

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

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THE OPERATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SPACE AND MAJOR DISASTERS AND ITS  
APPLICATIONS IN CHINA

**Abstract**

International Charter Space and Major Disasters, an important international disaster reduction organization initiated by European Space Agency and Centre National d'Études Spatiales(CNES) in 1999, played an important role in the past 13 years in emergency responses by using satellites resources of member space agencies. On 26 May, 2007, China integrated into the charter formally in the name of China National Space Administration (CNSA) and started to bear international disaster reduction responsibilities and fulfil obligations by providing China's domestic earth observation satellites images to charter and participating in relative activities of the organization. With many years' development, the international charter had made rapid progresses and got brilliant achievements. Till now, the charter has responded to more than 430 major disasters all over the world. China also benefited from the international charter in more than 10 major disasters monitoring, especially in China's Wenchuan county earthquake, which has 8.0 magnitude. At the same time, China contributes to the operations of the charter. CNSA provides CBERS series satellites data to charter in response to the disaster emergency calls. China Center for Resources Satellites Data Application (CRESDA), which works under the supervision of CNSA, takes the role of Emergency on-Call Officer(ECO) and Executive secretary to make sure that the charter operates continually and efficiently. The paper firstly studies the work flow, operation mechanism and roles of the charter. Secondly, the paper mainly introduces the applications of charter in China's major disasters monitoring and discusses the roles that CNSA, CRESDA and China's earth observation satellites took in the charter during the past 5 years.