



Our Ref.: 2009572/GEO/IGOS Symp

GEO All

Geneva, 8 September 2009

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Symposium Committee, we are pleased to extend to you an invitation to participate in the **GEO-IGOS Symposium – “The need for Earth observations: Yesterday, today and tomorrow”**. The Symposium will be held on 19 November 2009 at the Baird Auditorium of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington DC, immediately after the GEO-VI Plenary.

The Symposium should be of interest to the entire GEO community. It will explore all nine of the GEO Societal Benefit Areas – disasters, health, energy, climate, water, weather, ecosystems, agriculture and biodiversity. It will also address the concerns of decision-makers, researchers, non-governmental organizations and project managers active at every step in the Earth observations value chain.

We all recognize that tackling the challenges of global environmental change will require 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 Symposium will explore how the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) can help to meet these critical user needs.

The Symposium will also 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.

For information on registration, the Symposium programme and other logistics, please visit www.earthobservations.org/meetings/meetings.html

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'José Achache'.

José Achache
Secretariat Director