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## **GEO-IGOS Symposium**

**“The need for Earth observations:  
Yesterday, today and tomorrow”**

**Baird Auditorium, Smithsonian Natural History Museum  
Thursday, 19 November 2009, Washington DC, USA**

To address the challenges of global environmental change, policy-makers and managers need timely access to weather forecasts, climate predictions, satellite images of land-use change, water-cycle data, biodiversity indicators, seismographic information, topographical maps and many other Earth observation products and services. The GEO-IGOS Symposium will explore how the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) can help to meet these critical user needs.

The Symposium will celebrate the accomplishments of the former Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership (IGOS-P) and its successful transition into the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). It will consider how the GEO Communities of Practice that have inherited the IGOS-P mandates can build on these accomplishments over the next few years. In this way, the Symposium will seek to identify best practices for Communities of Practice as well as emerging user needs that a rapidly evolving GEOSS may need to address.

The IGOS Partnership was established in 1998 to bring together a wide range of organizations committed to strengthening space-based and in-situ Earth observations. With the emergence of GEO with its high-level political mandate, the IGOS Partners decided last year to transition the IGOS Themes into GEO, thus broadening international collaboration on the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that is being developed by GEO.

Established In 2005, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) boasts 120 member governments and participating international organizations. GEO is interlinking and strengthening the world's Earth observation systems in order to address nine key Societal Benefit Areas: disasters, health, energy, climate, water, weather, ecosystems, agriculture and biodiversity. GEOSS is already starting to provide many of the Earth observation products and services decision-makers so urgently need.

The Symposium will be held immediately after the GEO-VI Plenary meeting and will be attended by many members of the GEO community. For information on logistics, registration and the programme of the Symposium, please visit [www.earthobservations.org/meetings/meetings.html](http://www.earthobservations.org/meetings/meetings.html).