

Report of Working Group C: Information Dissemination and Capacity Building

1. The Working Group C on Information Dissemination and Capacity Building (WGC) held its seventh meeting in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 12 and 13 November 2013 in conjunction with the Eighth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), 9 – 14 November 2013 under the chairmanship of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Arab Emirates.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of China, Japan, Malaysia, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and the European Commission. The representatives of Civil GPS Service Interface Committee (CGSIC), the United Nations-affiliated African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education – in English language (ARCSSTE-E), and the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) also participated in the meeting.
3. The Working Group, in the course of its deliberations, reviewed progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to its recommendations and the activities carried out by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the framework of its Programme on GNSS Applications.
4. It was noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs focused on capacity-building and information dissemination through (a) regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations; and (b) regional workshops, training courses and technical seminars, and their follow-up projects. For all additional information, reference was made to the report of the Secretariat “Activities carried out in 2013 in the framework of the workplan of the ICG” (United Nations Document, A/AC.105/1060).
5. It was also noted that the *Global Navigation Satellite Systems Education Curriculum* (ST/SPACE/59) was introduced at the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, which also serve as information centres for ICG. As such, the centres aim to contribute to the creation of a knowledgeable workforce, necessary for the advancement of GNSS and its applications in the regions.
6. After brief introductory remarks focused on the expectations of the meeting, the co-chairs invited the presentations. Details of the meeting agenda and the presentations made are available at the ICG Information Portal (see <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/gnss/icg/icg08/wgc/wgc.html>)
7. The Working Group heard the following presentations:
 - “African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education - in English Language (ARCSSTE-E): Centre's Activities and the Post-graduate Programme on GNSS”, by *Mr. Joseph Akinyede, Nigeria*;
 - “Update of BeiDou International Education and Training Activities”, by *Mr. Yang Dongkai (on behalf of Mr. Jingnong Weng), China*;
 - “GLONASS Learning Centre”, by *Mr. Andrey Kupriyanov, Russian Federation*;
 - “Youth for GNSS: Accomplishments and Growth”, by *Ms. Stephanie Wan, SGAC*;
 - “Typhoon Observation Based on GNSS-R Technology”, by *Mr. Yang Dongkai, Beihang University, China*;
 - “Capacity Building Activities on GNSS in Japan”, by *Mr. Hiroaki Tateshita, Japan*;
 - “U.S. Coast Guard NavCen”, by *Mr. Rick Hamilton, CGSIC*;
8. At the conclusion of the presentations, the Working Group discussed the following proposals prepared by the members of the Working Group:

- (a) ICG website design and content;
- (b) Collaborative portal for working groups;
- (c) Collaboration on education and information dissemination;
- (d) Information dissemination between GNSS users and providers

A. ICG website design and content

9. The Working Group noted that the current ICG website was hosted and maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. It was also noted that restructuring of the ICG website's data/information/content should be made along already accepted the Office standards.

B. Collaborative portal for working groups

10. The Working Group highlighted the need to create a forum (a password-protected knowledge portal) for the working groups use that could include advance/draft meeting materials, cross-working groups search functionality to locate and download ICG/working groups reference documentation.

C. Collaboration on education and information dissemination

11. Another consideration for the Working Group was a proposal of the Beihang University of China to collaborate with the regional centres affiliated to the United Nations, and to set up a programme offering advanced education in GNSS. In sum, the Working Group recommended to strengthen connections and exchanges with universities, research institutes, and other relevant communities in GNSS educational initiatives.

D. Information Dissemination between GNSS Users and Providers

12. The US Global Positioning System Service Interface Committee was presented as a successful example for information dissemination and could be used as a baseline for developing methods/guidelines to quickly and efficiently distribute information available from GNSS systems to the public, governmental, scientific, and commercial users of GNSS, including web-presence materials to document and publicize the related activities.
13. The recommendations, which grew out of the deliberations of the Working Group are listed in Attachment 1 of this report.

ATTACHMENT 1

Recommendation 1 for Committee Decision

Prepared by: Working Group C

Date of Submission: 13 November 2013

Issue Title: ICG Website Design and Content

Background/Brief Description of the Issue:

- A follow up on the Working Groups workplan actions C7 and C8 on the revision of the ICG Information Portal;
- A well-constructed proposal to change the ICG website was made by the US delegation at the ICG meetings in 2011 and in 2012;

Discussion/Analyses:

The Office for Outer Space Affairs, as the ICG Executive Secretariat introduced a coherent and comprehensive plan to increase the quality and relevance of the ICG website. The underlying approach of the web strategy was about how to plan and manage data/information and knowledge sharing that support communications and ICG goals.

ICG website must be structured in a way that it can be easily searched and presented online. This will be used to raise awareness and understanding of ICG's challenges and achievements.

Recommendation of Committee Action:

Changes to be made to the website content structure along already accepted the website standards of the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

Recommendation 2 for Committee Decision

Prepared by: Working Group C

Date of Submission: 13 November 2013

Issue Title: Collaborative Portal for Working Groups

Background/Brief Description of the Issue:

The need to create a web-based forum for the working groups use that could include advance/draft meeting materials. This will allow working groups to better communicate and coordinate organization of meetings and regular discussions.

Discussion/Analyses:

The Working Group noted the limitations of the ICG Executive Secretariat and restrictions to set such a portal especially in terms of cost and time to implement.

It was understood that it would be mutually beneficial if such a portal could be set up by one of the members who would volunteer hosting space and time to create a portal. The Working Group took note of the Forum hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) that was set up to assist the ICG Working Group A Subgroup members to exchange information and working documents.

Recommendation of Committee Action:

Working group agreed to find a solution for collaborative online workspace that will allow to facilitate documents distribution and files sharing. It was highlighted that if such a website was set up, the link will be included in the ICG website.

Recommendation 3 for Committee Decision

Prepared by: Working Group C

Date of Submission: 13 November 2013

Issue Title: Collaboration on Education and Information Dissemination

Background/Brief Description of the Issue:

Different efforts have been made by organizations in the Working Group to promote education in GNSS and outreach activities.

Discussion/Analyses:

The presentations made by the members of the Working Group highlighted the possibility for cooperation on different levels within the different institutions.

The Beihang University proposal for collaborating with the United Nations-affiliated Regional Centres was discussed by the working group; with a conclusion that there should be a stepped approach for collaboration and a GNSS education program should be set as a future plan.

Recommendation of Committee Action:

The working group recommended that the United Nations-affiliated Regional Centers, the Beihang University of China, the Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography of the Russian Federation, the Geospatial and Space Technology Consortium for Innovative Social Services (GESTISS) of Japan and other GNSS centers of excellence to work together where possible in order to promote better outreach activities, knowledge sharing and to learn from each other's experience in terms of information dissemination.

Recommendation 4 for Committee Decision

Prepared by: Working Group C

Date of Submission: 13 November 2013

Issue Title: Information Dissemination between GNSS Users and Providers

Background/Brief Description of the Issue:

The issue was raised during the Seventh Meeting of the ICG, in 2012 by the US delegation for better information dissemination from GNSS systems to governments, scientific, commercial and other users.

Discussion/Analyses:

The U.S. Global Positioning System Service Interface Committee was presented as a successful model for information dissemination to users.

The Working Group agreed that this is a successful example for information dissemination and can be used as a baseline for developing a method/guidelines through the Working Group.

Recommendation of Committee Action:

The Civil Global Positioning Systems Service Interface Committee to be used as a successful example for dissemination of information between GNSS users and providers.