

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: CAS-TWAS PERSPECTIVES

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THEME: Natural Disasters Monitoring, Warning and Response: Special Session on "International Initiatives for EO-based Disasters Risk Management"

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ABSTRACT:

Over the past decade, countries across the world - both rich and poor - have witnessed thousands of natural hazards. While developed countries have generally the technological resources needed to respond and recover from major disasters, the effect natural disasters can have on the environment and society of less developed countries can be devastating and long-lasting. High population density in risk-prone areas, poor infrastructure and unstable landforms make developing countries especially vulnerable to natural disasters.

Earth observation and technology tied to Digital Earth - a global effort to create a virtual representation of the entire planet - can reduce costs and efforts needed to monitor and mitigate natural disasters and their effects. Numerous developing countries require support to develop disaster mitigation capacity that will allow them to fully benefit from opportunities offered by these advanced technologies.

CAS-TWAS Centre of Excellence on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation (SDIM) has been formally established in 2013. The goal of the Centre is to provide joint research, education, training, workshop, and advisory services opportunities in developing countries, and eventually to enhance scientific and research capacities for disaster mitigation in developing countries through the use of the most advanced space technologies.

In the presentation the ongoing and future activities of SDIM for DRR in developing countries will be presented and discussed, focusing on the technology demands and challenges in disaster management and mitigation, and opportunities for multilateral activities.

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