

CEOS

Working Group on Education, Training & Capacity Building (WGEdu)

Report to SIT-21

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Pending the distribution of the Final Report from our Annual meeting, to be held in 7 days time in San Jose dos Campos, Brazil (28 – 30 April) and hosted by INPE, I offer the following as interim information about our ongoing activities. A summary report of our meeting will be provided by the Chairman to SIT as soon as possible thereafter.

Priority Agenda discussion points of this meeting are set out in the following slides, as they provide a good indication of the main focus of current WGEdu activities:

with respect to GEOS activities.....

There will be increasingly closer interaction with, and contribution to the agenda and activities of GEO Capacity Building Committee (CBC), namely:

Review of the results of the February 2008 Washington Workshop on the CEOS Action Plan in response to GEO Work Plans.

- At its meeting, WGEdu will make all efforts to confirm responses (with deadlines) to the various priority tasks it is supporting, currently, one AG-, two EN-, one HE-, five CB-, and one WA-.

WGEdu Portal and interaction with the GEO Portal for CB;

- The WGEdu educational resources web portal, supported by China and EUMETSAT, is a major asset of the WGEdu and CEOS. Proposals to bring this to a fully operational status, as a key component of the GEO Portal will be elaborated.

with respect to the CEOS Virtual Constellations.....

WGEdu will review the current status of the Virtual Constellations and discuss how WGEdu can more effectively interact with them to enhance Constellation CB activities and general outreach.

with respect to coordination with WGISS & WGCV activities.....

WGEdu will discuss ways to enhance coordination of its activities with potential CB-related activities of WGISS & WGCV, through a closer awareness of each Group's activities and the identification of areas where WGEdu can assist. A suggestion for closer cooperation with WGISS activities, proposed by CEOS, NASA Langley Systems Engineering Office, will be tabled and discussed at the annual meeting.

with respect to WGEdu's Annual Remote Sensing Workshop.....

There will be an analysis of the results of the 2nd WGEdu Remote Sensing Workshop (held in Cape Town, South Africa, November 2007). This workshop, with funding from USGS and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Jay Feuquay, former USGS Land Remote Sensing Programme Coordinator, was designed to meet the needs of tertiary level remote sensing educators and practitioners from Govt. Agencies and NGOs in African countries.

On the basis of this analysis, WGEdu will plan the next Workshop in this very successful series, and seek contributions to its Agenda and logistics. It is already foreseen that GISTDA, Thailand, will host the next Workshop.

with respect to testing the CEOS Data Exchange Principles.....

WGEdu will review the status of actions to test access to CEOS Data Exchange Principles Category 4 data (archived or near real-time) and Charter EO data, for educational and training purposes, through the implementation of some pilot projects.

Two or three pilot projects are foreseen, key players here are ESA, CNES, and UNESCO, and the means to assure easy and low cost access to various sources of EO data needed by the projects, e.g. SPOT, Radarsat, Landsat, and ESA satellite data, is being vigorously pursued.