

AOGEOSS Deqing Statement, 18 May 2017

The First International Conference and Training Workshop on Asia Oceania GEOSS was held in Deqing, China from 15 to 19 May 2018, by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), ChinaGEO Secretariat, National Remote Sensing Center of China (NRSCC) and the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences (RADI, CAS)¹. The Workshop attended by 82 participants from 16 countries and training course by 24 participants from 12 countries. The Conference received updates from all AOGEOSS tasks in addition to growing our community by hearing from many pre-eminent scientists and officials interested in joining AOGEOSS. The Conference continued the work on establishing the AOGEOSS as a fundamental piece of regional infrastructure and an overarching vision for other EO initiatives in the Asia Oceania region and the training workshop on data processing and applications began our ongoing commitment to capacity building. Within the GEO community AOGEOSS is responsible for collecting and communicating the needs of users within the Asia Oceania region.

Following a side meeting on Ocean, Coasts and Islands the main conference systematically presented five sessions:

1. The International Science and Technology Program
2. Development of Observing Capacity
3. Data Processing and Information Products
4. Regional Applications
5. Data Sharing

Each session focused on their approach to regional challenges, collaboration with other Task groups and discussed the role of Earth observations in accelerating the realization of the SDGs.

The key reoccurring themes from the conference included:

- Member countries of AOGEOSS are highly engaged and committed to providing a long term operational infrastructure, products, services, support and capacity building in accordance with the GEO Data Sharing Principles.
- The growing concern and need for mobilising scientific and monitoring efforts in Oceans, Coasts and Island particularly for addressing marine micro plastic pollution.
- The need for AOGEOSS to draw data from within its region as well as sourcing its data from countries outside of Asia Oceania.
- The importance of further connection of in-situ, remote sensing observations and models in order to address the challenges of society.

¹ The full organizing committee includes: Deqing Academy of Satellite Applications (DASA); Construction and Development Bureau in Geographic Information Industrial Park, Huzhou Moganshan High-tech Zone Management Committee; Satellite Surveying and Mapping Application Center, National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China (NASG); Task Group on Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in/for/with Developing Countries (PASTD), CODATA; National Engineering Laboratory for Satellite Remote Sensing Applications; State Key Laboratory of Remote Sensing Science; Laboratory of Target Microwave Properties (LAMP), Zhejiang Province of China; Hangzhou Normal University

- Regional GEOSS are a critical part of GEO and are defined by GEO's existing geographic regions.

The conference committed to specific action upon these reoccurring themes by committing to an AOGEOSS Mekong River Basin Pilot study to report its initial findings at GEO Plenary in Kyoto 2018. This pilot is a first step in mobilising all AOGEOSS task groups to demonstrate their integrated value to the critical challenges related to sustainable development within the Mekong. Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos will lead our engagement with users in the Basin and the Republic of Korea will lead the pilot. Follow on pilots in the Himalayas and Indo Pacific will follow.

Asia Oceania holds two thirds of the world's population, all land types, all levels of development and is the most vulnerable region in the world to natural disasters. Even within this diversity we are truly connected to one another. For example, the coastal cities of Asia Oceania are currently being impacted by sea level rise, this impact is intrinsically linked to water cycling from the Himalayan plateau and affected by climate change. Asia Oceania covers all scientific topics from the mountains to the coasts through to the deep ocean.

Task 4 Oceans, Coasts and Islands (OCI) is to lead AOGEOSS engagement with Island States. OCI have also committed to engage with the CEOS Analysis Ready Data (ARD) community to develop ocean and coastal ARD standards as a matter of priority.

Data sharing and the complementarity of data platforms developed within our region was a key theme of the conference. The Open Data Cube (ODC), Japan's Data Integration and Analysis System (DIAS) and China's SpectrumEarth (SE) system were all recognised as mature systems addressing different needs within our community. The entire community accepts the critical requirement for data providers to distribute open ARD to power our platforms.

Capacity building is seen as a critical need of AOGEOSS and the training workshop held in Deqing is seen as a first step. AOGEOSS recognises the importance of educating future generations about the relevance of Earth observation and the potential of higher degree education to help AOGEOSS achieve its objectives while providing real world learning opportunities.

AOGEOSS is committed to taking concerted actions to realize the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris climate agreement within the UNFCCC and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing actionable Earth observation information, products and services in partnership with relevant implementation organisations.

To maintain momentum, in addition to GEOSS AP Symposium, the Participants resolve to continue this international conference as a regular meeting of AOGEOSS focused upon a targeted workshop, a training course and a Coordination Board meeting. In this format the second AOGEOSS Workshop and Training Course will be held in Australia in 2019.