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**CEOS**

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

**Report to CBC 9  
April 2009**

**Gordon Bridge  
Chairman WGEdu**

# Introduction

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**A key task of WGEdu is to coordinate existing and planned education and training activities of its Members in satellite-based Earth observation techniques, data analysis and interpretation, the use of derived standard products and services, and Earth Observation applications. Emphasis is also placed upon the development and provision of education and training resources that maximise the societal benefits of Earth observation data, products, and services, particularly for developing countries.**

**WGEdu has been very successful in building education and training partnerships among the various CEOS Agencies and Organisations and with dedicated training institutions, so necessary to spread the effort and cost of such activities when conducted on a global scale.**

# Accomplishments of WGEdu

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**CEOS Member Agencies' and Associate Organisations' education and training activities support current and future Earth observation technology development and its applications.**

**To this end, several Members of WGEdu, working individually or in partnership, regularly organise training courses, workshops and summer schools. The target audiences of such activities cover many disciplines and comprise students at all levels, teachers, professionals, policy- and decision-makers, the media, the public at large, and many non-traditional users of Earth observation data and information.**

# Accomplishments of WGEdu

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**WGEdu is in the latter part of its current three-year Strategic Plan (2007-2009) which focuses on three main areas:**

- ❖ **WGEdu Educational Portal**
- ❖ **Remote Sensing Workshops**
- ❖ **Testing Access to category 4 data (archive or near real-time) for educational and capacity building purposes**

**WGEdu is also endeavouring to develop a closer interaction with:**

- ❖ **The CEOS Constellations**
- ❖ **GEO CB activities**

# WGEdu Portal and interaction with the GEO Portal

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The WGEdu is looking at various options for bringing its educational portal up to a fully operational status, so it can also act as a key resource for the GEO Portal.

WGEdu is currently looking at either continuing to host this resource library in EUMETSAT, or to consider an alternative site, e.g. COMET's Environmental Satellite Resource Centre, which is operationally maintained, is funded, and allows interesting upload and browse features.

There is certainly an urgent need to simplify access to the rapidly evolving number of educational resource portals and this requirement was made clear in the recent Joint GEO WG meetings in Boulder, USA, in which some members of WGEdu, including myself, were able to participate.

# WGEdu Annual Remote Sensing Workshops

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Thailand, 4 – 6 February 2009, kindly hosted by GISTDA.

**Title: “Remote Sensing for Disaster Management”**

**Objectives: to provide attending practitioners and educators with new knowledge and information about important techniques and technologies for applying remotely sensed data in preparation for, and in response to natural disasters in SE Asia.**

**The Workshop program addressed the characteristics of Land Surface Imaging Satellite Systems Important to Disaster Management in SE Asia; Data availability and access for Disaster Management in SE Asia and the roles of Remote Sensing in Flood Management, Landslide Hazards, Drought Management, and Wildfire Management.**

**The Workshop included a significant “hands-on” component, where attendees will access remotely sensed data and products and then apply those data and products to specific research or practical problems using provided computer hardware and analysis software packages.**

# Testing the CEOS Data Exchange Principles

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**WGEdu members are currently monitoring some Pilot Projects in support of education and capacity building that test the implementation of the WGEdu Data Access Principles by demonstrating the use of remotely sensed data sets and GIS information for educational and training purposes from various satellite and other sources, including the commercial sector. Easier access to various sources of EO satellite data needed by these projects, e.g. CEBERS, SPOT, Radarsat, Landsat, and ESA satellite data is being vigorously pursued by several CEOS agencies in WGEdu, since ease of access to such datasets will be a key factor in the success of these Projects. Currently, Pilot Projects supported by INPE, CNES, ESA are under review.**

# Interaction with the Virtual Constellations

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**WGEdu is assessing how it can contribute to potential CB components of the Virtual Constellations.**

**To start this process, SEO is assisting WGEdu in assessing potential support roles (e.g. co-sponsored Workshop) that could be played by WGEdu in the context of the Atmospheric Composition Constellation, and possibly other Constellations.**

**Potential support to Agriculture and Water SBA teams is also under consideration.**

## Interaction with GEO CB Activities

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**WGEdu is engaging closely with the activities of the GEO Capacity Building Committee, thereby supporting the space-based earth observation component of GEO CB activities.**

**Thus, several WGEdu members are intimately involved with pursuing activities in the task sheets of the 2007–2009 and forthcoming 2009 – 2011 GEO Work Plans related to capacity building. Task sheets are reviewed at each meeting and their progress is closely monitored.**

# Membership of WGEdu

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**WGEdu currently has the following membership:**

**CNES, CONAE, CSIR, DLR, EUMETSAT, ESA, GISTDA, INPE, NASA, NOAA, NSC (Norway), UNOOSA, UNESCO, USGS.**

**We know many other CEOS Agencies and Associates have educational and training programmes, so we would like more members !**



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# Thank You

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