

**INFORMATION NOTE****“United Nations/ Peru/Switzerland/ ESA/Workshop on Integrated Space Technologies Applications in the Mountain Regions of the Andean Countries”.**

Organized by

**The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and
Comisión Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Aeroespacial (CONIDA) on behalf of
the Government of Peru.****Lima, Peru, 14 – 18 September 2009****1. Background**

Mountain areas are environmentally delicate, the source of freshwater for more than half of humanity, rich in biological and cultural diversity, places of spirituality for many societies and recreation sites for millions of people around the world. Yet mountain areas have unique problems that must be solved. Precious mountain ecosystems are being affected by climate change, exploitative mining, environmental degradation and conflict. As a consequence, mountain people are still among the world's poorest and most disadvantaged. Often isolated and marginalized, many mountain people have little influence over the decisions that affect their lives and environments .

Sustainable development requires optimal management of natural resources and depends upon the availability of reliable and up-to-date information at national, regional, and international levels. Remotely sensed data provide a view of the Earth for many studies that require synoptic or periodic observations such as inventory, surveying, and monitoring in agriculture, hydrology, geology, mineralogy, and environment. Remote sensing is viewed as a discipline that is integrated with other disciplines such as photogrammetry, cartography, geodetic reference systems, global positioning systems, and geographic information systems.

As well as having considerable potential, remote sensing of mountain areas has some technological constraints. These constraints should be defined and considered in the planning of any capacity building activities. In the application of remote sensing to development in mountain areas, education plays a pivotal role in its effective adoption.

Communication in mountainous regions is often expensive, unreliable and difficult to access. Satellite communications can offer a cost-effective solution and have a crucial role to play in disaster management, education and health care in mountainous regions. Global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) are indispensable in the application of remote sensing and in disaster management.

The Workshop is endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly as one of the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2009. The Workshop is being organised in co-operation with the Government of Peru, and the European Space Agency (ESA).

2.Objectives

The primary objective of the workshop is to discuss how remote sensing, satellite communications and GNSS can be used in projects in sustainable development in mountainous areas, with the aim of developing priorities for building capacity in remote sensing for the benefit of mountainous regions.

3. Location and Date of the Workshop

The Workshop will be held from 14 – 18 September 2009 in Lima, Peru and will be hosted by CONIDA.

4.Programme of the Workshop

The programme of this five-day Workshop will include presentations and discussions on the following topics:

- Remote sensing applied to:
 - Andean Region: Genesis & Space Technology
 - Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)
- Climate Change and Mountains.
- Mineral resources
- Education in remote sensing for mountain areas.

The outcome of the workshop will be a series of observations, recommendations and proposals for future activities which will build capacity in remote sensing, satellite communications and GNSS for mountain areas.

5. Language of the Workshop

The workshop will be delivered in ENGLISH, and SPANISH.

6. Participation

Workshop participants shall be active educators, engineers and scientists with an in-depth knowledge of and experience in the programme topics of the Workshop as described in section 4. **Applications from qualified female participants are particularly encouraged.**

The sponsors will jointly select international participants from candidates nominated by their governments and/or institutions. Selection of participants will be made on the basis of: (i) educational background; (ii) experience relevant to the Workshop objectives and programme, as well as available case studies; and (iii) compliance with the instructions issued in the application form, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. A limited amount of funding will be available to sponsor the travel and accommodation of a limited number of participants.

7. Submission of Applications

The original of the completed application form should be submitted through the Office of the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in the applicant's country.

A copy of the completed application form, properly endorsed by applicant's government/institution,

should be submitted directly to the:
Office for Outer Space Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna
Vienna International Centre
P.O. BOX 500
A-1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA
Fax: (+43-1) 26060-5830
Phone: (+43-1) 26060- 4911
E-mail: ooa@unvienna.org

Applications must be received by OOSA by **15 July 2009**.

9. 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 accidental events.

10. Contact Information

For information regarding the agenda and programme of the Workshop, please contact **Mr Viktor Kotelnikov** (viktor.kotelnikov@unvienna.org) or **Ms. Silvia Vivanco** (silvia.vivanco@unvienna.org) United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, telephone +43 1 26060 4951.

The focal point for Peru will be **Mr. Jorge Pacheco**, (Director Tecnico de Capacitacion –CONIDA) who can be contacted regarding local arrangements including venue of the Workshop, arrival in Lima, accommodation, transportation to and from the hotel and other logistical details, at the following e-mail and numbers: capacitacion@conida.gob.pe, telephone: +51-1-421-8618; fax: +51-1-996-593-258.