



Working Group on Education, Training and Capacity Building (WGEdu)

“Advances in Earth Remote Sensing Applications in Africa” workshop

26-28 November 2007, Cape Town, South Africa

(2nd WGEdu workshop in memory of Jay W. Feuquay)

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Introduction

The 2nd Annual WGEdu Remote Sensing Workshop presented in memory of Jay W. Feuquay will held on the campus of the University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, November 26-28. The 3-day workshop is designed to meet the needs of tertiary-level remote sensing educators and remote sensing practitioners from government agencies and NGOs in South Africa and other African countries.

2. Background

The goal of the CEOS Working Group on Education, Training and Capacity Building (WGEdu) is to enhance education, training and capacity building in Earth System Science and observation techniques, data analysis and interpretation skills required for the use and application of Earth observation data to meet societal needs. At its 7th annual meeting (April 2006, Vienna), the WGEdu members agreed to hold remote sensing workshops annually, targeting diverse audience. It was also agreed that the workshops would be organized in memory of Jay Feuquay, USGS Land Remote Sensing Program Coordinator who passed away in 2006, and who was an active CEOS participant and strong supporter of education and capacity building.

The 1st WGEdu workshop “Earth Remote Sensing for Secondary School Educators” was held 16-17 November 2006 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The workshop, hosted by CONAE, was aimed at raising awareness of secondary school teachers and education ministry officials in Latin American countries of the importance of space technology applications for the benefit of society and at providing them knowledge and resources to begin introducing this technology in the classroom.

3. Objectives and Outcomes

The objective of the 2007 workshop, which this year is entitled, ***“Advances in Earth Remote Sensing Applications in Africa”*** will be to provide educators and practitioners with new knowledge and information about important current and emerging techniques and technologies for applying land remotely sensed data to a wide variety of research topics and practical problems important on the African continent. The workshop is being hosted by South Africa’s Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Satellite Applications Centre (SAC) and will be held on the campus of the University of Cape Town.

The 3-day workshop will be intermediate to advanced in scope and will assume attendees have a reasonably good fundamental understanding of basic remote sensing concepts and principals, as well as some experience in the application of remotely sensed data in a research or practical applications setting. Consequently, the workshop will broadly explore important current and emerging remote sensing techniques and technologies that could benefit attendees in there future work.

The workshop will include 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. Lab exercises will include ones related to the USGS TerraLook product, Rapid Land Cover Mapper tool, DEM generation and application and MERIS tool box.

4. Programme Overview

The workshop will introduce new remote sensing techniques applied to themes relevant to the African continent such as climate change, desertification, water resources, agriculture, disasters, human health, biodiversity, energy and mineral exploration. Some of the topics will include:

- Data availability and access on the web
- DEM generation and application
- Rapid Landcover Mapper
- Terralook
- Emerging imaging technologies for earth remote sensing applications
- Automated high volume image processing demonstration
- Earth imaging applications
- Geonetcast demonstration

The final workshop agenda will be available on the South African space web portal (www.space.gov.za) by 15 September 2007.

5. Dates and Location

The workshop will be held at the Marine Research Institute on the campus of the University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, November 26-28. All selected and invited participants will receive an information package with details on board and lodging and other local arrangements.

6. Organizers and Sponsors

The workshop is organized by the CEOS WGEdu in cooperation with this year’s workshop host, CSIR SAC, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town (Marine Research Institute). The workshop is co-sponsored by CSIR SAC, U.S. Geological Survey, European Space Agency and other WGEdu member institutions.

7. Language of the Symposium

Applicants must have a good working knowledge of English, which will be the only language of the Symposium.

8. Qualifications and requirements for participation in the Symposium

The workshop is open to African educators and practitioners in remote sensing and/or Earth Observation working in universities, government agencies and non-governmental organizations. A university degree or post-graduate certificate in remote sensing preferred, and applicants should have some experience working on remote sensing applications. The applicant should be familiar with remote sensing terminology.

9. Deadline for Applications

A copy of the completed application form should be directly submitted to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research South Africa by **no later than 5 October 2007 to:**

Ms. Asanda Ntisana
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
P.O. BOX 395
Pretoria 0001
South Africa
Tel: 012 3345000
Fax: 012 3345001
Email: antisana@csir.co.za

Applicants seeking financial assistance should ensure that their applications are received by CSIR **no later than 28 September 2007.**

10. Selection of Participants

A committee of WGEdu members will select the participants of the workshop. The criteria for selection are the applicant's knowledge and experience in remote sensing, as well as his/her agency/organization's present and/or future remote sensing/EO programmes.

11. Participation Arrangements

Nominating agencies/organizations are expected to fund their representative's participation or are strongly encouraged to find additional sources of sponsorship. In the past, many nominating organizations have provided for the air travel of their representative while the co-sponsors of the workshop covered all other expenses. Such an arrangement would be viewed favorably by the co-sponsors of this workshop.

Within the limited funds available to the co-sponsors, a number of selected participants from Africa countries with economies in transition, who have expressed the need for financial support, will be offered assistance to attend the workshop. Funded participants will be provided with a round-trip air ticket between their international airports of departure and Cape Town, as well as board and lodging for the duration of the workshop. Funded participants are expected to arrive Cape Town on 25 November 2007 and leave 28 November 2007 pm. Any cost associated with en-route expenses or any changes made to the air ticket must be borne by the participant.

12. Life and Health Insurance

The co-sponsors will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for expenses related to medical treatment or accidental events. This will be the responsibility of each selected participant or of the nominating institution.