

Med-e-Tel 2005

Educational & Information Program Plenary Session

Space-Based Technology Applications to e-Health

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**Utilizing
Advancing
Technology to
in the**



Alice Lee

Chief of Space Applications Programme

UN Expert on Space Applications

Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations



Introduction: United Nations Programme on Space Applications

Programme Objective

Promote, through international cooperation, the peaceful uses of space technologies and data for sustainable economic and social development in developing countries by:

- **Raising the awareness**
- **Establishing or strengthening the capacity to use space technology**
- **Strengthening outreach activities to disseminate awareness of the benefits obtained.**

Programme Overall Strategy

- **Concentrate on a few areas of major importance for developing countries, defining and working towards objectives that can be achieved in the short and medium term.**
- **For each area, individual activities will build on the results of previous activities aimed at achieving concrete results in a period of 2-5 years**



Programme Thematic Areas

- **disaster management;**
- **satellite communications for tele-health and tele-education applications;**
- **monitoring and protection of the environment, including the prevention of infectious diseases;**
- **management of natural resources; and**
- **education and capacity-building, including research areas in basic space sciences.**

Tele-health is one of the priority themes



Programme Tele-health Focus

In the area of tele-health, the Programme will focus on the following satellite-based applications:

- **radio and television broadcasting that provide an inexpensive platform for delivery of health care education to distant locations;**
- **communications that are the most promising means for reaching under-served and isolated areas all around the world;**
- **delivery consultation in emergency situations,**
- **services for mobile objects at sea, in the air and on the land;**
- **hybrid satellite/terrestrial delivery platforms that are currently cost-effective solutions for many point-to-point and point-to-multipoint applications.**



The UN Programme on Space Applications (PSA) Activates in Tele-health

- July 2004, Conference on Tele-health and Satellites in Rabat, Morocco:**
- **Co-organized with the European Association for the International Space Year and other sponsors**
 - **The main purpose of the Conference was to:**
 - **compare the various approaches adopted by the different space agencies and organizations**
 - **enhance international cooperation in the field of tele-health.**
 - **Conference topics included:**
 - **The most recent approaches in the fields and health education in remote areas**
 - **Real-time demonstrations of the applications via communications satellite were also given.**

October 2004, OOSA joined the International Society for Telemedicine (ISfT) to enter into the Alliance Partnership with the Society.



The UN Programme on Space Applications Activates in Tele-health (cont'd)

In 2005, the Programme has scheduled two activities:

- 1. United Nations/Argentina Workshop on Applications of Space Information and Technology to Health Issues. The objectives are:**
 - to demonstrate the use of space technology for health
 - to share information on health-related activities and applications for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - to lead to a regional project that will benefit the developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

- 2. United Nations/China Workshop on Tele-health. The objectives are:**
 - to exchange information on the current status of tele-health practices in the Asian and Pacific region
 - to discuss issues, concerns and approaches in developing tele-health for the region
 - to establishing a network and stimulating the development of a plan of implementation.
 - To benefit the developing countries in Asia and the Pacific Region. **6**



Conclusion and Future Direction

- **Integrate the satellite communications, satellite remote sensing, global positioning and geographic information systems, and computer processing into ecological, environmental and other data:**
 - **To develop predictive models to be used in disease surveillance and control activities.**
 - **The Programme will assist in the development of these space technologies based tele-health initiatives in developing countries.**
- **It is essential to develop cost-effective equipment, software, interface elements and increased access to the communication satellite capacity**
- **It is important to exchange information on medical practices and to standardize the medical data format.**
- **Integrate the application of tele-medicine into other thematic areas: natural disaster management and environmental monitoring.**