



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

INFORMATION NOTE

**United Nations/Vietnam
Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits**

**Co organized and Co sponsored by
European Space Agency**

**Hosted by
Vietnam Academy of Science & Technology (VAST)**

**Co organized by
The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

Hanoi, Vietnam, 10 – 14 October 2011

1. Background

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA), European Space Agency (ESA), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Government of Vietnam are co-organizing the second Workshop to promote the use of space technology and its applications for socio-economic benefits, particularly in developing countries.

The Workshop will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 10 to 14 October 2011, and will be hosted by the Vietnam Academy of Science & Technology (VAST) on behalf of the Government of Vietnam.

The first Workshop was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 14 to 17 September 2010. Background information and the report containing the recommendations that emanated from this event are available at <http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/spaceworkshop>

The last three decades of the 20th century have witnessed space technology finding increasing application and relevance in daily life, to the point where, nowadays, space applications are an indispensable part of the modern information society. Space-based systems deliver information and services that protect lives and the environment, contribute to sustainable development planning, enhance prosperity and security, and stimulate industrial and economic development.

The Workshop is being conducted in the realization that space technology can provide decision-makers and planners valuable information for development planning, natural resource management, environment protection, hazard mapping, risk assessment, early warning, disaster relief and rehabilitation.

Education, capacity building and space and society initiatives are pursued to ensure that Vietnam and countries in the developing world develop the requisite human capital to support national space activities, including the development of space applications products and services. The policy also promotes enhanced space awareness at all levels of society as a mean to build public understanding of the societal benefits of space technology.

2. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The overall objective of the Workshop is to increase awareness among policy makers and planners on the benefits of utilizing space technology for socio-economic benefits.

The Workshop will contribute to international cooperation by providing opportunities to exchange in-depth information on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits.

Specific objectives for this workshop are to:

1. share information on research and applications studies that have demonstrated the use of space technology for societal benefit;
2. address principles and mechanisms for enhancing national, regional, and international cooperation in space technology development and applications.

The workshop will lead to:

1. development of collaborative projects ideas that while addressing specific societal issues confronting individual member states or regions, are applicable globally;
2. identification of research activities that are more relevant to the needs of decision-makers in developing countries.

3. Preliminary Programme of the Workshop

The workshop programme will include presentations that detail the current use of the space technology for socio-economic benefits and that discuss the on-going and planned initiatives that national and regional institutions should be aware and should take advantage of, and discussion sessions that will contribute to the creation and consolidation of existing networks and partnerships.

As a preliminary suggestion the following thematic sessions will be part of the Workshop programme:

- Overview of space technology and impact on society
- **Remote sensing applications:** Earth observation from space for natural resource management and environmental monitoring; case studies and lessons learned
- **GNSS applications**

- **Satellite communication and information systems**
- **Capacity building in space technologies:** Contemporary education systems on space science and technology, science and society activities for promoting space awareness.
- **Regional and international cooperation**

The participants from the first Workshop proposed the establishment of a number of working groups to facilitate identification of specific application approaches and studies across regions that demonstrate the integration of space science and technology to support decision making for societal benefit. The following seven thematic areas were identified for working group themes:

- Urbanization and transportation,
- Water resources and agriculture,
- Air pollution and energy,
- Disaster management,
- Natural resource management,
- Extraterrestrial exploration,
- Positioning, navigation, timing.

Additionally, seven cross-cutting sub-themes were identified:

- Weather and climate,
- Health,
- Uncertainty and risk assessment,
- Economic valuation,
- Education, outreach and communication,
- International space law,
- Satellite development.

4. Expected Participants

The Workshop is being planned for a total of 150 participants including policymakers, decision makers and senior experts from the following groups: international, regional, national institutions, governmental institutions, research and academic institutions, multi-lateral and bi-lateral development agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry.

5. Participation Requirements

Participants should be in senior managerial or decision-making positions at governmental agencies, universities, national and regional institutions, non-governmental organizations or industry.

6. Language of the Workshop and Presentation by Participants

The working language of the Workshop will be English.

Selected participants who are funded by the cosponsors of the Workshop will be required to prepare a presentation of approximately 10 to 20 minutes on topics relevant to the Workshop objectives and the programme. Presentations on actual on-going projects will be of particular interest to participants of the Workshop.

7. Dates and Location of the Workshop

The Workshop will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, **from 10 to 14 October 2011**. All selected and invited participants will receive an information package with details on room and board and other local arrangements.

8. Financial Support

Within the limited financial resources available, a number of selected participants 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 Hanoi, Vietnam) and/or room and board expenses during the duration of the Workshop.

Funded participants will receive detailed information upon notification of their selection.

9. Deadline for Submission of Applications

The completed application form, properly endorsed by applicant's government/institution, should be mailed to:

Office for Outer Space Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna
Vienna International Centre
P.O. BOX 500
A-1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA
Phone: (+43 1) 26060- 4948
E-mail: unpsa@unvienna.org

to reach the Office **no later than 15 August 2010**.

To accelerate processing of your application, you should also email to unpsa@unvienna.org or 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.

Online application for the Workshop is also available. We encourage all candidates to apply for the Workshop online, as it helps to streamline the processing of applications. The online application form can be accessed at:

<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/oosa/en/SAP/act2011/Vietnam/index.html>

10. 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-sponsors will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for expenses related to medical treatment or accidents.

11. Points of Contact

For information regarding the programme of the Workshop, please contact **Mr. Levent Canturk**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

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The focal point for Vietnam:

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12. Additional Information

For up-to-date information on this activity please refer to the Office for Outer Space Affairs website at <http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/oosa/en/SAP/act2011/Vietnam/index.html>