

Capacity Building Committee Report to the GEO III Plenary

As Accepted at GEO-III

Membership

Australia, **Brazil (co-chair)**, Canada, China, Croatia, **European Commission (co-chair)**, France, India, Iran, Italy, Germany, Greece, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Portugal, Russia, **South Africa (co-chair designate)**, **Spain (co-chair)**, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, USA, Uzbekistan.

AARSE, APN, CEOS, EEA, EUMETSAT, EuroGeoSurveys, FDSN, GCOS, IAG, IEEE, IGBP, IOC, ISCGM, ISPRS, POGO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNOOSA, WCRP (START), WMO

Meetings

- Two GEOSS Capacity Building needs analysis workshops for the Asia-Pacific region with a special focus on climate variability and change, were convened by APN in Tokyo (Nov. '05) and Bangkok (March '06).
- 1st Capacity Building Committee Meeting - 6-7 March 2006, Paris, France
Hosted by UNESCO, the committee discussed its Terms of Reference, reviewed in detail the tasks of the GEO 2006 Work Plan and agreed on the creation of a GEO Capacity Building Strategy.
- Capacity Building Workshop – 29-31 May 2006, Sao José, Brazil
On the invitation of the committee – and hosted by INPE of Brazil – a group of over 60 international and Brazilian experts exchanged capacity building experiences and discussed the development of the GEO Capacity Building Strategy.
- 2nd Capacity Building Committee Meeting – 14-15 September 2006, Brussels, Belgium
The three main topics discussed by the committee were the progress of capacity building tasks of the GEO 2006 Work Plan, the draft GEO Capacity Building Strategy (2007-2011) and the draft GEO 2007-2009 Work Plan. The meeting was hosted by the European Commission.
- Next Meeting – early February 2007, Madrid, Spain
To be hosted by Spain, this meeting will launch activities in fulfilment of capacity building tasks under the GEO 2007-2009 Work Plan.

Main Activities

Implementation of GEO 2006 Work Plan Tasks

Capacity Building Committee members have been active in the fulfilment of 19 tasks, plus the GEONETCast initiative.

These tasks can be placed in three broad categories which address:

- Cross-cutting capacity building issues
- Specific GEO societal benefit areas + GEONETCast
- Outreach tasks

One task will be completed, four tasks (plus GEONETCast) will continue and six tasks will be merged in the draft 2007-2009 Work Plan. One task will be closed. The remaining seven tasks associated with outreach are planned to be addressed in the draft Outreach Plan drafted by the GEO Secretariat. Details on the progress all these tasks are to be found in the GEO Secretariat report.

Development of the Draft GEO Capacity Building Strategy

Following the decision of the committee at its first meeting in March 2006 to develop a Capacity Building Strategy as called for in the 10-Year Implementation Plan, a preliminary survey was undertaken of the current status of capacity building activities among committee members, plus further research, to provide initial results for discussion and proposals for action.

The results of the research were discussed by a group of over 60 international and Brazilian experts who exchanged capacity building experiences at the Capacity Building Workshop in May in Brazil. The discussion on the strategy was informed by a preliminary survey and analysis of activities undertaken by committee members and resulted in outline requirements, approach and initial timetable for the development of the strategy. The proceedings and results of the workshop (including the survey) can be found at: <http://www.dsr.inpe.br/workshopgeo>

The draft strategy document was developed according to the following timetable:

June/July	Formation of small writing team and an expert reference team for initial reviews; approach to other GEO committees for co-ordination
August	Development of initial draft for review by expert reference team
September	Development of second and third full drafts for review by Capacity Building Committee members, expert reference and co-chairs of other GEO committees
October	Creation of draft document for distribution to the GEO community, for discussion and acceptance at GEO-III Plenary meeting

Should the draft strategy be accepted by the GEO community at the GEO-III Plenary meeting, it is proposed to launch communication activities on the strategy to major donors and decision-makers in the first half of 2007 at a Capacity Building Symposium to be held in Madrid, Spain.

Outstanding Issues

Participation in the GEO Capacity Building Committee and its activities

Despite the active participation of existing members, it is recognised by the committee that it suffers from a lack the perspective and inputs from a wide range of developing countries, especially from Africa, Asia and

Latin America. Additional members and co-chairs are required for active leadership and participation from countries and organisations from developing and developed regions.

To address this situation the Capacity Building Committee agreed at its 2nd meeting to:

- engage routinely in outreach activities, at relevant meetings and conferences
- use GEO Secretariat publicity materials, with the development of specific materials related to capacity building as appropriate
- address the specific concerns and challenges of developing countries in outreach messages
- encourage continued support for the travel expenses of those countries that could not otherwise participate in Capacity Building Committee meetings.

This subject will become a permanent feature of Capacity Building Committee meeting agendas, where targets will be adopted and progress monitored.

Capacity building as a mainstream activity in GEOSS implementation

The Committee is of the view that the development of comprehensive and sustainable capacity building efforts addressing needs for infrastructure, education and training and the building of local institutional capacity need to be mainstream activities in the fulfilment of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan. Therefore the Capacity Building Committee will work with the other GEO committees in order to give the appropriate attention to the capacity building concerns as they occur within the GEO Work Plan tasks. If accepted by the GEO community, the draft GEO Capacity Building Strategy will provide the approach and describe the mechanisms to be adopted to ensure the required focus.

Recommendations to the GEO-III Plenary Meeting

1 Amendment of the Terms of Reference

Approval is requested from the GEO community for the amendment of the Terms of Reference of the GEO Capacity Building Committee as outlined in Annex I of this report.

2 Addition of South Africa as Co-Chair

It is requested that the GEO community approves South Africa as a co-chair of the committee, alongside Brazil, the European Commission and Spain. In order to address the issue of greater and more active participation in the committee, especially by developing countries, new members from the GEO community are also encouraged.

3 Draft GEO Capacity Building Strategy (2007-2011)

Acceptance is requested from the GEO community of the draft GEO Capacity Building Strategy (Document 13) as a broad guide to priority actions and to inform the development and fulfilment of capacity building work plan tasks for the 2007-2011 period.

4 Draft GEO 2007-2009 Work Plan

It is recommended that the GEO community accepts the addition and amendment of capacity building tasks as outlined in comments from the committee on the draft work plan, which are based on the proposals contained in the draft GEO Capacity Building Strategy.



5 Capacity building as a mainstream GEO activity

The GEO community is encouraged to express its Capacity Building needs, provide information on its Capacity Building efforts in Earth observation and address the related issues in the specific GEO Work plan tasks as they occur, using the draft GEO Capacity Building Strategy as a guide.

Annexes

Annex I: Amended Terms of Reference

Annex 1

GEO Rules of Procedure

APPENDIX 2

Capacity Building Committee Terms of Reference

Revisions Proposed by the GEO Capacity Building Committee

As of 6 March 2006

Purpose

The Capacity Building Committee will support the GEO in strengthening the capability of all countries, in particular developing countries, to use Earth observation data and products in a sustainable manner and to contribute observations and systems to GEOSS. The GEO capacity building strategy will follow the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) concept of a global partnership between those whose capacity needs development and those who are able to assist in the process, recognizing that activities have intertwined social, environmental, and economic impacts.

Objectives

1. To facilitate Earth observation capacity building activities among GEO Members, in concert with GEO Participating Organizations.
2. To build **[the capacity of all GEO Members global capacity]** to access, retrieve, analyze, include into appropriate models, and interpret relevant data from global data systems.
3. To build **[the capacity of all GEO Members global capacity]** to integrate Earth observation data and information with data and information from other sources, improving understanding of problems in order to identify sustainable solutions.
4. **[Support the GEO in developing To develop]** a coordinated GEOSS capacity building strategy **[among GEO Members and Participating Organizations]** based on the principles articulated in the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan Reference Document.
5. To recommend strategies for resource mobilization.



Approach and Functions

1. In collaboration with existing capacity building mechanisms of GEO Members and participating organizations, identify priority areas in which Earth observation capacity building would have significant impact and benefit.
2. Examine existing and proposed Earth observation capacity building activities by national governments, participating organizations, and other relevant institutions, and identify mechanisms for leveraging, developing and coordinating Earth observation capacity building initiatives.
3. The Capacity Building Committee will monitor and report to Plenary on the achievement of milestones and deliverables in the implementation of relevant elements of the GEO annual work plans.