

**Group on Earth Observations (GEO), 2006 Activities
Task DA-06-01**

**Meeting
Furthering the practical application of the agreed GEOSS data
sharing principles**

**22nd October 2006, Beijing Resources Hotel China
A Satellite Meeting of the 20th International CODATA Conference**

Background

On February 16, 2005, 61 countries agreed to a plan that, over the next 10 years, will revolutionize the understanding of Earth and how it works. Agreement for a 10-year implementation plan for a Global Earth Observation System of Systems, known as GEOSS, was reached by member countries of the Group on Earth Observations at the Third Observation Summit held in Brussels. Nearly 40 international organizations also support the emerging global network. The GEOSS project will help all nations involved produce and manage their information in a way that benefits the environment as well as humanity by taking a pulse of the planet. For additional information see <http://www.epa.gov/geoss/index.html>

GEOSS will work with and build upon existing national, regional, and international systems to provide comprehensive, coordinated Earth observations from thousands of instruments worldwide, transforming the data they collect into vital information for society.

In December 2005, the GEO Plenary decided to set up four Committees and one Working Group to address aspects of GEOSS implementation and provide a mechanism for GEO Members and Participating Organisations to engage fully in the work of GEO. One of these Committees is the Data and Architecture Committee. http://www.earthobservations.org/roles/cmtes_wgs/adc.html

A number of Tasks have been identified to be implemented under this Committee. http://www.grices.mctes.pt/gpe/gmes/docs/GEO_TaskListMatrix_060210.pdf

The Meeting in October

The meeting on the 22nd of October is organized by GEO and CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (See below). It will take place at the China Resources Hotel Beijing (Beijing Huarun Hotel). It will focus specifically on Task DA-06-01: *Furthering the practical application of the agreed GEOSS data sharing principles.*

The Principles are:

- *There will be full and open exchange of data, metadata, and products shared within GEOSS, while recognizing relevant international instruments and national policies and legislation.*
- *All shared data, metadata, and products will be made available with minimum time delay and at minimum cost.*
- *All shared data, metadata, and products for use in education and research will be encouraged to be made available free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction.*

The meeting will bring together a number of experts to review the above Principles, within the context of the societal benefit areas (SBA) as identified in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), 10 year implementation plan. The benefit areas are:

Disasters: *Reducing loss of life and property from natural and human-induced disasters*

Health: *Understanding environmental factors affecting human health and well-being*

Energy: *Improving management of energy resources*

Climate: *Understanding, assessing, predicting, mitigating, and adapting to climate variability and change*

Water: *Improving water resource management through better understanding of the water cycle*

Weather: *Improving weather information, forecasting and warning*

Ecosystems: *Improving the management and protection of terrestrial, coastal and marine resources*

Agriculture: *Supporting sustainable agriculture and combating desertification*

Biodiversity: *Understanding, monitoring and conserving biodiversity*

The deliverable coming from the meeting in October will be a short report reflecting the discussions and feed back of the experts on the following aspects:

- a. Barriers/challenges that they see to further the application of the principles
- b. Possible options for improvements/relaxation of these constraints.
- c. The next steps required to further implement the task.

This short report will be presented at the GEO plenary in November 2006. A decision will then be made on the next phase of the implementation of the Task.

Contact person

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Organizers

GEO: The intergovernmental *Group on Earth Observations* (GEO) is leading a worldwide effort to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) over the next 10 years. GEOSS will work with and build upon existing national, regional, and international systems to provide comprehensive, coordinated Earth observations from thousands of instruments worldwide, transforming the data they collect into vital information for society. For more information see http://www.earthobservations.org/about/about_GEO.html

CODATA, The Committee on Data for Science and Technology is an International non-governmental organization. It works to improve the quality, reliability, management and accessibility of data of importance to all fields of science and technology. CODATA is a resource that provides scientists and engineers with access to international data activities for increased awareness, direct cooperation and new knowledge. For more information see <http://www.codata.org>