

The GEO Integrated Global Water Cycle Observations Community of Practice

March 8, 2013

Dear GEPW-7 Colleague:

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the GEO Water Strategy European Workshop and the Ninth Annual Integrated Global Water Cycle Observations (IGWCO) Community of Practice (COP) Science and Planning Meeting. These events will be taking place at the UAB – Casa Convalescència in Barcelona, Spain immediately after the GEPW-7 meeting. The GEO Water Strategy European Workshop on April 17 and 18 (AM) and the GEO IGWCO COP meeting will be held on April 18 (PM) and 19, 2013. For more details on Casa Convalescència visit <http://blog.uabcampus.cat/> or <http://gepw7.creaf.cat/>.

These water meetings are being held in conjunction with the GEPW-7 to provide an opportunity for European EC Framework 7 investigators to provide input to the GEO Water Strategy and to facilitate linkages with members of the GEO Water task and with members of the IGWCO COP. The features and purposes of the two meetings are described in more detail below.

The GEO Water Strategy European Workshop is part of the regional consultative process to obtain the views of scientists and other experts on the contents of the GEO Water Strategy document that is being prepared for the upcoming GEO Plenary and Summit in January 2014. To date, consultative workshops/meetings have been held in North America (San Francisco) and Asia (Ahmadabad, India). Modifications and additional inputs are being added to the GEO Water Strategy report as a result of both of these meetings. This workshop will be a critical event for ensuring that the concerns, interests, perspectives and contributions of the European scientific community are properly reflected in the report. Our intent is to go through the report on a chapter by chapter basis to review the content and to explore ways in which it could be presented more effectively. The format of the meeting will include a number of panels each with short presentation by a presenter, a discussant and panel members who along with the audience provide comments on the additions and changes needed in the report.

The Ninth Annual Integrated Global Water Cycle Observations (IGWCO) Community of Practice (COP) Science and Planning Meeting is a critical opportunity to consolidate water activities and goals for the current Water Task over the next three years and to plan new initiatives for the post-2015 phase of GEO. The meeting will feature progress reports on each of the GEO Water SBA components and activities. Since this meeting will follow the GEPW-7 meeting we anticipate that there will be a few presentations on on-going EC water projects. In addition we need to discuss linkages across GEO that we are willing to commit ourselves to developing in the next three years. We also intend to devote some discussion time to the links between the Water Task and other SBAs, Future Earth, GTN-H, CEOS, UNESCO, GEWEX/WCRP and GWSP.

We hope that you will also be able to participate in the associated meetings. Please go to <http://gepw7.creaf.cat/> (Registration) to register for the GEO Water Strategy European Workshop and the GEO IGWCO CoP meeting and the other related meetings. In addition to registering, it would be greatly appreciated if you could send a note to richard.lawford@morgan.edu if you think you will be able to attend so we can further structure the agenda.

We are indebted to the GEO Secretariat for supporting the meeting venue and for looking after the local arrangements. As more details about the meeting become available they will be posted to the GEO web site.

Regarding accommodation in Barcelona, everyone should make their own arrangements. You can do this by going to <http://gepw7.geoviqua.cat/Venue.htm>. The form for reserving a hotel can be found at: <http://gepw7.geoviqua.cat/GEOSS%20HOTELS%20FORM.pdf>. Reservation forms should be sent directly to the hotels.

Thank you for your consideration of this invitation. We look forward to meeting you in Barcelona at the GEO Water Strategy European Workshop and the IGWCO CoP meeting on April 17 to 19, 2013.

Sincerely yours,
Rick Lawford – MSU, JAXA GEO contractor
Douglas Cripe – GEO Secretariat
Osamu Ochiai – CEOS /JAXA
Toshio Koike – University of Tokyo
Wolfgang Grabs – WMO