

## **Rapporteur Report for Session 2.1: Earth observation for supporting Africa's development**

Alex Fortescue:

### **Earth observation in support of government policy**

Alex Fortescue demonstrated the role of earth observation in supporting, monitoring and enforcing government policy. He raised the issue of access to affordable earth observation data and demonstrated how South Africa aims to address data democracy in Africa through its chairing of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). To this end access to free CBERS-2B satellite imagery for sub equatorial Africa will be the first tangible outcome of this effort in 2008.

F. Chizea

### **The NigeriaSat-2 Project: Providing a platform for advanced remote sensing in Africa**

Mr Chizea gave an overview of the Nigeriasat 2 satellite which he described as a platform for advanced remote sensing applications on the continent. He highlighted the common theme of local technology for local problems and demonstrated the capacity development focus of the Nigeriasat 2 program which will see the development of 25 Nigerian engineers and include the Nigeriasat X training module. Technical capabilities of Nigeriasat 2 were also covered and include its ability to Image in 3 modes (stereo/area/strip)

D. Pillay

### **Assessing and quantitatively understanding organizational capabilities in Earth observation: A case study of the CSIR**

Mr Pillay demonstrated the importance of auditing existing capabilities of individual space scientist resources within enterprises. He emphasized the importance of understanding the mix of space scientists with diverse interests within an organization and touched on the 2 way interplay between EO research and operations

T van Zyl

### **Towards interoperability: The Web Sensor approach in GEO and CEOS**

Mr van Zyl gave an overview of the Group on Earth Observation, its global earth observation system of systems and the role of CEOS in GEO. He focused on the interoperability challenge demonstrating examples of in situ monitoring systems and earth observation systems which allow value beyond the original purpose of the independent components. He described the sensor web concept as a cross sensor cross institutional interoperability mechanism.

J.F. Olorunfemi

**Africa and the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.**

Mr Olorunfemi gave a passionate account on the fact that Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change despite its contributing least to climate change. He highlighted the issues which contribute to Africa vulnerability to climate change and listed some immediate adaptations that the continent will need to adopt in order to ready itself to this issue. He concluded by emphasizing the fact that climate change adaptation strategies must be driven from within Africa and that climate change is a present problem and not something lingering in the future.

B. Petja

**Using Earth observation for challenges facing monitoring environmental remediation of derelict mines in South Africa**

Mr Petja demonstrated how asbestos mines, operational in SA between the 1920s and 1980s had adverse effects on the environment and health of surrounding communities. His project focused on a Department of Mineral Affairs initiative to rehabilitate the mines and monitor this rehabilitation using earth observation. His technical report demonstrated the ability of earth observation to monitor otherwise inaccessible rugged terrain.

**Recommendation:**

1. South Africa provides model of its data acquisition and multi-license model and recommendations for Africa.
2. South Africa provide organizational capabilities evaluation model and recommendations for Africa
3. How can Africa benefit from Geo.
4. South Africa and Nigeria provide model of recommendation on monitoring derelict mines and actions
5. South Africa to provide recommendation at next meeting on hoe Africa can act/address Climate Change.