



GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

GEO-V

19-20 November 2008

Recognition of Participating Organizations
and Observers

Document 4

As decided at GEO-V

**Recommendation of the Executive Committee on the
Recognition of Participating Organizations**
(As decided at GEO-V)

In accordance with Annex C to the Rules of Procedure (Guidance for Recognition of New GEO Participating Organizations and Observers), the Executive Committee recommends to the Plenary to recognize DANTE, GLOBE, ICIMOD, IIASA, UNECA as Participating Organizations.

The GEO Secretariat will seek additional information regarding the international dimension of CUAHSI.



**Organization Requesting Recognition as a
GEO Participating Organization or Observer**

Name of organization: Delivery of Advanced Network Technology to Europe

Acronym: DANTE

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National
Other:

Sub-programme or sub-group of: FP7 Projects

Joint Programme of:

Purpose/Activity: DANTE (Delivery of Advanced Network Technology to Europe) plans, builds and operates advanced networks for research and education. It is owned by European NRENs (national research and education networks), and works in partnership with them and in cooperation with the European Commission. DANTE provides the data communications infrastructure essential to the development of the global research community. DANTE current operates the European GEANT2 infrastructure on behalf of the European research and education community.

Potential contribution to GEOSS: DANTE will be able to provide a point of contact within the European and global NREN community and can assist with the co-ordination of high-bandwidth connectivity, security and monitoring within Europe and globally. DANTE will assist in advising on best possible solutions and providing strategies for research networking around the world. This will allow academics and researchers to collaborate on a global scale.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date:

6 October 2008

Organization request PO Observer

DANTE

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257
09/10/08


GEO Secretariat Office
7 Bis, avenue de la Paix
Case postale 2300
CH-1211 Geneva 2
SWITZERLAND

DD-08-074
6 October 2008

Dear Mr Achache,

GEO membership application form

We are pleased to hereby enclose the form relating to our application to GEO as a participating organisation.

We hope that DANTE's contribution to GEOSS will prove beneficial to the overall success of the project and we look forward to hearing of progress in our application.

Yours sincerely,



Dai Davies
General Manager



Organization Requesting Recognition as a GEO Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment

Acronym: GLOBE

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other: Science and Education program

Sub-programme or sub-group of: University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

Joint Programme of:

Purpose/Activity: GLOBE exists to facilitate a worldwide community of students, teachers, scientists, and citizens working together to better understand, sustain, and improve Earth's environment at local, regional, and global scales.

Potential contribution to GEOSS: GLOBE promotes science learning and research activities in 110 countries and over 21,000 primary and secondary schools. As such, GLOBE provides an ideal mechanism to connect GEO members with GLOBE schools and enable the use of GEOSS data by GLOBE teachers and students around the world.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: September 24, 2008

Organization request PO Observer



The GLOBE Program

*Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment
An International Environmental Science and Education Partnership*

GEO Secretariat
7, bis avenue de la Paiz
Case postale 2300
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Dear GEO Members,

The GLOBE Program located at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado (USA) endorses the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan and requests formal recognition as a GEO Participating Organization. We believe that having GLOBE become a Participating Organization in GEO will be of significant benefit to GEO and to GLOBE through expanded distribution and use of GEOSS data by our extensive network of GLOBE students, teachers, and partners.

GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) is a hands-on, primary and secondary school-based science and education program uniting students, teachers, scientists and community members around the world in study and research about the dynamics of Earth's environment.

Working in close partnership with NASA and the U.S. National Science Foundation large-scale Earth System Science Projects (ESSPs), the GLOBE Schools Network consists of over a 1.5 million GLOBE students in more than 21,000 schools located in 110 countries. GLOBE students take important environmental measurements focusing on atmosphere and climate, hydrology, soils, land cover-biology, and phenology. To date, over 18 million environmental measurements have been reported to the GLOBE database on the Web and are freely available for use in student research activities and by scientists around the world. GLOBE improves student understanding by involving students in conducting real science – asking questions, taking measurements, analyzing data, and participating in collaborative research with other students and scientists.

Scientists and educators have developed environmental science educational materials as a resource for GLOBE teachers. More than 40,000 teachers worldwide have attended GLOBE professional development workshops in their own regions. At these workshops, they learn strategies for guiding their students in doing research, taking measurements according to scientific protocols, using the Internet to report and analyze scientific data, and creating partnerships among students at GLOBE schools and with international

The GLOBE Program

*The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)
3300 Mitchell Lane, Suite 2104, Boulder, CO 80301 USA
www.globe.gov Tel: (1) 303-497-2620 Fax: (1) 303-497-2638*



The GLOBE Program

*Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment
An International Environmental Science and Education Partnership*

scientists. Each year, extensive evaluations document GLOBE's impact on students and their teachers around the world.

GLOBE was awarded the 2004 Goldman Sachs Foundation Prize for Excellence in International Education for the unique reach of its work around the world and its ability to bring international education to life through the process of scientific inquiry.

The GLOBE Program was designed and has been implemented as an international program since its initiation on Earth Day in 1994. Bilateral agreements establish partnerships between the United States Government and its international partner countries. International partners sponsor GLOBE activities in their countries, designing and funding their own implementation strategies to be compatible with their national and regional educational priorities.

Currently GLOBE is working with a variety of organizations and individuals to plan, fund, implement, and assess, a worldwide student research campaign on climate change that will begin in 2010, end in 2012, and involve over 1 million students and teachers in climate-related research at local to global scales. We believe there are several potential opportunities to collaborate with GEO on this and future student research campaigns.

For more information regarding GLOBE, please visit the following URL:

<http://www.globe.gov>.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Edward E. Geary
Director, GLOBE

Email: egeary@ucar.edu

Tel: 1.303.497.2620

The GLOBE Program
The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)
3300 Mitchell Lane, Suite 2104, Boulder, CO 80301 USA
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**Organization Requesting Recognition as a
GEO Participating Organization or Observer**

Name of organization: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Acronym: ICIMOD

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other:

Sub-programme or sub-group of: Mountain ecosystem

Joint Programme of:

Purpose/Activity: To benefit from space technology applications in the following areas- climate change monitoring and assessment, natural resource assessment and management, disaster risk mapping and monitoring; To sensitize the importance of space technology applications for the mountain areas for informed decision making;

Potential contribution to GEOSS: To promote space technology applications in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region and to establish linkages with regional and global programmes. To promote regional collaboration in space technology promotion in ICIMOD member countries. To build the capacity of ICIMOD member countries (having less capacity) in space technology applications. To contribute to global databases and initiatives from Hindu Kush-Himalayan perspective.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: 22 September 2008

Event

Document #

Organization request PO Observer

Director General
Andreas Schild, Ph.D.

September 26, 2008

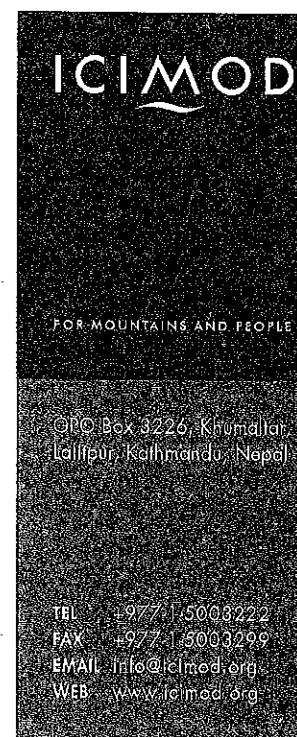
The Secretariat Director
GEO Secretariat,
7, bis avenue del la Paix,
Case postale 2300
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Dear Sir/ Madam,

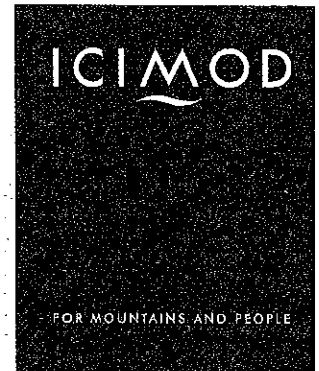
Greetings from International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development,
ICIMOD, Kathmandu !

Through this letter, ICIMOD wishes to join as a participating organization of the Global Earth Observation System of System (GEOSS). The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, ICIMOD, is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Globalisation and climate change have an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people. ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues. ICIMOD supports regional transboundary programmes through partnership with regional partner institutions, facilitate the exchange of experience, and serve as a regional knowledge hub. ICIMOD strengthens networking among regional and global centres of excellence. Overall, ICIMOD is working to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations and to sustain vital ecosystem services for the billions of people living downstream.

ICIMOD is promoting space technology applications through Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information System (MENRIS) programme to support the development and adoption of mountain policies and practices. More specifically, in the present strategy, our applications areas focuses on monitoring and assessment of cryosphere, disaster risk



mapping, landcover mapping, environmental change and payment of ecosystem services and improving livelihoods options. ICIMOD is one of the first and foremost regional institutions promoting geo-based solutions for sustainable development in the region and it continues to be an internationally recognized resource center for geo-information and earth observation application. It is pursuing its goal through innovation and technology transfer, capacity building and up-scaling, development of mountain-specific applications and decision support systems, and as a clearing-house mechanism for geo-information within ICIMOD and agencies involved in sustainable mountain development.



As a regional geo-information resource center, ICIMOD aims to further strengthen earth observation (EO) capacity and applications establish linkages with regional and global initiatives. ICIMOD welcomes the establishment of GEOSS as an intergovernmental global umbrella institution to leverage space technology applications for societal benefits. In view of the importance of coordinated, comprehensive and sustained EO application to realize informed decision making for the societal benefits, ICIMOD hereby endorses "GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan". ICIMOD as an institution shares the common vision with GEO in particular would like to promote Earth Observation system and application for benefit of mountain societies and protect fragile environment and would like to formally request GEO Secretariat to accept ICIMOD as a GEO Participating Organization.

Looking forward to a positive consideration and fruitful collaboration in future.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Schild", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andreas Schild
Director General

CC : Mr. Basanta Shrestha
Division Head, MENRS

**Organization Requesting Recognition as a
GEO Participating Organization or Observer**

Name of organization: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
Acronym: IIASA
Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National
Other: international, non-governmental, research institute (NGO)
Sub-programme or sub-group of: N.A.
Joint Programme of: N.A.

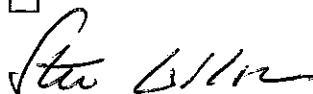
Purpose/Activity: The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) is a multi-national, independent organization devoted to interdisciplinary, policy-oriented research focusing on selected aspects of environmental, economic, technological and social issues in the context of global change. IIASA's research is organized around fields of policy importance rather than academic disciplines and serves as a neutral forum for sustained investigation and discussion of global and international issues.

IIASA investigators combine methods and models from the natural and social sciences in analyses that provide policy insight on global change issues. Since 2000, the Institute's research is carried out within three core themes: Environment and Natural Resources; Population and Society, and Energy and Technology. In addition to scientifically-sound, policy relevant findings, the Institute has made significant contributions to the methodologies of assessment and decision support, as well as to the development and refinement over three decades of global databases and analytical models.

Potential contribution to GEOSS: The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) seeks to connect the producers of environmental data and decision-support tools with the end users of these products, with the aim of enhancing the relevance of Earth observations to global issues. IIASA, as part of its mandate, has been making data available to the wider scientific community from many of its landmark studies for decades [e.g., the Leemans & Cramer (1991) database for mean monthly values of temperature, precipitation, and cloudiness] and continues to do so via its Program web pages (www.iiasa.ac.at). In terms of direct involvement, the EC project Global Earth Observation – Benefit Estimation (GEO-BENE www.geo-bene.eu) lead by IIASA, is developing methodologies and analytical tools to assess the societal benefits of GEOSS. GEO-BENE's scientific coordinator, M. Obersteiner, is seconded by IIASA to the GEO Secretariat in Geneva for one year to tighten coordination between our organizations. IIASA contributes to GEOSS via various scientific channels, including scientific publications (including a recent GEOSS paper for a Springer Encyclopedia on Remote Sensing), a global network of scientific collaboration, hosting workshops and conferences, etc.

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: 6 October 2008



Organization request PO Observer

263
15/10/08



International Institute for
Applied Systems Analysis
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E-mail: nilsson@iiasa.ac.at
Web: www.iiasa.ac.at

Prof. Sten Nilsson
Acting Director

6 October 2008

Ms. Natasha Brutsch-Dastur
Programme Manager
Secretariat, Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
7 bis, avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 2
SWITZERLAND

Dear Ms. Brutsch-Dastur,

This letter is to formally request that the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) be recognized as a GEO Participating Organization. To this end please find attached the completed application form that includes a short description of IIASA and the potential contribution we can make to GEOSS.

We also hereby confirm IIASA's endorsement of the GEO 10-Year Implementation Plan.

Should you require any further information to support our request, please contact Ms. Susan Riley, Office of Sponsored Research, tel: +43-2236-807-536, email: riley@iiasa.ac.at.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

SN:lf



Organization Requesting Recognition as a GEO Participating Organization or Observer

Name of organization: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Acronym: UNECA

Type: Intergovernmental International Regional National

Other:

Sub-programme or sub-group of: United Nations (UN)

Joint Programme of: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN)

Purpose/Activity: The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was established by the United Nations (UN) in 1958 with mandate to promote the economic and social development of its member States, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. ECA's work programme focuses on achieving results in two related and mutually supportive areas: (i) Promoting Regional Integration in support of the African Union vision and priorities and (ii) Meeting Africa's special needs and emerging global challenges. ECA deploys several modalities and services to support its member States : policy analysis and advocacy; enhancing partnerships; technical assistance; communication and knowledge sharing; and supporting subregional activities.

Potential contribution to GEOSS: 1). Assist in championing the use of space technology and information services to drive Africa to become more spatially enabled and met the continent major challenges. 2). Africa remains still poorly represented in the work of GEO. ECA, with its reach, technical capacity and programs is a key African based and focused organization that can ensure that the GEOSS work plan adequately reflects African issues and encourage African countries to participate in GEO. 3). Assist in the formulation and implementation of tasks and activities that are relevant to the continent development agenda. 4). ECA can contribute in increasing the capability of African countries to effectively use Geospatial information, through long and short terms courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, e-learning, development of training tools and materials.

Event

Document #

Formal endorsement of GEOSS 10-Year Plan: Yes No

Date: 25 June 2008

Organization request PO Observer

UNITED NATIONS UN-ECA

2008 JUN 25 PM 2: 27

COM CENTRE



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

M-422/ob

Date: 25 June 2008
Ref: ISTD/08/06/0131

Dear Mr. Achache,

I write to inform you that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) wishes to join the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) as a participating organization, and would like at the same time to endorse the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan.

ECA was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations in 1958 as one of the five Regional Commissions of the UN. Important objectives of the Commission include addressing Africa's emerging challenges and supporting regional integration in Africa. To achieve these objectives, we are assisting member States to analyze issues and harmonize national policies in various sectors. Actions and decisions taken to achieve these objectives require the use of earth observation (EO) data and information products and services, especially those undertaken under the sub programmes on harnessing information and science and technology for development; food security and sustainable development; and economic cooperation and regional integration. Membership of GEO therefore offers us an opportunity to collaborate with the producers and other users of relevant EO and in-situ information products and services.

On the other hand, we have a unique relationship with our member States, from whom we derive our mandates, which makes it easy for us to convene them and work with them in delivering services to them. This relationship will therefore facilitate the delivery of the societal benefits of GEO to African countries, especially as we find your societal benefits areas and 10-year implementation plan to be in consonance with our objectives and programme areas. It is for these reasons that ECA endorses the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan and wishes to apply for full membership as a participating organization.

For the purposes of our membership, the principal correspondent of ECA will be Ms. Aida Opoku-Mensah, Director of the ICT and Science and Technology Division (ISTD). She can be contacted at aopoku-mensah@unece.org or by telephone on +251-115-443-562.

I look forward to a fruitful cooperation and collaboration with the membership of GEO.

Mr
ABDOULIE JANEH
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
UN-ECA

Yours sincerely,

Josue Dione
Officer-in-Charge of the Commission

Mr. José Achache
Executive Director
Group on Earth Observations Secretariat
Geneva, Switzerland

P1