Geospatial Technologies and Disaster
A Global Perspective
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• An outgrowth of the International Charter, a landmark treaty whereby space-based resources and data are freely shared, regardless of politics, during times of crisis.

• Developing nations are most vulnerable to disaster. Empowering them to use geospatial technologies as a force multiplier to combat disaster is a high impact activity.

• UN-SPIDER sponsors 4-5 technical advisory missions (TAMs) to developing countries to help them build internal capacity to use space-based data.
“Nothing so liberalizes a man and expands the kindly instincts that nature put in him as travel and contact with many kinds of people.”

Mark Twain
Vietnam
Laos
South Africa
China
Europe
India
Nepal
Mozambique
Australia – New Zealand
Outcomes

• Vietnam has a disaster management law that includes several sections dedicated to the use of geospatial

• Nepal formed a geospatial coordinating council at the national level

• India is providing free geospatial training and resources to the developing world

• Mozambique has created a national EOC which includes geospatial technologies
Lessons Learned

• Collaboration and coordination are consistently the principle challenges faced when applying geospatial to disaster

• Developing nations have the greatest capacity for advancement and, in many cases, are leveraging investments to leapfrog ahead of the developed world.

• Nothing contextualizes a “first world problem” better than travel in the “third world”. Be thankful.