GEO GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS

Geohazards Community of Practice (GHCP)

Geohazards: A challenge for a growing global population: In many regions, geohazards are a major threat to society, costing lives, disrupting infrastructure and destroying livelihoods. Urban settlements sprawling into hazards areas rapidly increased the disasters caused by these hazards.

The GHCP supports the implementation of a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that provides the observations required in support of geohazards risk management. A major goal is the end-to-end link between those who provide Earth observations and the end users implementing risk management actions.

To interact with or join the GHCP, please visit http://www.geohazcop.org.

The GHCP Road Map, which was agreed during a GHCP workshop jointly organized with GEO and UNESCO in January 2010 in Paris, has the main goal to utilize Earth observations for the support of the full risk management cycle. It details actions geared to achieve the strategic goal of the GHCP by 2020.

Strategic Target of the GHCP: By 2020 put in place all building blocks for comprehensive monitoring of geohazards and the provision of timely information on spatio-temporal characteristics, risks, and occurrence of geohazards, in support of all phases of the risk management cycle (mitigation and preparedness, early warning, response, and recovery), and as a basis for increased resilience and disaster reduction.

Implementation of the GHCP Road Map will be achieved by developing very few carefully selected core centers, which will provide focal points for a large geographical region where all building blocks of a value chain from observations to end users can be linked together and applied to the phases of the risk management cycle relevant for this region. These core centers will demonstrate the concept, enable scientific studies and technological developments, provide for capacity building and retention, and inform policy and decision making in the region. The GHCP has submitted a COST proposal to obtain funding for the global coordination of the Road Map implementation.