



COSPAR Capacity Building Program

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Introduction

- The Committee on space research (COSPAR) was established by the International Council for Science (ICSU) in 1958.
 - COSPAR's main role is to serve as a platform for international exchange of information and cooperation in the various fields of space research, through the organization of Scientific Assemblies, colloquia and symposia, and the publication of a scientific journal (*Advances in Space Research*) and an information bulletin (*Space Research Today*).



COSPAR Structure

- COSPAR is structure in scientific commissions and technical panels, each addressing a specific domain of space research.
 - The Scientific Commission A on “Space Studies of the Earth’s Surface, Meteorology and Climate” is one of the most active and numerous commissions. It includes three sub-commissions respectively devoted to atmosphere, ocean and land, and a Task Group on GEO, of which COSPAR is a Participating Organization.



COSPAR Capacity building and Fellowship program

- COSPAR has developed with various partners a series of capacity building workshops and an associated fellowship program that are aimed at conveying practical knowledge in areas of interest to COSPAR and at building lasting bridges between scientists.
- COSPAR Capacity-Building Workshops are held at a rate of about 3 workshops in each two-year period. These have as a main objective the encouragement of the scientific use of space data by scientists in developing countries.



CB Workshops and Associated Fellowship Program

- Any training activity which is related to science covered by one of the eight COSPAR commissions is eligible for support.
 - The fellowship program is open to young scientists who have been participants at one of the COSPAR Capacity Building workshops to enable them to build on skills gained at the workshop. It provides for visits of 2-4 weeks duration for the purpose of carrying out joint research to laboratories that collaborate with COSPAR in providing the fellowship program.



Past and Forthcoming CB Workshops

- Since its inception in 2001, 17 capacity building workshops have been held in various parts of the world, a large fraction of them covering astronomy and other domains of space physics. However in recent years, a significant effort has been devoted to extending the scope of these workshops in the field of Earth sciences:
 - **Regional Workshop for African Oceanographers**, 2005, Rabat, Morocco;
 - **Earth Observation Understanding of the Water Cycle**, 2010, Fortaleza, Brazil;
 - **Remote Sensing of Atmospheric Aerosols**, 2011, Delhi, India;
 - **Advanced Land Surface Characterization**, 2011, Cape Town, South Africa;
 - **Remote Sensing of Global Water Circulation and Climate Change**, 2012, Beijing, China;
 - **Atmospheric Correction of Earth Observation Data 2013**, Bangkok, Thailand.



COSPAR Agreement with WMO SP

- In view of this program and in consideration of the mutual interest in training and capacity building, an agreement has been signed on 21 March 2012 by the Director of the WMO Space Program and the President of COSPAR with the goal of jointly promoting such activities.
 - The first co-sponsored event was the Beijing capacity building workshop held in September 2012.
 - The second event involving both organizations will be the Bangkok workshop in November 2013.



Prospects

- A joint Regional COSPAR-CLIVAR capacity building workshop is planned to take place in Indonesia in early 2014, devoted to space-based studies of the “Indonesian Through Flow”.
- Other projects, possibly in conjunction with the next COSPAR Assembly in Moscow (2-10 August 2014) are also under consideration, which might be of interest to both the WMO Virtual Laboratory and COSPAR.



Conclusions

- General information on COSPAR and its activities, including the capacity building and associated fellowship program, can be found at <http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/>
- The seventh session is invited to:
 - Take note of the report;
 - Recommend any future capacity building activities that would benefit the Satellite user communities in the framework of COSPAR and WMO.
- Thank you for your attention!