

**GEO User Interface Committee Meeting – Draft Meeting Record  
2-3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2007**

**Venue: GEO Secretariat, 7 bis, avenue de la Paix,  
Geneva, Switzerland**

**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Approval of the Agenda**

The meeting Agenda was approved.

The Committee noted the lack of participation of developing nations. Canada offered that they might approach CIDA about funding developing nation participation.

**Minutes of Bonn Meeting**

There was an update on the Bonn UIC by Brendan Kelly, GEO Secretariat, on the minutes of last meeting.

US-06-01 was presented:

1<sup>st</sup> Track: Lawrence Friedl

2<sup>nd</sup> track: Hans-Peter Plag, document

Presentation from Stuart Salter, UIC Co-chair, on future planning for the UIC

Stuart Salter presented on future planning:

- acknowledgement of work of Plag and Friedl
- GEO process must be user-driven process
- proposal to identify areas where users are not being engaged and UIC focus on them, keeping in mind Cape Town, focus on two or three areas, becomes part of our presentation in Cape Town.
- risk that if we are not more proactive, users will engage outside of UIC process
- there is a question as to whether this is a gap that we need to address.

The GEO Secretariat Director stated that it is a complicated issue, and not simple but a unique process to gather user requirements. Agrees with co-chair Stuart Salter, that we should identify successful activities, and areas where it is not successful, in sufficient user involvement.

**Proposal on the table for the way forward (Gary Foley)**

Proposal restated as:

Not just listen to reports, but as we go through each report, evaluate if it is ok, identify insufficiencies, a gap analysis of user engagement, put it in a strategic context so at the end of the day, we just don't have just a gap analysis, but identify a strategic direction.

Gary Foley: Architecture and Data is developing use cases, UIC is being asked to participate. There is one Use Case

Stuart Salter: Perhaps we should look SBA by SBA, looking for the gaps. Canada is struggling with a large number of constituencies.

Osamu Ochai: ADC is creating some use case models, and wants UIC to feedback.

Brendan Kelly: Another useful use case is air quality and health in the US and EU, working towards GEO-like structures of GEO nodes etc., This is a candidate for user activities, and could be an important use case in practice, same as looking at Architecture and Data issues.

Question: what can UIC add-on? What do we want to achieve? What is the vision? Improve our knowledge (about the health system)?

Stuart Salter: Looking at EO Technology, it is changing. Users can use them without being experts. Imagine a world where these things are available, for the first time, near-real time, believable data and information. UIC should present requirements in context of that vision, not just existing, but what it will be in the future: better, faster, cheaper, smarter. UIC presents user-driven front-end of the systems. Too often it is technology driven, not user driven.

EC: For example, GMES. They have the same user-driven process. Be sure that there is a constant consultation with users. JRC participates in ADC and they are thinking about test cases.

GEO Secretariat: This is not a vision issue. This is a working committee whose role is more practical. No point in observing systems if there are no users. Big issue is sustainable. To be sustainable they cannot be one-shot systems such as research satellites.

Data policy is an issue, as is access and support services. They must be addressed simultaneously

Gary Foley: Decision-making is important; the success of GEO begins and ends with the user.

WMO: Three strategic goals are identified:

1. Disciplined user engagement
2. User engagement and demands: Effective engagement in all SBAs? Where are the gaps?
3. Process for defining requirements

### **Progress on User Requirements Gathering Processes**

Presentations: Lawrence Friedl, Hans-Peter Plag, others

US-06-01: critical EO priorities by SBA, then look at what is common across SBAs.

Discussion on US-06-01

WMO: committee should focus on user engagement. Nations have their own needs and priorities, UIC and GEO should focus on convergent solutions, better than what they can do on their own.

Data policy: distribution principles, proposal to draft a two page paper, tasked to

Stuart Salter: Important issues:  
How to involve Users?  
Reinforce User Communities  
Develop examples for the short-term, pilot projects  
What matters is what you have at the end of the process

### **Discussion Summary, Lawrence Friedl**

Practical issues on US-06-01

What are good processes, what does the UIC want the Water CP to do?

### **Briefing from Secretariat on User Engagement in SBAs and lessons learned**

Identified need for weather data with consistent processing, format requirements for use by other SBAs.

Forecasts may not be available or only available for a fee.

There are cross-cutting issues that need to be addressed on data sharing.

A lot of commercial data is well-subsidized data, may use commercial entities for delivery.

Some requirements are formalized, i.e. format,

Recommended a workshop with Architecture and Data

Need to engage the economic, commercial sector, data vendors.

### **Communities of Practice**

**Air and Health** (Presentations from US EPA, PROMOTE, GEOMON, GEMS)

**US EPA**, Gary Foley

**PROMOTE**, Eleni

**GEOMON**,

**EU GEMS Project**, Hennie Kelder

**Biodiversity**

**Business Commission Proposal**

**Climate**

**Coastal Zone**

Paul DiGiacomo

**Energy**

**Forests**

**Geohazards**

**Water Cycle**

## Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April

### Summary by Co-Chair

1. Lawrence Friedl's talk: need to revisit decision. Process was put forward.
2. Role of UIC. Came to conclusion that we need to be clear of outcomes. what is the change of state that we would like to see as a result of our work, two ideas: 1) user engagement not just user requirements, 2) UIC facilitates convergence and cross-cutting
3. Data policy: Decision that UIC would generate a paper on data policy from user point of you, if it was business as usual versus if we could change, especially consequences for developing nations, resolution 40
4. Review of Secretariat in respect to user engagement. Ask Secretariat to identify key 3 or 4 areas where UIC needs to engage
5. Focus on air and health, and policy, engagement activities.

Propose to look at agenda, CP reports

Goals:

1. Build on Day 1
2. Summary reports
3. Revisit proposal on process of CPs
4. IGOS
5. Ministerial
6. Portal

### **GCOS Climate**, Stephen Bojinski

- emphasized core building-block nature of scientific observation, and that the UIC can play an important role.
- Discussion of a climate CoP.

### **Energy**

Thierry Ranchin: Energy Community of Practice and IEA SHC Task 36. Solar Energy User Survey, First Results.

Ellsworth LeDrew:

- IEEE is performing further surveys.
- There will be an ISPRS workshop in August, Yellow Knife, 1.5 days, on Interoperability and users, biodiversity.
- There is a new journal starting in Q1 2008 on GEO Themes. The first issue will be on renewable energy. There is a 10-year funding strategy, but a question of where would funding come from.

### **Forest CoP**: Goran Boberg

- There is a need for more momentum, should the committee assign a co-chair?
- need FAO involvement
- Best Practices for Forestry CoP

**IGOS GeoHazards:** Hormoz Modaressi

- November workshop

**Test Ban Treaty discussion.** Committee needs time to digest this

**IGOS-P / GEO ongoing discussions**

**Report from Secretariat Director on Executive Committee Meeting**

1. Ministerial Summit will occur on 30 November
2. Ministerial Task Forces

**Preparation of Ministerial Summit**

- Introduction (Jose Achache)
- Presentations of potential “early achievements” (Secretariat) to be highlighted at Summit

**Global Fire Early Warning System / Disasters:** Giovanni Rum

- Gaps are in Africa
- Recommendation to coordinate with U. of Maryland Global Fire based on MODIS which is fire detection not early warning
- Suggestion of Fire as Community of Practice, what is the role and impact
- Are the resources available, especially in time for the Summit

**Meningitis Early Warning System in Africa** (incl. Sand and Dust Storm warning system), Brendan Kelly

**Solar Data for Developing Countries:** Thierry

- Solar Energy

**The Beijing Olympics:** Datong Zhao

**TIGGE:** Datong Zhao

**Biodiversity Observation Network (Douglas Muchoney)**

**GEO Web Portal:** Osamu Ochiai

- Discussion on approach
- Formation of a new committee
- Issues of trusting the data

**GEONETCast:** Datong Zhao

- GEONETCast is a push system
- The Web portal and GEONETCast serve different purposes.

**Interoperability of Information Systems contributing to GEOSS**

**Virtual Constellations**

**Global Topography from SRTM**

## **CBERS Data for Africa**

### **GEO Portal**

Presentation of GEO Portal task AR-07 (George Percival)

- focus for collaboration of the UIC
- five proposals are in the CFP as draft scenarios. More would be better. Will have the capacity to focus on three scenarios for the demo.
- requests collaborative participation, be at kick-off meeting 15-16 May
- CFP released to GEO principals on 4 April 2007. Same mechanism as CFI release by the GEO Secretariat.
- There will be a discussion of these themes at the Task Force Meeting
- There is no funding available with the CFP
- Criteria to choose the scenarios, interest stated in CFI, feasibility.
- Communities of Practice can take advantage of the portal by facilitating exchange of information
- User scenarios drove the China demo on wind energy.

GEO Portal Sample Demonstration: Ludwig Moeller

GEOportal ESA/FAO: Frederique Berenbach

- Frederique.Berenbach@sapienzaconsulting.com
- Open Source
- Allows users to create their own components using MyGEO
- <https://portal/opengeospatial.org>

### **Discussion**

How do you select a service provider like for early warning? It is a matter of quality of services for the whole system. GEO members can register services. There must be a process to evaluate the offered services. There is no selection process at present. It cannot be managed on the portal platform.

Portal is providing FAO a platform for example.  
There is a capability and a selection process.

### **Action items**

1. Data policy: distribution principles, proposal to draft a two page paper, tasked to Stuart Salter.
2. Recommended a workshop with the Architecture and Data Committee.
3. L. Friedl proposal US-06-01.