

Earth Observation Summit



July 31, 2003

Loy Henderson Room

U.S. Department of State

www.earthobservationsummit.gov

Earth Observation Summit

- The Summit will be held July 31st to bring together ministers from around the world to commit to establishing a comprehensive, integrated and sustained Earth Observation System
- Current US and foreign investments have given us unprecedented global views of the Earth as a complex interacting system
- However, a demand remains for a **comprehensive, international system** that sifts data from around the world in an **integrated and sustained manner**
- In order to **achieve seamless acquisition and long-term storage** of data, critical data gaps must be filled

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Collection of data in an integrated and sustained manner from our global partners worldwide will afford a **wide range of societal benefits.**

Applications of such a system are varied and numerous, including:

- **Natural resource management**
 - **Geologic (non-living)**
 - **Biologic (living)**
- **Natural and anthropogenic hazard prediction and mitigation**
- **Sound science for climate policy development**
- **Global transportation safety and efficiency**

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Confirmed Participants – USG

Co-Hosts

Donald L. Evans, Secretary of Commerce

Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy

Colin Powell, Secretary of State

Speakers

John H. Marburger, III, Science Advisor to the President

James Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality

Sean O’Keefe, Administrator, NASA

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Administrator, NOAA

Paula J. Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs

Rita R. Colwell, Director, National Science Foundation

James R. Mahoney, Director, Climate Change Science Program

Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior

Joseph Jen, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research,
Education and Economics

Jeffrey N. Shane, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy

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Ministerial Response

Confirmations (24):

Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo-Brazzaville, Egypt, European Union, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, Korea, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Statements of Intent (5):

Argentina, Morocco, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden

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Confirmed Participants – Multilateral Organizations

Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)

EUMETSAT

European Space Agency (ESA)

Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS)

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

International Council for Science (ICSU)

International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)

International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA)

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership (IGOS)

U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP)

U. N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

World Bank

World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

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Ad Hoc Intergovernmental

Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Inaugural Meeting – August 1, 2003

Purpose: To prepare a 10-year implementation plan for an international, comprehensive, integrated and sustained Earth observation system

Membership: One government representative from each of the participating countries

Meetings: To be scheduled to coincide with currently planned meetings related to observations and observing systems

Expected Outcomes of the Inaugural Meeting:

- Reach agreement on the Terms of Reference;
- Identify a work plan and schedule for preparing a framework by Spring of 2004; and
- Reach agreement on the essential elements for the 10-year implementation plan.

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Updates

- Excellent press coverage in recent weeks
 - *Financial Times* article
 - *Wall Street Journal* article
- Good response during trips of NASA and NOAA Administrators and other USG reps
 - EUMETSAT / IOC meetings
 - France / UK meetings
- NOAA Administrator Lautenbacher appointed by White House last week to be USG representative to the GEO
 - USGS Director Groat to serve as alternate
- Ghassem Asrar/NASA and Greg Withee/NOAA co-chair the interagency coordination group