



## JUNE 2017 UPDATES

### UN-SPIDER at a glance

#### **60th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space takes place in Vienna**

The 60th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) took place in Vienna from 7 to 16 June 2017. COPUOS was set up by the General Assembly in 1959 to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, security and development. The Committee has since been tasked with reviewing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, studying space-related activities that could be undertaken by the United Nations, encouraging space research programmes, and studying legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space. A panel discussion organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the theme “The Outer Space Treaty: 50 years – looking ahead towards 2030” was also held on Wednesday, 7 June 2017.

For additional information, please visit the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

#### **UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices convene for 8th annual meeting**

The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), a programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), held the 8th annual meeting of its Regional Support Offices (RSO) in Vienna from 6 to 8 June 2017. Participating RSO representatives discussed ongoing efforts related to capacity-building, institutional strengthening, and knowledge management. Issues pertaining to horizontal cooperation, technical advisory support, the preparation of specific publications and content for the Knowledge Portal, as well on-going contributions to workshops and conferences, were also addressed. The outcomes from the annual meeting will now feed into the proposed work UN-SPIDER will be looking to carry out in coming year, with the continued support of the RSO network

For additional information, please visit the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

#### **UNOOSA co-organizes Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference**

UNOOSA co-organized the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC) in Cancun, Mexico, which took place from 22 to 26 May 2017 in conjunction with the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The MHEWC focussed on how countries can improve the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warnings as well as risk information and assessments.

UNOOSA co-led the opening session with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), “Risk informed early warnings – the first mile”, and also teamed up with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to host a side event, on behalf of eight additional partners, on “How to strengthen Drought Early Warning Systems”. The keynote presentations during the side-event addressed the topic of “Strengthening Drought Early Warning Systems” and FAO’s Agricultural Stress Index System (ASIS). The need to implement Drought Early Warning Systems as part of national drought policies was emphasized during the event.

For additional information, please visit the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

#### **Stakeholders gather in Cancun for Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017 took place in Cancun, Mexico, from 24 to 26 May 2017. This highly regarded international forum dedicated to the disaster risk reduction agenda drew in over 5000 participants from across the globe. It marked the first opportunity for the international community to review global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was adopted in Japan in 2015.

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, as recognized by the UN General Assembly, is considered the main convention at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the review





of progress in the execution of international instruments on disaster risk reduction. It is now the world's foremost gathering of stakeholders committed to reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations. The Global Platform sessions were therefore critically important for the exchange of ideas and concepts directly relating to the unified vision of achieving key Sendai Framework targets.

For additional information, please visit the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

### **Global Partnership Using Space-based Technology Applications for Disaster Risk Reduction holds side-event at 2017 Global Platform**

The Global Partnership Using Space-based Technology Applications for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP-STAR) held a side event on 26 May 2017 during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun, Mexico. The event sought to disseminate information on the key themes and aims of the platform, as well as to provide practical examples of applications and a discussion of the proposed vision for enhancing the use of DRR at a national level.

The side event focused on examples of the role of space-based applications in disaster risk reduction, allowing for discussions. The GP-STAR brochure was also introduced to the participants.

For additional information, please visit the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

### **UN-SPIDER newsletter outlines engagement in promoting science and technology in the implementation of the Sendai Framework**

In this newsletter, UN-SPIDER outlines its engagement in promoting science and technology in the implementation of the Sendai Framework. It presents the Strengthening Early Warning Systems for Drought (SEWS-D) project and two networks UN-SPIDER is part of that contribute to this objective: the International Network on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (IN-MHEWS) and the Global Partnership Using Space-based Technology Applications for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP-STAR). Global efforts to address droughts and the role of Early Warning Systems are discussed in an interview with Daniel Tsegai, Programme Officer at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Finally, UNOOSA Director Simonetta Di Pippo writes about the UNISPACE+50 process launched by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and supported by UNOOSA with the objective of formulating a long-term vision for the use of space - the Space2030 agenda.

The newsletter can be accessed directly on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

## New resources available on the Knowledge Portal

### **UN-SPIDER publishes new Recommended Practice to assess burn severity following wildfires**

UN-SPIDER has recently introduced a new Recommended Practice to support the assessment of areas affected by wildfires. The methodology seeks to contribute to the monitoring of wildfires by examining post-fire burn severity images. This distinct practice takes into consideration the widespread reach of forest fires and involves evaluating vast areas of land via two primary methods: on the ground and with remote sensing tools. The methodology laid out combines the use of Landsat 8 pre- and post-fire imagery and of the Normalized Burn Ratio (NBR) index. In line with UN-SPIDER's mandate, the Recommended Practices cover various phases of the disaster management cycle.

To access the Recommended Practice, please visit the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

### **New GP-STAR brochure provides overview of space-based technology applications for disaster risk reduction**

The Global Partnership Using Space-based Technology Applications for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP-STAR) has published a brochure comprised of factsheets pertaining to the use of Earth observation and space-based technology applications, for use in the achievement of specific Sendai Framework components. This innovative brochure presents each factsheet in a unified format, describing its area of action, example product, application field, methodology, key results, innovative impact, application status and background information.

For additional information and access to the brochure, please visit the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).



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## News from our community

### International Charter Activations

The International Charter “Space and Major Disasters” has been activated several times since the beginning of May 2017. It was activated due to floods in Canada on 6 May 2017, at the request of Public Safety Canada; on 13 May 2017 due to floods in Chile, at the request of ONEMI; on 25 and 26 May 2017 due to fires in Russia, at the request of EMERCOM of Russia; on 28 May due to floods in Sri Lanka, at the request of USGS on behalf of the Disaster Management Center of Sri Lanka; on 30 May 2017 due to floods in Bangladesh, at the request of UNITAR-UNOSAT on behalf of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; on 6 June 2017 due to floods in Uruguay, at the request of Sistema Nacional de Emergencias - Presidencia de la República; on 12 June 2017 due to fires in South Africa at the request of the US Geological Survey on behalf of Directorate: Disaster Risk Reduction, Western Cape Government; on 13 June due to floods in Honduras, at the request of the US Geological Survey on behalf of Municipios del Golfo de Fonseca/MUGOLFO Honduras; and on 24 June due to a landslide in China, at the request of the National Disaster Reduction Center of China.

For additional information, please visit the website of the [International Charter Space & Major Disasters](#).

### UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory Mission focal point in Lao PDR contributes to report on Big EO Data

The UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) focal point in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic recently contributed to a report entitled, “Well Using of Big EO Data to Support Geo-earth Cognition of the Belt and Road”. The “Digital Belt and Road” (DBAR) has established the Big Data Working Group (DBAR-DATA) to promote the building of capacity in the use of Earth observation data in order to overcome the data gap between data rich countries and data-poor countries, so as to enhance the spatial application capacity of data-poor countries, and support the realization of sustainable development goals. At present, experts from China, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Thailand, and the European Union have participated in the work of the DBAR-DATA on space data service and application, on behalf of many institutions and companies.

To access the publication, please visit the [Bulletin of Chinese Academy of Sciences](#) website.

## Upcoming events

### UN-SPIDER and the Mexican Space Agency to hold regional expert meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), through its UN-SPIDER programme, and the Mexican Space Agency (AEM) will conduct a Regional Expert Meeting with the support of Mexico’s National Centre for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED) and the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (RECTEALC) from 11 to 13 July 2017 at the premises of CENAPRED, in Mexico City. The meeting will bring together experts from Latin America to address ways in which space-based technologies can be used to improve Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems in this region.

More information about the expert meeting is available on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

### UN-SPIDER and the Directorate for Civil Protection of El Salvador to conduct a training course in July 2017

UN-SPIDER and the General Directorate for Civil Protection of El Salvador (DGPC) are joining forces to conduct a week-long training course focusing on general remote sensing techniques and two UN-SPIDER Recommended Practices: droughts and floods. The training course will be conducted from 24 to 28 July 2017 in San Salvador, El Salvador, and will be conducted by experts from the Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC, in its role as one of the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices) and from the Federal University of Santa Maria in Rio Sul, Brazil.

For more information on the training course, please see the event description on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).



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### **UN-SPIDER, SENACYT and CONRED of Guatemala to conduct a training course in July 2017**

UN-SPIDER, the National Secretariat of the Council of Science and Technology of Guatemala (SENACYT) and the National Coordinating Agency for Disaster Reduction of Guatemala (CONRED) are working together to conduct a three-day long training course focusing on the UN-SPIDER Recommended Practices on droughts and forest fires. The training course will be conducted from 31 July to 2 August 2017 in the premises of the GIS Laboratory of the Faculty of Agriculture of San Carlos University (USAC) and will be headed up by experts from the Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC, in its role as one of the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices) and from the Federal University of Santa Maria in Rio Sul, Brazil.

For further information, please visit the events page on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

### **United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction - Building Resilience through Integrated Applications, Beijing, 23-25 October 2017**

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs is pleased to announce the “United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction - “Building Resilience through Integrated Applications” will be held from 23 to 25 October 2017 in Beijing. The workshop has been prepared in collaboration with the China National Space Administration, the Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organisation, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific, and the World Bank.

Further details on the conference and information about how to register are available on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#).

Please note that the final deadline for registration is 28 August 2017. Online registration is mandatory for all participants.

An international training course on “Integration of Multisource Earth Observation Data for Disaster Damage Assessment” will be organized for 25 participants of the conference with the support of the Asia Pacific Space Cooperation

Organisation, the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China, and the Beihang University. Conference participants interested in attending this training programme may convey their interest to Ms. Tong TANG directly via email to tong.tang (at) unoosa.org.

### **United Nations/Germany International Conference on International Cooperation Towards Low-Emission and Resilient Societies, Bonn, 22-24 November 2017**

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Government of Germany, through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR), will conduct the United Nations / Germany Conference on “International Cooperation Towards Low-Emission and Resilient Societies”. The conference, to be conducted in Bonn, Germany, from 22 to 24 November 2017, will focus on Thematic Priority 6 of UNISPACE+50, which, under the same title as the conference, seeks to define synergies between climate change mitigation efforts, disaster risk reduction and global development. It aims to develop a road map for enhanced resiliency of space-based systems and the affiliation of existing and future Earth observation, global navigation satellite systems and telecommunication constellations for disaster risk reduction and climate change monitoring and mitigation.

The conference will bring together experts from the space and development communities, as well as decision makers, researchers and practitioners, to discuss and develop recommendations by considering Thematic Priority 6 as a way to provide input to the UNISPACE+50 process.

Please visit the events page on the [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal](#) for further information about the conference and how to register. The registration deadline is 18 August 2017.

#### **In case you missed it...**

Our Recommended Practice on Flood Mapping is now available in French.

Notre Pratique recommandée sur la cartographie des inondations est désormais disponible en français.

 [Pratique recommandée](#)



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. 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 spacebased solutions during all phases of the disaster management cycle.