



## **GEO News (Issue #7, 19 February 2010)**

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### **IMPLEMENTING GEOSS**

#### **GEO Supersites speed access to space data on Haiti earthquake**

A new web portal for the "[Haiti Supersite](#)" was established last month as an impressively rapid response to the devastating earthquake that struck Port au Prince on 12 January. This marks the first time that satellite agencies have provided data – and provided them quickly – to a central data repository accessible by researchers. As a result, researchers were able to generate early analyses of aftershock hazards and information products of benefit to both scientists and operational users. [Continued...](#)

#### **GEONetCab project kicks off**

GEONetCab is a support action under the Environment theme in the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). Over the next three years it will work in close cooperation with the GEO Capacity Building Committee (CBC) and related Tasks to enhance GEO's overall capacity-building efforts. GEONetCab was launched at a kick-off meeting on 18-19 January. [Continued...](#)

#### **The GEOSS Architecture Implementation Pilot Enters Phase 3**

On 29 January 2010, the GEO Secretariat announced a Call for Participation (CFP) in the GEOSS Architecture Implementation Pilot, Phase 3 (AIP-3). The CFP was developed by GEO Task AR-09-01B, which is overseen by the GEO Architecture and Data Committee. The GEO community is invited to respond to the CFP by 3 March. [Continued...](#)

#### **EnerGEO launches assessment of environmental impacts of energy**

The kick-off meeting of the [EnerGEO project](#) (Energy Observation for monitoring and assessment of the environmental impact of energy use) took place on 24 November 2009. The project is being executed under the

7th Framework Programme for Research and Technology Development of the European Commission (EC). [Continued...](#)

## **BY INVITATION**

### **Roy Gibson on why GEO needs stronger political and financial support**

Following last year's decision by the Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership to merge its Themes into GEO, it is clear that GEO and its GEOSS must now be regarded as the authentic way ahead for Earth observation. We have neither the time nor the resources to encourage competitors. However, GEO will need to make changes to be worthy of such trust. [Continued...](#)

## **GEO UPDATE**

### **2010 Task Force prepares for Beijing Summit**

The second meeting of the GEO 2010 Summit Task Force was held on 2 and 3 February 2010 in Geneva. China reported that the first invitation letter to Ministers had been finalized. The letter was sent out to the 24 ministers identified by GEO Principals a few days ago; for the other Members, the letter will be addressed to foreign affairs ministers. The [China National Convention Center](#) was confirmed as the Summit venue. [Continued...](#)

### **Five Years after Brussels: a First Review of GEOSS**

For the past five years an expanding group of Member countries and Participating Organizations has come together under a voluntary framework to implement the GEOSS initiative. Over the coming months an evaluation team will examine the progress that has been made toward achieving the strategic goals that are intended to achieve the GEOSS Vision: "a future wherein decisions and actions for the benefit of humankind are informed by coordinated, comprehensive and sustained Earth observations and information." [Continued...](#)

### **India hosts SAFARI symposium on remote sensing and fisheries**

Some 250 participants from 39 countries attended an [international symposium](#) organized in India from 15 to 17 February by the [SAFARI Initiative](#) (Societal Applications in Fisheries and Aquaculture using Remotely-sensed Imagery). Funded by the Canadian Space Agency, the

SAFARI Initiative falls under GEO Task AG-06-02. This Task calls for consultations at the international level to identify opportunities for enhancing the use of Earth observation data in fisheries and aquaculture. [Continued...](#)

### **Capacity Building Committee looks ahead to Ministerial**

The Capacity Building Committee (CBC) held its 11th Meeting on 21 and 22 January 2010 in Enschede, The Netherlands, at the invitation of the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) of the University of Twente. The meeting focused on the Committee's plans for the 2010 Ministerial Summit. [Continued...](#)

### **CEOS develops its GEO-CEOS Action Plan**

A GEO-CEOS Action Plan Workshop held in Washington DC in late January refined and prioritized the current GEO Work Plan Tasks that are led and contributed by the [Committee on Earth Observations Satellites](#) (CEOS). The Workshop was hosted by NASA and welcomed participants from over 13 space agencies and organizations. It also laid the groundwork for the CEOS Strategic Implementation Team (SIT) 2010 activities in advance of the upcoming April Plenary in Tokyo. [Continued...](#)

### **Monitoring the impact of climate change on agriculture**

India hosted an international workshop on 17 to 18 December 2009 to explore how to advance global cooperation on addressing the impacts of climate change on agriculture. [Continued...](#)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Bali to host 4th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium from 10 to 12 March**

The 4th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium "Towards a Global Earth Observation System of Systems that supports the societal benefit areas of climate and biodiversity" will take place in Bali, Indonesia from 10 to 12 March 2010. The Symposium seeks to strengthen international networking among GEO Member countries and to promote national, regional and international synergies for building the Earth observation networks that contribute to GEOSS. It will also provide recommendations from the Asia-Pacific region to the 2010 GEO Ministerial Summit in Beijing. For further please see the [Symposium website](#).

## **Expressions of interest invited for GEO-VII Exhibition**

Every year, the GEO Plenary has been accompanied by an exhibition highlighting the activities and projects of the GEO community. With the organization of a Ministerial back-to-back with the GEO-VII Plenary, this year's Exhibition is expected to be larger and more ambitious than ever before. GEO Members, Participating Organizations, Communities of Practice and Task teams are invited to contact the secretariat at [secretariat@geosec.org](mailto:secretariat@geosec.org) to indicate their interest in exhibiting. Further details will be available shortly.

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