



INFORMATION NOTE

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
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 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 established 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 development 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. Topics of the Second UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop

This workshop will include four thematic sessions as following:

a) Space technology in support of risk and disaster management

The first session will illustrate 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. It will also underline the role of GEO Tasks DI-06-09 (Use of Satellites for Risk Management). Additionally, the prototype of the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal (communication and information platform) will be presented.

Key questions and topics to be discussed:

- Further identification of existing and planned initiatives that contribute to bringing together the space-based technology and disaster management communities
- Intensified harmonisation of the various these existing initiatives that are contributing to helping developing countries access and use space-based technologies for disaster management and risk reduction
- Design and functionality of the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal to ensure that relevant information is easily accessible and disseminated to all interested end-users

b) Vulnerability and Risk Assessment

Remote sensing is been used increasingly for rapid damage assessment, hazard event mapping and also for vulnerability and risk assessment. This session will deal with the challenges of vulnerability and risk assessment at present and in the future with regard to hazard of natural origin and climate change – combining remote sensing and ground truth data. In this context practitioners and scientists will be invited to discuss current approaches, particularly with regard to the question on how to combine assessment components based on data from census and own surveys with data generated through remote sensing.

The session will explore the opportunity to assess vulnerability and risk before and after disasters. Emphasis will also be given to compare the use of remote sensing information for vulnerability assessments to sudden-onset and to creeping hazards at different scales. Furthermore, the session will present current work in different world regions, such as the assessment of tsunami vulnerability in Egypt and Indonesia and the assessment of flood vulnerability in Vietnam and Germany. Special attention will be given to sudden-onset hazards on the one hand and creeping slow-onset hazards (e.g. sea-level rise) on the other.

Key questions and topics to be discussed:

- How is the vulnerability and risk assessments structured and conducted?
- Which elements at risk can be assessed with remote sensing information?
- What are the different vulnerability categories used to distinguish high and low vulnerability?
- How to assess exposure and fragility based on remote sensing?
- What are major components that have to be addressed using census data or survey data?
- How to integrate remote sensing information and census data within one assessment approach?
- How to estimate the vulnerability before disaster occurs?
- What are the most appropriate scales to combine remote sensing information and census data?
- What are future research needs in this area?

c) Contribution of space-based technologies to existing and proposed Early Warning Systems

This session will examine how public-private partnerships (PPP) centered on space-based technologies can enable the development, establishment and embedding of early warning systems. The participants will highlight efforts to gather, analyze and evaluate the demand for EWS and how PPP could propose and initiate projects and provide solutions.

Key questions and topics to be discussed:

- How do space-based technologies play a connecting role between donors and recipients and also between national and international organizations?
- Are space-based technologies transforming the growing involvement of the private sector into sustainable public partnerships that could initiate projects and provide solutions?
- What appropriate and efficient instruments communicate with the demand side (typically governments in need of EW systems) so that the demand language is received by the private supply sector without distortion?
- Does the UN have in place the right interfaces to address the public and private sector on national and international level to promote and place the demand side in a form and language which is understood from the public and private sectors?

d) Disaster Medicine, Telemedicine and Integrated Vector Management (IVM)

The fourth session will explore the contribution of space-based solutions in the field of Emergency / Disaster Medicine, Telemedicine and vector-borne diseases. New strategies for prevention and control of the latter are emphasizing "Integrated Vector Management" as an approach that reinforces the linkages between health and environment, optimizing benefits to both. Especially in developing countries the vulnerability to climate and environmental changes is likely to increase as demands on resources continue to rise in association with rapidly growing populations. Additionally, there is a growing awareness of increasing risks to human health. Epidemics of weather- and climate sensitive infectious diseases, including malaria, meningitis, and cholera, cause massive disruption to societies and overburden national health systems. In recognition of the need for improved understanding of current and likely future climate change one important objective is the further development and integration of in situ ground measurement systems, remote sensing monitoring techniques and appropriate early warning systems, as the increasing trend in epidemics and natural disasters coincides with advances in weather and climate prediction and improved understanding of the relationships between human health and the environment.

Key questions and topics to be discussed:

- What are the most urgent requirements of disaster medicine with regard to space-based support?
- What is cutting-edge research in the field of telemedicine?
- What is the development potential of telemedicine in view of the increasing frequency and magnitude of natural disasters?
- Does the UN have in place the right interfaces to address the linkages between health and environment on national and international level?

3. Target audience

The workshop will provide a platform for brainstorming and in-depth discussion, as well as thematic presentation sessions. 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. Financial support

Within the limited financial resources available, a number of selected international participants will be offered financial support to attend the International UN-SPIDER 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) 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 applicant's government/ institution, should be submitted by mail to the UN-SPIDER Programme Coordinator, Room E-0944, United Nations Office at Vienna, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, no later than **Friday 22 August 2008**. To accelerate processing of your application, you should also fax an advance copy directly to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, FAX: (+43-1)-26060-5830. 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. The co-organisers will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for expenses related to medical treatment or accidental events.

9. Further Information

If you wish to receive further information please send an e-mail to:

Mr. Jörg Szarzynski

Senior Expert

UN-SPIDER

Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10

53113 Bonn

Germany

Tel.: +49 (0)228 - 815 0677

Fax.: +49 (0)228 - 815 0699

Skype: un-spider-bonn

e-mail: joerg.szarzynski@unoosa.org

10. 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. Tony Lyu** – E-Mail: young.lyu@unoosa.org.



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APPLICATION FORM
(To be typed in or handwritten in block letters)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Friday, 22 August 2008

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I hereby apply to participate in the United Nations International UN-SPIDER Workshop. **Applicants should be familiar with the objectives and programme topics of the seminar as described above.**

A. PERSONAL DATA

1. Family Name: _____ First Name: _____
2. Sex (Male/Female): _____ 3. Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____
Day Month Year
4. Nationality: _____
5. Current Title/Position: _____
6. Agency/Organization: _____
7. Principal Functions/Duties: _____

8. Official Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____

9. Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Fax 1: _____ Fax 2: _____

E-mail: _____

(Please double check your phone/fax numbers and E-mail address, since this will be our principal means to contact you)

10. In case of emergency contact: _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

B. ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

11. Your academic background (degrees, where and when obtained, and a description of your fields of study):

12. Your professional experience relevant to this seminar:

13. Provide information on the programmes and mandates of your institution that could benefit from your participation in this workshop, including your involvement and responsibility. :

14. Have you previously participated in training courses/workshops/seminars (regional or international) organized by the United Nations or its specialized agencies? Yes () No ()

If yes, please indicate the following: title of the meeting(s), location(s), date(s) of attendance and subject(s) covered by the programme:

C. PARTICIPANT PRESENTATIONS

15. Selected workshop participants have the opportunity to give a presentation on the topics listed in section 2 of the information note. If you wish to propose a presentation please provide a title for the presentation and a brief description. You may wish to attach a 100-word abstract to this application form.

D. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

16. Life/major health insurance for each selected participant is the responsibility of his/her institution.

E. FUNDING

17. *Funds available to support participants in the workshop are limited and will be made available on a priority basis to relevant applicants from developing countries.* Qualified participants whose nominating agency/organization agrees to fund round-trip travel and/or living expenses **will be considered on a priority basis.** Due to limited funding availability, the organizers strongly encourage you to seek alternative funding to secure your participation. Please indicate below if you are able to pay for your round trip travel and/or living expenses for the duration of the seminar (covered either by your sponsoring agency/organization, or another international, regional or national organization) or if you wish to be considered for funding support. Also, if you are requesting funding support for round-trip travel you must fill in Section 20 at the end of this Application Form.

Living expenses for the duration of the seminar

I have my own funding and do not wish to be considered for funding support ()

I do not have funding and I do wish to be considered for funding support ()

Round trip travel to Bonn, Germany

I have my own funding and do not wish to be considered for funding support ()

I do not have funding and I do wish to be considered for funding support ()

IMPORTANT: We will only consider your request for funding support if your Application Form is complete, including the travel information and the signature and stamp/seal of the Head of the nominating agency/organization. It is important that our Office receives the original of this application form.

18. Applicant’s signature:

(Signature of Applicant) (Place) (Date)

19. Head of nominating agency/organization (required for processing of application):

(The head of the nominating agency/organization also confirms with their signature that the nominating agency/organization will be able to provide funding for the participation of its nominee as indicated in paragraph E of this application form)

(Signature of Head of nominating organisation) (Place) (Date)

(Full name and title of Head of nominating agency/organization/company in print)

(Seal of agency/organization)

**IF YOU ARE REQUESTING FUNDING SUPPORT FOR TRAVEL
PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.**

20. The financial support for the cost of travel that will be provided to a limited number of participants will be for a round trip ticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in your home country and Bonn. In order to help us in providing this funding support we request that you verify in your home country the cost of such a ticket and the routing. Please contact either an airline company that connects your country to Bonn or a Travel Agency and provide us with the following information. You should plan to arrive in Bonn on Sunday 12 October 2008 and depart on Wednesday 15 October 2008 after 6:00 PM.

Name of Airline or Travel Agency _____

Address _____

Tel / FAX / E-mail _____

Details of route going to Bonn – date and time of departure and arrival and flight numbers

Details of route returning to your home country – date and time of departure and arrival and flight numbers

Cost of ticket in local currency and US dollars – include in the cost all airport taxes and other fees

IMPORTANT: The information above is important if you are requesting funding support and will help our planning. Thank-you.