

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

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CEOS: BUILDING EARTH OBSERVATION COMMUNITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR  
SOCIETAL BENEFIT

**Abstract**

The Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) coordinates civil space-borne observations of the Earth. Participating agencies strive to address critical scientific questions and to plan satellite missions without unnecessary overlap. The work of CEOS spans the full scope of activities required for proper international coordination of Earth observation programs and the maximum utilization of their data, ranging from the development of detailed technical standards for data product exchange to the establishment of high-level interagency agreements on common data principles. CEOS can provide the framework for efficient coordination across the CEOS agencies through its Working Groups and Virtual Constellations. Earth observation data is essential for the planet and CEOS has the power to change how space agencies are viewed by the community. By promoting a vision that brings together science, Earth observation technology and benefits for the Society, CEOS is also committed to facilitate the access to data in order to encourage sustainable use of natural resources. Helping to achieve the original vision for the GEOSS, CEOS has become one of its highlights in the recent years. Several activities led by CEOS, e.g. Forest Carbon Monitoring, Greenhouse Gases Emission and Data Democracy have gained high priority in 2010. Data Democracy summarizes CEOS vision of sharing knowledge through GEOSS, building EO Community in developing countries for societal benefit.