Space Technology to Improve Public Health

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Action Team 6

Action Team 6 was established in 2001

Context
The Action Team 6 was established by the United Nations Committee of Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as a mechanism for initiating the implementation of recommendations of the third United Nations Space Conference UNISPACE III (1999)

Mission Statement
To foster the implementation of tele-health for developing countries and to improve public health services by facilitating the application of space technologies in early warning of infectious diseases.

History of Action Team 6

   - Numerous recommendations generated.
   - Founding of various Action Teams

2002: Action Team 6 Proposed initial action plan
   - Original Focus of Action Team 6 to be International Cardiovascular Disease Knowledge Management Network
   - Lead country Canada
   - Inactive due to available resources, evolving focus & strategy

2007: New Development Strategy
   - Co-Chairs: Canada & WHO
   - New Focus: To facilitate early warning mechanisms for infectious diseases using space technologies and earth observation data
   - Building Human Capacities
   - Collaborative and regional approach

2009: India is new co-chair with Canada
Two Broad Areas of Space Applications for Public Health

Tele-health
- Provision of medical care services which overcome the barriers of distance, time and resources

Tele-epidemiology
- Support the prevention and control of the spread of diseases

Improving Public Health
- Delivery of core public health programs; Assistance; Training; Prevention and control
Key findings

Recognition of drivers & promotion of strategic development

International community should vigorously pursue solutions provided by space applications to address practical and operational social needs of our planet
Key findings
More effective coordination and engagement

• Better coordination of inter-organizational and multi-disciplinary
• Promoting and supporting active engagement
• Harmonization of space technologies with the key public health functions

Exchange of ideas, coordination
Mixing experts, organizations

Providing technical solutions
Mixing data, technologies, disciplines

Building knowledge, capacity
Mixing brains…

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Implementing practical recommendations

**NATIONAL LEVEL**
- Sharing information, infrastructure, data
- Encouraging inter-sectoral agreements
- Long-term efforts in cross-disciplinary capacity building

**INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL LEVEL**
- Hosting technical conferences, workshops and symposia
- Encourage the creation of regional platforms

**UN LEVEL**
- Linked UN bodies undertaking or interested in telehealth and tele-epidemiology activities
Decisions at COPUOS STSC

- AT6 Report will be sent to WHO for comments and recommendations on future work
- Canada to host Workshop on Tele-health and Tele-epidemiology in June 2011
- Consideration for the creation of an international committee
- Report to STSC in February 2012
Way forward

• Canada to organise the Workshop, in cooperation with UN-OOSA and ESA, in Montreal, June 19-22, 2011

• Outreach to WHO and GEOSS CoP

• Results of workshop to be presented to COPUOS in February 2012 on next steps, taking into consideration WHO and GEOSS CoP
Montreal Workshop

Theme:
Space technology for Public Health Actions in the Context of Climate Change Adaptation

Objectives:
– present the latest research, programs, approaches and policies that capitalize on innovative partnerships addressing satellite technology, climate change and public health
– provide networking and knowledge opportunities in new surveillance and risk assessment methods aimed to better address health conditions arising from a fast changing environment.

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Workshop Program at a glance

The 2 and ½ day Workshop is taking place as part of the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) annual conference

Session Themes:
- Tele-epidemiology contribution to public health actions,
- Tele-health contribution to addressing public health actions,
- Leveraging space technologies for public health, in the context of climate change adaptation,
- Integrating Space Technologies to Public health Action: Building capacity, leadership and initiatives for the future
For further information:
UNCOPUOS AT6 Report available on UNCOPUOS STSC web site

Workshop web site:
www.medvet.umontreal.ca/grezosp/tele-epi2011.htm

CPHA Conference Website:

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