

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

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THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION ON THE NATIONAL EARTH  
OBSERVATION POLICY: ANALYZING THE INFLUENCE OF THE GEO'S DATA SHARING  
PRINCIPLES

**Abstract**

The purpose of this study is to analyze how the coordination in the international Earth observation framework affects and interacts with the Earth observation policy of its members by examining the case of the data sharing principles of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). GEO is an intergovernmental body that promotes international cooperation in the field of Earth observation. GEO is building the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) through gathering and coordinating the various Earth observation systems and efforts contributed by the GEO Members. Therefore, promoting the data policy which enables freely using and sharing each observed data among its Members is the key for success of building GEOSS. At the establishment of GEO in 2005, the Members adopted the full and open data sharing principles for GEOSS. The study examines the Earth observation programs and policies in the United States, Japan and Europe, with special focus on the Earth observation data policies, before and after the establishment of GEO, and explores the influence of GEO. How did the GEO's data sharing principles influence the promotion of open and free data policy in each its Members? What were the factors that generated the difference, if any, in these Members' responses? Based on the findings, the study discusses implications and prospects regarding the Earth observation policy.