



## OCTOBER 2012 UPDATES

### UN-SPIDER AT A GLANCE

#### **UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory Mission to Solomon Islands concluded**

At the request of the Government of the Solomon Islands, UN-SPIDER carried out a Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) from 24 to 28 September 2012. The goal was to evaluate the current and potential use of space-based information in all the aspects of disaster management and to strengthen disaster risk management as well as response in the country by providing better access to space-based information. The mission began with pre-TAM discussions between the mission team and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) of Solomon Islands. The mission team visited several institutions during the first three days, including the Ministry of Mines, the National Geographic Information Centre, Ministry of Infrastructure & Development, the School of Natural Resources and the Marine Department. The mission team also met with representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The mission team recommended NDMO to lead efforts to seek ways for institutions to share data, including through partnerships and networks. In addition, the mission team encouraged NDMO to engage itself with the Sentinel Asia mechanism as a way to enhance its capacity to take advantage of space-based information in case of disasters.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

#### **UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory Mission to Mozambique concluded**

At the request of the Government of Mozambique, through the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC), UN-SPIDER carried out a Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) to Mozambique from 7 to 14 October 2012. A mission team of nine experts from UN-SPIDER, Germany, the United States and South Africa evaluated the current and potential use of space-based information for disaster and risk management. The mission team visited various government

agencies and ministries during the first three days of the mission such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Institute of Meteorology or the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs. These meetings provided insight to these ministries' roles in disaster management with an emphasis on space-based and geospatial information. A workshop bringing together 60 experts concluded the TAM. The mission team recommended INGC to increase its capacities on the use of GIS and remote sensing applications as a way to integrate geo-spatial products into its activities and to promote the establishment of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure as a way to encourage the exchange of data and its use among agencies.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

#### **VALID project: Results of Stakeholder Assessment Part I available**

The results of the first stakeholder assessment of the VALID project are now available on the Knowledge Portal. The project is carried out by UN-SPIDER and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS). The goal of VALID (The Value of Geo Information for Disaster and Risk Management) is to raise awareness of decision-makers in governmental and administrative bodies, disaster management professionals and other stakeholders regarding the potential of geospatial technologies for disaster and risk management. The intention is to provide evidence of the economic, humanitarian, operational and organizational benefits of geo-spatial information. The overall results are envisaged to be published as a booklet in the summer of 2013. The results of the first stakeholder assessment are also available in an article entitled "Applying Geoinformation to Disaster and Risk Management: Impact and Benefits" published in the September 2012 issue of the Directions Magazine

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)





### **UN-SPIDER organizes side-event at 2012 AMCDRR**

On the sidelines of the 2012 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, UN-SPIDER organized a side-event on 25 October 2012. The side event “Improve DRR Practices based on the Lessons Learned from Major Disasters in Asia - A Space Technology Intervention” looked at three recent disasters in Asia: the Japan Tsunami in 2011, the Pakistan Floods and the China Yusu Earthquake 2010 and discussed the importance

of space-based information in these events. Speakers included Shirish Ravan, Head of UN-SPIDER Beijing Office, UNOOSA; Yang Siquan, Director of Remote Sensing Department of NDRCC, China; Masami SUGIURA, Senior Researcher of ADRC, Japan and Imran Iqbal, UN-SPIDER RSO coordinator, SUPARCO, Pakistan.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

## NEWS FROM OUR REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICES

### **RSO in Iran celebrates World Space Week 2012**

UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office (RSO) in Iran, hosted by the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), celebrated World Space Week 2012 (4-10 October) in Iran with several events. The RSO organized a one day conference on the topic “Using space technology for health and security” during which the keynote speakers presented several speeches on tele-medicine and food security. Another one-day conference dealt with “SAR technology and applications”. ISA furthermore held the opening ceremony for the “National GeoPortal and Data Center” and facilitated several radio and TV programs to showcase the application of space technology. Exhibitions additionally presented space technologies and astronomy in several cities

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### **CATHALAC analyses Mangrove Cover of Guatemala**

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources (MARN) in Guatemala, UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office CATHALAC (Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean) is carrying out a satellite-based analysis of the current mangrove cover of Guatemala. The experts elaborated several maps showing the cover in 2012. Various remote sensing and field data techniques were applied to conduct this research. The experts used satellite images of the periods from 2001 to 2012 including Landsat-5 TM, Landsat-7 ETM + (NASA / USGS), Hyperion (NASA) and ALOS PALSAR (JAXA).

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)



### NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

#### **UN celebrates World Space Week**

The United Nations celebrated World Space Week from 4 to 10 October 2012. The World Space Week is the largest annual space event in the world. "This Week has become a world-wide celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition," said the Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Mazlan Othman. "UNOOSA, together with its partners," she added, "has been working to bring the benefits of space to Earth, to make the seemingly remote and abstract world of outer space of concrete use to people worldwide." UNOOSA launched the World Space Week 2012 with the presentation of a Russian navigation satellite model.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

#### **UNOOSA holds Nano-Satellite Symposium in Japan**

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in cooperation with the University of Tokyo held the United Nations/Japan Nano-Satellite Symposium in Nagoya, Japan, from 10 to 13 October 2012 as part of the activities of the Basic Space Technology Initiative (BSTI) of UNOOSA. In total more than 300 participants from approximately 40 countries participated in the Symposium. The Symposium's theme was "Paradigm Shift – Changing Architectures, Technologies and Players". Under the umbrella of that topic latest technical developments, programme management and systems engineering approaches as well as the role of nano-satellites for space education were discussed.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

#### **UN: Asia-Pacific suffering 80 percent of global losses due to disasters**

The Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2012 found that, from 1970 to 2010, the average number of people at risk from yearly flooding in Asia-Pacific more than doubled from 29.5 million to 63.8 million, and the number living in cyclone-prone areas has grown from 71.8 million to 120.7 million. According to the UN report, 185 million people are exposed to annual flooding and storms in a region, a figure that has mushroomed in the past four decades due to economic growth and expanding urban populations.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

#### **4th Annual CrisisMappers Conference concluded**

The 4th International Conference of Crisis Mappers (ICCM) took place from 11 to 14 October 2012 in Washington D.C. bringing together experts, practitioners, policymakers, technologists, researchers, journalists, scholars, hackers and skilled volunteers engaged at the intersection between humanitarian crises, technology, crowdsourcing, and crisis mapping. The Conference included pre-conference training sessions, ignite talks, self-organized sessions and a simulation exercise on leveraging digital networks for humanitarian response.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

#### **International Charter again activated for Floods in Africa**

The International Charter "Space and Major Disaster" was activated twice in October for floods in Africa: Chad and Nigeria. In Nigeria, the Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) activated the Charter on 10 October, 2012. The flood situation in Nigeria, which already led to an activation in late September for Kogi State had taken crisis proportions after affecting Bayelsa State. For Chad, UNITAR/UNOSAT on behalf of UNICEF activated the mechanism on 10 October 2012. Heavy rains which started in early August had caused continuing floods. UN-SPIDER, upon request of its National Focal Point in Cameroon, successfully requested UNITAR/UNOSAT to extend the support of the Chad activation to the Logone et Chari district in northern Cameroon, which had also been heavily affected by the flood.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal and UN-SPIDER](#)

#### **Canadian Space Agency supports Caribbean Satellite Disaster Pilot**

The Canadian Space Agency, in close cooperation with the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), continues to be a major contributor to the Caribbean Satellite Disaster Pilot (CSDP), which is a GEO (Group on Earth Observations) project (GEO task DI-01-C5\_1). During the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season RADARSAT-2 captured some 70 high-resolution images to-date for rapid damage assessments over areas affected by hurricanes and severe tropical storms. For the past three years RADARSAT-2 has proven a unique and valuable source of cloud-free and time-critical information for the CSDP partners in the Caribbean.





Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Call for papers: 5th International Conference on Geoinformation Technologies for Natural Disaster Management**

The 5th International Conference on Geoinformation Technologies for Natural Disaster Management (GiT4NDM 2013) will be jointly organized by the Waterloo Institute for Disaster Management (WIDM) and Dewey College in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada from October 9 to 11, 2013.

The conference will provide a platform to discuss recent technical advancements and innovations in geospatial information and communication technologies as well as their innovative applications in disaster management. The theme for GiT4NDM 2013 event is “Save the Earth with Informed Solutions”. Papers are invited and the deadline for abstracts is 1 April 2013.

Read more: [igrdg.com](http://igrdg.com)

