

PROGRAM

GEO Side Event

Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)

Strengthening Regional Capacity Building Initiatives in Earth Observation

Date: 09 November

Useful information:

When: Monday 9 November 2015 (14h30-18h00)

Where: SRE Room Jose Morelos Seccion D, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Organizers: ITC

Theme: Strengthening regional capacity building initiatives in earth observation

Aim of the Side Event

The aim of the Side Event is to get an overview of what is currently being done in terms of capacity building on Earth Observation by the various national and regional organizations that participate in GEO. In addition to this the aim is to discuss these capacity building activities on earth observation and to develop a shared vision on how these capacity building activities can be shaped for the immediate future. Capacity development has traditionally focused on human resource development and institutional strengthening of largely the government and university sector. A new dimension in form of the private sector has in the recent years gained in importance. Developing an EO sector has been the overarching goal. This workshop also explores ways to engage with private initiatives.

First session:

Presentations are invited from organizations that are active in capacity development, explaining what their current activities are, what their experiences are, what the feedback is from member countries and client organizations, and what they envisage for the future.

ITC as host of the Side Event will describe its own experiences and will also indicate what (in its own view) lies in the future for capacity development in earth observation.

A discussion follows these presentations to clarify on the experiences and to identify the overall view on requirements from the market (labour market, government at various levels, private sector) and anticipated future activities. Also: can earth observation be seen in isolation from processing, analysis, modeling and management of spatial information ?

<break>

Second Session:

After the break presentations will be made by the STARS project where knowledge is developed on the use of Earth Observation data and technology. This session focuses on 'the last mile' or bring EO products to the market and end users.

A discussion follows these presentations to analyze the situation and to compare the current practice in capacity building with the most recent developments on the ground and the requirements and expectations for capacity development that is brought to the table by the "market". What this boils down to is that training institutions must be able to cover "the last mile", focusing their capacity building activities on requirements in the market, and bringing technology and the solutions it has to offer to the ultimate user community (at all relevant levels).

Question that could be raised:

Is the Capacity Building crowd prepared to adapt activities and programs to this new reality ? As an example: ITC is receiving requests for support and training in the use of modern tools and techniques (use of UAV's, mobile technologies (mobile phones, crowd sourcing, etc.) but none of this is present in our educational programs.

Are our education and training programs too conventional and static to cope with developments in technology as well as market demand ?

Agenda of the workshop

Monday 9 November	Activity	Speaker	Location
14:30	Opening of the Workshop	Van der Meer	Jose Morelos Seccion D
14:35	Introductory presentation	Van der Meer	Jose Morelos Seccion D
14:40 – 15:00	Presentation by RECTAS; Capacity Building in Earth Observation in West Africa: Opportunities, Challenges and Prospects.	Akingbade	Jose Morelos Seccion D
15:00 – 15:20	Presentation by RCMRD; RCMRD – Post GEO-XII and Activities for Sub Sahara Africa	Akong'o	Jose Morelos Seccion D
15:20 – 15:40	Presentation by NSO; Bridging the last mile to small holder farmers: innovative business models for agricultural advisory and financial services	Ruud Grim	Jose Morelos Seccion D
14:40 – 15:00	Discussion		Jose Morelos Seccion D
15:00 – 15:30	Break Coffee, Tea, drinks, Poster viewing		Break area
15:30 – 15:50	Presentation by ITC on the STARS project	Rolf de By	Jose Morelos Seccion D
15:50 – 16:10	Presentations by STARS partners • University of Maryland; <i>Earth</i>	Inbal Becker-	Jose Morelos Seccion D

16:10 – 16:30 16:30 – 16:50	<i>Observations in support of agricultural decisions in Tanzania and Uganda: A STARS East Africa project</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICISAT; <i>Outstanding challenges and new avenues in African smallholder agriculture monitoring with very high resolution remote sensing</i> • CIMMYT; <i>Insights from doing research on farmers fields with a UAV</i> 	Reshef Sibiry Traore Urs Schulthess	
16:50 – 17:05	Presentation by ITC; capacity building 2.0	Tom Veldkamp	Jose Morelos Seccion D
17:05 - 18:00	Discussion and Wrap up	Van der Meer	Jose Morelos Seccion D