

## **Report of the 10<sup>th</sup> GEO User Interface Committee**

**Sophia Antipolis, France**

**26-27 February 2009**

**Day 1, 26 February 2009**

### **1 WELCOME AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

*Jean-François Agassant*, representative of the Director of MINES ParisTech, opened the meeting by welcoming the members and introducing an overview of the school.

The meeting agenda was introduced by *Thierry Ranchin*, Co-Chair of the UIC.

*Lawrence Friedl* of NASA then presented the objectives and expected specific decisions and deliverables of the meeting. The objectives were to: review UIC Committee efforts on major GEO activities; discuss a GEO UIC 2009-2015 Activities Plan; review UIC involvement in ADC Architecture Implementation Pilot (AIP) Scenarios; review UIC/CBC Call for Proposals; discuss the GEO Work Plan; review user assessment of GEO Portals; and to discuss increased membership for UIC.

### **2 REPORT ON UIC MEETING IN BUCHAREST AND GEO-V**

*Gary Foley* of EPA reported on the outcomes of the UIC meeting in Bucharest and GEO-V Plenary. He reported the major UIC accomplishments highlighted at GEO-V as being the establishment and implementation of Community of Practices (COPs) and engaging IGOS Themes therein; launching an effort to document user requirements for each SBA (US-06-01); participation in the IOC Task Force; drafting a Call for Proposals (CFP) with CBC; participation in the ADC Architectural Implementation Pilots (AIP). There are still ongoing efforts to enhance membership and participation in the UIC and/or CoPs. Recommendations were made that Committee reports should be submitted to Plenary; to identify volunteer participants for specific UIC activities; and to stimulate GEO components registration, testing, and feedback.

It was discussed that more efforts should be made to capture the activities of the (former) IGOS Themes in the Work Plan, e.g. to discuss in upcoming UIC meetings with the IGOS Themes how to engage them in the IGOS Symposium in November. It was also suggested that there is more room for Europeans to actively participate in UIC, especially with regard to GMES. It was also requested that written reports from each Committee should be submitted for distribution at the GEO Plenary meetings.

### **3 UIC ACTIVITY PLAN**

*Kathleen Fontaine* of NASA proposed the UIC Draft Activity Plan for the preparation of the next two years for the UIC. She initiated the discussion by asking what the UIC is going to deliver to the Ministerial; what can be shown at the next Plenary; and what the objectives and actions plan for the mid-term accomplishment are. She called for participation by members to bring the Plan together and carry it out.

The meeting appreciated her lead, and suggested that members encourage the support by their organizations. Some however expressed concerns that there might be too much activities and too less people willing to actively participate. The AIP scenarios and SBA Pilot projects were recognized as good application examples to demonstrate what GEO can do. It was suggested that a user assessment of the successfulness of GEO Portals would complement well with the AIP activities. In regard to the US-06-01 activity, it was suggested to ask more volunteers from UIC members to join in the Advisory Committee. The meeting also asked the GEO Secretariat to follow up on the climate workshop to be held in March in Geneva, and to have UIC members invited.

**A/I-1: Members to respond to K. Fontaine with comments for the Draft Activity Plan by the end of the meeting.**

#### **4 ADC AIP SCENARIOS**

*Lionel Menard* of Mines ParisTech presented the ADC AIP Scenario on Energy. He reported that a call for Participation was sent out receiving 38 responses, and that a kickoff was held in Sept 2008 in Boulder. He presented the Renewable Energy Scenario, how to federate the reusable energy community towards GEOSS interoperability concepts, the scenario use case for “Sitting Solar Power Plants”, and future milestones. It was discussed that, with 50,000 users sending in queries, the significance of this application is that it has been designed for the users.

*Stuart Frye* of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center gave a presentation on the ADC AIP Scenario on Disasters (via teleconference). He presented the objectives, the scenario, the WG activities, the disaster management scenario summary, and an example of the flood sensor web scenario. The meeting discussed the user engagement aspects, how to address product delivery to users, particularly those without network connection.

The ADC AIP Scenario on Air Quality (AQ) was then presented by *David McCabe* of EPA (via telecon). He reported that the AQ Scenario envisions multiple types of AQ observations that are being registered, discovered and accessed *via* GEOSS and used to inform diverse decision-makers. A Scenario community is developed with diverse participants. The initial sub-scenario testing AIP Use Cases describes a Wildfire/Smoke event. He pointed out that the challenges are: to develop a persistent, standardized AQ data network; the interface to GCI; and implementing scenarios which can integrate the offerings using GCI-compatible service oriented architecture.

*G. Foley* then introduced the GEO Architecture Chain. It was discussed that the Committee should take up efforts to identify who the decision makers are and how the GEO value chain works, and to see how the AIP pilot projects work in this regard.

**A/I-2: Co-Chair/UIC members and GEO Secretariat to compile information relevant to the GEO value chains from existing AIP documents.**

It was discussed whether it was necessary for UIC to expand this type of flows to other SBAs. Some expressed their thoughts that in the next year UIC should proceed with the most mature sets of projects, highlighting the concept of the value chains and the users.

**A/I-3: The agenda team to discuss holding a joint committee session between ADC and UIC in May at Stresa, on AIP2.**

#### **5 REPORT ON US-09-01A**

*L. Friedl* presented the status of task US-09-01a. It was discussed how to be systematic in covering a broad set of user types. Some argued that it would not be appropriate for GEO to address detailed analysis of user types, as it is the organizations that are responsible for interfacing with the users, so that GEO should concentrate on infrastructure rather than on specific user types. Others commented

that there are different layers the Committee can work on and that it should not restrain itself. L. Friedl further reported that there is substantial risk to schedule. It was therefore decided to modify the task sheet to expect the analyses to be completed for 4 SBAs (Climate, Disasters, Ecosystems, Energy) by September 2009, the others due January 2010, and Health to be discussed. There will be a progress report at Plenary VI, full task delivery expected in 2010.

## **Day 2, 27 February 2009**

### **6 WORK PLAN DISCUSSION**

*Fernando Ramos* of GEO Secretariat summarized the status of the Work Plan 2009-2011. The Work Plan comprises a two-part structure, following the recommendations from GEO-IV Plenary & Cape Town Ministerial Summit. It is built upon the 2007-2009 Work Plan, driven by 6-year and 10-year GEOSS Targets, and includes GEO community and Committees comments. He noted that there should be reports by all sub-tasks under User Engagement, in the future UIC meetings. It was also noted that task sheets should be periodically updated, the latest update being due 5 March 2009. He suggested that the UIC is expected to deliver to the Plenary a progress report of each of these sub-tasks, on the CFP. He also suggested that for the Summit 2010, it would be important to have a showcase of one or more application-focused outcomes where the UIC-added value is evident. The importance of delivering some feedback to the ADC Scenario from the user perspective was pointed out, and T. Ranchin volunteered to work on this.

**A/I-4: UIC to form a team to follow-up with each sub-task currently under User Engagement, with a view to determine the relevance of them to UIC and how to communicate with them.**

### **7 UIC/CBC CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

*L. Friedl* then reported on the status of the CFP, which relates to US-09-01b and CB-09-01. He reported that a letter was issued by the GEO Secretariat Director on Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, with the focus is to help end-users apply Earth observations in their projects. A request for Projects Advisors has also been made. There will be Applications Showcases to provide venues for organizations to demonstrate successful applications. The CFP focuses on 4 SBAs, and supports projects connecting Earth observation models & systems to decision support to policy & management decisions to demonstrate societal benefits from Earth observations and GEOSS. There are 5 stages and 3 types for the proposals. Concept proposals are due 4 June 2009, full proposals due 10 November, and a kickoff meeting to be held in March 2010. UIC involvement includes distributing the CFP and advertising, identifying experts for review panels, and working with resource-providing organizations. GEO involvement includes the involvement of ADC, STC, and GEO Secretariat, and to involve CoPs on review panels if possible. It was noted that the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) had invited UIC to work together on these projects.

**A/I-5: All UIC Members to support specific activities in UIC/CBC CFP, including advertising, identifying experts and advisors, and working with resource-providing organizations. For Energy, E. Le Drew and T. Ranchin will organize.**

### **8 USER ASSESSMENT OF PORTALS WITH IOC**

*G. Foley* briefed the meeting on the activities of the Initial Operating Capability (IOC) Task Force. He invited members for testing the portals and to provide feedback through the mechanism.

**A/I-6: G. Folley to ask UIC members to take specific assessment steps for the GEOSS portal, portal and to participate in test rounds during the Stresa meeting.**

## **9 PREPARATION OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> UIC MEETING IN STRESA**

*Francesco Pignatelli* of EC presented the outline of the 33rd International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment (ISRSE) meetings to be held in May, in Stresa, Italy.

**A/I-7: F. Pignatelli to communicate with ADC Co-Chair to propose a joint UIC-ADC meeting on Fri 8 May morning (0800), and to try to accommodate the followings during the ISRSE meetings:**

Sat. 2 May	0930-1700:	UIC meeting
Sun. 3 May	1800-2100:	UIC Co-chairs meeting/dinner
Tue. 5 May	1230-1300:	CFP UIC/CBC Info session
Wed. 6 May	1730-1800:	CFP UIC/CBC Info session
Thu. 7 May	1730-1830:	Energy CoP meeting
Thu. 7 May	1730-1900:	“UIC User Engagement Reception”
Fri. 8 May	1400-1600:	Short UIC wrap-up meeting

## **10 10<sup>TH</sup> UIC MEETING WRAP UP**

*Masami Onoda* of GEO Secretariat summarized the outcomes of the meeting. The UIC Co-Chairs revisited the objectives of the meeting, and remaining decisions and deliverables were addressed as follows:

For the UIC team & delivery date to compose user types for each SBA, **K. Fontaine to take the issue up in the Activity Plan, and to contact the GEO Secretariat to organize in the next month a telecon for the Plan and for the user types (A/I-8)**. A Writing Team to be lead by K. Fontaine, F. Ramos/M. Onoda from GEO Secretariat and volunteers.

The UIC meeting after May to be scheduled in the first week of September. **The GEO Secretariat to clarify the situation with the joint Committee meetings, location and dates (A/I-9)**. Specific dates and venue to be decided before the Reconciliation meeting.

The date the UIC will deliver a list of specific projects and achievements for the 2010 Ministerial meeting would be specified in the Activity Plan.

For increasing UIC membership, it was discussed that there is a need for concerted efforts to involve CoPs, and that the Stresa meetings would be a good opportunity. **L. Friedl to draft a note on how to approach this issue (A/I-10)**.

The Co-chairs closed the meeting by summarizing the meeting discussions and thanking the members for their attendance.