CEOS
Working Group on Education, Training and Capacity Building (WGEdu)

Report to Plenary 2009

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EUMETSAT
WG Edu Priorities and Deliverables

1. Closely coordinate with CEOS and SIT on all education, training and capacity building issues.
2. Strengthen internal Coordination and Cooperation of CEOS Members and Associates in the area of education, training and capacity building.
3. Support CEOS response to GEO CB tasks in particular, but also other tasks as requested.
4. Support WGCV in outreach aspects of QA4EO
5. Work closely with and support CEOS Virtual Constellations, again especially in the area of outreach.
6. Build closer links with WGISS and WGCV activities
7. General support to CEOS Outreach Strategy.
WG Edu Activities in 2009


2. Many members of WG Edu, working individually or in partnership, regularly organize training courses, workshops, summer schools etc., Target audiences vary and span the range from secondary to professional level. There is currently a greater focus on secondary level education and training in many parts of the World as agencies see the need to encourage students to become scientists working with remotely sensed observations and able to use this information in the future to mitigate the effects of global climate change.

3. Initial planning for an Eduflow training module has commenced – more later in the presentation.
WGEdu Activities in 2009

4. There have been significant enhancements to the WGEdu Portal during 2009, special thanks are due to SEO, Brian Killough and Kim Kieth, NASA, Langley. The more recent achievements of WGEdu members are now highlighted as are many interesting links to other sources of educational material.

5. A remote sensing workshop, hosted by GISTDA, was conducted in Bangkok, 4-6 February 2009. There were around 30 tertiary level educators and professionals from 8 south east Asian countries. This workshop is generously sponsored by USGS and special thanks are due to Brian Bailey, USGS, for all his hard work and enthusiasm in making these workshops such a success. The theme was remote sensing for disaster management in SE Asia.
6. Concerning the WGEdutest of the CEOS data exchange principles (archive and near real time data), analyses by ESA, INPE, GISTDA and USGS showed that the situation is now much improved regarding the availability of HR EO imagery for disaster mitigation and capacity building purposes. A key task of the Group now is to more widely promote this valuable data. In this regard, WGEdu is also closely following, and supporting where appropriate, the evolution of the CEOS data democracy issues.

7. Three Co-Chairs were elected at the annual meeting in May 2009, to better share the workload of WGEdu. Birgit Stromsholm, NSC, Tania Maria Sausen, INPE and George Jungbluth, NOAA. The Co-Chair Coordinator is George Jungbluth (NOAA).

8. The next annual meeting will be held in Argentina, in May 2010, kindly hosted by CONAEA.
Specific Deliverables for 2010

1. Organise one Remote Sensing Workshop, currently planned to take place in Brazil, in March 2010.
   Theme - disaster management in Latin Americas. Target audience - Secondary level students, trainers and educational professionals.

2. Further upgrades to the WGEdu Portal in response to requests from CEOS Members, Associates, Constellations and specific GEO tasks.
3. Develop the GNC Training Channel concept into a real educational and training data exchange mechanism, in cooperation with GNC partners, professional training institutes such as ITC, COMET, etc. and the evolving needs of potential user communities.

4. By end of 2010 produce one “Eduflow” training module addressing ocean/coastal ecosystem issues of importance to Argentina (the host of the next WGEdu annual meeting). This will be training material for secondary and tertiary level students.
EduFlow Project for WGEdu

Vision

• Increase the flow of space-based Earth Observation education and training materials to developing nations.

Features

• Coordinated development of education and training materials to increase the global benefits and applications of space-based Earth observations.
• Funded and managed by SEO (NASA Langley, USA).
• Developed for students by students. Leverages the NASA DEVELOP program.
• Addresses key CEOS topics chosen annually by CEOS Principles and the WGEdu.
• Yearly deliverables available to the CEOS community at the time of the November CEOS Plenary.
5. Forge closer links with GEO CBC and its activities, representing CEOS as the “space” arm of GEO, in the areas of education, training and capacity building thereby ensuring greater synergy in the evolution of the activities of each group. Many CEOS members are engaged in GEO CB tasks of the 2009 – 2011 Work Plan and progress is reviewed regularly.

Thank You