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12 February 2019

Dear CEOS Colleagues,

On behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as the 2018-2019 Chair of the CEOS Strategic Implementation Team (SIT), it is my pleasure to invite you to attend SIT-34, which will be held at The Mayfair at Coconut Grove in Miami, Florida, USA on April 3-4, 2019. Several side meetings are being organized for April 2, 2019 and space is available for others.

At SIT-34, we will continue themes initiated at SIT-33 and pursued both at the 2018 SIT Technical Workshop and the 32nd CEOS Plenary. Throughout the past year, we have discussed potential changes in leadership transition for Virtual Constellations (VCs), enhanced coordination among VCs and between VCs, Working Groups (WGs), and *ad hoc* Teams (AHTs), and a path to maturation for the AHTs. At SIT-34, we intend to continue those threads, and focus on:

- **Critical assessment results of the Virtual Constellations (VCs)**, including ongoing activities, tangible outputs, management, continuity, and VC proposals around leadership rotation. These results will lead to recommended changes to how CEOS structures its VC activities, engagement of CEOS through the VCs with partners such as GEO and CGMS, and how to evolve and take the next step towards greater interoperability between datasets from multiple satellites and agencies.
- Defining the **way forward for existing *ad hoc* Teams (AHTs)**, including consideration of options for continuity of CEOS activities in support of the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring (GEOGLAM), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Considering lessons learned from the trajectory of current and past AHTs, we will discuss a road map for future AHTs, an initial two-year cycle for start-up, and evaluation.
- Continue the discussion from the 2018 SIT Technical Workshop of a **CEOS Coastal Strategy** to enhance VC/WG/AHT efforts focused on coastal research and observations, and coordination across Ocean elements and the land/ocean boundary, particularly delta regions and the related observational datasets.
- Consider the progress of activities to **enhance the utility of new observations from satellites** exploring the development of LEO/GEO combined products and data processing capabilities.

- Language to support **potential changes to CEOS Governance, Processes, and organization** resulting from discussions on VCs and AHTs and the formal processes CEOS will mandate for them (the items referenced above).
- Support **VNSC Mekong Initiative**, again with the LEO/GEO, AHT, and coastal strategy items identified referenced above.

Throughout the SIT-34, we will be referring to the 2019-2021 CEOS Work Plan (as of Feb 2019 in draft form) which includes your contributions and commitments to ensure we are on-track to meeting these commitments.

Three rooms are available for side meetings on 2 April at The Mayfair. If you wish to organize a side meeting, please fill in the accompanying *Side Meeting Request* form and return by 15 March 2019. Rooms will be granted on first-come, first-served basis.

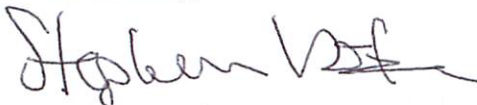
The Mayfair has rooms blocked, with guaranteed government rates for accommodations with government ID. There will be a \$105 USD registration/conference fee which will include breakfast and lunch (fee will be paid onsite to hotel). All attendees to SIT-34 will be required to pay the registration fee, even if staying at a different hotel (we strongly encourage you to stay at The Mayfair). A logistics package also accompanies this invitation. In it, you will find accommodation, transportation, and local area information.

A SIT-34 webpage has been set up and can be accessed via the following link: <http://ceos.org/meetings/sit-34/>. A registration link will be added to the webpage shortly. Please register for SIT-34 via the webpage by 15 March 2019. In addition to the registration link and logistics package, you will also find the draft agenda and all pertinent documents and details regarding SIT-34 and its associated side meetings, as they become available.

We strongly encourage all colleagues requiring a visa for travel to the United States to begin that process immediately. This letter serves as an official invitation for your participation.

The success of CEOS is only possible through the active participation and collaboration of its Members, and active participation of CEOS Principals. I look forward to seeing you in April at this important meeting. If you should have any questions, concerns, or specific requirements, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kerry Sawyer at kerry.sawyer@noaa.gov.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen M. Volz
2018-2019 CEOS SIT Chair
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration