

## **REPORT TO THE AESS BOG ON ICEO**

I think this is the first report to the AESS BoG on the IEEE Committee on Earth Observation. I will provide some history in this report. The ICEO exists as the IEEE organization participating in the international Group on Earth Observation (GEO). In 2003 there was a meeting in Washington, DC by the GEO. At that meeting, Jay Pearlman, a member of the Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society Board, inquired if the GEO would be interested in participation by professional organizations such as the IEEE. He received a positive response and proceeded to involve several Societies including AESS. I was an early participant as was Paul Gartz, the then President of AESS. The activity resulted in the formation of the *ad hoc* IEEE Committee on Earth Observations.

During the next couple of years the ICEO organized itself to support the GEO and especially the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). This activity led to IEEE participation in the GEO Ministerial Summit in 2005 in Brussels, Belgium attended by Mike Lightner then the IEEE President where IEEE became one of the original organizations in GEO.

The GEOSS will proactively link together existing and planned observing systems around the world and support the development of new systems where gaps currently exist. It will promote common technical standards so that data from the thousands of different instruments can be combined into coherent data sets. The 'GEOPortal' offers a single Internet access point for users seeking data, imagery and analytical software packages relevant to all parts of the globe. It connects users to existing data bases and portals and provides reliable, up-to-date and user friendly information – vital for the work of decision makers, planners and emergency managers. GEOSS work is intended to be of benefit to 9 Society Benefit Areas-Disasters, Health, Energy, Climate, Agriculture, Ecosystems, Biodiversity, Water and Weather. We have been particularly active in disasters, health, energy and water.

GEO has 4 committees that carry out the work of the organization. They are the Architecture and Data (ADC), Science and Technology S&TC), User Interface (UIC), and Capacity Building (CBC). The ICEO has been very active in these committees. ICEO members are co-Chairs of the ADC and the UIC. I represent IEEE on the STC. In the next report, I will describe IEEE activities in more detail. Those who are interested in the ICEO can go to <http://www.ieee-earth.org>. I also encourage those who would like to volunteer to help the ICEO to contact me [r.lefevre@ieee.org](mailto:r.lefevre@ieee.org).