



**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> Annual UN-SPIDER Conference in Beijing**

**United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management - "A consolidating role in the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015-2030"**

Organized by the  
**United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)**  
and the  
**Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China**

**Venue: Beijing, China (Grand Gongda Jianguo Hotel)**

**Dates: 14 to 16 September 2015**

UN-SPIDER is the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, a programme implemented by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). The UN-SPIDER Beijing Office is pleased to announce the **"United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management - "A consolidating role in the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015-2030", from 14 to 16 September 2015.**

The main aim of the conference is to produce an outcome document with guidelines to Member States to integrate Earth observation and geospatial technologies in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015-2030. The conference will build upon the outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) (Sendai, Japan, March 2015) and on the related commitments of UNOOSA:

- Facilitate the coordination of Earth observation (EO) stakeholders as proposed in the White Paper *"A global partnership for Earth observation to support nations in their disaster risk reduction efforts"*<sup>1</sup>;
- Hold the *United Nations/Germany International Conference on Earth Observation: Global solutions for the challenges of sustainable development in societies at risk* (Bonn, Germany, 26 to 28 May 2015)<sup>2</sup>;
- Continued promotion of EO benefits to sustainable development towards the Summit on Sustainable Development Goals (NY, September 2015) and the 21st Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (Paris, December 2015).

Thus, the conference will be one more step in that long-term effort of UNOOSA and UN-SPIDER building on the commitments of the Sendai Framework and of the global development agenda. One of the unique features of the conference is to integrate Earth observation and space-based technologies to applications of disaster risk reduction (DRR). The efforts of UNOOSA are also under the umbrella of its preparation to UNISPACE+50 which will mark in 2018 the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary the First United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE). A series of events leading to UNISPACE+50 will address challenges to humanity and sustainable development, the protection of the space environment, and securing the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.wcdrr.org/conference/events/877>

<sup>2</sup> [www.un-spider.org/post2015](http://www.un-spider.org/post2015)



### ***Rationale***

The UN-SPIDER Beijing Office has successfully organised four conferences since 2011. Previous conferences covered the themes of “Best practices for risk reduction and rapid response mapping” in 2011, “Risk assessment in the context of global climate change” in 2012 and “Disaster risk identification, assessment and monitoring” in 2013 and “Multi-hazard disaster risk assessment” in 2014. These conferences offered a forum for disaster management communities and experts to strengthen their capabilities in using space-based information to identify, assess, monitor and respond to disaster risks and integrate space technology into long-term disaster risk management efforts.

The Third United Nations World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction ([www.wcdrr.org](http://www.wcdrr.org)) took place from 13-18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. 187 States were officially represented in the conference and the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015-2030” was adopted on March 18, 2015. Recognizing the current challenges in the use of Earth observation technologies in disaster risk reduction, UNOOSA co-organised a working session on “Earth observation and high technologies to reduce risks” at WCDRR and promoted the role of Earth observation for its inclusion in the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015-2030”. The additional outcome of the working session is the launch of the Global Partnership to develop a synergy framework for Earth observations in support of national strategies for disaster-risk management.

UN-SPIDER works at demonstrating how the use of Earth observation can strongly support the full cycle of disaster risk management and how it can provide means for users and providers to better communicate their needs and capabilities.

With this aim, the conference focuses on the consolidating role of Earth observation technologies in the implementation of the “Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015-2030”. Efforts need to be taken to promote use of space-based information to help assess potential risks and hazards before disasters occur and contribute to risk-based developmental planning. The conference will synthesize experiences and lessons learnt by the experts and end users involved in using Earth observation in all stages of disaster management. The conference should provide guidelines to address important questions such as:

- What are the gaps that Earth observation can cover?
- Earth Observation improve decision-making for disaster risk management. Can this be done better and/or integrating space technologies beyond EO
- Are the existing mechanisms sufficient to ensure that information is delivered to first responders when they need it most?
- What are the opportunities for enhanced collaboration between public and private Earth observation providers?
- How can space-based technologies empower the communities to prepare for disasters?

The conference aims to produce an outcome document to act as guidelines for Member States to integrate Earth observation and geospatial technologies in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015-2030.

### ***Conference sessions:***

In this context, the conference will cover the following topics:

#### **Session 1: Earth observation in understanding disaster risk (reference to Priority 1 of the Sendai Framework for DRR)**

This session will discuss various means to be adapted by Member States and supporting international/regional organisations in understanding disaster risk, especially based on the use of



Earth observation technologies. This may include tools, technologies as well as peripheral issues such as data sharing, spatial data infrastructure, institutional coordination, etc. Recommended practices and experiences in this context will be shared by the panellists and discussed by all participants.

**Session 2: Earth observation in enhancing preparedness for effective response (reference to Priority 4 of the Sendai Framework for DRR)**

UN-SPIDER has discussed this topic for the ASEAN region through workshops on ‘Development of mechanisms for acquisition and utilisation of space-based information during emergency response’ and also contributing to International Working Group on Satellite Emergency Mapping (IWG-SEM). The session will focus on the lessons learnt from these initiatives and experiences from mega-disasters such as the recent earthquake in Nepal. The session intends to provide guidance on how to prepare for effective use of Earth observation for efficient response by addressing issues such as prerequisite of data, data access, skills and capacity, emergency mapping products and product dissemination. This session will also discuss the methods and present case studies demonstrating the use of space-based information for disaster damage and loss assessment and discuss ways to standardize the role of Earth Observation beyond emergency mapping, providing valuable information in damage and loss assessments.

**Session 3: Foster public and private collaboration**

Many private enterprises offer advanced Earth observation satellites products and tools thereby adding value to the original data from satellite images or how they are distributed, accessed and analysed. The public sector is now often partnering with the private sector in developing space assets. In order to explore the full potential of Earth observation technologies for disaster management and implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR, there is an immense need to further foster this public and private partnership. The session will discuss the opportunities offered through public and private collaboration and it will provide insights on advanced Earth observation satellites, online platforms to access satellite data archives and near real time data, investments needed to work with private companies to get assured access to satellite images during emergencies and ways to develop partnerships.

**Session 4: Empowering the communities to prepare for disasters**

In 2014, UN-SPIDER carried out the event entitled “Geospatially enabling community collaboration” in Vietnam to involve large number of stakeholder organisations in using geospatial technologies for disaster management. This topic needs further attention as community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) is an important priority of governments. This session will discuss the tools, technologies, methods and present case studies demonstrating how communities and the general public can make use of space-based information for building disaster resilience. The session intends to discuss ideas on how to involve communities to identify risks during normal situations, provide early warning prior to disaster and assess disaster damage and loss during disasters.

**Session 5: Engaging with UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER in the streamlining of EO in decision-making for DRR and sustainable development**

UN-SPIDER is offering technical advisory support to several countries. This session will aim at encouraging the engagement of Member States and partner organisations with the UN-SPIDER Programme. The session will discuss recommended practices of using space-based information and the impacts of the technical advisory support offered through the UN-SPIDER Programme. This session will seek to identify concrete joint actions in support of the commitments of UNOOSA and UN-SPIDER presented in the introduction of this document.

***Working groups***



## UNITED NATIONS Office for Outer Space Affairs

Working groups will be organised to discuss the cooperation related to various thematic topics such as Global Navigation Satellite Systems for disaster management, disaster risk reduction mapping services and products for specific disasters, information sharing and cooperation projects in this area.

### ***Target Audience for the conference***

Disaster managers, policy makers, providers of space technology solutions/tools/applications from governments, academia, research, NGO and corporate sector.

**Number of expected participants:** 120

### **How to apply and application deadline**

Please register on line through following web link  
<http://www.un-spider.org/BeijingConference2015>.

Please note that **the final deadline for registration is 19 July 2015**. Online registration is mandatory for all participants.

### ***Financial Support to the participants***

Due to funding constraints, the organisers will be able to offer support to a limited number of participants from Member States and organisations engaged in developing or intend to develop a partnership with the UN-SPIDER programme. The support will defray the cost of travel (round-trip ticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in their country of residence and Beijing) and/or room and board expenses during the duration of the event.

### ***Point of Contact***

*Administrative matters:*

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*Technical matters:*

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If necessary, cc your mails to Mr. Shirish Ravan ([shirish.ravan@unoosa.org](mailto:shirish.ravan@unoosa.org))

### ***International training programme (17 to 22 September 2015)***

An International Training Programme will be organised for 25 participants of the conference with the support of the Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organisation (APSCO) and the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC).

Title: Hands on training programme on “Earth observation technologies for earthquake damage and loss assessment”

If you are interested to attend this programme, please convey your interest to Ms. Longfei LIU ([longfei.liu@unoosa.org](mailto:longfei.liu@unoosa.org), Tel: +86 10 5281 1372).