



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES A VIENNE

INFORMATION NOTE

Sixteenth UN/IAF Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Water Management

**To be held in Valencia, Spain, from 29 to 30 September 2006,
in conjunction with the 57th International Astronautical Congress**

Co-sponsored by European Space Agency (ESA)

1. Background

The United Nations (UN) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) have agreed to jointly organise a Workshop on the theme “*Using Space Technology for Water Management*”, from 29 to 30 September 2006. The Workshop will be held in conjunction with the 57th International Astronautical Congress (IAC), which will take place from 2 to 6 October 2006 in Valencia, Spain. Workshop participants selected by the UN and IAF will also be invited to attend the IAC.

This Workshop is the sixteenth meeting jointly organised by the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and by the International Astronautical Federation. It builds on the recommendations and experience gained from previous workshops. The UN/IAF Workshop has been endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly as part of the 2006 activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

The UN/IAF Workshop and the 57th IAC provide an unique forum for discussions among space experts, policy and decision makers, representatives from academic community and private industry. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences and to examine opportunities for better cooperation. In the past, contacts established among participants have resulted in a number of initiatives and activities strengthening the role of space technology applications for improving the quality of life in developing countries.

The proceedings of the Workshop will be edited and subsequently published online by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to increase the awareness of the capabilities and benefits of space technology applications. The report of the Workshop, including recommendations formulated by the participants, will be presented to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

2. Objectives

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), more than one hundred Heads of States and Governments reaffirmed their strong commitment to the full implementation of Agenda 21, which was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. They also committed themselves to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

At the same time, the resolution entitled “Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration for Space and Human Development”, which was adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), contains a strategy for enhancing the use of space science and technology to contribute to the solutions of major global issues. The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration could support many of the actions called for in the WSSD Plan of Implementation to manage, protect and restore water resources.

Starting with its session in 2004, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space began to consider matters related to the use of space-related technology in water resource management. The Committee noted that in response to the deepening water crisis, space technology could contribute to a better water resource management by providing data and information on the availability of water resources and water use. The Committee also noted that once converted into practical information, scientific data on water resources provided by satellites could be used to formulate policy and implement programmes at the national, regional and international levels, including those of the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and other entities of the United Nations system.

The Workshop will address these issues, and will discuss how space technology can contribute in management of water resources, including combating desertification, ensuring access to safe drinking water and managing water-related emergencies, such as floods, tsunamis and mudslides as well as epidemiological, sanitary and humanitarian aspects of such emergencies, with the following primary objectives:

- To increase awareness among decision makers and academic community of space technology applications for improving water resource management in developing countries;
- To promote educational and public awareness initiatives in the are of water resources management;
- To examine low-cost space-related technologies and information resources available for addressing water-related challenges in developing countries;
- To strengthen international and regional cooperation in the subjects.

3. Programme

The Workshop will be composed of a series of technical presentations with sufficient time set aside for discussions. Technical sessions will be followed by open discussions which will focus on specific topics of interest and will provide additional opportunities for participants to voice their opinions.

The programme of the Workshop may include, but is not limited to, the following topics:

- Applications of space technologies that provide cost-effective solutions or essential information for planning and implementation of programmes or projects to enhance management, protection and restoration of water resources.
- Use of space-related technologies in mitigating water-related emergencies, providing safe drinking water and combating desertification.
- Education and training required for various target groups on using space technologies for addressing water-related challenges.
- International, regional and national initiatives.
- Public awareness.
- International cooperation.
- Case studies on successful applications of space technologies for enhancing water resources management in developing countries.

Participants of the Workshop are encouraged to make presentations on the topics suggested above, as well as participating actively in the discussions of the Working Groups.

The latest version of the programme will be made available on the web site of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (<http://www.unoosa.org>).

4. Date and location of Workshop

The Workshop will be held from 29 to 30 September 2006 at the University of Valencia, as part of the 57th IAC. Participants who are selected and funded by the co-sponsors will be able also to attend the IAC, which will take place from 2 to 6 September 2006 in Valencia, Spain.

All selected participants will receive an information package with details on boarding, lodging and other local arrangements.

5. Language of the Workshop and presentation by participants

Applicants must have a good ability of English, which will be the **only** working language of the Workshop.

Selected participants who are funded by the cosponsors of the Workshop will be required to prepare a presentation of approximately 10 to 20 minutes on topics relevant to the Workshop objectives and the programme. Presentations on actual projects in space education will be of particular interest to organizers of the Workshop.

6. Participation requirements

Applicants must have a university degree and well-established professional working experience in a field related to the theme of the Workshop. Applicants should be working in relevant government organizations, international or national space agencies, non-governmental organizations, research or academic institutions. It is preferred that the applicants are currently involved in programmes, projects or enterprises involved in the development of human resources in space science and technology, or potentially could be benefited from using space technology in their future projects.

Special consideration will be given to the applicants:

- who are policy- and decision- makers;
- who have papers accepted by the IAF Congress Program Committee;
- who have experience in leading or performing project(s) in the topic area, or who have sound ideas and good potential of realizing the ideas to real projects.

The co-sponsors of the Workshop will jointly select participants on a competitive basis. Selected participants will be notified by 15 July 2006.

7. Financial arrangements

Within the limited financial resources available to the co-sponsors, a number of selected participants from developing countries will be offered financial support to attend the Workshop and IAC. Funded participants will be provided with round trip air tickets between the international airport of their home countries and the International Airport at Valencia, Spain. The funded participants will also be provided with daily subsistence allowance to cover board and lodging for the duration of the Workshop and IAC. Any en-route expenses or any changes made to the tickets will be at the participant's own expense.

Due to limited availability of financial support, not all participants can be funded. In this respect, applicants and their nominating organizations are strongly encouraged to find additional sources of sponsorship to allow them to attend the Workshop.

Funded participants will receive detailed information upon notification of their selection.

8. Deadline for Submission of Applications

A copy of the completed application form, properly endorsed by applicant's government/ institution, should be directly submitted to:

Office for Outer Space Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna
Vienna International Centre
P.O. BOX 500, A-1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA
Fax: (+43-1) 26060-5830
Phone: (+43-1) 26060- 4948
E-mail: oosa@unvienna.org

to reach the Office **no later than 1 July 2006**. The original of the completed application form should be submitted through the Office of the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in the applicant's country.

Applications received later than the deadline will be considered, but not eligible for financial support.

9. Life and Health Insurance

Life/major health insurance for each of the selected participants is necessary and is the responsibility of the participant or his/her institution or government. The co-sponsors will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for any expenses related to medical treatment or accidental events.

10. Additional Information

For up-to-date information on this activity please refer to the Office for Outer Space Affairs website at <http://www.unoosa.org>.