



COMMITTEE ON EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITES

DA-06-09 Report

About DA-06-09

- Title of the task: GEOSS Best Practices Registry
- This Task is led by IEEE.
- Objective:

Establish GEOSS Best Practices Registry by a request for proposals from GEO organizations willing to maintain/update GEOSS Best Practices Registry. The registry should also include existing cost-benefit sharing mechanisms and examples (data sharing, cooperative data acquisition, joint development, joint flight, collaborative sciences, etc). This should also include components identified in the Capacity Building Strategy.

(Source: GEO 2007-2009 Work Plan - <http://www.earthobservations.org/docs/WP0709.v4.pdf>)

Our contribution to DA-06-09

The CEOS Interoperability Handbook could be one of our contributions to DA-06-09 (as soon as it is approved by CEOS/WGISS).

About the Standards and Interoperability Forum (SIF)

■ Background

The Group on Earth Observations, GEO, commissioned its Architecture and Data Committee (ADC) to address standards and interoperability for the Global Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS). The GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan states: *Interoperability arrangements must be based on non-proprietary, open standards, and profiles must be specified when standards are not sufficiently specific. Rather than defining new specifications, GEOSS should adopt standard specifications agreed upon voluntarily and by consensus, with preference given to formal international standards such as ISO.* The GEO ADC established its Standards and Interoperability Forum to facilitate interchange of information and development of recommendations for standards and interoperability.

■ Purpose

The Standards and Interoperability Forum (SIF) provides advice, expertise and impartial guidance on issues relating to standards and interoperability for GEOSS.

■ Goal

The SIF's goal is enabling ever greater degrees of interoperability among GEOSS components through facilitation, technical analysis, advocacy and education.

About the Standards and Interoperability Forum (SIF) - continued

■ Objectives

- ❑ The primary function of the SIF is to address situations where GEOSS components cannot interoperate using one of the registered standards or other interoperability arrangements.
- ❑ The SIF will do analyses and make recommendations to GEO Members and Participating Organizations that come to it for assistance with interoperability issues.
- ❑ The ADC will call upon the SIF to support consensus-seeking in matters of GEOSS interoperability.
- ❑ The SIF will encourage the broader use of existing standards in recommending interoperability solutions for GEOSS, using formal international standards organizations as much as possible. Where appropriate, the SIF will identify gaps in current standards and promote the creation of standards through existing Standards Development Organizations to fill such gaps.
- ❑ The SIF will support education and outreach to increase awareness of standards used in GEOSS.
- ❑ The SIF will help to maintain content of the GEOSS Standards and Interoperability Registry which contains information on the interoperability arrangements employed among GEOSS components.

About the Standards and Interoperability Forum (SIF) - continued

■ Composition, Organization and Reporting

The SIF will be composed of experts nominated by GEO Members and Participating Organizations. The SIF may also draw on subject matter experts globally to support its objectives and goals, who are not designated as SIF participants. The SIF will organize itself and will work by consensus of its participants.

The SIF will maintain a publicly-accessible data base of SIF actions and their status. Unless otherwise agreed, any costs arising from activities under these Terms of Reference will be borne by the participants individually, their organizations or members and participating organizations of GEO. The GEO Secretariat will provide administrative support to the SIF. The SIF will be reviewed by the ADC periodically.

(Source: SIF Terms of Reference - ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Projects/GEO/SIF/SIF_ToR_v1.0.doc)

In short:

- The SIF is an expert team supporting the ADC in selecting standards.
- The SIF populates the GEOSS Standards and Interoperability Registry.

SIF Activity

- The SIF is lead by Siri Johda S. Khalsa (IEEE)
- Documents produced by the SIF
 - SIF Operating Procedures for the GEO ADC
 - SIF Terms of Reference
- Meetings and Telecons
 - SIF First Organizational Meeting -27 July 2007 -Barcelona, Spain
 - approximately one telecon every month
 - a lot of discussions about the real role of the SIF (it is felt the SIF must not be a “police entity”)
 - a lot of discussions about how the SIF would populate the registry
- WGISS participation
 - Paul is the CEOS/WGISS representative
 - Other WGISS members have attended some of the telecons (Ben, Yonsook)
- All SIF documents and reports available at: <ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Projects/GEO/SIF/>