



GEO News (Issue #2, 13 March 2009)

BUILDING GEOSS

Call for Contributions to Work Plan receives strong response

The Call for Contributions to the GEO 2009-2011 Work Plan issued by the Secretariat on 13 January generated a strong and positive response that promises to foster increased partnerships and collaboration around [GEOSS implementation](#). [More ...](#)

How European Community FP7 projects support GEOSS

The first research activities resulting from the 2007 Call for Proposals under the Environment Theme of the FP7's Cooperation Specific Programme are now being implemented. [More ...](#)

CEOS to coordinate space observations for GEOSS forest monitoring

The Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) adopted a [communiqué](#) last week pledging to support the [GEO Task on Forest Carbon Tracking](#) by coordinating the necessary space data. CEOS also aims to secure the interoperability of the optical and SAR sensors that, together with in-situ monitoring, are essential to forest monitoring. The communiqué is posted [here](#).

A Tour of the GEOSS Common Infrastructure

The development of the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI) and its various components continues to advance, with 206 components and 173 services now registered. Ivan DeLoatch and Doug Nebert describe the effort to establish the GCI in an article posted [here](#).

GEO BON launches work on "early products"

The Task on the GEO Biodiversity Observation Network continues to make good progress with implementation. In particular, four early products should demonstrate the viability of the GEO BON concept over the coming year. Meanwhile, the [European EBONE project](#) has been established as a GEO BON pilot. [More ...](#)

GEO Members to access "Space and Major Disasters" Charter

The [International Charter on "Space and Major Disasters"](#) provides a unified system for delivering space-based data to countries address natural and man-made disasters. Soon for the first time all GEO Member governments will be able to access this valuable instrument. [More...](#)

MERIT project on meningitis to assist Ethiopia

The [GEO Task](#) supporting the [Meningitis Environmental Risk Information Technologies \(MERIT\)](#) project has launched its second national case study. Benefiting from the initial work in Niger, MERIT is formalizing a subgroup of MERIT partners around meningitis activities in Ethiopia. For more information, see the [Ethiopian Case Study Concept Overview](#).

GEO UPDATE

Kyoto hosts 3rd GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium

The Symposium explored how to strengthen collaboration on improving observation, prediction and data sharing in the fields of climate change, water resource management, ecosystem maintenance, and disasters under the central theme of "Cross-cutting data sharing in the Asia-Pacific Region". [More ...](#)

GEO BON refines its governance

The interim steering committee of the GEO Biodiversity Observation Network met in Washington DC from 22 to 23 January to respond to the GEO-V request to refine the GEO BON governance structure. [More ...](#)

IGWCO becomes a GEO Community of Practice

At its fifth planning meeting, the Integrated Global Water Cycle Observations (IGWCO) decided to convene itself as a Community of Practice, noted the substantial progress being made on soil moisture and other substantive issues, and reviewed new initiatives on the African Water Cycle Initiative and on drought monitoring and drought impacts. [More ...](#)

Beijing workshop advances system of systems for Agriculture

The GEO Workshop on "Developing an Agricultural Monitoring System of Systems", held in Beijing, China from 11 – 13 February, marked an important step towards the development an ambitious global system for delivering forecasts and other information on crop production to farmers and policymakers. [More ...](#)

Asian Water Cycle Initiative Identifies Priorities

Also meeting back-to-back with the Kyoto Asia-Pacific Symposium, the AWCI defined four target areas for regional cooperation, addressed the challenge of capacity building and agreed on next steps. [More ...](#)

Report of GEO Forest Monitoring Symposium now available

The first GEO Forest Monitoring Symposium, held in Brazil in November 2008, endorsed the new GEO Task on Forest Carbon Tracking and stressed the importance of developing stronger LIDAR, radar and thermal capabilities. The full report, which identifies further recommendations as well as gaps and priorities, is now posted [here](#).

UIC meeting advances synergies with ADC and CBC

The User Interface Committee (UIC) is collaborating with the Architecture and Data Committee (ADC) and the Capacity Building Committee (CBC) on strengthening user engagement. [More ...](#)

ADC sets course for 2009

The ninth meeting of the Architecture and Data Committee (ADC), held on 8-9 February in Kyoto, focused on the transition to the new 2009 – 2011 work plan and setting priorities for the rest of this year. [More ...](#)

THE SECRETARIAT

New experts and SBA responsibilities

Ms Masami Onoda from Japan and Mr Fernando Ramos from Brazil have joined the Secretariat as [new seconded experts](#). The updated list of how secretariat staff is supporting the Societal Benefit Areas can be found [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

The updated 2009 calendar

The GEO calendar will be dominated by two major cycles: the Committee meetings, scheduled for April/May, September, and November; and the reconciliation process for the Work Plan, Targets and performance indicators. These and other GEO-related meetings have been updated [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISRSE to promote GEO Societal Benefit Areas

The 33rd International Symposium on Remote Sensing of the Environment (ISRSE) will take place from 4 to 8 May 2009 in Stresa, Italy. The Symposium will focus on the use of Earth observation systems and airborne techniques for understanding and managing the Earth environment and natural resources. For more information, visit the [ISRSE web site](#).

Romania to host data-mining workshop

The International Workshop on Innovative Data Mining Techniques in Support of GEOSS, to be held from 31 August to 2 September, will explore how to improve the extraction of data and images from the petabytes of Earth observations now available in rapidly expanding archives. For more information, please see the [invitation letter](#).

Call for Proposals to support decision making

GEO has issued a Call entitled "Earth Observations in Decision Support Projects" that seeks to identify projects that demonstrate the benefits of Earth observation applications to end users in developing countries, particularly in the fields of agriculture, energy, human health and water. Details are available in [the CFP document](#).