

Development and current status of Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and Asia-Oceania GEO (AOGEO)

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The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is an intergovernmental organization with 109 member states and 136 participating organizations, working to improve the availability, access and use of Earth observations for the benefit of society. GEO works to actively improve and coordinate global EO systems and promote broad, open data sharing. GEO's global engagement priorities include supporting the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. A central part of GEO's Mission is to build the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). GEOSS is a set of coordinated, independent Earth observation, information and processing systems that interact and provide access to diverse information for a broad range of users in both public and private sectors. GEOSS increases our understanding of Earth processes and enhances predictive capabilities that underpin sound decision-making: it provides access to data, information and knowledge to a wide variety of users.

The ASIA-OCEANIA Group on Earth Observation (AOGEO) is a framework for regional cooperation in Asia-Oceania and will engage regional stakeholders, including national agencies and regional intergovernmental organizations within the AO region. AOGEO will focus on the three areas of GEO's Engagement Strategy by implementing three types of activities: Regional Application Activities, Foundational Tasks and Integrated Priority Studies. Regional Application Activities will address regional challenges related to the GEO's Societal Benefit Areas and the GEO global Flagships and Initiatives. Foundational Tasks will promote regional coordination. Integrated Priority Studies will exemplify the cross-cutting and inter-related nature of various Societal Benefit Areas, and currently we are focusing on 1) Mekong River Basin, 2) Pacific Islands, and 3) Himalayan Mountains, which are vulnerable to on-going climate change.

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