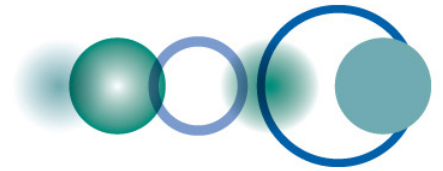


GEOSS Joint Asia – Africa Water Cycle Symposium

**25-27 November 2013
Tokyo**

***Douglas Cripe
GEO Secretariat***

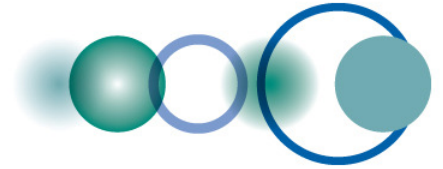




GEO: the Group on Earth Observations

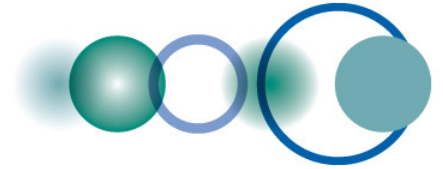
**An Intergovernmental group with 90 Members and
67 Participating Organizations**





“The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) is a **coordinating and integrating network of Earth observing and information systems, contributed on a voluntary basis by Members and Participating Organizations of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO).”**

•To support informed decision making for society, including the implementation of international environmental treaty obligations.

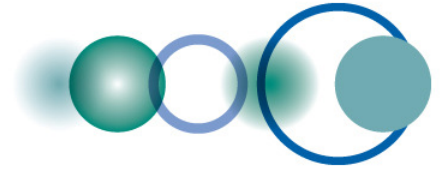


Rationale for Renewing GEO

1: Addressing urgent global challenges

Humanity currently faces enormous and complex challenges that will only continue to grow over the next few decades



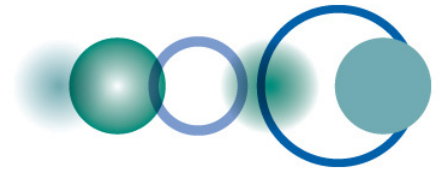


Rationale for Renewing GEO

2: Support for Sustainable Development

"Rio+20" Outcome Document recognized a specific role to be played by GEOSS in sustainable development

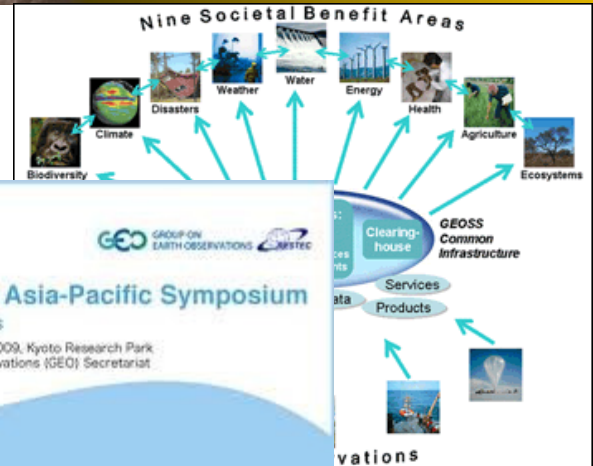
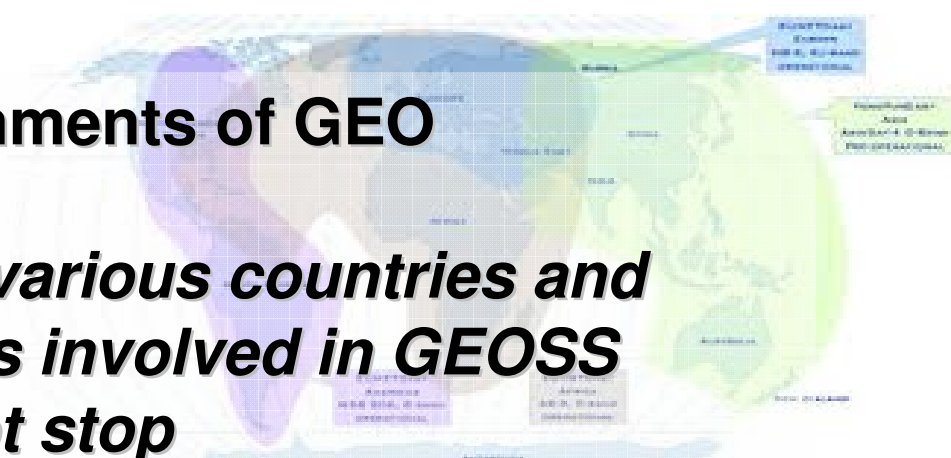


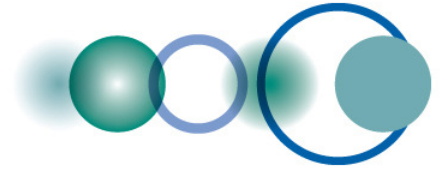


Rationale for Renewing GEO

3: Building on Accomplishments of GEO

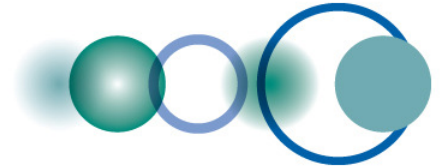
The flow of data from the various countries and international organizations involved in GEOSS implementation should not stop





GEO post-2015: Core Functions

- **Strengthening observation systems (space-based, airborne and particularly *in-situ*) and networks among observation systems;**
- **Advancing interoperability and integration of Earth observations;**
- **Promoting the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles;**
- **Building and sustaining an information system that provides access to the data and products of its Members and Participating Organizations;**
- **Developing capacity to collect and use Earth observations, and promoting regional GEOSS implementation;**
- **Supporting research and development of integrated applications of Earth observations;**
- **Engaging with users and decision-makers.**



Added-value of GEO

- **Access to EO data/information/services/products**
- **Data sharing and interoperability**
- **Networking and coordination**
 - **Regional/national coordination GEO**
- **Governance structure**
 - **Voluntary, best efforts**
- **High-level political dimension**
 - *for informed decision-making*
 - *to address urgent global challenges*
 - *to support sustainable development*

Thank you!

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