



WORKSHOP  
ON THE ROLE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICT  
IN DISASTER MITIGATION  
28 MARCH 2007



## ABSTRACT

- Session 1 : Panel on Key Elements to Emergency Telecommunications
- Topic : Remote Sensing for disaster prediction, detection, response and relief
- Speaker : Thomas vonDeak, Electronic Engineer,  
NASA Glenn Research Centre

➤ **Abstract:**

Remote sensing provides information to administrations and authorities throughout the entire cycle of disaster events. Microwave remote sensing was first recognized as a radiocommunication service (Earth Exploration Satellite Service) by the ITU-R World Radio Conference 1979. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/Res/41/65 "*Principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from space*" provides that:

"Remote sensing activities shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic, social or scientific and technological development, and taking into particular consideration the needs of the developing countries."

This presentation provides material on the capability and role of remote sensing for disaster prediction, detection, response, and relief.

**Speaker Biographical Sketch:**

Thomas vonDeak is a member of the NASA Headquarters Spectrum Management Office (SMO) located at Glenn Research Center and now represents NASA's interests in the US domestic and international regulatory process. Mr vonDeak has represented NASA in the International Telecommunications Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) in the areas of UltraWideBand device impact on radiocommunication services and the impact of unwanted emissions on sensor operation in purely passive bands. Mr vonDeak has served as the chairman of the Space Frequency Coordination Group(SFCG) Intersessional Working Group on EESS downlinks in the X-Band(IWG-EESS)and chaired two international EESS-X-Band Workshops. He is currently the chairman of the SFCG IWG on Disaster Management (IWG-DM) cataloging space-based sensors applications used in the area of disaster management. Mr vonDeak is also the Rapporteur of the ITU-D Study Question 22/2 "Utilization of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for disaster



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management and active and passive sensing systems as they apply to disaster prediction, detection and mitigation"