



# unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

26 March 2012

Dear Suha,

On the eve of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of our UN Geographic Information Working Group, I wish to express the congratulations of UNITAR, and UNOSAT in particular, on the launching of the Centre of Excellence for the UN Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI).

I had the opportunity to discuss this matter with Dr Choi very recently here in Geneva and assured him of UNOSAT continuing interest in and commitment to the realisation of an effective UNSDI as well as the other projects that are planned for the Centre. UNOSAT, as a Centre of Excellence for satellite analysis, look forward to the benefit of a united and unified SDI for the UN system, to which we are willing to contribute.

The three projects being planned for the first phase of the Centre of Excellence for UNSDI have the potential to affect positively several areas of work of the UN system at large and to add meaning to the strategy of “delivering as one”, which is also one of the fundamental aspects of the spirit animating UNOSAT. As you know we have been pioneering satellite analysis in all areas of emergency response, humanitarian relief and coordination as well as human security and human rights, so that, today, UNOSAT has the capacity to contribute to any such initiative taken within the Secretariat with an up-to-date, proven and usable array of skills, services and know-how.

In keeping with our discussions with OICT in New York, we are eager to follow up and participate in any developments leading to a better use by the UN of what we have been developing since 2000. In this connection, I look very much forward to having you and OICT at the Conference we organise together with Esri in Geneva on April 3-4, 2012. On that occasion you are warmly invited to share with us and the audience the deliberations of UNGIWG, for which I wish you and the other co-Chair our best wishes.

With best regards,

Francesco Pisano



UNOSAT Manager

Mr Suha Ulgen,  
Co-chair of the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG)  
and Senior Advisor on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)  
Knowledge Management Service (KMS)  
Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT)  
United Nations, New York

Postal Address: UNITAR - Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10 - Switzerland  
Street Address: International Environment House II, 7- 9 Chemin de Balexert CH-1219 Châteline - Geneva  
T +41 22 917 8517 F +41 22 917 8093 [www.unitar.org](http://www.unitar.org) [www.unosat.org](http://www.unosat.org)

Institut des Nations Unies pour la Formation et la Recherche  
Instituto de las Naciones Unidas para Formación Profesional e Investigaciones