

EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)  
International Cooperation in Earth Observation Missions (1)

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STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN SPACE-BORNE EARTH OBSERVATION

**Abstract**

Since its establishment in 1984, the Committee on Earth Observations Satellites (CEOS) has continued to strengthen efforts of coordinating satellite missions. In 2005, the Group and Earth Observations (GEO) was established and the ten year Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) implementation plan was adopted. This necessitated the reorientation of CEOS to better support the implementation of GEOSS. While the key objective of CEOS remains maximizing the benefit of space-borne earth observation through international cooperation, GEO has provided the political framework to enhance this international cooperation; to link space-borne observations to in-situ observations; and to connect the work of CEOS more closely to the users of space-borne earth observation. This paper analyses the favourable conditions that have been created by the partnership between CEOS and GEO; and illustrates the various ways in which CEOS has responded to the implementation of the GEOSS implementation plan by addressing observational gaps, minimising duplication, and maximising the use of existing space assets.