Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 9-18 June 2010

Request for observer status with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: application of the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its thirty-third session, in 1990, the Committee considered guidelines for granting observer status with the Committee to international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The possible criteria suggested by the Outer Space Affairs Division to the Committee at the time were the following:
   
   (a) As part of its programme, the organization should be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
   
   (b) The aims and purposes of the organization should be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
   
   (c) The organization should be a recognized international organization and should have an established headquarters, an executive officer, and a constitution, a copy of which is deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In the case of a non-governmental organization, it should be a non-profit organization.

2. Having considered the matter, the Committee at its thirty-third session, agreed, that in the future non-governmental organizations which request observer status with the Committee should have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and should, as part of their programmes, be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee.

3. While the Committee’s decision did not specifically include the elements referred to in 2(c) above, it has been the practice of the Committee, since its
decision in 1990, to have before it the constitution or statutes of the organization or entity requesting observer status.

4. On 10 May 2010 the Office for Outer Space Affairs received an application for observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space from the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World. The related correspondence and documentation received from the Association is attached to this document for consideration by the Committee.
Ms. Mazlan Othman  
Director  
Office for Outer Space Affairs  
United Nation Office at Vienna  
Vienna International Center  
Wagramerstrasse 5, 1400 Vienna Austria  

Dear Ms. Othman

I am honored and pleased, on behalf of the Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World, to present best compliments to Office for Outer Space Affairs and to distinguished members of the Committee On Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS), and would like to express my desire to have our association join COPUOS as an observer.

The accession of our association will help in coordination between COPUOS and the Arab countries in the field of remote sensing and space science we also hope to have links with many African and Asian countries.

During the short period since its inception, our Association has accomplished many scientific activities in the area of specialization; activities like training courses, seminars and international scientific conferences.

Our association has acted as the coordinator and supervisor for important projects using Remote Sensing technology implemented jointly by some Arab countries. At the time, as we are to continue in this and other scientific activities, we hope, when we become an observer member at COPUOS, to participate in the programs of the Scientific Committee of COPUOS at the level of Training and holding seminars and conferences.
Looking forward to see a positive action by COPUOS, I remain

Yours Sincerely

Hadi Ghashout  
Secretary General  
Association of Remote Sensing Centers in the Arab World
The Association of Centers of Remote Sensing in the Arab world

Establishment

The Association of Centers of Remote Sensing in the Arab world was founded in 2002 under the auspices of Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils. It takes the city of Tripoli in Libya as a base and the Libyan Center for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences as a focal point.

Activities

(1) Coordination with Arab organizations and research centers whose activities are related to the area of the Association to establish a joint scientific cooperation within the framework of plans of these scientific institutions, and work with these bodies within a joint Arab framework:

- Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining
- Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
- Management of scientific research programs of the Arab Organization for Education and Science.
- The Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Drylands
- Sahara and Sahel Observatory
- Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of the North African Countries.

(2) Establishment of a special web site under the name of the Association
    www.arabeta.org

(3) A supervisory committee to oversee the scientific version of a scientific journal on behalf of the Association has been formed.

(4) Suggestion to hold training courses for those interested in technology of remote sensing and geographic information systems in the Arab countries.
Goals

The association aims to support scientific research in the field of Remote Sensing in order to achieve scientific progress in the Arab countries in remote sensing technologies and other space-related synonymous through.

- Encouraging joint Arab scientific research projects in various areas of space applications and exchange results.

- Linking the topics of scientific research in the field of specialization of the Association, particularly the of Applied topics, with development plans in the Arab countries.

- Holding Scientific meetings and training courses.

- Issuing scientific journals related to the specialization of the Association.

- Working on that Arabic should be the language of scientific research in Arab countries and seeking standardization of terminology of relevant scientific specialization of the Association.

- Encouraging development of research centers specialized in the subject area of the Association especially in the Arab countries where there are no such centers.

- Working to create specialized web sites that deals with the dissemination of information and exchange of views between specialists in this science as soon as possible.

- Accomplishment of scientific tasks entrusted by the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils in the context of the objectives of the Association.

Scientific and technical cooperation

The Association was keen to link the Arab institutions with organizations and bodies working in this framework and has signed cooperation agreements with:

(1) Arab Federation for Technical Education, and
النشاطات :

1. تم التنسيق مع المنظمات ومراكز البحث العلمي العربية التي لها علاقة بمشاريع البوابة ودفعة إعداد اتفاقيات عمل مشتركة في إطار المشروع وبرامج البوابة هذه المؤسسات ومجالس العمل في إطار مشروع مشترك مع هذه الجهات.
   - المجموعة العربية للمستويات العلمية وتقنية
   - المساحة العربية للمستويات العلمية وتقنية
   - إدارة برامج البحث العلمي بالمجموعة العربية للمباني العلمية
   - المركز العربي للدراسات المتقدمة والمؤسسات الأكاديمية والإقليمية
   - مركز البحوث والانتاجية
   - المركز الجهوي للاستعراض عن بعد

2. عمل موقع مباشر للبوابة تحت اسم:
   www.arabeta.org

3. تم تشكيل لجنة إشراف علمية تشرف على إصدار مجلة عربية مكثفة مخصصة باسم البوابة.

4. اتخاذ دورات تدريبية للمهتمين بتقنية الاستعراض عن بعد ونشر الممارسات الجغرافية بأقطار الوطن العربي.

التعاون العلمي والدولي:

التعاون العلمي:
- تخصيص رابط واحة البحث العلمي في مجال التخصصات وحقوق تقدم العلمي في الدول العربية في مجال الإستعراض بعد وانتشار الرأي الداخلي والمؤسسات الأخرى ذات العلاقة.

الباحث:
- تخصص رابط واحة البحث العلمي في مجال الإستعراض عن بعد في إطار:

- المجلة العربية
- مكتب إعداد البوابة