

**INFORMATION NOTE****United Nations International UN-SPIDER Workshop:  
Space-based Information and Solutions for  
Disaster Management and Emergency Response**

**Organized by  
the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs  
and the German Aerospace Center (DLR)**

**With the support of  
The Government of Germany**

**Bonn, Germany, 29 October – 31 October 2007**

**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 new programme, the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) are organising the above United Nations International UN-SPIDER Workshop to promote the access and use of space-based technologies and solutions for disaster management and emergency response within the relevant communities. The following organisations are also contributing to organising this workshop: UNU-IEHS (United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), ISDR/PPEW (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning), GEO (Group on Earth Observations) and DKKV (German Committee for Disaster Reduction).

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 new 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 to support 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-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries.

As part of the UN-SPIDER outreach activities, workshops are being organized in 2007 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 this new programme. In Bonn, UNOOSA and DLR are organising this international Workshop that will contribute directly to the activities of the UN-SPIDER Bonn office. The meeting is designed to help identify the conceptual requirements for the establishment of the communication and information platform (the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal) to be developed by the UN-SPIDER office in Bonn. This workshop will be a forum which will bring together decision-makers and experts from the disaster management and space communities, key politicians, 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 introduce their knowledge, products and technologies for disaster management and humanitarian and emergency response.

## **2. Objectives of the International UN-SPIDER Workshop**

Major topics to be discussed at the workshop will be:

- Identification of relevant space-based information for Disaster Management Support and Emergency Response including on-going and planned initiatives, case studies and best practices, archived data for disaster studies and capacity building opportunities.
- Definition of a Knowledge Portal to ensure that relevant information is easily accessible and disseminated to all interested end-users including the design of an appropriate information database system
- Identification of existing and planned Communities of Practice that contribute to bringing together the space-based technology and disaster management communities
- Discussion and definition of a knowledge management and transfer framework and implementation of specific activities that will contribute to the transfer of knowledge.
- GEOSS Capacity Building Task CB-07-02 - Knowledge Sharing for Improved Disaster Management and Emergency Response
- Harmonisation of the various existing initiatives that are contributing to helping developing countries access and use space-based technologies for disaster management and risk reduction

## **3. Expected participants**

The workshop will bring together a total of 80 decision-makers and senior experts drawn from the following groups:

- National and regional institutions responsible for providing disaster management support;
- 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 technical 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 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 selected on a priority basis.

#### **5. Language of the International UN-SPIDER Workshop**

The working language of all planned activities 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 Monday 27 August 2007. 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-sponsors will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for expenses related to medical treatment or accidental events.

## 9. Points of Contact

For information regarding the agenda and programme of the workshop and submission of applications, please contact **Mr. Georg Magerl**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

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The focal point in Germany is **Dr. Jörg Szarzynski**, German Aerospace Center (DLR), German Remote Sensing Data Center (DFD), who can be contacted also for issues regarding the agenda and programme of the workshop, and also with regard to local arrangements including venue of the workshop, arrival in Bonn, hotel accommodation, transportation to and from the hotel and other logistical details.

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