



Second UN-SPIDER International Expert Meeting: Crowdsource Mapping for Preparedness and Emergency Response

***Organized by
The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs***

Location: Palais des Nations, Room XXII, Geneva, Switzerland

Date: 16 November 2011

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

In recent years, advancements in technologies have made it possible for virtual communities such as OpenStreetMap, Ushahidi, Sahana, CrisisMappers, Virtual Disaster Viewer, Google MapMaker and INSTEDD to provide increasing support to disaster preparedness and emergency response efforts. Important cornerstones of this virtual effort are the possibility to access and take advantage of post-disaster satellite imagery as well as the use of other space-based technologies such as telecommunications satellites and global navigation satellite systems. Taking note of the need to connect these pioneering communities with the space industry as well as the disaster management community, the UN-SPIDER Programme is carrying out a one-year project (**“Space-based information for Crowdsource Mapping”**) aiming at identifying specific actions that could ensure a closer cooperation among the three communities.

In July 2011 the UN-SPIDER Programme, with the support and cooperation of the **Government of Austria** and **Secure World Foundation**, successfully conducted the First International Expert Meeting on “Crowdsource Mapping for Preparedness and Emergency Response”. The expert meeting initiated far-reaching discussions and received important and relevant feedback from experts on applications and products which are elaborated by the crowdsource communities, on requirements regarding how information has to be tailored to ensure that it can be used effectively by the disaster management communities, as well as on building upon existing solutions to facilitate the sharing of information. The meeting also allowed to develop an understanding of the strengths and challenges of the three communities and to explore ways to proceed jointly. One of the recommendations from the meeting is to plan a simulation exercise in Samoa (30 November 2011) where, for the first time, the three communities would work together in a coordinated manner.

The second activity of this project will be this Expert Meeting to be held in Geneva, back-to-back with the International Conference on Crisis Mapping (ICCM 2011) (<http://crisismappers.net/page/iccm-geneva-2011>). The meeting will focus on exploring possible ways of contributing to better coordination of the crowdsource communities with the space technology community and on overall improvement of its involvement to facilitate the preparation and processing of space-based products used by the disaster risk reduction and emergency response community. The discussions will target opportunities that make space-based information available for disaster risk reduction and emergency response, including their access

and use, as well as the further involvement of existing mechanisms to ensure increased coordination and cooperation of all three communities.

The UN-SPIDER Programme was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006 with the mission to: "Ensure that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle". This includes the need to ensure that space-based information supports the crowdsourcing mapping efforts for the benefit of the emergency response community.

Expected Participants

The second Expert Meeting will bring together 70 leading experts representing crowdsourcing communities, space and remote sensing agencies, disaster management communities, NGOs, private companies, and regional and international organizations. If you are an expert currently working in any of the relevant areas (disasters, crowdsourcing mapping, space-based information) and you are planning to attend the ICCM2011 which will be held in Geneva from 14-15 November 2011 then definitely do extend your stay in Geneva by one day and join us for this one-day meeting. If you would like to participate in the meeting please do consider applying to this meeting by the 30th September 2011 (<http://www.un-spider.org/crowdsourcing-mapping>). Please note that funding support is not available for this meeting.

Sponsors and partners

If your organisation would like to cooperate in the **"Space-based information for Crowdsourcing Mapping Project"** we would be pleased to forward additional information and discuss further how to become involved.

Point of Contact

For more information as well as indication of interest to cooperate, please contact Ms. Teresa Kokaislova, E-Mail: teresa.kokaislova@unoosa.org.