

Our Ref.: 2010626/GEO/IGWCO

Geneva, 28 January 2010

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that GEO Integrated Global Water Cycle Observations (IGWCO) Community of Practice will hold a two-day workshop on 23-24 February 2010, followed by the annual science and planning meeting on 25-26 February 2010, hosted by The City College of New York (CCNY).

The workshop on Water Resource Assessment and Applications will provide an opportunity to discuss new ideas that could be brought under the IGWCO umbrella and linkages to ongoing activities within the GEO 2009-2011 Work Plan.

This year's science and planning meeting will be an important occasion for reviewing the activities of the GEO Water Societal Benefit Area (SBA), for identifying and initiating new water cycle activities based in large measure on recommendations coming from workshops held during the past year, and for determining how the IGWCO Community of Practice will interface with the GEO and other international bodies during the coming years. The meeting will also provide the opportunity to prepare for the GEO Work Plan Task Symposium, slated for late May 2010 in Pretoria, South Africa.

In addition to updates on progress and plans for each of the subtasks in the Water SBA of the GEO 2009-2011 Work Plan, a review of other GEO subtasks having a connection to the Water SBA will be conducted. Examples include the User Survey of water data needs (US-09-01a) and the on-going survey of water cycle data centers (DA-09-02a). Additionally, possible linkages between the Water SBA and activities in Agriculture, Energy, Disasters and Health SBAs will be explored.

The New York location for this meeting provides a good opportunity for colleagues from North American, Europe and Asia to more fully engage in the IGWCO Community of Practice. Participation of important players in the field of the hydrological cycle and Earth observations will be invaluable in achieving the goals of this Workshop, and we kindly ask that you, as an expert in operational and/or scientific aspects of the water cycle, consider attending both the workshop and planning meeting.



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EARTH OBSERVATIONS

As an informal registration, please send an e-mail to crossroads@ccny.cuny.edu with your name, affiliation, mailing address, and phone/fax number, and indicate whether you plan to attend either the workshop or the science panel meeting, or both. Meeting logistics are being handled by Dr. Balázs Fekete (bfekete@ccny.cuny.edu) at CCNY, and details regarding the meeting are available at: <http://www.gtn-h.net/IGWCO2010>.

Please note that, at present, no travel or accommodation assistance is available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'José Achache', written over a vertical line.

José Achache
Secretariat Director