

## Outcomes of the Eighth Capacity Building Committee Meeting

Boulder, Colorado 22-24 September 2008

This report provides a summary of outcomes of the meeting the 8th GEO Capacity Building Committee.

All documents and presentations related to the meeting are downloadable from the GEO website.

### 1. UIC-CBC Joint Session/Meeting with UIC co-chairs

(Note: Presentations on: [User requirements in GEO](#), [Capacity Building in GEO](#), [User Requirements Gathering Process](#), [Gathering capacity building needs](#))

The objective of the joint session was to enhance coordination of activities and initiatives between the two committees. It was agreed that the CBC and UIC would collaborate on:

Identifying Pilot projects by:

- Linking the UIC process for identification of pilot projects with the CB0701a process for identification of CB projects for resource mobilisation.
- Updating the [draft call for participation](#) presented at the meeting and to issue this as a joint UIC/CBC initiative. CBC co-chairs will provide inputs.
- Nominating a point of contact in each committee. L. Friedel (UIC) and M. Angoloti (CBC) were nominated.

The Implementation of US 06 01 b:

- Gathering user needs in different regions, especially in developing countries, to support [task US0601](#) to.
- Identify and nominate CBC members to participate on the envisaged SBA Advisory Groups

The incorporation of IGOS themes in GEO by:

- Develop capacity building priorities, together with theme leads, in each IGOS thematic area.
- Identifying a point of contact from the CBC for each IGOS thematic area.
- Participating in the planning of the IGOS-GEO Symposium scheduled for the end of 2008. To this end the CBC should identify and nominate a CBC member to participate in the symposium organizing committee.

## 2. FP7

(Note: [Presentations on FP7](#))

The European Commission presented a call for proposals, published on 3 September 2008. The deadline for the submission of proposals is: 17:00h on 8 January 2009. Full details of this call can be found at:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=142](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=142)

Of particular relevance to the CBC is the work program area ENV.2009.4.1.4.1 which requests proposals with the objective of establishing a Capacity Building (CB) advisory capability in support of Earth Observation (EO) activities, seeking to build upon and complement existing actions in this domain, contributing to the GEO 2007-2009 Work Plan tasks **CB-07-01a, CB-07-01b, CB-07-01c and CB-07-01d**.

The CBC concurred that the call was important for the implementation of the CB strategy. CBC members were therefore encouraged to form consortia to respond to the call.

The role of the winning consortium in relation to the CBC and the task will need to be defined at the appropriate time

## 3. Work Plan progress:

Reports and presentations made on the following 2007-2009 work plan tasks are available on the GEO website: .

[CB 07-01a](#); [CB 07-01b](#); [CB 07-01c](#); [CB 07 01e](#); [CB07-02](#);  
[CB 08-01](#); [EN 07-03](#); [WA 06-07](#); [WE 06 05](#);

### Issues/points raised:

- CB 0701a will pursue coordination with the UIC call for participation for the identification of pilot projects(as reported above). CB 0701a task lead called for active involvement of CBC in the implementation of the task and additional task leads. The CBC recommended that the task consider approaching Dr Yunus (Gramen Bank and Dr Yunus Foundation, Bangladesh) as a “Task ambassador”.
- The CBC accepted the recommendation from Ruth Duerr, Best Practices Wiki Coordinator, for CBC members to contribute capacity building best practices (Task CB0701b). Some of the open source software, such as Spring, will be registered. The CBC suggested an “on line” wiki registration during Plenary V in Bucharest.
- 20 out of the 73 task sheets returned in the September task update, recorded capacity building initiatives within the task. GEO Tasks leads will be encouraged to update/record CB in the context of their task implementation. The task leads for CB0701c will analyze current input and provide feedback.
- The task lead for CB0701e (open source software) called for broader participation in the task, particularly to complete a registry of open source

products for use with GEOSS. Discussions are ongoing with ITC (Holland) and IRD (France) to align their open source efforts with this task. Task EN0703 (Energy Policy Planning) has also expressed interest in collaborating and using appropriate open source software.

- The tasks EN 07-03 (Energy Policy Planning), CB0701d (Building Regional Capacity) would like to initiate collaboration with GEONETCast (CB 06 04); EC 07 03 (Cholrogin) has initiated collaboration through DevCoCast.
- The CBC recommended that links between EnerGEO, as described in the report of EN0703 (Energy Policy Planning), and DevCoCast be explored.

#### **4. Work plan 2009 – 2011 V2:**

(Note: [Presentations on work plan 2007 -2009 V2](#))

The CBC recommended the following changes to the Work plan 2009-2011 V2:

- The Resource Mobilization task should be included as a transverse task, while maintaining a reference to it in the work plan section dealing with roles of committees. To this end, the CBC suggested the following wording:

##### ***For Role of Capacity Building Committee***

*A Coordinated and Effective Approach to Capacity Building – More broadly, CBC members ensure that the GEO community maintains a coordinated and effective approach to capacity building throughout this Work Plan. They support the analysis of national strategies for capacity-building and proactively seek to ensure that they are coordinated and mutually supportive. The ultimate aim is to ensure that all countries have the capacity to use Earth observation data and products and to contribute observations and systems to GEOSS.*

*Resource Mobilization – The CBC helps to mobilize resources to foster the use and understanding of Earth Observations, as stated in the GEO Capacity Building Strategy (available on the GEO website). Committee members individually and collectively identify priorities and resource needs for addressing human, institutional and infrastructural capacity in Earth observation. They then seek to identify and engage donors and other providers of resources.*

##### ***For transverse GEOSS Section***

##### ***Resource Mobilization***

***This task is led by Spain (AEMET)***

*This task implements the Seville Roadmap on Resource Mobilization (available on the GEO website). The road map aims to mobilize resources for building the capacity of the three key contributors to Earth observations: individuals, institutions and infrastructure. It also works to strengthen links between the user and donor communities.*

- Move all transverse CBC over-arching tasks under one section. CB tasks scattered throughout the transverse section work plan, makes the plan difficult to read.
- Highlight CB tasks in SBAs possibly with a colour or code to know committee relevance
- Split GEONETCast in two tasks: infrastructure as ADC task and Training as CBC task.
- Separate IEEE Game Contest and the Globe initiative in two subtasks. (Globe was presented by Ed Geary (UCAR))

General recommendations made:

- Governance of over-arching tasks was not clear and needed to be clarified.
- Comment log on V2 to be circulated to GEO Principles.
- A move towards electronic reporting of tasks was desirable in order to facilitate committee oversight of tasks.

## **5. Data Sharing principles (DSP):**

(Note: [DSP Presentation](#))

The following points raised in discussion:

- The DSP implementation guidelines include references to Developing Countries needs, but there is no specific guideline to address their CB needs.
- CBC members to revise DSP documents before deadline.
- CBC members in the CODATA group: A. Edwards (EC); A. Mlisa (South Africa); G. Bridge (EUMETSAT) ;C. Stokes (USAid); J. Vianei (INPE-Brazil); I. Saloojee (GEO Secretariat)

## **6. Role and work of CBC (Strategic Direction of GEO in building GEOSS)**

(Note: [Presentation of discussion paper by Udo Gartner](#))

The following points were raised in the discussion:

- Generally the current terms of reference seem adequate. However the CBC will revisit them and suggest changes to the GEO V plenary if needed. The CBC co chairs, led by Marta Angoloti, were tasked to draft suggested changes.
- The CBC agreed to have two meetings per year. The structure of the meetings will be revised to be more focused towards providing strategic advice on CB and more focused task reporting. One meeting will be oriented to the region in which the meeting is held, the other

oriented to co-located committee meetings. The CBC welcomed the possibility of holding co-located meetings.

- The CBC will look at the possibility of holding regional workshops to stimulate participation.
- Task coordination: The co-chairs agreed to play a coordinating role follow for each of the 5 overarching tasks.

#### **7. Joint CBC-ADC meeting**

- The CBC presented the CB requirements for the GEO Portal/GCI. There was agreement that the CBC and ADC will work on implementing these. G. Bridge (CBC); D. Nerbert & G. Percival (ADC) will liaise in this regard and provide feedback to the CBC and ADC co chairs. The CBC will participate in the AIP workshop in Boulder
- The CBC requested that an “on line” component registration be demonstrated during the GEO Plenary V in Bucharest