



UN-SPIDER July 2008 Updates

Please forward this **UN-SPIDER Updates** to colleagues who might benefit from receiving the information.

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<http://www.ungiwg.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/unspider>

1. Caribbean Region Taking Advantage of Space-based Solutions

A direct result of the recent "United Nations Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop: Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management and Emergency Response for the Caribbean" which was held in Barbados, from 8 to 11 July 2008, was the request for activation of the International Charter Space and Major Disasters to monitor the recent activity of the volcano in Montserrat (16.715N, 62.176W) on 29 July 2008. Mr. Rod Stewart, Acting Director of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory participated in the Caribbean workshop where he shared his expertise and learnt of the opportunities available for the Caribbean region. On his return he immediately had the opportunity to take advantage of what he learnt and to contact the people he met in Barbados to help Montserrat to deal with this new potential threat.

Information on the workshop can be accessed at:

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/unspider/recentworkshops.html>

2. UN-SPIDER Support to Wenchuan Earthquake Relief Efforts

UN-SPIDER received thanks from the China National Committee for Disaster Reduction (CNCDR) and the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC) for providing support to China during the recent catastrophic Wenchuan Earthquake which occurred on 12 May 2008. The thank-you letter specifically recognised that the support received from UN-SPIDER helped China "coordinate with international agencies to provide to us satellite images of the earthquake areas" and that this was "very helpful in our timely acquirement of first hand information for the disaster assessment." In particular they thanked UN-SPIDER Programme Coordinator, David Stevens, "who came to Beijing and provided useful suggestions about our work". The support received "played a unique role in assisting our estimation about the magnitude of damage and greatly empowered the rescue and relief efforts to reduce the casualties and damage. While expressing our gratitude to your institution for your timely and most needed support, I wish that we continue our close cooperation in application for space technologies in disaster prevention and reduction for benefiting the people."

Full story at:

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/unspider/index.html>

3. Visual Tools for BP's Crisis Managers

A Web-based tool combining 3-D satellite imagery and real-time weather data helps crisis managers at energy company BP make improved decisions. For years, Brian Autio, BP's geospatial team lead for the Gulf of Mexico, used a mishmash of tools, from satellite images to paper wall maps dotted with pushpins, to accomplish his work. There was room for improvement. "It's just a very intense process, and it lends itself perfectly to technology," Autio said. He and his colleagues now have a more advanced system to help them do their jobs. BP's Crisis Management System uses 3-D satellite imagery, real-time weather data, and a visual representation of the company's workers, their homes and corporate assets to deliver a visual assessment of what's happening where.

Full story at:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=networking_and_internet&articleId=320316&taxonomyId=16&intsrc=kc_feat

4. Financial Institutions Leverage Satellite Services for Disaster Recovery

SES Americom recently announced that its REDiSat Network satellite communications technology is providing disaster recovery services to financial service providers in the Gulf of Mexico area. According to the company, the SES Americom REDiSat Network was devised to repair connectivity after a natural disaster within seconds. SES Americom plans to provide satellite aid to financial institutions like St. Martin Bank & Trust in St. Martinville, Louisiana.

Full story at:

<http://www.tradingmarkets.com/site/news/Stock%20News/1732994/>

5. Extended Cyclone Relief Efforts Aided from Space

Earth observation satellites have provided vital information to relief workers in Myanmar throughout a particularly long crisis response window following the devastating Cyclone Nargis that hit the country on 2 and 3 May 2008. Immediately after the disaster, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) asked the International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters' for support with immediate crisis mapping of the affected areas. Damage maps were able to be created quickly because the RESPOND project, which delivers satellite mapping for disaster reduction and humanitarian aid, had delivered EO-derived topographic maps of Myanmar a month before the disaster.

Full story at:

http://www.esa.int/esaCP/SEM68CSHKHF_index_0.html

6. Brazil to Harness Space Technology to Monitor Deforestation

Brazil will launch a satellite in 2011 to monitor deforestation and urban expansion around the world, it has been announced. Amazônia-1 will carry a UK-made high resolution camera. The United Kingdom-Brazil collaboration was announced on 14 July at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society for Progress in Science. Other applications include mapping of remote areas, and coastal and disaster monitoring.

Full story at:

<http://www.enn.com/ecosystems/article/37722>

7. Satellite Radio Product Launched to Support Emergency Response Teams in British Columbia

Glentel Inc. has announced the launch of EMERGNET BC - a mobile satellite system built to keep British Columbia's Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response organizations in constant communication under critical circumstances. The system comprises two newly created satellite radio talk groups developed to aid reliable, inter-operational communications in the event of a disaster or wide-spread emergency. The two EMERGNET BC talk groups, developed in conjunction with Simon Fraser University's Telematics Research Lab, may be used independently of terrestrial satellite or public and cellular telephone networks. These groups also have no reliance on traditional communications infrastructure.

Full story at:

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/July2008/09/c3410.html>

8. Chinese Earthquake Analyzed by New COSMO-SkyMed Radar Satellites

The earthquake which struck the Sichuan region in China has been imaged by the new COSMO-SkyMed radar satellites. A team from INGV (Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia) and the Italian Space Agency used two images, acquired one month before and two days after the quake, to generate a X-band coseismic interferogram, which shows part of the strong ground deformation caused by the fault dislocation. A different analysis of the same data also enabled the detection of several changes in radar response, possibly due to strong seismic damage, as far as 80 km from the epicenter.

Full report at:

http://www.ingv.it/primo-piano-1/news-archive/news-2008-2/cosmo-skymed-satellites/view?set_language=en

9. Caribbean Region Taking Advantage of Space-based Solutions – 2nd Part

Craig A. Batstone, based in Barbados and Managing Director of GeoOrbis, Inc., brought his expertise to the Caribbean workshop (see article 1. above) and made all participants aware of ImageConnect and access to DigitalGlobe's imagery library. He also informed everyone of the available Collection

Alert service which provides e-mail notifications each time new imagery is collected over a specific area of interest. From those workshop participants that signed up for the Collection Alert service GeoOrbis carried out a random drawing for 25 sq-km of archived imagery. The winner was Elizabeth Klute, Government of Anguilla, Director, Department of Disaster Management.

Further info at:

<http://www.georbis.com/products/collection-alerts/> to sign up for Collection Alerts

<http://www.globexplorer.com/products/imageconnect-suite.shtml> for a free trial of Image Connect

Conferences and Workshops

We maintain a Calendar of Events with upcoming Conferences, Meetings and Events relevant to the area of space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response. The Calendar can be viewed at:

<http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=h1a93vb3rk6ud1tvrequjsfk8s%40group.calendar.google.com>

10. "Map Africa 2008" in Cape Town, South Africa, 25-26 August 2008

Map Africa 2008 is the Third Annual African Conference and Exhibition on Geographical Information Technology and Applications. The conference is being organised by GIS Development in association with Department of Land Affairs, South Africa. It has gained support from DigitalGlobe, Rolta Middle East, Erdas, GeoEye and Speck Systems as sponsors.

More information at:

<http://mapafrica.gisdevelopment.net>

11. "First International Conference on Remote Sensing Techniques in Disaster Management and Emergency Response in the Mediterranean Region" in Zadar, Croatia, 22-24 September 2008

The Conference will cover several stages in risk management, such as knowledge, prevention, warning, management of emergency situations, post-analysis of crisis, and environmental rehabilitation. The Conference is jointly organised by EARSeL, the Scientific Council for Remote Sensing-Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, University of Zadar and GEOSAT Ltd., Zagreb.

More information at:

<http://www.earsel.geosat.hr/>

12. Segundo Curso Internacional CRECTEALC – Campus Brasil – Nodo Ecuador: "La Geoinformación en el Manejo de Cuencas Hidrográficas: Movimientos Gravitacionales de Ladera en regiones Andinas" in Quito, Ecuador, 27-31 Octubre 2008

El programa preliminar y el formulario de inscripción están en la página del Campus Brasil/CRECTEALC:

<http://www.inpe.br/unidades/cep/atividadescep/crectalc/inicial.htm>

13. "Use of Remote Sensing Techniques for Monitoring Volcanoes and Seismogenic Areas - USEReST 2008" in Naples, Italy, 11-13 November 2008

The focus will be on the operational use of Earth Observation data in real monitoring scenarios rather than on new scientific results. The user community is called to indicate the technological gaps that may limit the full exploitation of EO data in everyday monitoring practice; the developer community is expected to indicate the new operational features likely attainable in the near future.

More information at:

<http://www.userest.org/>

14. "International Symposium Geotunis 2008 – 3rd Edition" in Tunis, Tunisia, 26-30 November 2008

The theme of the conference is: "Natural resource management and study of the impact of climate change with geographic information systems, science and space technologies."

More information at:

http://www.geotunis.org/version_ang/index.php

Upcoming UN-SPIDER Outreach Activities

Further information on the following planned workshops can be obtained from the outreach activities section of the UN-SPIDER webpage: <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/unspider/workshops.html>

"United Nations Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop: Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management and Emergency Response for the Pacific region", Fiji, 16 – 19 September 2008

Second United Nations International UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop: "Disaster Management and Space Technology - Bridging the Gap" in Bonn, Germany, 13-15 October 2008

"5th UN-wide Meeting on the Use of Space Technologies for Emergency Response and Humanitarian Assistance" in Bonn, Germany, 16 to 17 October 2008

UN-SPIDER Regional Workshops/Activities Supported by UNOOSA

"I Escola de Primavera Sobre Soluções Espaciais para el Manejo de Desastres Naturales y Respuestas de Emergencias- Inundaciones" – Campus Brasil-CRECTEALC / Geodesastres-Sul-INPE / UN-SPIDER / GEOSS / CEOS WGEdu. Santa Maria, Brazil, 8-12 September 2008.

Organised by the Centro Regional de Educação em Ciência e Tecnologia Espacial para America Latina e o Caribe – CRECTEALC – Campus Brasil.

More information at: <http://www.inpe.br/crs/geodesastres/>

"Iranian Space Agency/UN-SPIDER Regional Workshop: Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management and Emergency Response" Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 6-8 October 2008.

Organized by the Iranian Space Agency (ISA).

For more information please contact: Mr. Saman Jalayerian E-mail: Jalayerian@isa.ir

"L'Outi Spatial au Service de la Gestion des Catastrophes et des Situations d'Urgence en Afrique" – Rabat, Morocco, 10-12 November 2008.

Organized by the Centre Régional Africain des Sciences et Technologies de l'Espace en Langue Française (CRASTE-LF, Rabat, Maroc).

For more information please contact: Mr. Abdelhaq Trache E-mail: trache@emi.ac.ma

*The **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)** implements the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. The Office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and assisting developing countries in using space science and technology. Headquartered in Vienna, Austria, UNOOSA maintains a website at <http://www.unoosa.org>.*

*In its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006 the United Nations General Assembly agreed to establish the **"United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response - UN-SPIDER"** as a programme within UNOOSA. UN-SPIDER focuses on the need to ensure access to and use of space-based solutions during all phases of the disaster management cycle.*