

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

### **“United Nations Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop: Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management for the Caribbean”**

Organized by

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)

With the support of

The Government of Austria

UN House, Hastings, St. Michael, Barbados, 08-11 July 2008

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), through its UN-SPIDER Programme (United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados and the OECS Sub-regional Office and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) are organising the above regional workshop to contribute to helping countries within the Caribbean region learn how to access and use space technology for disaster management and emergency response.

The objectives of this Workshop are:

- (a) To present the current status of space technology for disaster management and emergency response within the Caribbean Region;
- (b) To discuss the impact of global climate change on the increase of natural disasters in the region and how space-based technologies can contribute to mitigating these impacts;
- (c) To showcase regional space-based initiatives relevant to disaster management support (including risk reduction) and emergency response. This includes ongoing and planned initiatives, case studies and best practices, archived data for disaster studies and capacity building opportunities;
- (d) To identify approaches towards the harmonisation of the various existing initiatives that are contributing to helping developing countries in the region access and use space-based technologies for disaster management and risk reduction;

- (e) To promote the Caribbean Strategic Framework on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) with the support of the UN-SPIDER National Focal Points and the UN-SPIDER Network of Regional Support Offices, and;
- (f) To reflect on the best concepts for delivering support to both national activities and to national planning and policies, that consider the use of space-based technologies.

The workshop will bring together up to 60 decision-makers and senior experts. Participants and speakers will be drawn mainly from disaster management institutions from within the region, including also the nominated UN-SPIDER National Focal Points. Additionally the following organisations will be invited as well:

- National and regional institutions responsible for capacity building in and promoting the use of space-based technologies or in the application of space-based technologies to address natural resource, economic and social issues;
- UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices;
- UN agencies, national and regional institutions as well as NGOs involved in disaster management mitigation and emergency relief;
- Space agencies;
- Academic and research institutions;
- Private sector providers of space based technological solutions;
- Geospatial Information Management and IT companies.

The working languages of all planned activities will be English and Spanish. Should additional funds become available, interpretation services will also be provided in French. Within the limited financial resources available, a number of selected international participants from within the region will be offered financial support to attend. This financial support will defray the cost of travel (a round trip ticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in their home country and Bridgetown) and/or the room and board expenses during the duration of the event.

For further information please contact:

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