

Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Wednesday 15:30 – 16:00

Steven Ramage leads external relations at the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.

His role involves focusing on the interfaces between science, technology, policy and decisions in support of more than 100 UN Member States. He is on the Governing Boards of Digital Earth Africa and Digital Earth Pacific, a member of the UK Space Agency Earth Observations Advisory Committee and the Advisory Board of EO4GEO.

Steven was an owner/director of 1Spatial before taking on a role as Executive Director of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), and then Managing Director of Ordnance Survey International. Steven is a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Future Cities, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS). He tweets as @steven_ramage



Global to local disaster management

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The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) has been working on open Earth observations data and information for policy development and decision making for more than 15 years. GEO works globally to bring together more than 100 countries, including the UK, to discuss good practice on science and technology to inform policy and decisions. GEO focuses on international policy instruments, such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, with work on the New Urban Agenda under development.

The Earth observations toolkit for sustainable cities and human settlements is part of a global activity under the GEO initiative EO4SDG, Earth observations in support of the sustainable development goals. Using experience gained from this process there is now a plan to develop an EO risk toolkit with UNDRR and other key partners. At the same time, the GEO disaster risk reduction working group has decided to work on a series of Policy Briefs and Practical Guidance relating to different types of hazards and how Earth observations can support different phases of the disaster cycle.

To communicate the possibilities and advantages of using Earth observations for disaster management, the GEO community must consist of multiple parties working together. This includes organisations, such as Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT), the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) and the GEO Indigenous Alliance, sharing good practice, as well as data and information for decision making.

In this short talk, Steven will explain some of the developments in the global GEO community, as well as avenues for engagement.

[Women in DRR, Indigenous communities, Equality Diversity and Inclusion, and Human Interoperability]