



Higher Resolution SRTM Data & Flood Modelling Workshop

25 – 29 May 2015, Tonantzintla and Puebla, Mexico

Announcement

The organizers are pleased to announce the *Higher Resolution SRTM Data & Flood Modelling Workshop, a regional workshop with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean*. The workshop will be held from 25 to 29 May 2015 in Tonantzintla and Puebla (State of Puebla), Mexico, at the facilities of the Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica (INAOE) and of the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP).

The workshop is being organized by the Working Group on Capacity Building and Data Democracy (WGCapD) of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), hosted by the Regional Centre for Space Science Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC), and further supported by the Secure World Foundation (SWF), INAOE, BUAP, the Mesoamerican Centre for Theoretical Physics (MCTP), and the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs.

The workshop supports the objectives of, and is coordinated with, the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and the EOPOWER project of the European Commission to further develop the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and the capacity to use Earth observation data for development.

Background

In 2014, the White House, Government of the United States, announced the release of the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission 30 meter resolution global dataset, also known as SRTM-2. This is the highest quality digital elevation model (DEM) now publicly available. Among its many uses, the higher resolution data enables more accurate modeling of floods, coastal storm surges, mudslides, and volcanic lahar flows.

Following the announcement, the WGCapD set out to make 30m SRTM-2 data available to countries that need it through regionally focused workshops, hosted by respected institutions with expertise in DEMs. The workshops are being organized to help practitioners incorporate SRTM-2 data into their existing processes and projects, teaching them how to actively use 30m DEMs.

The first WGCapD-organized SRTM-2 workshop of 2015 was hosted in March 2015 by the South African National Space Agency (SANSA). The workshop targeted disaster management practitioners in the southern Africa region, with a particular emphasis on the TerraHidro and CREST flood models.

This workshop is being organized for practitioners in countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC) and will be particularly useful for those that are developing disaster early warning and emergency

response systems. The range of common disasters to be addressed by these systems includes flooding events, which have a large impact on their economic and social development, and other disasters such as landslides.

Objectives of the Workshop

The objective of this workshop will be to build capacity in understanding and using 30m DEMs derived from SRTM-2 data in flood modeling and, time permitting, other applications.

Program of the Workshop

The program for the workshop will include:

- Overview of the SRTM-2 mission and data
- Overview of hydrological models
- Theory and hands-on exercises on using DEMs in a specific flood model (to be announced)
- Case studies from the LAC region
- Presentations on CEOS, GEO, GEOSS
- Capacity-building resources made available by the supporting organizations

The detailed program for the workshop will follow in due course and will also be placed on the website of CRECTEALC (<http://www.crectealc.org>).

Language of the Workshop

Simultaneous interpretation between English and Spanish will be provided for the overview presentations and discussions. Nevertheless, the hands-on training part of the workshop will be mostly in English.

Profile of Participants

Participants in the workshop will be a) government technical personnel knowledgeable in GIS who either use or could use flood models in their regular job (e.g. hydrologists from ministries of water, agriculture, disaster management, etc.); b) disaster management specialists from outside government who are similarly knowledgeable in GIS; or c) professors / instructors in GIS or remote sensing. Individuals who are in a position to train others are particularly invited to apply. Decision-makers and managers from disaster prevention and civil protection institutions who can benefit from timely and accurate information will also be considered, but knowledge of GIS will remain a prerequisite.

Application to Participate

An Application Form will be sent to nominees. It will also be placed on the website of CRECTEALC (<http://www.crectealc.org>) and could be filled online.

Funding Support

Within their limited financial resources, the organizers will provide funding support for travel and/or hotel accommodation for as many participants as possible. Lunch will be provided for all participants at the venue. For logistic reasons, participants should cover their dinner expenses. Candidates requesting financial support can indicate this in the attached application form. The completed application form should be sent by email to jagonzalez@inaoep.mx with a copy to ldelgado@swfound.org and sergio.camacho@inaoep.mx as soon as possible **but no later than 1 May 2015**.

Travel and Lodging

CRECTEALC/INAOE will make hotel reservations for all selected participants and will provide detailed information for participants to arrive to their hotels.