

EOTEC DevNet September Regional Meeting: Asia/Oceania -- Notes

September 21, 2021

Attendees: Prakash Chauhan, Juan Carlos Villagran, Dan Matsapola, Meryl Kruskopf, Tim Mayer, Zoya Andreeva, CM Bhatt, Giriraj Amarnath, Chandrasekar K, Sinesipho Ngamile, Di Xian, Rishiraj Dutta, S S Raja Shekhar, Yueian Liou, Heikki Pohjola, Coen Bussink, Mai Thy, Lauren Childs-Gleason, Shirish Ravan, Jiali Shang, Nancy Searby, Erin Martin, Yasha Moz, Sydney Neugebauer

Topics:

- Brainstorm Community of Practice outreach and engagement opportunities
- Thematic conversation: Fostering access to capacity building in drought

Discussion:

- *Giriraj Amarnath*: Not much capacity development emphasis on implementing the three pillars of drought management - it exists, but isn't robust. Another challenge is developing drought strategy (short and long term) and response plans.
 - Do we hope to look at the three pillars of drought, or just capacity development?
- *Giriraj Amarnath*: We may consider South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), an economic and political organization of eight countries in South Asia, and similarly ASEAN, representing Southeast Asia. They can share you the contact details to join the network.
 - Hosted by ASEAN, so they can help get them on board
- *Zoya Andreeva*: AOMSUC (Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference) <http://www.nsmc.org.cn/conference/fy-suf/2021/index.html>
- *Shirish Ravan*: It's very important to involve the disaster community and end users in these conversations; every ASEAN and SAARC country has a disaster management center that brings together the users
 - To understand the gaps, they go country-to-country for capacity building assessments and developing programs
 - Just did an Iran training on drought management with >300 people; next one is in November with Beijing office to connect DRR with EO for food systems
 - We can leverage their meetings to share info on EOTEC Dev Net, e.g. Food System Summit
- *Zoya Andreeva*: <http://www.nsmc.org.cn/conference/fy-suf/2021/index.html>
- *Heikki Pohjola*: <https://public.wmo.int/en/programmes/wmo-space-programme/swcem>
- *Chandrasekar K*: Had a national drought assessment and monitoring system using NOAA AVHRR to monitor drought for the entire country since the 80s; switched to using Indian satellite systems (5-day revisit time); provides early warning during the first 3 months of the monsoon season and the end of the monsoon season as well. Used by the Ministry of Agriculture; success of the program led to creation of a National Center and was adopted by the Ministry.
 - Could replicate these programs in other southeast Asian countries, such as Myanmar and provided trainings there
- *Di Xian*: Hosting [International User Forum](#) at the end of this year; from the National Satellite Forum and is one of the data providers; defers time to users for conversation.
- *Shirish Ravan*: Request from Pakistan Space Agency for capacity development on cyclone hazard and risk assessment and relationship to climate change. Plans to go step-by-step with a webinar, identifying a core group to build a training program, and then conducting the training program. Very specific request; can EOTEC support such a request, or help with connections?
- *Giriraj Amarnath*: Have come a long way in monitoring drought in Afghanistan. Today, policy makers want to quantify where areas of food insecurity are based on large drought events and where migrations might start. Would like to see specific applications and expertise. Can we find

one or two specific examples and how the capacity building can be tailored? A similar problem exists in Southeast Asia and North Africa.

- *Tim Mayer*: SERVIR HKH and SERVIR Mekong have been hosting "Regional Knowledge Forum on Drought" in person. <https://servir.icimod.org/regional-knowledge-forum-on-drought/>
- *Rishiraj Dutta*: From the Mekong region, the Mekong Drought and Crop Watch has already been customized and operationalized for Mekong River Commission who is now issuing forecasts for the entire Mekong Basin and informing the MRC member states of the drought situations. <http://droughtforecast.mrcmekong.org/maps>
- *Heikki Pohjola*: [Space based weather and climate extremes monitoring](#); this initiative is ongoing and will probably be launched to other regions, but currently covers Asia regionally.