionals from the field of space technology and disaster/risk management who are already collaborating or are willing to collaborate in the future with authorities or institutions in Ghana. The mission will be carried out from 25 to 29 November 2013 at the invitation of the National Disaster Management Organisation, NADMO, of Ghana. In the course of the TAM, the experts will meet with key disaster management

authorities in the Government, UN agencies, regional and international organizations or initiatives and private companies to discuss the use of space technologies for disaster and risk management in depth, make recommendations and develop guidelines to improve the use of space-based information. UN-SPIDER invites representatives of relevant institutions, organizations, companies or universities interested in joining the expert team to send a short background, résumé or CV and a short indication of the current, planned or possible type of collaboration with Malawi to [coen.bussink@unoosa.org](mailto:coen.bussink@unoosa.org) until 29 September 2013.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

#### **Expert Meeting on Early Warning Systems: Final report now available**

The report for the UN-SPIDER Expert Meeting on the use of space-based information for Early Warning Systems is now available. The meeting took place from 24 to 26 June 2013 in Bonn, Germany and had brought together fifty-two space technology and disaster/disaster-risk management experts representing national, regional and international organizations, internationally active private companies as well as representatives of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices. The report outlines the outcomes of the meeting, including the results of the discussion breakout groups.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### NEWS FROM OUR REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICES

#### **Colombia: Estimating and mapping landslides and floods**

UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office in Colombia (IGAC) has entered the second phase of the project "Estimating and Mapping threats by Landslide and flood events with the use of geospatial technologies." The main objective of the project is to estimate and map the threats from floods and landslide events by using geospatial technologies. The project will use

satellite images, high resolution digital aerial photographs taken by IGAC's airplane in the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 as well as aerial photographs captured from previous years to map areas affected by landslides or floods. These maps are created through visual interpretation, digital image processing, spatial analysis and implementation of geographic standards.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)





## NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

### **Turkey: RASAT satellite imagery will be made public**

The state scientific research institute of Turkey, TÜBITAK, has stated that the imagery received by Turkey's RASAT satellite will be opened to the public through an online portal this year. This online portal is part of a project started by TÜBITAK's Space Technologies Research Institute, TÜBITAK UZAY, which was also involved in the design of the satellite itself. RASAT satellite is Turkey's first earth observation satellite, which was launched into space on 17 August 2011.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **How low-cost satellites could benefit emergency response**

In September 2013, the private company Skybox Imaging will launch the first of 24 low-cost satellites into space with the potential of enabling first responders to see hourly snapshots of disaster-stricken areas. These satellites could help identify which roads have collapsed after an earthquake or how quickly a forest fire is spreading. Recognizing the urgent need in different areas for nearly real-time satellite snapshots, the goal of the initiative is to send into orbit the 24 satellites by 2018.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **Arirang-5: South Korean multi-purpose satellite successfully launched**

On 22 August 2013, South Korea's new multi-purpose science satellite, the Arirang-5, was launched atop a Russian Dnepr rocket at the Dombrovsky launch site near Russia's border with Kazakhstan. The satellite has been developed to operate with a life time of five years at an altitude of 550 kilometers providing images with the goal of monitoring disasters and identifying natural resources. Although Arirang-5 constitutes the 11th South Korean satellite to be launched into space, it is the first radar imaging satellite to be developed and operated by South Korea.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **NOAA: GOES-12 satellite retired after 10 successful years**

After a successful service of 10 years, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) GOES-

12 spacecraft is being retired. Since GOES-12 became operational in 2003, it has supported forecasters and scientists in NOAA's National Weather Service until 2010, when the satellite was shifted to a new position from which it provided coverage of weather conditions affecting South America that included volcanic ash clouds, wildfires, and drought. "GOES-12 gave the Western Hemisphere many years of reliable data as the operational eastern GOES for accurate forecasts, from small storms to those of historic proportions," said Mary Kicza, assistant administrator for NOAA's Satellite and Information Service.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **Natural Resources Canada launches new website for NEODF-Cat**

The efforts of Natural Resources Canada for improving and increasing web accessibility to data have resulted in the decision of moving the NEODF-Cat web presence to a new web portal known as the National Earth Observation Data Framework Catalogue (NEODF-Cat) on 1 August 2013. The so-called NEODF Catalogue is a key element for the correct functioning of the National Earth Observation Data Framework (NEODF), a prototype system that illustrates a new approach to improving access to Earth Observation (EO) data and products.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **Vietnam: Imagery available from VNREDSat-1 satellite**

Based on initial successes, the Vietnamese VNREDSat-1 satellite launched on 7 May 2013 on a VEGA rocket, is efficiently meeting the initial demands for remote sensing images for observing natural resources, environment, and natural disasters. VNREDSat-1 is Vietnam's first natural resources, environment and disaster monitoring satellite, constituting a new development of space technology in Vietnam after the success of two telecommunications satellites. The Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) has uploaded some of the processed data received from the satellite showing Hanoi, Melbourne and Rome on their website.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **India: Spatial platform for forests in Himachal Pradesh**

In a combined action to provide decision making tools,





the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh, a north Indian state, have developed a new portal that brings all the spatial data on forests in Himachal Pradesh on one platform. This portal provides a SMS gateway, which facilitates communication between the Forest Department and the group of users from forest guard to the Headquarters level, helping, for example, to check wildfires by sending bulk messages.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **International Charter activated for floods seven times in August**

In August 2013, the International Charter: Space and Major Disasters was activated to provide satellite imagery-derived maps and products for flood events in seven different countries. The mechanism was activated for Myanmar, Sudan, China, Philippines, Russian Federation, Pakistan and Senegal.

Read more: [International Charter](#)

### **Bolivian communications satellite to be launched in December**

The director of the Bolivian Space Agency, Ivan Zambrana,

has confirmed that the Chinese-funded communications satellite Tupac Katari will be launched into space on 20 December 2013. Satellite Tupac Katari will reduce the cost of telecommunications not only in Bolivia but additionally in other Latin American countries that will have access to it. The construction of the satellite is a joint project between the Bolivian government and Chinese company Great Wall. Over 60 Bolivian nationals are currently being trained in China, learning how to operate the Earth station of the satellite located in the city of El Alto in Bolivia's Amachuma region.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **NASA and ISS see California fire from space**

The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) aboard NASA's Aqua satellite acquired an image on 22 August 2013 of the fast-moving fire that started on 17 August in central California, near Yosemite National Park, forcing hundreds to leave their homes and charring tens of thousands of acres. The International Space Station passed directly over the ongoing fire on 26 August. Astronaut Karen L. Nyberg tweeted from the Space Station: "Our orbit took us directly over California's Rim Fire about an hour ago. Devastating."

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **7-19 September 2013, Teheran, Iran: Workshop on Space Applications for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management**

UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office in Iran, the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), will organize a two-week workshop on space applications for disaster risk reduction and management from 7 to 19 September 2013 in Teheran, Iran. The event is coorganized by ISNET (Inter Islamic Network on Space Science and Technology). The workshop is aimed at imparting hands-on training on six major disaster hazards, namely: floods, earthquakes, landslides, cyclones, tsunamis and avalanches. The two-week workshop targets professionals with a shared interest in geospatial technology and disaster risk reduction and management and will include the use of various tools and methods. It will feature lectures and place special emphasis on hands-on training exercises using different space technologies and techniques targeting specific hazard areas.

Read more: [ISNET](#)

### **23-25 October 2013, Beijing, China: United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management - "Disaster risk identification, assessment and monitoring"**

The UN-SPIDER Beijing Office and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China will organize the "United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management - Disaster risk identification and response" from 23 to 25 October 2013. Additionally, an international training programme "Flood Risk Mapping, Modelling and Assessment using Space technology" will be organised for 25 participants of the conference. The conference is an opportunity to share information on latest methods, approaches and models used for identifying, assessing and reducing disaster risks. The conference will also focus on how to operationalize technological developments to address challenges at the national level by the national disaster management authorities. The purpose of this conference





is to bring together the technologists and end-users on a single platform to ensure that space-based information is effectively employed in decision making that saves life and prevents economic losses.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **30 September – 4 October 2013, Bogota, Colombia: Geomatic Week 2013**

On 30 September 2013, UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office in Colombia, IGAC, will kick off the "Geomatic Week 2013" in Bogota, Colombia. The event aims at promoting academic and technological advances leading to the development of technologies, methodologies and applications in the field of Geomatics. The International Geomatic Week 2013 will particularly look at geospatial technologies and management of the territory, developed through Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Digital Mapping - decisive frameworks for using satellite data for development planning.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **11-22 November 2013, Sanya, China: Training Workshop on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation**

In response to the needs of developing countries in disaster risk reduction, the CAS-TWAS Centre of Excellence on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation (STDM) in collaboration with the International Centre on

Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) under the auspices of UNESCO will organize this training workshop to enhance the capacity building for developing countries to tackle disaster issues using advanced space technologies. The workshop collects information on international best practices with applications to a variety of events, especially for floods, droughts, earthquakes, tropical cyclones and storms. It stretches over a two-week period, covering both theoretical and practical aspects on the use of space technologies for disaster mitigation.

Read more: [RADI](#)

### **9-11 December 2013, Hanoi, Vietnam: 9th International Conference on Geoinformation for Disaster Management (Gi4DM)**

The International Conference on Geoinformation for Disaster Management (Gi4DM) is an annual conference devoted to the use and application of geo-information technology in disaster management. Gi4DM 2013 will take place from 9 to 11 December 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The fundamental goal of the conference is to provide a forum where disaster/disaster-risk managers, stakeholders, researchers, data providers and system developers can discuss challenges, share experience, discuss new ideas, demonstrate technology and analyse future research toward better support of risk and disaster management activities. The deadline for abstract submission is 15 September 2013.

Read more: [Gi4DM2013](#)

