

IWG-SEM Meeting

Minutes

ITHACA, Torino, 22-23/04/2013

List of Attendees

	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Notes
1	Andrea	Ajmar	ITHACA	
2	Noriko	Aso	JAXA	
3	Piero	Boccardo	ITHACA	
4	Robert	Brakenridge	DFO	
5	Marco	Broglia	EC-JRC	
6	Stephen	Clandillon	SERTIT	
7	Lorant	Czaran	UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER	
8	Fabio	Giulio Tonolo	ITHACA	
9	Brenda	Jones	USGS/EROS	
10	Jan	Kucera	EC-JRC	
11	Jörg	Roos	EC-ECHO	
12	Tobias	Schneiderhan	DLR-ZKI	Remotely
13	Max	Stephan	ITHACA	
14	Francoise	Villette	EC-ENTR	
15	Stefan	Voigt	DLR-ZKI	Remotely

Main Outcomes

The meeting started with a brief summary of the IWG-SEM history, provided by the chair (JRC/Jan Kucera), during which it was stressed the current volunteer nature of the organization and the global/international vocation. The main topics of the meeting were introduced as well, specifically:

- the emergency mapping guidelines (and the related common terminology vocabulary);
- the proposed solution to broadcast technical details of ongoing emergency activations (GeoRSS);
- the IWG-SEM chairmanship for the next 12 months period;
- The IWG-SEM membership status and way forward.

Emergency Mapping Guidelines

From the general perspective, it was stressed by several participants the need to draft a document aimed at becoming international guidelines and addressed also to non-technical/specialist readers. To this purpose, particular attention should be given to the final editing/proof-reading stage, to assure that the language would be politically-correct, not imposing and appropriate for the identified audience.

From the operational point of view, the first day's sessions and the morning session of the second day were fully spent in analyzing the current structure/content of the guidelines, providing comments and suggesting editing which were embedded in real-time in the document. The importance to consolidate the common vocabulary and to correctly adopt/reference it in the guidelines was also stressed.

Emergency Mapping Guidelines timeline and action list

At the end of the meeting the following timeline/milestones for the actions related to the Emergency Mapping Guidelines drafting were agreed, taking into account that a ready-to-be-published version (v1.0) of the document should be ready for the next IWG-SEM meeting, to be held in late October/ mid November 2013 (approx in 6 months):

- June 30, 2013: version for internal commenting (to the IWG-SEM active members)
- September 15, 2013: version for final proof-reading/editing (to USGS)
- October 15, 2013: version for final reading (to DG ENTR + DG ECHO)
- November 15, 2013: v 1.0 ready-to-be-published

Contributors

- coordination task: IWG-SEM chair
- contributors to specific section:
 - general sections (Satellite Based Emergency Mapping (SEM))
 - 2.1 (Definition), 2.2 (Code of Conduct), 2.3 (Interactions): JRC
 - 2.4 (Sharing of Satellite Data, Analysis and Mapping Results for SEM): USGS + JAXA [+ GEO, as agreed during the IWG-SEM regular teleconference held on 07.05.2013]
 - 2.5 (Mapping Product And Information Content), 2.6 (Map Template), 2.7 (Dissemination Formats): ITHACA + SERTIT + JRC (2.5 and 2.6). Use of GIO-EMS technical specifications as starting point was proposed and agreed.
 - 2.8 (Quality Assurance): DLR + SERTIT
 - event-specific section (starting with 3.1 Flood Events): DFO + ITHACA + DLR (SAR based analysis)
- editing/proof-reading: USGS
- readers: DG ENTR + DG ECHO

IWG-SEM Logo

The two logo proposals kindly prepared by DLR were commented. The attendees jointly chose the version reported below: a request to use a "projected" version of the world map - providing a global coverage - was raised (and accepted), to emphasize the international vocation of the WG. All the WG members are encouraged to provide further versions of the logo.



GeoRSS

It is highlighted that the GeoRSS feeds related to ongoing emergency activations has to be intended as a communication/sharing tool among the SEM organizations. JRC should be ready to provide operational examples, probably by the end of July.

From the technical perspective it was mentioned the need to broadcast more than one geographical point location (with the goal to include the covered AOI geometries in the message).

The availability of a central/common web site platform was also envisaged: GDACS could be an option from the technical point of view, UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER could be a valid alternative solution. The same considerations apply to the IWG-SEM website, currently hosted by GDACS. The final hosting site for both services has not been decided and confirmed yet.

Chairmanship

It was summarized that the IWG-SEM chairmanship is a voluntary function, with a 6/12 months rotation period [*during the IWG-SEM regular teleconference held on 07.05.2013, it was agreed by all the participants that the chairmanship rotation period should preferably be set to 12 months*], currently held by JRC which is now completing a full year period. The main duties of the WG chair are: organizing the monthly teleconferences, including the preparation of invitations, setting and sending the agenda (to be sent 2/3 days in advance) and minutes when relevant, managing the WG mailing lists (both the active and the larger one), updating the WG Website (if needed), organizing the WG meetings.

The next period's membership has been discussed, and after having verified if any other partners was volunteering for this role, it was agreed by all the attendees that ITHACA will be the IWG-SEM chairman for the next period.

Membership

The membership policy has been discussed by the attendees: it was stressed that the WG is an open group but, currently, only to "not-for-profit" organizations: commercial companies can anyway be represented by a representative professional association, e.g. The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC). A proper statement to be reported on the IWG-SEM website has to be agreed.

Partners presentations

Noriko Aso from JAXA /DMSSO gave a presentation on the topic "JAXA's Disaster Monitoring Activities and Sentinel Asia".

Prof. G. Robert Brakenridge from the University of Colorado gave a presentation on the topic "Using the DFO "Surface Water Survey" in Disaster Response".

Next meetings

An informal discussion on potential venues for the next Autumn meeting was held: USGS will investigate the possibility to host the meeting in US, which could be a good way to allow the participation to interested members outside EU.