



## UN-SPIDER June 2009 Updates

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

### **1. Four UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices officially launched in signing ceremony**

During the 52nd Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs signed cooperation agreements to establish UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices with the I.R. Iran, Nigeria, Romania, and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center. The establishment of the Regional Support Offices was agreed by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 61/110, stating that UNOOSA should “work closely with regional and national centres of expertise in the use of space technology in disaster management to form a network of regional support offices for implementing the activities of the [UN-SPIDER] programme in their respective regions in a coordinated manner and to take advantage of the important experience and capabilities being offered, and to be offered, by Member States, particularly by developing countries”. These four Regional Support Offices will contribute to ensuring that all countries are able to access and use space-based information to support disaster management activities. Additional offers to host a Regional Support Office have been put forward by Algeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa and Ukraine.

*For more information >> [UN-SPIDER](#)*

### **2. Launch of the “SPIDER Global Thematic Partnership”**

The Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Geneva on 15-19 June 2009. At the session, UN-SPIDER culminated its year-long effort towards the establishment of the “SPIDER Global Thematic Partnership”. This partnership will serve as a forum to facilitate networking among the global community of practitioners involved in space-based information and services to support disaster risk management. UN-SPIDER is launching this Global Thematic Partnership as an effort to facilitate the access to space-based information for disaster reduction, in line with efforts conducted by ISDR, in particular to support national and regional platforms in their activities regarding disaster risk reduction. If your institution is interested in joining this Partnership please contact Mr. Juan Carlos Villagran (E-mail: [juan-carlos.villagran \[at\] unoosa.org](mailto:juan-carlos.villagran@unoosa.org)).

*For more information >> [ISDR](#)*

### **3. UN-SPIDER International Workshop in Vienna**

The United Nations International UN-SPIDER Vienna Workshop: “Building Capacities to Reduce Disasters” which took place on 2-4 June 2009 and had the support of the Government of Austria, brought together 78 participants from 34 countries. The objectives of the workshop were to present the most recent advances in space-based technologies for disaster management and emergency response, to review and finalize the proposed Capacity-Building Strategy, and to provide continuity to activities being conducted by UN-SPIDER in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), particularly in the context of climate change and disaster risk management. The workshop was organized to coincide with the 52nd Session of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), allowing delegates from Member States attending the COPUOS session to be present at various segments of the workshop. The workshop set the stage for UN-SPIDER to advance its agenda in the context of capacity building, bridging the gap, and SIDS. The establishment of an Expert Group

on Capacity Building will allow UN-SPIDER to advance in the elaboration of the curricula, and subsequently in the collection and classification of contents to be included in training programmes. Finally, the results of the discussions held on bridging the gap finalised the proposal for a “SPIDER Global Thematic Partnership” which was launched during the Second Session of the GPDRR and also contributed to shaping the proposed SpaceAID framework.

*For more information including list of participants and the meeting notes >> [UN-SPIDER](#)*

#### **4. Special Event at the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction: Accessing space-based information to support disaster risk reduction**

The UN-SPIDER Programme, the Secretariat of GEO, ADRC, and UNESCAP conducted the above Special Event to discuss how space-based information is used in disaster risk reduction and disaster response and recovery; to share lessons learned and best practices; and to provide key information on applications, portals, and emerging trends. UN-SPIDER also took the opportunity to launch the SPIDER Global Thematic Partnership (see above).

*For more information including the presentations and session report >> [ISDR](#)*

#### **5. DMCii satellite imaging monitors Indonesian forests**

DMC International Imaging Ltd (DMCii) will demonstrate the value of its coordinated multi-satellite optical imagery for tropical forest monitoring in Indonesia. Earth observation technology can help monitor global forests with varying spatial resolutions and regularity. Up-to-date information is important in improving the effective management of forests and in controlling carbon emissions under the Kyoto strategy for combating climate change. The objective of the project in Indonesia is to demonstrate the benefits of a multi-sensor approach for systematic wide area monitoring of tropical forests at high resolution, exploiting the unique capabilities of the Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC) along with complementary data from synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellites which have all-weather acquisition capabilities.

*Full Story >> [EarthZine](#)*

#### **6. New NOAA Satellite Reaches Orbit**

On 27 June NOAA and NASA officials announced a new Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) successfully reached orbit, joining three other GOES spacecraft that help NOAA forecasters track life-threatening weather and solar storms. “Reliable satellite coverage helps us see severe weather as it develops,” said Mary E. Kicza, assistant administrator for NOAA’s Satellite and Information Service. “With more than a thousand tornadoes touching down in the United States each year, and hurricanes a serious risk to residents along the Gulf and East coastlines, it’s critical GOES-14 is in orbit and ready when needed.”

*Full Story >> [NOAA](#)*

#### **7. ASTER Global Digital Elevation Model distribution started**

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have collaborated on a project to develop the ASTER Global Digital Elevation Model (ASTER GDEM) to cover all lands on Earth. Distribution of the ASTER Global Digital Elevation Model has started on June 29, 2009.

*For more information >> [ASTER](#)*

#### **8. New fact sheet describes asteroid threat to earth**

Secure World Foundation (SWF) has released a new fact sheet: Protecting Earth from Near Earth Objects. Over the past decade a growing amount of research has begun to identify the types of objects that pose threats to Earth and potential mitigation strategies. The new fact sheet from SWF introduces Near Earth Objects, details methods in dealing with the threat, and discusses policy and legal issues.

*Fact sheet >> [Secure World Foundation \(pdf\)](#)*

## 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:

<http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=h1a93vb3rk6ud1tvrequisfk8s%40group.calendar.google.com>

### **3rd Central Asia GIS Conference - GISCA'09, "GIScience for Environmental and Emergency Management in Central Asia", in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 27-28 August 2009**

This conference will be hosted by the Kyrgyz State University for Construction, Transportation & Architecture and supported by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA); the conference will bring together practitioners from Central Asian countries. Topics to be discussed include GIS for Environmental Management, Emergency Management, and Health; New Trends and Technologies in GIS&T; Spatial Data Infrastructures; and Educational Programmes. UN-SPIDER will be organising a pre-conference meeting on 26 August 2009 and will be providing funding support for experts from the disaster management community to attend this meeting as well as the conference.

*For more information >> [Austria-Central Asia Centre for GIScience](#)*

### **AfricaGIS 2009: "Geo-spatial Information and Sustainable Development in Africa" in Kampala, Uganda, 26-30 October 2009**

The "AfricaGIS 2009" International Conference is one of the leading geospatial conferences in Africa and provides a platform where geo-information professionals from Africa and around the world come together to learn and interact about geo-information technology and its applications. UNOOSA is supporting this Conference and will be co-organising a special session on space-based information for risk and disaster management. Funding will be available for travel support for selected participants that have their paper accepted to be presented in this special session.

*For more information >> [Conference website](#)*

### **[CALL FOR PAPERS] Joint International Workshop of ISPRS WG IV/1, WG VIII/1, and WG IV/3, on "Geospatial Data Cyber Infrastructure and Real-time Services with special emphasis on Disaster Management" in Hyderabad, India, 25-27 November 2009**

The workshop aims at bringing together international state-of-the-art research and future trends in the field of geospatial spatial data cyber-infrastructure and real-time services with special emphasis on disaster management. The workshop is also meant to be an interdisciplinary forum for leading researchers to present the latest developments and applications, to discuss cutting edge technology, to exchange research ideas and to promote international collaboration in the related areas. Abstracts not exceeding 1000 words are to be submitted electronically to the Workshop Secretariat (E-mail: [isprs \[at\] incois.gov.in](mailto:isprs[at]incois.gov.in)) by August 15, 2009.

*For more information >> [Incois \(coming soon\)](#)*

### **Pacific Islands GIS&RS User Conference 2009, in Suva, Fiji, 1-4 December 2009**

The above conference will take place from 1 - 4 December 2009 at the University of South Pacific, Lower Campus, Faculty of Islands and Oceans, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. UN-SPIDER will be supporting this event and encourages all experts interested in joining the leading geospatial conference in the Pacific region to attend and contribute.

*For more information >> [PACINET](#)*

## Upcoming UN-SPIDER Outreach Activities:

Further information on the following planned workshops can be obtained from the outreach activities section of the UN-SPIDER webpage: <http://www.unoosa.org/osa/en/unspider/workshops.html>

**UN-SPIDER Regional Workshop: "Space Applications for Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response in Latin America", in Quito, Ecuador, 29 September - 2 October 2009**

**Third United Nations International UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop: "From Concepts to Application", in Bonn, Germany, 21-23 October 2009**

## Upcoming Events Supported by UN-SPIDER

**3rd Central Asia GIS Conference - GISCA'09, "GIScience for Environmental and Emergency Management in Central Asia" in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 27-28 August 2009**

**II Escuela de Primavera sobre Soluciones Espaciales para el Manejo de Desastres Naturales y Respuestas de Emergencias (UN-SPIDER/GEOSS Spring School), Argentina, October 2009 (Organized by UN-SPIDER/GEOSS/CONAE/CRECTEALC)**

**AfricaGIS 2009: "Geo-spatial Information and Sustainable Development in Africa" in Kampala, Uganda, 26-30 October 2009**

**Pacific Islands GIS&RS User Conference 2009, in Suva, Fiji, 1-4 December 2009**

*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.*