

## **REPORT FROM THE CEOS PLENARY 2001**

This working paper gives a brief report from the CEOS Plenary Session that took place in Kyoto, Japan from 6-7 November 2001.

The report also presents the major outcomes of the different CEOS Working Groups and the activities of the Strategic Implementation Team (SIT) in 2001.

CGMS Members are invited to take note of this report.

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Japan hosted the 15th CEOS Plenary meeting in Kyoto, Japan from 6-7 November, 2001, and more than 110 participants from around the world attended. A major issue discussed at the meeting was the necessary preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to be held in Johannesburg in 2002. A significant initiative for future planning was the efforts towards this meeting and it was decided to establish a small drafting group, under the leadership of the CEOS Chairman for this purpose.

In 2001, CEOS welcomed two new agencies from Asia. The Korean Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) joined as a Member of CEOS, and the Geo-informatics and Space Technology Department of Thailand (GISTDA) as an Associate of CEOS.

At the 14th Plenary in 2000, the CEOS Chairman was charged to lead a group to conduct a review of CEOS structure, activities, and its relationship with IGOS. The 15th Plenary welcomed the progress made during the year, and decided to extend the mandate of this Team under ESA Chairmanship to address the full range of activities and CEOS structures, and to develop a new CEOS Strategic Plan. A major issue is the recognition that the Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership (IGOS-P) has become a major focus for CEOS. This interface to IGOS-P needs to be reviewed, in light of the rapid evolution of IGOS-P, and the duplication which has emerged in the last year or so between the various CEOS and IGOS-P meetings.

The Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS) demonstrated the WGISS Test Facility for GOFD, highlighting how the various WGISS tools could be used for data discovery, searching, access, and inter-use in important and practical applications. WGISS will continue to pursue such work with interested parties and to report back to Plenary 2002.

The CEOS Working Group on Calibration and Validation (WGCV) presented the new three-year work plan for the period up to 2003, and in particular new plans to consider the cal/val needs in atmospheric chemistry.

The work of the ad hoc Disaster Management Support Group (DMSG) will continue during 2002 with the expectation of a final report to the CEOS Plenary in 2002.

The work on Earth Observation Education and Training continued and a three year plan for implementation was agreed.

The Strategic Implementation Team (SIT) became a standing working Group and the activities on the proposed new themes was developed during the year. These cover the Water Cycle, Coral Reefs, and Geological/Geophysical Hazards. CEOS offered sincere thanks to Dr. Jean-Louis Fellous of CNES, the retiring Chairman of SIT, and appointed Dr. Tillman Mohr (EUMETSAT) as Chairman of the SIT.

ESA took over the Chairmanship of CEOS for 2002, which will certainly be a challenging time for CEOS. The WSSD and the CEOS Review as well as strengthening the CEOS relationship with IGOS-P will all be major issues.