

SYMPOSIUM ON INTEGRATED APPLICATIONS (B5)
Tools and Technology in Support of Integrated Applications (2)

Author: Mr. Mario Ciaramicoli
Canadian Space Agency, Canada, mario.ciaramicoli@asc-csa.gc.ca

Ms. Bee Thakore
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), United Kingdom, beethakore@yahoo.co.uk

SPACE GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL AD-HOC GROUP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT,
RISK-REDUCTION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING (SGAC SPIDER)

Abstract

UN-SPIDER (United Nations Platform for SPace-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response) aims at providing universal access to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management by: being a gateway to space information for disaster management support; serving as a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities; and being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening. In June 2009, the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) ad-hoc group on disaster management, risk-reduction and capacity-building (SGAC SPIDER) was created to explore how greater awareness of UN-SPIDER activities can be achieved, in the hope of helping communities in the world be better prepared for disaster situations. As part of SGAC SPIDER, students and young professionals from industry, academia, and governmental agencies have come together to research disaster management and emergency response practices in their respective countries, thereby creating national profiles to be referenced by the public. Reports on major disasters such as the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile in early 2010 were produced, and have helped the disaster management community and general public better understand the increasing need for the integration of space-based technologies into traditional disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation practices. This paper presents the structure, completed projects, and ongoing initiatives of the SGAC SPIDER group in its first year of operation, and discusses potential collaborations for the coming years.