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Under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
President of the UAE

Eye on Earth Summit & Exhibition

ABU DHABI, 12TH - 15TH DECEMBER 2011

From a moment to a movement.

Under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, **Eye on Earth** is a global summit meeting devoted to the issue of greater access to environmental and societal data.

The Summit is facilitated by Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) and hosted by Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The vision of **Eye on Earth** was formed almost ten years ago, the moment when Abu Dhabi Global Environment Data Initiative (AGEDI) was announced, on 2 September 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a Type II Initiative.

The need to ensure readily accessible, accurate and relevant data from which to inform sound environmental management, monitoring and performance was emphasised.

Today's challenges have grown beyond those faced in 2002.

Water scarcity, food security and climate change are issues of policy that require action and solutions that extend beyond political boundaries. The need for collaboration, information and understanding is greater than ever.

Eye on Earth will address this challenge by convening world leaders, the environmental and societal information networking movement and others to:

Convene

to celebrate 'best-impact' data initiatives from around the globe;

Converge

on key issues to reach consensus on solutions to greater data accessibility;

Collaborate

to strengthen existing initiatives and, where necessary, to launch new ones.

Attendees will include:

- Heads of international environmental and development institutions
- Executives of the world's major geospatial and data processing corporations
- Global philanthropists, developmental and environmental activists
- Ministers of environment and development
- Executives of statistical and standards bodies
- Executives of major land-user corporations
- The foremost academics active in the field

WHY IT MATTERS

Access to environmental knowledge is critical. Wise decision-making depends on an ever-growing pool of often-unavailable data. It may be absent, inaccessible or simply hidden.

Emerging economies are losing valuable environmental assets as a result of inaccurate decision-making caused by the lack of useable quality data. Much of the world's growing flood of data is inaccessible. Incompatible standards, bureaucratic hurdles, unsuitable operating procedures, lack of open access or mere ignorance of its existence are as much of a problem as missing data per se. These are issues that can only be resolved by a concerted effort of all those involved, from information specialists to policymakers.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

To register your interest, or if you would like to receive regular updates about the **Eye on Earth Summit and Exhibition**, please visit www.eyeonearthsummit.org

"Across the world, sharing information has always been crucial to good decision-making. Ensuring that environmental and societal data is accessible to all those who need it whether scientists, communities, governments or thought-leaders, is essential to moving the world towards a future founded on informed policy-making. This is especially the case in emerging economies and to ensure sustainable development patterns and I am very proud that EAD will be hosting this summit," said H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of EAD.

Welcoming the announcement of the Summit, Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP said: "In the run-up to the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Eye on Earth presents a timely opportunity to identify practical measures to bridge the environmental knowledge gap and deliver the information and data needed to support a transition to a low carbon, resource efficient global Green Economy."

