



AAAS 2015 Annual Meeting

12-16 February San Jose (CA)

Earth observation systems and citizen scientists tackle urban environmental hazards

Sunday, 15 February 2015: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM
Room LL21C (San Jose Convention Center), San Jose (CA)

Through the use of earth observations both remote-sensing and *in-situ* techniques, new opportunities are being created for citizens to become involved in monitoring their urban environment and thus contributing to preventing threats and economic loss that could affect millions of inhabitants. In particular, this session reviews the role of global earth observations (GEO) in the context of recent events that have had an impact on cities, such as smog in Paris and Brussels, the Saharan sand cloud in London and disruptions of city traffic by ash from far-off volcanoes.

The session will explore how earth observations can bring about a better assessment of these events, helping to predict and mitigate their impact. It will also present examples of longer-term urban development as viewed from space or through the integration of space and in-situ data.

The concept of Citizens' Observatories and their added value in the context of GEO will be explored, showing how the layperson can contribute. The speakers will look at the possible return in terms of innovation and resource savings; the extent to which the involvement of citizens will contribute to delivering better and more transparent assessments; how citizens can become engaged in caring for their urban environment; and the contribution citizens can make to environmental policy and sustainable urban management.

Organiser:

Gilles Ollier, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research, Science and Innovation



Confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers in Belgrade, Serbia
@SPOT 6 satellite image.

Moderator:

Robert-Jan Smits, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research, Science and Innovation

Speakers:

Thomas Esch, German Aerospace Center (DLR)

Title: *Global Urban Observation and Information - the GEO task SB-04*

Alena Bartonova, Norwegian Institute for Air Research

Title: *Development of sensor-based Citizens' Observatory community for improving quality of life in cities*

Riley Duren, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Title: *The Megacities Carbon Project*

Remy Bossu, European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre

Title: *Earthquake risk mitigation using social media and sensor-based citizens' participation*