

Recognition of Outstanding GEO Work Programme Activities

This document is submitted to the Program Board for discussion.

1 INTRODUCTION

A large body of literature supports the notion that individuals volunteer their time for a cause that motivates them somehow. In GEO, one cause has been determined to be the desire to make a difference in the world through the use and distribution of Earth observations data. Volunteers tend to work longer and harder when their good work is recognized, and that recognition can take a variety of forms - from monetary reward to public ceremonies to certificates. While GEO cannot provide monetary reward, it can, as an organization of volunteers, recognize hard work in other ways.

A process is proposed below to recognize exemplary ongoing efforts of the members of the GEO community in convening expertise across numerous disciplines, nurturing communities and mobilizing common action, promoting broad and open data policies, and generate tangible results that allow for sustained Earth observation information for the benefit of humankind.

2 PROPOSAL TO CREATE A GEO AWARDS PROCESS

Recognizing that exemplary efforts are being demonstrated in a variety of ways and means, the recommendation is to establish an award program featuring, initially, three to four categories for to be announced and awarded annually during GEO Plenaries. The first award ceremony could potentially be arranged to take place during GEO-XVI Plenary in November 2019. As the entity responsible for the oversight, coordination, and facilitation of the GEO Work Programme, the Programme Board would be best positioned to conduct the process.

There are two options for identifying candidates:

- (A) Programme Board announces a call for nominations from the GEO community and then forms a Selection Committee to conduct a review and selection based upon agreed criteria.
(Recommended); or
- (B) Programme Board members nominate candidates from GWP community. A small subset of Programme Board members will serve on a Selection Committee to conduct review and selection.

The award may be for teams or individuals from the GEO community, who have shown outstanding support for GEO's mission and the GEO Work Programme. The awards are meant to provide recognition for outstanding achievement, but do not include monetary awards.

3 POSSIBLE AWARD CATEGORIES

Technology Advancement

Advancing capabilities for global application and sharing of Earth observations for the benefit of humankind. Criteria for this award require the successful candidate or team to have demonstrated the ability to advance the technology or application readiness of a tool or platform in GEO while

promoting open data sharing and global-scale applicability moving it closer to operational readiness. This award is intended to showcase GEO's achievements in leveraging Earth observation data for development of capabilities to meet global challenges.

Innovation

This award is focused on recognizing new and innovative approaches for applying Earth observations to meet GEO's key goals, fostering open data access and sharing, and development of new capabilities. Criteria for this award include having demonstrated novel approaches towards applying Earth observation data, developing new applications, and collaborations and exploring new linkages across the GEO community.

Partnership Development- Creating a Community of Practice

This award is meant to recognize maximizing collaboration and engagement with multiple parties and sectors to develop a robust community of practice that advances GEO's key objectives for supporting societal benefits. Criteria include successful development of a diverse network of collaborators and end-users of data products supported by GEO.

Communicating the Value of Earth Observations

This award will be given to excellent GEO science communicators and advocates for enhancing public understanding and value of Earth observation data and open data access. Criteria will include development of messaging and outreach tools that reach a broad audience and elevate the work of GEO.

Individual Excellence Award

This award will be presented to a single individual or several individuals to be nominated by the GEO community to encourage individual volunteer work. We would seek nominations of individuals who stand out and have made a mark in their work within GEO. While not a prescriptive category, the nominating persons would need to provide a description of the nominees outstanding and extraordinary contribution/achievement.

4 CONSIDERATIONS

A decision to create such an award process needs to consider, among other things, the following:

- Inclusion of both Members and Participating Organizations, and perhaps have two winners in each category: one from a Member and one from a PO.
- Specific criteria will have to be developed, as well as nomination forms, etc.
- A group of Programme Board members would need to take this on to develop the necessary components for the process.

5 NEXT STEPS

Based on the results of the discussion, a more detailed proposal could be prepared for approval at the 14th Programme Board meeting.