



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES A VIENNE

INFORMATION NOTE

Eighteenth UN/IAF Workshop on “Integrated Space Technology Applications – Support to Managing Potentially Hazardous Events”

**To be held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, from 26 to 27 September 2008, in
conjunction with the 59th 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 “Integrated Space Technology Applications – Support to Managing Potentially Hazardous Events”, from 26 to 27 September 2008. The Workshop will be held in conjunction with the 59th International Astronautical Congress (IAC), which will take place from 29 September to 3 October 2008 in Glasgow, United Kingdom. Workshop participants selected by the UN and IAF will also be invited to attend the IAC.

This Workshop is the eighteenth 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 2008 activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

The UN/IAF Workshop and the 59th IAC provide a 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 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 findings and recommendations formulated by the participants, will be presented to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

2. Objectives

At the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held from 19 - 30 July 1999 in Vienna, Austria, a fundamental requirement was agreed to promote an integrated, global system, especially through international cooperation, to manage natural disaster mitigation, relief and prevention efforts, especially of an international nature, through Earth observation, communications and other space-based services, making maximum use of existing capabilities and filling gaps in worldwide satellite coverage.

In this context, UNISPACE III placed a great importance to enhance capacity building of the developing countries. It will be accomplished through international cooperation in various aspects such as: the development of human and budgetary resources; adequate coordination among the technical and research organizations that are in charge of evaluating risks and responsible for emergency relief; and the development of infrastructure and policy regulations in this area.

The Workshop will discuss a wide range of space-related technologies, services and information resources available for support to hazard management from short-term emergency activation of resources to help for long-term planning of mitigation activities. International, regional and national initiatives, such as EU/ESA GMES, International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, GEOSS and the UN-SPIDER, will be presented at the Workshop as well. Primary objectives of this event include the following:

- To increase awareness among decision makers and representatives of research and academic community about the use of space technology applications for sustainable development programmes supporting hazards management in developing countries;
- To examine low-cost space-related technologies and information resources available for addressing hazards management;
- To strengthen capacity building in the area of hazards management and space technology; and
- 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:

- Space-related technologies, services and information resources that are available for support to hazard management.
- International initiatives, programmes and cooperation.
- Use of small satellites for disaster management systems to benefit developing countries.

- Capacity building in developing countries, including discussions on human, financial and technical resources required for successful use of space technologies and services for hazard management.

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.

Co-organizers of the event also plan to continue a practice of holding a round table with participation of heads of space agencies and other relevant national/regional/international institutions and organizations from both space faring and none-space faring countries in order to establish a direct dialogue with the Workshop participants on how space technologies and policies can contribute to hazard management programmes in developing countries. The round table will also discuss issues and problems in participants' countries as well as open an exchange of pragmatic ideas between decision-makers and leaders from the above-mentioned organizations and participants of the Workshop.

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 26 to 27 September 2008 at the premises of the 59th IAC and as part of the Congress. Participants who are selected and funded by the co-sponsors will be able also to attend the IAC, which will take place from 29 September to 3 October 2008 in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

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 on-going projects 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 application of space science and technology to management of hazardous events, 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 2008.

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 Glasgow, UK. 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: unpsa@unvienna.org

to reach the Office **no later than 10 June 2008**. 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>.