



UN-SPIDER

March 2010 Updates

Please forward this **UN-SPIDER Updates** to colleagues who might benefit from receiving the information.
If you would like to subscribe to this list please visit the following website:

<http://www.ungiwg.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/unspider>

UN-SPIDER News

1. UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory Mission to Haiti in March 2010

In its function as provider of Technical Advisory Support, UN-SPIDER conducted a mission to Haiti to support national agencies in charge of disaster-risk management and emergency response. The mission was performed during the period of March 14-20, 2010, and benefited from the substantive support provided by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations to Haiti (SRGS) and the MINUSTAH-GIS unit. One of the main goals of the Mission to Haiti was to assess how space-based information has been used by different agencies during the recovery phase of the Haiti earthquake. To achieve this goal, UN-SPIDER established contacts with representatives from a variety of agencies on the ground, who provided documents and insights into the recovery situation in Haiti.

For further information >> [UN-SPIDER News](#)

2. UN-SPIDER carries out Technical Advisory Mission to Chile

From 15 to 21 March UN-SPIDER Programme Coordinator, David Stevens, was in Chile at the request of the Government of Chile to follow-up on the support the programme has been providing to the response activities of the 8.3 magnitude earthquake that impacted the southern-central portion of the country on February 27. The UN-SPIDER SpaceAid framework within hours after the earthquake started contributing to coordination with local partners and with the providers of space-based information and value-adding organizations, in order to help provide adequate support to the disaster relief community. In Santiago UN-SPIDER met with the inter-institutional team of experts which is providing the support to the response efforts, taking advantage of the space-based information being made available with UN-SPIDER support. UN-SPIDER had several additional meetings including one with the Minister of National Goods, Ms. Catalina Parot, who also oversees the National System of Coordination of Territorial Information (SNIT). UN-SPIDER also carried a field mission to the region of Talca and Constitución to verify the recovery activities and the usefulness of the space-based information provided. Follow-up activities include ensuring all acquired satellite imagery is accessible to the

Chilean institutions, helping SNIT include all imagery in their Geoportal, and also help ONEMI (Oficina Nacional de Emergencia del Ministerio de Interior) make this information available to the end users.

For accessing the latest available information on the Knowledge Portal >> [UN-SPIDER Chile](#)

For information on the meeting with the Minister of National Goods >> [SNIT](#)

3. UN-SPIDER meets SEGEPLAN to discuss upcoming Technical Advisory Mission to Guatemala

On 5 March 2010, UN-SPIDER attended a meeting with the Lady Executive Director of SEGEPLAN (Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia), Dr. Karin Slowing Umaña, to discuss a Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) to be conducted by UN-SPIDER to Guatemala later this year. The mission, to be carried out at the request of SEGEPLAN, builds up on previous interactions between SEGEPLAN and UN-SPIDER. The goal of the mission will be to assess current institutional capacities regarding access to and use of space-based information for disaster-risk reduction and emergency response, as a means to provide to SEGEPLAN and other government agencies advice on how to improve institutional capacities in this respect. As in previous cases, the mission will target four key issues: policies regarding the use of space-based information for disaster-risk reduction and emergency response, access to space-based information, use of such information including spatial data infrastructures, and capacity-building.

For further information >> [UN-SPIDER News](#)

4. UN Subcommittee requests study on the establishment of a SpaceAid fund

During the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), representatives specifically requested that the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) prepare a proposal to be considered by the Committee at its next session in June 2010 on the establishment of a fund for SpaceAid. SpaceAid is UN-SPIDER's framework to facilitate fast and efficient access to space-based information for countries, international and regional organizations. This includes all types of information provided by earth observation satellites, communication satellites and global navigation satellite systems. The establishment of such a fund would enable quick and direct acquisition of satellite imagery to support emergency and humanitarian response in cases when existing mechanisms could not provide the data needed, such as when users needed to receive imagery from specific sensors or needed to have multi-agency licenses, as well as for humanitarian response, early recovery and reconstruction.

For accessing the report of the Subcommittee >> [S&T Subcommittee](#)

5. UN-SPIDER Africa Workshop postponed

The Organizing Committee of the UN-SPIDER Regional Workshop: "Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management and Emergency Response for Africa", planned for 25 to 28 May 2010, has decided to postpone the event to a later date due to the upcoming National elections in Ethiopia which will be held just before the planned UN-SPIDER event and which might cause logistical inconveniences. We will inform you immediately once a new date has been identified by the Organizing Committee. Kindly note that all those who have applied will not need to reapply.

Please check the Workshop website for updates >> [UN-SPIDER Africa Workshop](#)

6. Understanding Risk – Join the Dialogue

For those interested in discussing risk we suggest you join the "Understanding Risk Community" Forum which has several session topics you can contribute to and learn from. This is an opportunity for sharing your knowledge and expertise. The discussion threads generated in this on-line forum will determine the content of live sessions that will take place at the Understanding Risk Conference to be held from 1 to 4 June 2010 at The World Bank in Washington D.C.

For further information >> [Understanding Risk](#)

Community News

7. ESA seeks to speed up emergency response

Prospective users of European space systems for civil security and defense purposes have said their top priorities are quicker response to emergencies and more assets under European, as opposed to U.S. or other foreign, control, the European Space Agency (ESA) has concluded. ESA is developing a data-relay service as part of a partnership with a future private-sector operator that would ensure quick delivery of imagery in Europe. The agency is placing laser data-relay terminals on two of its future Earth observation satellites, and similar gear will be on the data-relay satellites in geostationary orbit. During the first few days after January's earthquake in Haiti, less than a third of the satellite imagery available for Europe's Global Monitoring for Environment and Security service was from European satellites.

For further information >> [ESA](#)

8. ESA's Tiger II to support 20 water projects in Africa

ESA's TIGER II initiative has selected 20 project proposals across Africa to receive support from Earth-observation technology to learn more about the water cycle and to improve water-monitoring resources. TIGER II is based on the results and achievements of its precursor TIGER I, which sought to help African countries overcome water problems and to bridge Africa's water information gap using Earth-observation (EO) technology. A major component of TIGER II is devoted to supporting African scientists, technical centres and water authorities to develop the scientific skills and the technical capacity to make the best use of EO technology to understand better, assess and monitor the status of the water resources in Africa. The initiative is also devoted to supporting the African partners to gain a better understanding of how EO may help assess the potential impacts of climate change on water resources and thus to establish a sound scientific basis for developing effective adaptation and mitigation measures across the continent.

For further information >> [ESA](#)

9. DigitalGlobe's WorldView-2 satellite elevation data verified to be accurate within 30 centimeters

DigitalGlobe today announced that the elevation data gathered from its latest high-resolution satellite, WorldView-2, has been verified as accurate within 30 centimeters by PhotoSat based on data collected by MWH Geo-Surveys. To conduct the test, PhotoSat constructed an elevation grid using automatic geophysical processing of 50-centimeter ground resolution stereo satellite images taken by DigitalGlobe's WorldView-2 satellite. The resulting elevations were then referenced against more than 20,000 gravity survey stations which had previously been established as being accurate to better than two centimeters.

For further information >> [DigitalGlobe](#)

10. Thales begins development of Sentinel 1B and 3B environmental satellites

Thales Alenia Space has started the development of Sentinel 1B and 3B Earth observation satellites in its Italian and French facilities. These contracts have been awarded to Thales Alenia Space in December 2009, worth 270 million Euros, by the European Space Agency (ESA) as part of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme. As prime contractor for Sentinel 1 and Sentinel 3 constellations, Thales Alenia Space is responsible for the design, development, integration, and testing of these satellites.

Sentinel 1B and 3B satellites are the duplicate models of Sentinel 1A and 3A satellites that are currently under construction. The satellites are manufactured in the French facility of Cannes as well as in the Italian facilities of Rome and L'Aquila.

For further information >> [SpaceDaily](#)

11. New UN satellite standards to boost communications in emergencies

New radio-communication standards for satellite services that could be used to save greater lives in the wake of natural disasters have been approved, the United Nations International Telecommunications Union (ITU) announced today. "Establishing communications in the aftermath of a disaster is vital to facilitate rapid and

effective rescue and rehabilitation efforts,” said the agency’s Secretary-General Hamadoun Touré. He called on satellite operators and others “to support the development of robust, comprehensive, early warning and relief systems to mitigate emergencies and disasters at the national, regional and international levels.”

The recommendations include information on the range of radio frequencies that can be used by fixed satellite systems for emergency and disaster relief operations. Recognizing the urgent need for reliable telecommunications links following disasters, such as the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, ITU has joined global efforts to deploy satellite terminals and earth stations to re-establish basic communication links.

For further information >> [UN News Centre](#)

12. 'Jugnu' nano-satellite for vegetation monitoring developed

“Jugnu” is a new nano-satellite developed by the IIT Kanpur in association with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). The project was launched in 2008 by a small team of students and today it includes more than 45 students and 14 professors. “Jugnu” is planned to be launched into orbit later this year.

The life span of this nano-satellite is set for one year during which it will perform several missions from studying the vegetation patterns to water bodies and soil by using Near-IR camera. “Jugnu” will provide valuable information regarding flood, drought and disaster management. The low weight and cost-effective nano-satellite could play a significant role in the future of satellite development activity.

For further information >> [IITK](#)

Conferences and Workshops

We maintain a Calendar of Events with upcoming Conferences, Meetings and Events relevant to the area of space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response. The Calendar can be viewed at:

www.un-spider.org/events

ISPRS/ESPI/IAA/IISL conference on current legal issues for satellite earth observation, 8-9 April 2010, Vienna, Austria

This Conference deals with two important and topical aspects of satellite Earth observation: treaty monitoring and law enforcement through satellite Earth observation, privacy conflicts from high resolution imagery. It brings together experts from the remote sensing and in the legal fields. It i. a. aims at decision-makers in the field of treaty monitoring and international law enforcement (foreign and environment ministries, international organizations). This provides the unique opportunity to discuss the different implications stemming from the technology developments and applications as well as from legal and regulatory perspectives. The focus of the discussions at this Conference is to optimize the regulatory framework for satellite Earth observation thus supporting the full implementation of its potentials.

For more information: [ESPI](#)

International Training Course on Application of Space Technology for Disaster Management Support with Emphasis on Geological Risk Management, 12 April – 07 May 2010, Dehradun, India

The course will take place from 12 April until 07 May, the venue is the Indian Institute for Remote Sensing, Dehradun, India, and is organized by the UN-affiliated CSSTEAP, the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, and ITC.

For more information: [CSSTEAP](#)

Training Course: Building web maps using the ArcGIS API for Javascript, 28-29 April, Nyon, Switzerland

Overview: GIS professionals are increasingly being asked to create high-performing, modern-looking Web maps to share their authoritative GIS content. This course teaches how to create Web maps that are attractive, fast, and easy to use by their intended audience. In course exercises, you build a lightweight, focused Web map that utilizes internal and external ArcGIS Server Web services. You also learn how to access and configure ESRI sample viewers for rapid Web application development.

Audience: This course is designed for GIS analysts and others who want to create attractive, high-performing Web mapping applications to extend the use of GIS data to non-GIS departments within an organization or to the general public via the Internet. No Web development experience is required.

For more information and registration: [ESRI](#)

Upcoming UN-SPIDER Outreach Activities

Information on upcoming UN-SPIDER outreach activities can be obtained from the events section of the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal:

www.un-spider.org/events

Upcoming UN-SPIDER events

UN-SPIDER Regional Workshop *Building upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management and Emergency Response for Africa*, --POSTPONED--, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Recognizing the fact that the African continent is particularly prone to devastating natural disasters and susceptible to the negative effects of climate change, UN-SPIDER is organising this continental wide workshop aiming at bringing together experts from both the disaster management and the geospatial communities. The regional workshop is intended to further strengthen capacities in Africa to better respond to future disasters by taking advantage of space-based information.

For more information and registration: [UN-SPIDER Events](#)

Upcoming events supported by UN-SPIDER

Special Session of the SPIDER Thematic Partnership *LAC Space-based Applications for Managing Risk Reduction and Emergency Response in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Wednesday 14 April 2010, 18:00 - 20:00, Santa Marta, Colombia during the II Hemispheric Encounter on National Mechanisms and Networks for Risk Reduction, 14-16 April 2010

Space Agencies from Colombia, Argentina, Chile (tbc), and Ecuador (tbc); as well as representatives of Thermopylae Science and Technology will make presentations on their activities targeting the use of space-based information for disaster-risk management, followed by a discussion regarding the SPIDER Thematic Partnership LAC, with the aim of establishing a Plan of Action for this Partnership.

For more information about the UN-SPIDER Special Session: [UN-SPIDER Events](#), for more information about the event and registration: [Encuentro Sta Marta](#)

II Escuela de Primavera sobre Soluciones Espaciales para el Manejo de Desastres Naturales y Respuestas de Emergencias - Sequia y Desertificación, 19-23 April 2010, Rosario, Argentina

Este evento, apoyado por UNOOSA y su programa ONU-SPIDER, tiene como objetivo la capacitación de profesionales de América Latina en el uso de la tecnología espacial para el manejo de desastres naturales y respuestas a las emergencias, con énfasis en eventos de sequia y desertificación.

Language of the event is Spanish. For more information: [UN-SPIDER Events](#)

Workshop on Space Technology Application in Disaster Reduction, 5-7 May 2010, Beijing, China

This workshop is organised by the National Disaster Reduction Center, Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Beijing in order to strengthen capacity-building among the member countries of ICDO against disasters. To be held at the same time in Beijing is the "Integrated Disaster Reduction and Sustainable Development Forum".

For more information contact Mr. Shirish Ravan: shirish.ravan@unoosa.org

Fourth Central Asia GIS Conference - GISCA 2010 Water: Life, Risk, Energy and Landuse, 27-28 May 2010, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The Austria-Central Asia Centre for GIScience at the Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transportation and Architecture, and the Centre for Geoinformatics (Z_GIS), University of Salzburg, Austria are proud to announce the 4th GIS-in-Central-Asia Conference - GISCA 2010. The main objectives of this conference are to bring together GIS academics, researchers and practitioners in the Central Asian countries and encourage international cooperation and knowledge exchange in GIS education.

In 2010, GISCA is focused on the main theme of WATER:

- Life: WATER for drinking and agriculture
- Risk: WATER posing a threat to settlements
- Energy: WATER for renewable hydropower
- Landuse: WATER controlling regional landuse

For more information and registration: [gisca10](#)

Second Ukrainian conference Earth Observations for Sustainable Development and Security (GEO/GMES – Ukraine), 14-17 June 2010, Kyiv, Ukraine

The Conference represents the perfect opportunity to demonstrate the latest innovations, achievements and practical results in the area of space information technologies. Goal of the Conference is to discuss the prospects of aero- and space-born data utilization for natural resources management, sustainable development and security in course of GEOSS, GMES, INSPIRE activities and establishment of the Ukrainian segment of GEOSS (GEO-UA system).

International researchers and experts interested in Earth observation data application will have the opportunity to present and discuss results and ideas with focus on the following areas:

- Disaster reduction: flooding, forest and field fires, water, air and soil pollution;
- Understanding and adapting to climate variability and change;
- Management and protection of ecosystems;
- Sustainable agriculture;
- Sea and ocean problems.

A UN-SPIDER related Special Session (Workshop) will be held during the conference. Further information and registration forms will be published as soon as they are available.

For more information and registration: [Kyiv Conference](#)

*The **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)** implements the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. The Office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and assisting developing countries in using space science and technology. Headquartered in Vienna, Austria, UNOOSA maintains a website at <http://www.unoosa.org>.*

*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 programme within UNOOSA. UN-SPIDER focuses on the need to ensure access to and use of space-based solutions during all phases of the disaster management cycle.*