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* I S W I = International Space Weather Initiative *
* (www.iswi-secretariat.org) *
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Attachment(s):

- (1) "Information Note", 600 KB pdf, 5 pages.
- (2) "Latvia_ApplForm", 31 KB pdf, 4 pages.

: Re:
: UN/Latvia Workshop
:
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Dear ISWI Participant:

I received the following note from Dr Hans Haubold at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna:

:
: Dear George,
: Could you please distribute through the ISWI Newsletter the
: attached Information Note and Application Form for the UN/Latvia
: Workshop?
:
: This workshop will address key problems of space weather as space
: weather phenomena are more frequently and more urgently addressed
: in almost all "News Channels" around the world. Application Forms
: shall be duly filled out and emailed to Ms. Ayoni.Oyeneyin@unvienna.org.
:
: Thank you for your cooperation.
: Best, Hans

:
Yes, as we head towards the next Solar Max, space weather is increasingly being discussed by the mass media.

Cordially yours,
: George Maeda
: The Editor
: ISWI Newsletter



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

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Volume 4, Number 29,
on 11 March 2012.



INFORMATION NOTE

United Nations/Latvia Workshop on the Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems

Organised jointly by
**The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the
Latvian Geospatial Information Agency on behalf of the Government of Latvia**

Co-organized by
**The European Space Agency and the
International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems**

Hosted by
The Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

Riga, Latvia

14 – 18 May 2012

1. Introduction

A five-day workshop on global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) technology and its applications in Riga, Latvia, from 14 to 18 May 2012 is being organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) in cooperation with the Government of Latvia, the United States of America through the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) and the European Space Agency (ESA), as part of the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, for the benefit of the countries in Europe. The Workshop will be hosted by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency on behalf of the Government of Latvia.

Workshop participants will discuss how GNSS-enabling technology can strengthen a network of national reference stations and promote the interoperability of navigation, positioning and timing systems in the region. An overview of a wide range of GNSS applications existing today and prospects for the future, in areas such as surveying, mapping and asset management, precision agriculture, engineering and construction, aviation and maritime, as well as space weather monitoring will be provided.

2. Background

GNSS consists of constellations of satellites that provide continuously optimized location and time information, transmitting a variety of signals on multiple frequencies available at all locations on planet Earth. The GNSS are the Global Positioning System (GPS) of the United States, the Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) of the Russian Federation, GALILEO of the European Union and the COMPASS/BeiDou of China. India and Japan have developed regional GNSS capability by launching a number of satellites into space that augment the capabilities that are already supplied by the global systems to provide additional regional coverage. As providers of GNSS services, the six global and regional system

providers have grouped together in a Providers' Forum in order to conduct discussions of mutual interest focused on improving coordinated service provision to benefit humankind.

In an attempt to build a system of systems in the coming decade, the ICG was established in December 2005 in an international meeting at the United Nations Office at Vienna as an informal, voluntary forum to promote cooperation, as appropriate, on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services, as well as the compatibility and interoperability of GNSS, while increasing their use to support sustainable development, particularly in developing countries. The details on the ICG are available at the ICG Information Portal at www.icgsecretariat.org

To support the work of ICG, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as the ICG Executive Secretariat, is focusing on promoting the use of GNSS technologies as tools for scientific applications, including space weather effects on GNSS, education and training on GNSS, and utilizing regional reference systems and frames. Additional information is available at: www.unoosa.org

Globally there is growing interest in better understanding solar-terrestrial interactions, particularly patterns and trends in space weather. This is not only for scientific reasons, but also because the reliable operation of ground-based and space-based assets and infrastructures is increasingly dependent on their robustness against the detrimental effects of space weather. Currently, more than 1,000 instruments are operational in 14 ground-based world-wide instrument arrays (GPS receivers, radio antennas, magnetometers, cosmic ray detectors) for research on climate change, space weather, and ionospheric phenomena. These instrument arrays are utilized to constitute the International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI) in the period of time from 2010 to 2012. The details on the ISWI are available at: <http://www.iswi-secretariat.org/>

Efforts to build capacity in space science and technology are considered a major focus of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and are of specific interest to ICG with particular reference to GNSS. In the coming year, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will assist the process of the establishment of the ICG information centres for training and information dissemination on global applications of GNSS and their socio-economic benefits for humanity based on existing educational and research institutions, and hence to connect the institutions involved or interested in GNSS applications with GNSS providers.

Through regional workshops, expert meetings, pilot projects and training opportunities, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, is implementing a global navigation, timing and positioning satellite systems thematic area so that GNSS could be used more widely to support sustainable development, in particular in developing countries.

3. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The main objective focuses on the importance and need of cooperation to apply GNSS solutions through the exchange of information and the scaling up of capacities among countries in the region.

The specific objectives of the workshop are to: (a) update on-going activities related to the use of GNSS technology in participating countries; (b) enhance institutional and human capacity on utilizing GNSS technology using case studies, lessons learned, and experiences from other countries; (c) identify the specific needs of individual plans and projects on GNSS at the regional and international levels for near-, medium-, and long-term applications, taking into consideration the local institutional settings, including specific training and capacity-building needs; (d) develop a regional plan of action that would contribute to the wider use of GNSS technology and its applications, including the possibility of one or more national or regional pilot projects, or both, in which interested institutions could incorporate the use of GNSS technology; (e) define recommendations and findings to be forwarded as a contribution to the ICG.

The expected outcomes of the workshop are: (a) recommendations and findings on discussed topics; (b) preliminary agreement of cooperation between countries in the region and the GNSS continuously operating reference station (CORS) networks, such as the European Position Determination System (EUPOS)

and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) Subcommittee for Europe (EEUREF); (c) action plan addressing identified issues/concerns.

4. Preliminary programme of the Workshop

The Workshop programme will include plenary sessions and sufficient time for discussions among participants to identify the priority areas where pilot projects should be launched and examine possible partnerships that could be established. As a preliminary suggestion the following sessions will be organised:

Thematic Sessions

Session 1: Current and planned global and regional navigation satellite systems and satellite-based augmentation systems

- Programme updates-GNSS: Global Positioning System (GPS), GLObal NAVigation Satellite System (GLONASS), European Satellite Navigation System (GALILEO), COMPASS/BeiDou Navigation Satellite Systems (CNSS), Indian Regional Navigation System (IRNSS), Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS)
- GNSS space-based augmentation systems: Wide-Area Augmentation System (WAAS), System of Differential Correction and Monitoring (SDCM), the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS), GPS Aided Geo-Augmented Navigation (GAGAN), the Multi-functional Transport Satellite Satellite-based Augmentation System (MSAS)

Session 2: Initiatives/experiences in GNSS user applications: Case studies and opportunities for collaboration

- New capabilities in efficiency and safety across all modes of transportation: aviation, maritime, rail and highway
- Applications in surveying and mapping, geodesy, science and timing, environment, agriculture, and remote sensing with GNSS and integrated sensors
- Observation of space weather phenomena through the deployment of ground-based world-wide instrument arrays such as GPS receivers, magnetometers, solar telescopes, very low frequency (VLF) monitors, solar particle detectors, and data analysis and the sharing of recorded data

Session 3: GNSS reference station networks and services

- Regional and national reference frames/systems implementation
- International GNSS Service (IGS) and other initiatives, multi-GNSS environment

Session 4: Capacity building, training and education in the field of GNSS

- Education and training programmes
- GNSS education tools

Discussion Sessions

- Issues, concerns and approaches for pilot projects/initiatives, requirements of implementing, mechanisms and resources of implementing
- Possible follow-up projects and initiatives and proposals for future workshops/training courses

5. Working Methods

Participants of the workshop are requested to deliver a presentation paper and materials covering information on the use of GNSS technology, case studies/projects in GNSS applications in their respective countries. Each speaker is allocated 20 minutes for the presentation and is requested to submit a copy of the presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint format at least two weeks before the commencement of the workshop. It is also necessary to submit an abstract of presentation with a maximum of 300 words including the following details: Paper Title, Author (s) Name(s), Affiliation(s), and e-mail address for the presenting author.

Presentations made at the workshop will be published on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (www.unoosa.org) approximately two weeks after the workshop.

6. Sponsorship of the workshop

The Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations, the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Latvia are responsible for organizing the workshop. The United State of America through the ICG and the European Space Agency are co-organisers and co-sponsors of the workshop. **Sponsorship of the workshop still open to the ICG membership and interested entities.**

7. Expected participants

The Workshop is being planned for a total of 80 participants including policymakers, decision makers and senior experts from the following groups: international, regional, national and local institutions, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, research and development institutions, and also from industry.

8. Participation requirements

Participants should be in senior managerial or decision-making responsibility at governmental agencies, national and regional institutions, non-governmental organizations or industry. **Equally qualified female applicants are particularly encouraged.**

9. Language of the Workshop

The working language of the Workshop will be English.

10. Financial support

Within the limited financial resources available, a limited number of selected participants will be offered financial support to attend the Workshop. This financial support will defray the cost of travel (a round trip ticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in their home country and Riga, Latvia) and/or the room and board expenses during the duration of the Workshop.

11. Deadline for Submission of Applications and Abstracts

The completed application form together with the presentation abstract, properly endorsed by the applicant's Government/institution, should be submitted to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria, **no later than Friday, 16 March 2012**. Please note that on-line application form is available on the web site of the Office for Outer Space Affairs at the following address:

<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/oosa/en/SAP/act2012/riga-gnss/index.html>

All candidates are strongly encouraged to apply for the workshop online, as it helps to streamline the processing of applications as well as helps applicants to save their time.

12. Life and health insurance

Life/major health insurance for each of the selected participants is necessary and **is the responsibility of the candidate or his/her institution or Government.** The co-sponsors will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for expenses related to medical treatment or accidents.

13. Further Information and Contact Details

For information regarding the submission of nominations for attendance and funding, please contact **Ms. Ayoni Oyenevin**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, at the following e-mail address: ayoni.oyenevin@unvienna.org

For information regarding the programme, presentations/abstracts and speakers of the Workshop, please contact **Ms. Sharafat Gadimova**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs at the following e-mail address: sharafat.gadimova@unvienna.org

The focal point for Latvia will be **Mr. Janis Zvirgzds**, the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency of the Republic of Latvia, who can be contacted at the following e-mail address: janis.zvirgzds@lgia.gov.lv



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

United Nations/Latvia Workshop on the Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems

Organised jointly by
**The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the
Latvian Geospatial Information Agency on behalf of the Government of Latvia**

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Riga, Latvia

14 – 18 May 2012

APPLICATION FORM **(To be typed in or handwritten in block letters)**

[DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Friday, 16 March 2012](#)

This form, FULLY COMPLETED, should be submitted by mail to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, **no later than Friday, 16 March 2012**. You may wish also to submit this application form through the Office of the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in your country. To accelerate the processing of your application, you should also fax an advance copy directly to **Ms. Ayoni Oyenyin**, Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, FAX: +43-1-26060-5830.

We encourage all candidates to apply for the Workshop online, as it helps us to streamline the processing of applications as well as helps applicants to save their time. Please note that on-line application form is available on the UNOOSA web site at the following address:

<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/oosa/en/SAP/act2012/riga-gnss/index.html>

I hereby apply to participate in the United Nations/Latvia Workshop on the Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems. (Applicants should be familiar with the objectives and programme topics of the Workshop as described in the Information Note distributed with this application form.)

A. PERSONAL DATA

1. Family Name: _____ First Name: _____
2. Sex (Male/Female): _____ 3. Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Day Month Year
4. Nationality: _____
5. Current Title/Position: _____
6. Agency/Organization: _____

7. Principal Functions/Duties: _____

8. Official Postal Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____

9. Phone 1: _____ Fax 1: _____

Phone 2: _____ Fax 2: _____

E-mail: _____

(Please double check your phone/fax numbers and E-mail address, since this will be our principal means to contact you)

10. In case of emergency contact: _____

Postal Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

B. ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND (please use additional pages if necessary)

11. Your academic background (degrees, where and when obtained, and a description of your fields of study):

12. Your professional experience relevant to this Workshop:

13. Provide information on the programmes and mandates of your institution that could benefit from your participation in this Workshop including your involvement and responsibility. We are specifically interested in possible projects that might be initiated through your participation in this workshop:

14. Have you previously participated in training courses/workshops/seminars (regional or international) organized by the United Nations or its specialized agencies? Yes () No ()

If yes, please indicate the following: title of the meeting(s), location(s), date(s) of attendance and subject(s) covered by the programme:

C. PRESENTATION

15. Workshop Participants have the opportunity to give a presentation on the topics listed in the information note. If you wish to make a presentation at the workshop, please provide below a title for the presentation and attach an abstract with a maximum of 300 words. Please include at the top of the abstract: Paper Title, Author Name(s), Affiliation(s), Mailing Address, and E-mail address for the presenting author.

D. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

16. **Life/major health insurance for each selected participant is the responsibility of his/her institution.**

E. FUNDING

17. ***Funds available to support participants in the Workshop are limited.*** Qualified participants whose nominating agency/organization agrees to fund round-trip travel and/or living expenses **will be considered on a priority basis.** Thus we strongly encourage you to seek alternative funding to secure your participation. Please indicate below if you are able to pay for your round trip travel and/or living expenses for the duration of the workshop (covered either by your sponsoring agency/organization, or another international, regional or national organization) or if you wish to be considered for funding support.

Living expenses for the duration of the Workshop

I have my own funding and do not wish to be considered for funding support ()

I do not have funding and I do wish to be considered for funding support ()

Round trip travel to Riga, Latvia

I have my own funding and do not wish to be considered for funding support ()

I do not have funding and I do wish to be considered for funding support ()

IMPORTANT: We will only consider your request for funding support if your Application Form is complete, if you have offered to make a presentation and have included an abstract of your proposed presentation, and the signature of the Head of the nomination agency/organization.

18. Applicant's signature:

(Signature of Applicant)

(Place)

(Date)

19. Head of nominating agency/organization (required for processing of application).

(The head of the nominating agency/organization also confirms with their signature that the nominating agency/organization will be able to provide funding for the participation of its nominee to the extent indicated in paragraph E of this application form)

(Signature of Head of nominating
Organisation)

(Place)

(Date)

(Full name and title of Head of nominating agency/organisation/company in print.

Please ensure that you read the statement at item 17 regarding application for funding support)

(Seal of agency/organization)