

From Our Members

OEEPE Agrees to Change Name to EuroSDR

As a result of developments over the past few years, the OEEPE Steering Committee, at its recent meeting in Dublin, Ireland, decided to change the name of the organisation into:

EuroSDR

EuroSDR is an acronym for European Spatial Data Research, but the organisation will be known as EuroSDR.

This new name is a logical consequence of significant changes in the mission, vision and research perspectives and targets that are currently being implemented.

EuroSDR Mission: The aim of EuroSDR is to:

- Develop and improve methods, systems and standards for the acquisition, processing, production, maintenance and dissemination of core geospatial information and to promote applications of all such data. Special emphasis is put on the further development of airborne and spaceborne methods for data acquisition, on methods for information extraction from these sources and on the integration of this information with information from other sources
- Encourage interaction between research organisations and the public and private sector to exchange ideas about relevant research problems and to transfer research results obtained to geoinformation production organisations



Details on EuroSDR vision, strategies, research perspectives, targets and activities, and on publications can be found at <http://www.eurosdrr.org>

Marking the 50th anniversary of the organisation, the future of EuroSDR activities will be discussed at an international Symposium that will be held in Munich, Germany, on 16 October 2003. More information will be disseminated in due course.

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Report on UNESCO Activities 2001 to EARSeL Council on 18th January 2002

By Robert Missotten, Earth Sciences Division, UNESCO

Last year Mr. Marcio Barbosa was appointed as Deputy Director General of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). Mr Barbosa is currently President of the International Astronautical Federation and co-organiser of the World Space Congress to be held in Houston 10-19 October 2002. He was formerly Head of the Brazilian Space Agency, INPE and former Vice-President of ISPRS. Mr Barbosa is strengthening the RS and GIS activities of UNESCO related to Natural Science projects and the protection of World Heritage. He will continue to reinforce the co-operation with specialised NGOs in the implementation of UNESCO's programmes.

UNESCO is currently exploring new areas of co-operation with ESA. One of these is the use of RS and GIS for the management of World Heritage sites. There are 721 sites inscribed on the World Heritage list, of which 167 are Natural Heritage sites such as landscapes, specific ecological environments, mountains etc. ESA and UNESCO are currently developing a methodology to improve the management and protection of these sites. A first pilot activity is launched to study the gorilla habitats in central Africa.

UNESCO is currently co-chairing IGOS (Integrated Global Observing Strategy) Partnership, together with ESA. This brings together the Global Observing Systems

(GCOS, GOOS, GAW, GTOS), the international agencies which sponsor the GOS, International Global Change Programmes (WRCP-IGBP), the International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA), and the space agency Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). IGOS develops a strategic planning process in order to achieve the necessary harmonisation and maximum cost-effectiveness for space and in-situ observations. Since it is not practical to attempt to define a single global system capable of satisfying all needs for environmental information, the Partnership has chosen to address a series of 'Themes' for observing selected field of common interest, based on an assessment of priorities for overcoming deficiencies in information, and an analysis of relevant existing and planned observing systems. Theme teams have been established to outline the basic requirements from ground and space to optimise monitoring and identify the most important parameters to support long-term observation. Current themes: Oceans; Integrated Global Atmospheric Chemistry Observation; Integrated Global Water Cycle

Observation; and Integrated Global Carbon Observation. A sub-theme on Coral Reefs was initiated in November 2001, and will be further developed into a Coastal Theme.

On the initiative of UNESCO, ESA and ICSU, consultations started in May 2000 for the development of a Geo-Hazards Theme. An ad hoc working group held a workshop on Geo-Hazards on 4-6 March 2002 at ESA, Frascati, organised by Dr Stuart Marsh, head of RS at the British Geological Survey. The aim will be to define a detailed and integrated methodology for the main geological and geophysical hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides and land subsidence), stressing operational aspects and end-user requirements, in terms of data needs and 'standard' products. A completed proposal was prepared, for submission to the IGOS Partners meeting in Paris on 31st May 2002. Theme study preparation is a good mechanism for the scientific community to work closely with the space agencies. Further information is at the web-site www.unesco.org.

2nd International Symposium on Spatial Data Quality

~ **Second Announcement** ~



2nd INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SPATIAL DATA QUALITY

March 19-20, 2003, Hong Kong, China

You are cordially invited to participate in the 2nd International Symposium on Spatial Data Quality from 19th to 20th March 2003 at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong. This is the second international symposium on spatial data quality. The Symposium provides an interdisciplinary forum for international leading scientists and young researchers to present their latest research developments and share their experience in this field. The Symposium will include keynote speeches, plenary sessions and panel discussion.

A conference proceeding will be published before the conference. Selected papers, after a review process, will be published as a special issue for International Journal of Remote Sensing.

Keynote Address

- ◆ Michael Goodchild, Progressive Construction of Geographic Knowledge, University of California, Santa Barbara, U.S.A.
- ◆ Andrew Frank, Technical University Vienna, Austria
- ◆ Martien Molenaar, ITC, The Netherlands

Critical Dates (revised)

- ◆ 15/12/2002 Deadline for submission of abstracts
- ◆ 15/12/2002 Notification of acceptance
- ◆ 25/02/2003 Deadline for submission of full paper
- ◆ 19-20/03/2003 Symposium date

Supporters

- ◆ International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Commission IV
- ◆ International Geographical Union (IGU), Geographical Information Science Commission
- ◆ Hong Kong Geographical Information Systems Association
- ◆ Chinese Academy of Sciences, LREIS, Beijing China
- ◆ The University of Tokyo, Center for Spatial Information Science, Japan
- ◆ Wuhan University, SINC, LIESMARS, Wuhan, China
- ◆ Tongji University, Research Center of Surveying and Geoinformatics, Shanghai, China
- ◆ Hong Kong Institution of Engineering Surveyors

For further information and participation, please contact:

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<http://www.hk-cyber.net/sdq/index.htm>