



## INFORMATION NOTE

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

Organized by

**The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and the Department of Emergency Management of the Government of Barbados**

With the support of

**The Government of Austria**

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

### **1. Introduction/ Background**

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, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and the Department of Emergency Management of the Government of Barbados are organising the above regional workshop to contribute to helping countries within the Caribbean and Central America learn how to access and use space technology for disaster management and emergency response.

In its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006 the United Nations General Assembly agreed to establish the “United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response – UN-SPIDER”, as a new programme of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, to provide universal access to all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle by being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, serving as a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities and being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries.

The resolution further specifies that the programme will work closely with National Focal Points (NFP). NFPs are the national institutions representing the disaster management and/or space

application communities that are nominated by their respective government to work with UN-SPIDER in the strengthening of national disaster management planning and policies and in the implementation of specific national activities that incorporate space-based technology solutions to support disaster management. Furthermore, UN-SPIDER is working closely with regional and national centres of expertise in the use of space technology in disaster management forming a Network of Regional Support Offices (NRSO) which is contributing to the implementation of the activities of the programme in their respective regions in a coordinated manner, taking advantage of the important experience and capabilities being offered by many countries.

As part of the planned outreach activities in 2008, UN-SPIDER is organising several workshops to raise awareness within the user community, to assess its needs and to contribute to specific activities of this new programme. The workshop to be held in Barbados will bring together decision-makers and senior experts mainly from disaster management institutions from within the Caribbean region, including also the nominated UN-SPIDER National Focal Points to jointly discuss regional space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response.

## **2. Objectives of the Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop**

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.

## **3. Expected participants**

The workshop will bring together a total of 60 decision-makers and senior experts drawn from the following groups:

- Disaster management institutions from within the region, including also the nominated UN-SPIDER National Focal Points;

- 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;

#### **4. Participation requirements**

Participants should hold managerial or technical positions at governmental agencies, international, national and regional institutions, NGOs or private industry with programmes or activities relating to providing support to disaster management and emergency response activities or development of space technology capabilities and/or solutions. Nominated National Focal Points, experts from the Network of Regional Support Offices and applicants who demonstrate that the topics of this event are central to his/her professional activities/responsibilities will be selected on a priority basis.

#### **5. Language of the Workshop**

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.

#### **6. Financial support**

Within the limited financial resources available, a number of selected regional participants will be offered financial support to attend the Workshop. 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, Barbados) and/or the room and board expenses during the duration of the event. Nominated National Focal Points and experts from the Network of Regional Support Offices will be considered for financial support on a priority basis.

#### **7. Deadline for Submission of Applications**

The completed application form, properly endorsed by applicant's government/institution, should be submitted either by e-mail (scanned copy) or by fax directly to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna no later than **Friday 23 May 2008** (georg.magerl@unoosa.org, FAX: (+43-1)-26060-5830). Only complete applications, with all the requested information and signatures, will be considered.

## **8. Life and Health Insurance**

Life/major health insurance for each of the selected participants is necessary and is the responsibility of the candidate or his/her institution or government. The co-sponsors will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for expenses related to medical treatment or accidental events.

## **9. Points of Contact**

For information regarding the agenda and programme of the workshop as well as funding for participants, please contact **Mr. Georg Magerl**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

### **Mr. Georg Magerl**

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The focal point in Barbados is **Mr. Ian King (UNDP)**, he can be contacted for information regarding the agenda and programme of the workshop as well as local arrangements including venue of the workshop, arrival in Barbados, hotel accommodation, transportation to and from the hotel and other logistical details.

### **Mr. Ian King**

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