



OCTOBER 2013 UPDATES

UN-SPIDER at a glance

Malawi: UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory Mission successfully concluded

Upon the invitation of the Government of Malawi through its Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) UN-SPIDER successfully carried out a Technical Advisory Mission to Malawi from 14 to 18 October 2013. Supported by the Government of Austria, UN-SPIDER invited nine experts with a broad range of expertise and diverse backgrounds in the space-technology sector, disaster management and crowd-sourcing to join the mission team. The team met with key national, international institutions and organisations in Malawi to discuss the current use of space-based information and technology in the country.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

UN-SPIDER and IFRC launch World Disasters Report

The 2013 edition of the World Disasters Report, with a focus on technology and the future of humanitarian action, was launched on 30 October 2013 at the Vienna International Centre. The launch was organised by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Embassy of Norway in Vienna and the Austrian Red Cross. This year's edition of the World Disasters Report highlights how the responsible use of technology offers concrete ways to make humanitarian assistance more effective, efficient and accountable. The Report details how the humanitarian community is employing technology in new and creative ways and what risks and opportunities may emerge as a result of technological advancements. A recorded webcast of the event as well as the presentations are available on the Knowledge Portal.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

China: UN-SPIDER Beijing Conference on Disaster Risk Identification, Assessment and Monitoring

The United Nations International Conference on Space-

based Technologies for Disaster Management - "Disaster Risk Identification, Assessment and Monitoring" was successfully held from 23 to 25 October 2013 in Beijing, China. 163 participants from 27 countries representing more than 60 organizations including 7 international/regional organizations, government agencies, universities, private companies and NGOs are participating in the conference. The conference brings together numerous countries that have received Technical Advisory Support from UN-SPIDER, as well as representatives of countries that are willing to work with the UN-SPIDER in the future. In addition to sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and developing networks, the conference will also serve as a platform for planning UN-SPIDER activities including Technical Advisory missions, capacity building programmes and outreach events. The conference included an international training programme on "Space Technology for Flood and Drought Risk Mapping and Assessment" was held back-to-back to the conference for 26 conference participants.

Read more and access presentations: [Knowledge Portal](#)

China: Capacity Building Programme on Space technology for Flood & Drought Risk Mapping and Assessment

From 27-31 October 2013, the UN-SPIDER Beijing Office organized a capacity building programme in Beijing, China, to strengthen the capacity of the countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. 26 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam participated in the training. The training was organized jointly with Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organisation (APSCO) and National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC). The training was conducted by the experts from UN-SPIDER Beijing Office, University of Twente (Netherlands), International Water Management Institute (Sri Lanka) and National Disaster Reduction Centre of China. During training, hands on sessions were offered



on flood risk assessment, global and regional flood risk monitoring, remote sensing based flood risk models and drought monitoring and risk assessment.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

China: Interactive training session for NDRCC

From 21 to 22 October 2013, the UN-SPIDER Beijing office organized an interactive training session in Beijing, China to strengthen the capacity of the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC) to effectively embed Space technologies in their activities. Focusing on disaster risk assessment (especially flood and drought), relief needs assessment, situation analysis, early warning systems, and international standards related to disaster prevention and mitigation, the experts from the Delta University (United States), UNOCHA Thailand, University of Twente (Netherlands), International Water Management Institute (Sri Lanka) and Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) of UNDP shared their experience and best practices

in using space technology and geospatial information in disaster management.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

Internships at UN-SPIDER's Vienna or Bonn offices

UN-SPIDER is looking for interns to support our work in the Vienna and Bonn offices in the areas of online communication, remote sensing and knowledge management. Applicants for an internship must be enrolled in a full-time university degree programme (Master's or equivalent) in a graduate school (second university degree or higher), or, if applicants are pursuing their studies in countries where higher education is not divided into undergraduate and graduate stages, they must have completed at least four years of full-time studies at a university or equivalent institution towards the completion of a degree. Please note, that internships at UN-SPIDER are non-remunerated. Deadline for application is 12 November 2013.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

News from our Regional Support Offices

Columbia: IGAC organizes Geomatics week

From 30 September to 4 October 2013, UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office in Colombia, IGAC, organized the "Geomatic Week 2013" in Bogota. The congress which is held every two years, brought together international and national experts, professionals, students, and representatives of government agencies, academia, and the private sector to discuss recent advances on the generation and use of geo-spatial information with a particular focus on land-use planning. The event targeted the use of geospatial technologies developed through Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing, Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) and Digital Mapping - to contribute to land-use planning efforts. As part of the congress, UN-SPIDER facilitated a closed workshop with representatives of government agencies which collaborate with the Risk Management Unit of the Presidency of the Republic to develop a protocol regarding the request for activation of international mechanisms such as the International Charter: Space and Major Disasters and others established by the Space community.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

UNOOSA Director visits Regional Support Office in I.R. Iran

On 17 October 2013, UNOOSA's Director, Mazlan Othman, visited UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office (RSO) in the Islamic Republic of Iran, hosted by the Iran Space Agency (ISA). In the Alborz Space Centre, the experts presented UN-SPIDER RSO activities and services. Other topics discussed included dust storm monitoring in the Middle East, mapping of incoming solar radiation, drought monitoring and forecasting, the National Remote Sensing Laboratory and ISA's Spectral Library Database. The RSO experts also took the opportunity to present their Geo-Portal and E-Learning system. The E-Learning system is operational both in English and Farsi languages. A draft version of the first English training course entitled "Introduction to Disaster Management" will be uploaded to the E-Learning system soon. Additional modules for the E-Learning system especially in the field of Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction using space technology are currently being developed.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)





ICIMOD announces Grants Programme for geospatial Tools and Services

UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office located in Nepal, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), has announced a Request for Proposals for the SERVIR-Himalaya Small Grants Program. The goal of the programme is to help growing the network of organizations,

universities and institutions within the Hindu Kush-Himalaya region that utilize geospatial tools and services to improve decision-making related to sustainable mountain development with a special focus on climate adaptation, vulnerability or mitigation. Deadline for submitting a Concept Paper is **15 December 2013**.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

News from our Community

Africa: 2013 TIGER workshop held

From 21 to 22 October 2013, UN-SPIDER participated in the TIGER workshop 2013, held in Tunis, Tunisia. The overall scope of the TIGER initiative is to assist African countries to overcome problems faced in the collection, analysis and use of water related geo-information by exploiting the advantages of Earth Observation (EO) technology. More than 100 participants coming from 21 different African nations, engaging 16 national ministries, 5 river basin authorities as well as 16 international stakeholders and development agencies, attended the event reflecting the wide partnership and involvement of the African community, on which the TIGER initiative builds its strength and success.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

Haiti: New geoportal for spatial and environmental data launched

After four years of field research and analytic support provided to the Republic of Haiti and multiple partners there, the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) has launched the Haiti GeoPortal, as CIESIN reported on their website. Featuring an online interactive map component, the Haiti Geoportal is designed to let communities and partners download maps that provide benchmarks for core integrated development indicators, household socio-economic variables, and environmental features. The data covers geographic extents that range from national scale to local communities in Haiti.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

India and US to launch joint weather satellite

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will jointly build and launch an all-weather satellite to support disaster and risk management. The satellite will contribute to the understanding of the movement of tectonic

plates, the manifestations and effects of climate change and the estimation of crop and tree cover. The satellite will be launched onboard an Indian rocket in 2019 or 2020.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

ESA: Making satellite flood maps easily available

The European Space Agency ESA has helped to create a service that makes flood maps available simply via the Internet. ESA has collaborated with Capgemini, GeoVille Information Systems, Vienna University of Technology and Luxembourg's Gabriel Lippmann research centre to develop a simple, easy-to-use system that could be available to anyone online, as the agency reported on their website. Near-real-time satellite radar measurements are processed to create location-specific flood maps and can be accessed via the Internet.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

China: Fengyun Weather Satellite successfully launched

In late September, China's Long March 4C launch vehicle launched the Fengyun 3C meteorological satellite from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center. SpaceFlight101 reported: "FY-3 satellites carry a single sun-tracking solar array and feature a satellite bus capable of carrying a number of payloads to provide global all-weather Earth observations in multiple spectral bands. The satellites also support three dimensional imaging."

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

Southeast Asian Nations collaborate on satellite fire data

Future.gov reported that the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have formally agreed to adopt the haze monitoring system and share satellite data to help locate fires. The \$100,000 monitoring system developed in Singapore will be



implemented in Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

United Nations celebrate International Day for Disaster Reduction

On 13 October 2013, the United Nations observed the 2013 International Day for Disaster Reduction. This year the focus of the International Day for Disaster Reduction is on the nearly one billion people around the world who live with some form of disability. Representing one-fifth of the world's population, persons living with disabilities have unique contributions, often overlooked, to help reduce the risk of disasters and build resilient societies and communities. The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged to include persons with disabilities in disaster resilience initiatives and policy planning.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

SPOT Vegetation: New portal for free satellite data

The research organisation VITO has launched a new portal that makes accessible SPOT Vegetation data: www.vito-

eodata.be. All VEGETATION products older than three months are available free of charge. VITO elaborates: "For SPOT-VEGETATION users, the main difference with the previous portal is, that all VEGETATION products older than three months are freely available: the P-, global S1 and S10 data." Via this portal VITO will also distribute all Earth observation data and products processed by VITO.

Read more: [Knowledge Portal](#)

International Charter activated six times in October 2013

The International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" was activated six times in October to provide space-based information for disaster response. The mechanism was triggered for Cyclone Phailin in India, for the earthquake in Bohol Island in the Philippines, for the landslide on Izu Oshima Island in Japan, for the intense bush fires in Australia, for Typhoon Nari in Vietnam and for the floods in Cambodia. For most of these activations the images or image products are already available online.

Read more: [International Charter](#)

Upcoming events

11-22 November 2013, Sanya, China: Training Workshop on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation

In response to the needs of developing countries in disaster risk reduction, the CAS-TWAS Centre of Excellence on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation (STDM) in collaboration with the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) under the auspices of UNESCO will organize this training workshop to enhance the capacity of institutions in developing countries to tackle disaster issues using advanced space technologies. The workshop collects information on international best practices with applications to a variety of events, especially floods, droughts, earthquakes, tropical cyclones and storms. It stretches over a two-week period, covering both theoretical and practical aspects on the use of space technologies for disaster reduction.

Read more: [Radi](#)

9-11 December 2013, Hanoi, Vietnam: 9th International Conference on Geoinformation for Disaster Management (Gi4DM)

Geo-information for Disaster management (Gi4DM) is an annual conference devoted to the use and the application of geo-information technology in disaster management. Gi4DM 2013 will take place from 9 to 11 December 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The fundamental goal of the conference is to provide a forum where disaster/disaster-risk managers, stakeholders, researchers, data providers and system developers can discuss challenges, share experience, discuss new ideas, demonstrate technology and analyse future research toward better support of risk and disaster management activities.

Read more: [Gi4DM](#)

