Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), it is my pleasure to announce that the 8th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium will be held in Beijing, China, from 9 to 11 September 2015. The Symposium is being organized by the People’s Republic of China (Ministry of Science and Technology), Japan (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) and the GEO Secretariat. The local organizers include the Satellite Surveying and Mapping Application Center and the National Geomatics Center of China of the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation, the National Disaster Reduction Center of China of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Tsinghua University and the Peking University.

This year’s Symposium theme will be: “Towards the next decade of GEOSS in the Asia-Pacific Region”. The Symposium will focus on potential collaborative activities during the next decade of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that could be included in the new GEO Work Programme.

The Symposium will further strengthen international networking within the region and provide an opportunity to share experiences from the Asia-Pacific region globally. Each country will report on progress made in implementing GEOSS since the last Asia-Pacific Symposium in Japan. Parallel sessions are being organized which focus on the following topics:

- Disaster Monitoring;
- Asia-Pacific GEOSS Data Sharing and GCI Development;
- Agriculture and Food Security (GEOGLAM);
- Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON);
- Asian Water Cycle Initiative (AWCI);
- Global Carbon Monitoring.

The Symposium will include plenary sessions for summaries and report-outs from the parallel sessions, and for discussion of ideas regarding future collaboration in response to the final draft of the GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: GEOSS Implementation.
The Symposium will take place at the Beijing International Convention Center. An agenda and details on registration, hotels and related matters will be available on the Symposium website at: http://www.sasmac.cn/portal_space/AP-GEOSS8/index.html.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Symposium Secretariat in China at:

8th GEOSS AP Symposium Secretariat  
Satellite Surveying and Mapping Application Center  
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We are looking forward to seeing you in Beijing.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara J. Ryan  
Secretariat Director