

Report on the International Workshop on Supporting Future Earth with Global Geo-information

The International Workshop on Supporting Future Earth with Global Geo-information, jointly organized by NASG, NGCC, Chinese National Committee for Future Earth, LIESMAR Wuhan University and UN-SPIDER Beijing Office, was held on June 9-10, 2015 in Beijing with great success. The workshop welcomed a total of 80 scientists, researchers and professionals from 16 different international organizations in the geo-information field.

The workshop was officially opened by Mr. Jun Chen, ISPRS President. Jinghai Li, Vice President of ICSU, CAST and CAS, Yiren Min, Deputy Director General of NASG, and Luc St-Pierre, Senior Programme Officer from UNOOSA, delivered welcome speeches. Keynote speeches were delivered by Prof. Dahe Qin, ICSU Future Earth Science Committee and Vice President of CAST, and Mr. Mario Hernandez, ICSU Future Earth Engagement Committee, entitled “Future Earth and Its Implementation in China” and “Future Earth and the Role of Earth Observation”, respectively.



The workshop was organized into five technical sessions and two discussion sessions. The technical sessions addressed a number of important topics, including, “Working Together to Support Future Earth”, “Future Earth and Global Geoinformation”, “Disaster Risk Reduction and Global Geoinformation”, “Open Geospatial Science and Global Geoinformation” and “Towards a Geoinformation Portal for Future Earth”. During these sessions, presentations were made by delegates from UN-SPIDER, GOF-C-GOLD Land Cover Project Office in Netherlands and CODATA-PASTED and other organizations on their past experiences and current achievements, with discussions.



The two discussion sessions are worth mentioning due to their importance and active involvement of participants in the discussions. The first one was run on June 9, 2015 with a focus on “Set a way to work together- preparing an international scientific program”. A proposal for a scientific initiative on developing “Collaborative Platform for Global Land Information”, *CoGLand* in short, was presented and discussed. It was agreed that the implementation and success of UN Post-2015 Agenda and ICSU’s Future Earth depend critically on the availability and utilization of reliable global geo-information. International organizations have to work together towards the co-design, co-development and co-operation of CoGLand, which enables timely and easy access to global land information in support of Future Earth and sustainability through such a cooperatively inter-connecting national, regional and global land information service platform. Some problems and issues were also identified through extensive discussions, which include:

- What are the user needs and who will be the target user groups? Would it be better for the CoGLand to start as a platform for one or more specific application areas or as a general platform?
- How will the proposed platform complement existing GEOSS portal? As a GEO community portal? How will the CoGLand learn from and/or relate to other existing similar platforms and portals (need for a survey of existing portals)?
- What types of data, information and services CoGLand will provide and serve? Any particular standards or supporting policies need to be developed?
- Who will be responsible for hosting such a platform once developed? What resources are available for supporting the development of CoGLand?
- How to involve decision makers in such a large-scale platform development?

In the second discussion session, a draft Prague Declaration was presented and discussed. The objective of the declaration is to promote the use of geoinformation in supporting Future Earth initiative by raising awareness in government and in the

public through a statement made by the General Assembly of ISPRS which will be announced at the ISPRS XXIII Congress in Prague in 2016. A revised version of the draft declaration was produced by incorporating issues and concerns discussed and feedback received.



The workshop has received very positive feedback from its participants, especially on the open discussions about the proposed Collaborative Platform for Global Land Information and the proposed Prague Declaration. The organizers would like to thank all who contributed to the success of this workshop.