

Member Activities

5. Centre Régional de Télédétection des Etats de L' Afrique de Nord (CRTEAN)

Presented to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to the Office for Outer Space Affairs. United Nations – Vienna., October 2005

I – Introduction

The present report concerns the activities of the North African Centre for Remote Sensing (CRTEAN) for 2005. It has been prepared for the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) and the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). The report is in conformity with the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Use of the Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

The CRTEAN activities carried out and those planned for 2006 are based on the following fields of interest.

2 – Protecting the earth's environment and managing its resources

Many activities have been carried out in this chapter:

2.1- Digital inventory of the north African national institutions specialized in the use of remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems for the study and the monitoring of natural ecosystems: the elaborated questionnaire in English and French versions (**annexes a1**) serve to gather the main information concerning statutes, missions and interest fields of the inventoried Member States or associated States institutions.

The purpose of this inventory is to characterize each institution inside a precise criteria regarding their training and/or research capabilities, interest fields) for identification of centres of excellence and setting up a sub regional map of functional specificities.

Algeria, Tunisia and Syria have thus far sent their completed questionnaires.

2.1- Preparation of vol. IV, n° 8 of «CRTEAN Newsletter» concerning the major risks, especially the natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, forest fires, locust invasions) which affects strongly the north African sub region.

A communication form was addressed to the principal institutions of Member States and associated Members related to the use of remote sensing techniques for studying and monitoring of natural disasters.

2006 planning activities

- Continuation of digital inventory of north African national institutions working on the use of remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems for the study and the monitoring of natural ecosystems. We must try to gather a maximum of completed questionnaires.
- Publication of issue 9, volume IV of «CRTEAN Newsletter» concerning the bibliographic references and websites on the natural disasters field.

3 – Using space applications for human security, development and welfare

3.1- International conference on the natural disasters and the role of satellite remote sensing: economic and legal considerations: this meeting was organized in Tunis-Tunisia on 26, 27 and 28 April 2005, jointly by North African Centre for Remote Sensing (CRTEAN) and the European Centre for Space Law / European Space Agency, with the participation of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

The goal of this meeting was to promote the global cooperation actions in use of remote sensing data to prevent and manage the natural disasters. It was also meant to analyse the implementation of agreements for the CRTEAN Member States and the promotion of the knowledge on space law, the provisions relating to satellite remote sensing, and practices and policies of the various players (**annex b1**).

This conference had brought together decision-makers and experts from Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Syria and Tunisia and the European and international partners (**annex b2**); it follows a first conference organized in October 2002 on "satellite remote sensing in aid of development: legal considerations

A declaration adopted at the closing of this conference shows the importance for the participating countries of access to satellite data and international cooperation (**annex b3**).

The proceedings of this conference will be published in due course.



Remark: the seminar on the contribution of high resolution satellite data for base mapping and 3D view: applications on the study of urban environment, planned for this year has been postponed, due to institutional partnership change.

4 – Advancing scientific knowledge of space and protecting the space environment

4.1- Training workshop Star Gis: it has been organized with the Belgian partner "Star Informatic" in CRTEAN headquarters on 29 june, 1 and 2 july 2005 and dealt with: the integration and practice of Star Gis (**annex c1**); it followed the workshop of November 2004 on use and application of Star Gis.

The workshop included two experts of each from Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Tunisia as simultaneous

interpretation in English and French had been assured (**annex c2**).

4.2- Publication of a report on CRTEAN presentation on the South African review "African Skies", issue 9, May 2005 (**annex d1**).

4.3- The first issue of the magazine «CRTEAN Info» planned for this year will also be published in due course.

5 - Conclusion

The activities of this year are inscribed in the coordination and exchange strengthening within the north African states and between them and the CRTEAN external partners.

Asian Journal of GEOINFORMATICS

The official journal of the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS)

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