



INFORMATION NOTE

“United Nations/China Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop: Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management and Emergency Response”

Organized by

**The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the
China National Space Administration (CNSA)**

**With the support of
The Government of China**

Shenzhen, China, 3 – 5 December 2007

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 China National Space Administration are organising the above United Nations/China Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop to promote the new programme which will contribute to helping countries within East and Southeast Asia learn how to access and use space technology for disaster management and emergency response. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for Asia and the Pacific (UN/ISDR Asia & Pacific) are also contributing to this workshop.

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.

The resolution further specifies that the programme will work closely with National Focal Points (NFP). NFPs are the national institutions representing the disaster management and/or space application communities that are nominated by their respective government to work with UN-

SPIDER in the strengthening of national disaster management planning and policies and in the implementation of specific national activities that incorporate space-based technology solutions to support disaster management. Furthermore, UN-SPIDER is working closely with regional and national centres of expertise in the use of space technology in disaster management forming a Network of Regional Support Offices (NRSO) which is contributing to the implementation of the activities of the programme in their respective regions in a coordinated manner, taking advantage of the important experience and capabilities being offered by many countries.

As part of the planned outreach activities in 2007, UN-SPIDER is organising several workshops to raise awareness within the user community, to assess its needs and to contribute to specific activities of this new programme. The workshop to be held in Shenzhen, China will bring together National Focal Points of East and Southeast Asian countries and also experts from the Network of Regional Support Offices, to jointly discuss the implementation of specific UN-SPIDER activities within the region.

2. Objectives of the Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop

The objectives of this Workshop are:

- (a) Presentation of the current status of space technology for disaster management and emergency response within the region;
- (b) Discuss the UN-SPIDER awareness raising strategy proposal building upon examples of similar successful strategies carried out by other organisations within the region;
- (c) Discuss the development of country profiles, user input for the establishment of a UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal and capacity building needs in the region;
- (d) Define ways and means of efficiently coordinating and interacting with National Focal Points and the Network of Regional Support Offices;
- (e) Reflect on the best concepts for delivering support to both national activities and to national planning and policies, that consider the use of space-based technologies, and;
- (f) Review and discuss activities to be carried out by National Focal Points with the support from UN-SPIDER and the Network of Regional Support Offices.

3. Expected participants

The workshop will bring together a total of 40 decision-makers and senior experts drawn from the following groups:

- UN-SPIDER National Focal Points and experts from the Network of Regional Support Offices in East and Southeast Asia;
- Other national and regional institutions responsible for providing disaster management support;
- National and regional institutions responsible for building capacity and promoting the use of space-based technologies;
- UN agencies and NGOs involved in disaster mitigation and relief;
- Space agencies;

- Academic institutions;

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. Nominated National Focal Points, experts from the Network of Regional Support Offices and 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 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 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 Shenzhen, China) and/or the room and board expenses during the duration of the event. Nominated National Focal Points and experts from the Network of Regional Support Offices will be considered for financial support on a priority basis.

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 15 October 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, please contact **Mr. Georg Magerl**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Mr. Georg Magerl

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The focal points in China are **Mrs. Yin Wenjuan and Ms. Sun Qing**, China National Space Administration, who can be contacted regarding local arrangements including venue of the workshop, arrival in Shenzhen, hotel accommodation, transportation to and from the hotel and other logistical details.

Mrs. Yin Wenjuan

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