

## **UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop**

On 24 April, the UN-SPIDER Programme carried out its *Fifth United Nations International UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop on Disaster Management and Space Technology*; which focused on strengthening global synergies through knowledge management, portals and networks. Involving more than fifty experts from Australia, Asia, Africa and Latin America; the workshop provided the forum for UN-SPIDER to gather elements to update its knowledge management strategy, particularly in the segment focusing on the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Luc St-Pierre, Senior Programme Officer of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA); Dr. Gerd Gruppe, Member of the Board of Directors of the German Aerospace Center (DLR); and Ms. Natassa Antoniou, Project Manager in the Brussels Office of Secure World Foundation (SWF).

Mr. St-Pierre commented on the role of UN-SPIDER both as a gateway to space-based information and as a bridge to link the space, the disaster-risk management and the emergency response communities. He stressed the need to recognize the value of geo-spatial and space-based information when it comes to preventing and responding to disasters. He also commented on new approaches to benefit from the efforts conducted in the International Space Station in the particular area of disasters. In his remarks Dr. Gerd Gruppe reminded the audience of the relevance of space-based telecommunications in the case of tsunami early warning, and commented on the global role that DLR's Crisis Situation Center (ZKI) has played in the last decade supporting disaster response activities through the generation of space-based information. He also highlighted the connection with UN-SPIDER on this issue, recalling that this is the fifth time that DLR is co-organizing such international workshops with UN-SPIDER and commented on the support provided to UN-SPIDER in terms of experts who have taken part technical advisory missions conducted by UN-SPIDER in Africa and Latin America.

Ms. Antoniou commented on the role that Secure World Foundation plays in promoting the use of space applications for sustainable development, and the efforts that this Foundation is conducting in areas related to space policy and space law development, on supporting efforts on human and environmental security; and highlighted its contributions to the discussions regarding near earth objects that are conducted on a regular basis by the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Ms. Antoniou also highlighted the long-term cooperation it has provided to the UN-SPIDER programme, particularly in the case of workshops and expert meetings.