

GEO News (Issue #9, 22 July 2010)

IMPLEMENTING GEOSS

The GEO Call for Proposals: Your support is needed!

GEO issued a Call for Proposals (CFP) in February 2009 inviting organizations to propose or participate in projects that apply Earth observations to decision-support activities. This effort to demonstrate the ability of GEO to build capacity for Earth observations is now reaching its critical final stage. The wider engagement of the GEO community in this effort is vital to ensuring its success. [Continued...](#)

How AEGOS and geology contribute to the GEO Work Plan

The sustainable use of geological resources such as minerals, building materials, groundwater and geothermal and other energy sources is a key issue for the world's future, due to an ever-increasing population and the rising demand for natural resources. Their management presents an environmental challenge that is not yet well-reflected in the GEO Work Plan. The European Commission has funded several projects designed to fill this gap, one of which is the African-European Geo-resources Observation System, AEGOS. [Continued ...](#)

INPE opens new forest monitoring center in the Amazon

Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) officially opened its new regional center last July in Belém, in the Amazon region. The new facility will carry out research and development activities on the monitoring of tropical forests and aims to become a world reference in this area. [Continued ...](#)

GEO UPDATE

A brief update on the Beijing Ministerial

The GEO 2010 Ministerial Task Force, with guidance from the Executive Committee, continues to work with the host government to advance preparations for the second GEO Ministerial, to be held in Beijing on 5 November. Early expressions of interest from Ministers as well as exhibitors are an encouraging sign that this mid-term Summit will be a dynamic and well-attended event. [Continued ...](#)

Gabon becomes newest GEO Member

The Government of the Gabonese Republic joined the Group on Earth Observations on 21 June 2010. The total number of GEO Members is now 82 (81 governments plus the European Commission). A complete list of GEO Members and Participating Organizations can be found on the [GEO web site](#).

Pretoria hosts first GEO Work Plan Symposium...

The first Work Plan Symposium was held on 17-19 May 2010 in Pretoria, South Africa. It convened over 80 participants from 30 GEO Members and Participating Organizations representing over 70% of the Work Plan (sub)Tasks. The Work Plan Symposium represented a key opportunity to foster coordination across and within Overarching Tasks, exchange information, and develop synergies across the Work Plan. [Continued ...](#)

... and a round GEO Committee meetings

The four GEO Committees – Architecture and Data, Capacity Building, Science and Technology, and User Interface – held their second-ever joint meeting in Pretoria immediately following May's Work Plan Symposium. [Continued ...](#)

Ukraine promotes Earth observations for sustainable development and security

The second conference on Earth Observations for Sustainable Development and Security was held from 14 to 17 June 2010 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the prospects of remote-sensing data utilization for natural resources management, sustainable development and security within the framework of GEOSS, GMES, INSPIRE activities and the establishment of the Ukrainian segment of GEOSS (GEO-UA system). [Continued ...](#)

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