



**United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency
Symposium**

**Objectives and Organization
of the Symposium**

**Graz, Austria
9-12 September 2008**

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Levent Canturk**



Presentation Overview

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Introduction

- United Nations/Austria/ESA Symposia have been held in Graz, Austria, since 1994
- They are part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, implemented by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) since 1972
- Co-sponsored by the Government of Austria and the European Space Agency (ESA)



Symposium Background

- This is the 15th United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium (Anniversary!)
- Originally designed as a gathering to acquaint decision makers with the benefits of using space technology and applications
- Following the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, the focus of the Symposia was directed towards addressing aspects of sustainable development
- Specifically, this includes space applications to support the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD



Previous Symposia in the Series

- 2003: “Space Applications for Sustainable Development: Supporting the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development”
- 2004: “Water for the World: Space Solutions for Water Management”
- 2005: “Space Systems – Protecting and Restoring Water Resources”
- 2006: “Space Tools for Monitoring Air Pollution and Energy Use for Sustainable Development”
- 2007: “Space Tools and Solutions for Monitoring the Atmosphere in Support of Sustainable Development”
- 2008: “Space Tools and Solutions for Monitoring the Atmosphere and Land Cover”



Symposium Framework

- Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), 1999
 - Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration for Space and Human Development
- World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002
 - Building on United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Agenda 21), 1992
 - United Nations Millennium Declaration (United Nations Millennium Development Goals), 2000
 - WSSD Plan of Implementation
- Implementation Mechanisms
 - Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), 1959
 - Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), 1992



Symposium Framework

- CSD considers the implementation of recommendations on sustainable development made at major global conferences, including the WSSD
- Pursues a multi-year programme of work covering the period 2004 to 2017 divided into two-year cycles addressing:
 - Thematic clusters (specific to each two-year cycle)
 - Cross-cutting issues (fixed throughout 2004 to 2017)
- Each cycle consists of a
 - Review year to identify obstacles and constraints to implementation
 - Policy year to decide on measures to accelerate implementation and to mobilize action to overcome the obstacles and constraints identified in the review year



Symposium Framework

- COPUOS and CSD are reporting to each other
- Bi-annual report of COPUOS to CSD during its review year on the benefits of the use of space technology and its applications related to the specific thematic cluster under consideration
- Thematic cluster for 2008/2009 includes the issues of agriculture, land and rural development, interaction between climate change and agriculture, management of land resources, combating drought and desertification, and Africa
- Therefore these issues were also chosen as the themes of the 2008 UN/Austria/ESA Symposia
- Symposium reports are brought to the attention of United Nations Member States through COPUOS and CSD



The 2006/2007/2008 Symposia

- The 2006 Symposium focussed on
 - Monitoring Air Pollution
 - Energy Use for Sustainable Development
- The 2007 Symposium will consider
 - Climate Change
 - Changing Weather Patterns
 - Air Pollution
 - Ozone Depletion
 - Ultraviolet Radiation
- The 2008 Symposium will consider
 - Atmosphere
 - Land Cover



Symposium Objectives

1. Examine the role of atmosphere and land cover monitoring in the context of the WSSD/CSD framework;
2. Promote and exchange information about ongoing relevant national, regional and global initiatives
3. Examine the available space technology based tools, solutions and informational resources



Symposium Objectives

4. Examine possibilities and strategies for including space technology and applications in decision-making processes
5. Identify the type and level of available or required training for using the relevant tools and solutions
6. Examine existing functional partnerships and cooperation opportunities as well as the possible need for new frameworks for cooperation





Practical Arrangements

- Each Sessions is chaired by a chairperson, supported by a rapporteur, whose reports will be used in drafting the Symposium report
- Invited Presentations
 - 20 minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for questions & answers
- Participant's Presentations
 - Describing activities, success stories, and/or particular issues and challenges participants are facing in their work
 - Approx. 15 minutes, including questions & answers
 - Comprehensive overview of world-wide activities
 - Could contribute to identify possible follow-up activities or synergies among presented activities and opportunities for cooperation
- Please assure your presentations are uploaded in time!



Practical Arrangements

- Training Session – Computers
- Working Group Meetings on Friday
- There will be a number of receptions as part of the official programme
 - *Reception by the Governor of the State of Styria*
 - *Reception by the Mayor of Graz*
 - *Reception at the Brewery Puntigam*
- We will ask for your feedback through a questionnaire



Useful Resources

- The CSD-15 session concluded on 11 May 2007. As the Policy session of the second implementation cycle, CSD-15 continued its focus in the following areas: Energy for Sustainable Development; Industrial Development; Air pollution/ Atmosphere; and Climate Change. <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/csd15.htm>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change <http://www.ipcc.ch/>
- Johannesburg Summit 2002 - the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August - 4 September 2002
http://www.un.org/jsummit/html/basic_info/basicinfo.html
- Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (including the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development), A/CONF.199/20
http://www.un.org/jsummit/html/documents/summit_docs.html
- List of space-related initiatives and programmes carried out by member States of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and within the United Nations system that respond to specific recommendations contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
<http://www.uncosa.unvienna.org/uncosa/en/wssd/index.html>



Useful Resources

- United Nations Millennium Development Goals
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
- Commission on Sustainable Development
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm>
- Report of UNISPACE III <http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/unisp-3/index.html>
- Fundamentals of Remote Sensing: A primer for those seeking to learn about or refresh their knowledge on remote sensing basics made available by the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing. Participants to the Symposium should have a good knowledge of the basics and concepts explained in this primer
http://ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/resource/tutor/fundam/index_e.php
- The dedicated Symposium Website can be found at <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/SAP/act2008/graz/index.html>. On this site we will also publish the Symposium's final report and other documents, e.g. news on possible follow-up activities.



Introduction of Staff and Trainers

- Local Organizer Staff
 - Elke Tatschl (Ms.)
- Trainers for Interactive Training Session
 - Sundar Christopher
 - Amy Fox (Ms.)
- United Nations Staff
 - Mazlan Othman (Ms.)
 - Hans Haubold
 - Levent Canturk
 - Ayoni Oyeneyin (Ms.)



Closing Remarks

- Make good use of the many opportunities to get to know the other participants and their work
- Some speakers may only be at the Symposium for the day of their presentation
- Talk to us, if you want specific issues to be addressed at the Symposium
- Pending availability of time we may be able to schedule ad-hoc presentations during the Symposium
- Take notes on possible recommendations, ways and means to improve the Symposium and on possible follow-up activities – we will discuss it on Friday!



Thank you for your Attention!