



Our Ref.: 2011-796/GEP/WP/INV

GEO Task Leads & Contributors

Geneva, 27 January 2011

Subject: Invitation – 2011 Work Plan Symposium

Dear Colleague,

It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the “2011 Work Plan Symposium” that will bring together Work Plan contributors from all GEOSS areas. The Symposium will take place from 4 to 6 May 2011 at the GEO Secretariat, 7bis Avenue de la Paix, Geneva, Switzerland.

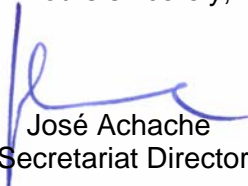
The Symposium will play a key role in the development of the 2012-2015 Work Plan, which will drive GEOSS towards completion and build upon synergies across all GEOSS areas. The Symposium outcomes will be integrated into Version 1 of the Work Plan, which is to be circulated on 1 September.

As recommended by GEO-VII, the 2012-2015 Work Plan should address three main objectives: (i) the implementation of an operational and sustainable GEOSS offering full and open access and including interoperable observing, modelling and dissemination systems; (ii) the development of information products and end-to-end services tailored to serve society’s needs across the nine Societal Benefit Areas; and (iii) the reinforcement of coordination, user engagement and resource mobilization.

With regard to the implementation of the ongoing 2009-2011 Work Plan, the Work Plan Symposium will provide, as in 2010, numerous opportunities to highlight progress, exchange information, and foster coordination across the whole Work Plan. This cross-fertilization will directly contribute to GEOSS implementation on a number of fronts, including data sharing, registration of data, and tools and services in the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI).

We would appreciate it if you would indicate your intention to participate in the Symposium via email to the GEO Secretariat (secretariat@geosec.org). A draft agenda will be circulated shortly. Logistical information including possible hotels are attached for your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



José Achache
Secretariat Director