

**United Nations International UN-SPIDER Workshop:
Space-based Information and Solutions for
Disaster Management and Emergency Response**

**Organized by
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
and the German Aerospace Center (DLR)**

**With the support of
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Introduction/ Background

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), through its new programme, the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) are organising the above United Nations International UN-SPIDER Workshop to promote the access and use of space-based technologies and solutions for disaster management and emergency response within the relevant communities. The following organisations are also contributing to organising this workshop: UNU-IEHS (United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), ISDR/PPEW (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning), GEO (Group on Earth Observations) and DKKV (German Committee for Disaster Reduction).

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 new programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, to provide universal access to all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle by being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, serving as a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities and being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries.

As part of the UN-SPIDER outreach activities, workshops are being organized in 2007 to raise awareness within the user community of the benefits of using space-based information and solutions, to assess its needs and to contribute to specific activities of this new programme. In Bonn, UNOOSA and DLR are organising this international Workshop that will contribute directly to the activities of the UN-SPIDER Bonn office. The meeting is designed to help identify the conceptual requirements for the establishment

of the communication and information platform (the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal) to be developed by the UN-SPIDER office in Bonn. This workshop will be a forum which will bring together decision-makers and experts from the disaster management and space communities, key politicians, international scientific organizations, knowledge transfer and educational institutions, as well as internationally active private companies with the intention of sharing their best practices and to introduce their knowledge, products and technologies for disaster management and humanitarian and emergency response.

Objectives of the International UN-SPIDER Workshop

Major topics to be discussed at the workshop will be:

- Identification of relevant space-based information for Disaster Management Support and Emergency Response including on-going and planned initiatives, case studies and best practices, archived data for disaster studies and capacity building opportunities.
- Definition of a Knowledge Portal to ensure that relevant information is easily accessible and disseminated to all interested end-users including the design of an appropriate information database system
- Identification of existing and planned Communities of Practice that contribute to bringing together the space-based technology and disaster management communities
- Discussion and definition of a knowledge management and transfer framework and implementation of specific activities that will contribute to the transfer of knowledge.
- GEOSS Capacity Building Task CB-07-02 - Knowledge Sharing for Improved Disaster Management and Emergency Response
- Harmonisation of the various existing initiatives that are contributing to helping developing countries access and use space-based technologies for disaster management and risk reduction

Abstract:

Incident Command System for Building Faster Responses to Disasters Response in the Indian Ocean Countries

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In any disaster, decisions to take emergency action must be made and executed very rapid and quickly, sometimes in a matter of minutes (i.e. tsunami) to covering large geographic areas that span international borders. While the governments of some Indian Ocean countries have improved disaster response abilities in recent years, many still had great difficulty coping with the tsunami emergency in 2004. Sri Lanka, Indian, Indonesia, Thailand are the prominent countries in the Indian Ocean region to adopted the Incident Command System (ICS) for disaster response management. The ICS, used in the United States and other countries, is a standardized emergency management

system designed to allow users to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of any emergency, irrespective of its type and magnitude. Through its functional structure, the ICS provides accurate information, a high degree of accountability, a platform for planning, cost effective operations, and logistical support for any emergency. This paper will focus on the adaptation of ICS in the government structure without disturbing the existing system and in the context of culture and language in those countries.

