



FINAL 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)

the

German Aerospace Center (DLR)

and the

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Bonn, Germany, 21– 23 October 2009

Langer Eugen UN Campus, Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10
D-53113 Bonn, Germany

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 the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 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, 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 programme of the first workshop held in Bonn 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 the space community and the disaster management communities, 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

Main topics of the third workshop will include:

1. Presentations and discussion on the contribution of space-based technologies to mitigate the impact and enhance adaptation to global climate change and land degradation utilising innovative monitoring and analysing tools.
2. Discussion on the **SpaceAid Framework**: SpaceAid is a framework which facilitates fast access to space-based information for affected countries, international and regional organizations in the event of a disaster. This information includes all types of space-based technology such as navigation, communication, imagery, radar etc.
3. Presentation and discussion on the beta-version of the **UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal** (communication and information platform).
4. Presentations and discussion on the contribution of space-based

solutions to the field of Telehealth and Disaster Medicine. As a general framework, the workshop intends to harmonise the various existing initiatives that are contributing to helping developing countries access and use space-based technologies for disaster management and risk reduction as well as to explore possibilities of capacity development and institutional strengthening.

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. Financial support

Within the limited financial resources available, a number of selected international participants from developing countries will be offered financial support to attend the Workshop. This financial support will defray the cost of travel (a round trip ticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in their home country and Bonn, Germany) and/or the room and board expenses during the duration of the event.

7. Deadline for Submission of Applications

The completed application form, properly endorsed by the applicant's government/institution, should be submitted either by e-mail (scanned copy) or by fax directly to the UN-SPIDER Office in Bonn no later than Monday 31 August, 2009 (email: joerg.szarzynski (at) unoosa.org, FAX: (+49)-228 815 0399). Only complete applications, with all the requested information and signatures, will be considered.

8. Life and Health Insurance

Life/major health insurance for each of the selected participants is necessary and is the responsibility of the candidate or his/her institution or government. UNOOSA and the co-sponsors will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for expenses related to medical treatment or accidental events.

9. Contact

For further organisational information and other logistical details, please contact **Mr. Joerg Szarzynski**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, UN-SPIDER Bonn Office.

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10. 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**

Email: lorant.czarán@unoosa.org

For further information please also check the following website:

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