

Department of War Studies
Strand
London WC2R 2LS
Telephone 44 (0)20 7848 2311
Facsimile 44 (0)20 7848 2026
Email bhupendra.jasani@kcl.ac.uk

Professor Bhupendra Jasani
Visiting Professor



University of London

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Dear Colleague,

On the 26th and 27th of October 2006, the **Department of War Studies**, King's College London will host a workshop on 'Policies, Treaties and Data Access' for working group VIII.5 of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). The working group aims to inform and activate people interested in remote sensing related policies, treaties and data access - from governmental and non-governmental institutions and private companies.

Improved ground, spectral and **temporal** resolutions of civilian remote sensing satellites, means that these satellites could now be used for security applications. Thus, space policy should encompass issues related to security, relevant treaties and data access and **policies**.

A number of issues shall be discussed during this workshop, including:

- 1) What is meant by the term 'security' within the context of remote sensing satellite imagery, and what are the corresponding treaties involved?
- 2) If the international community is to subscribe to arms control or environmental treaties; it is important that they have the capability to verify that external parties are also complying with their commitment to the treaties. Therefore, should data from satellites be available to all?
- 3) It is clear that remote sensing from outer space could considerably enhance global security. However, as there are few member states that actually construct, launch and operate such satellites, should cooperation be confined to a specific region or should we expand beyond its borders?
- 4) **Owing to the growing importance of remote sensing satellites, their safe operation is essential. Growing debris may pose some threat to such satellites.** Although there are some states, which have their own means of monitoring space debris, the question still remains: is there a need for an international space debris surveillance system? If so, should the United Nations (or a similar international institution) create and pursue such a system?

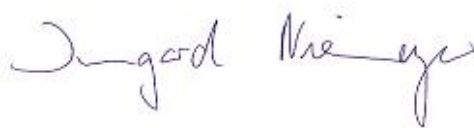
- 5) How can remote sensing imagery be used for peacekeeping activities, humanitarian aid, refugee movement and the prevention of conflicts? For example, as far as the European Union is concerned, should an organisation such as the European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC) expand its mandate in order to include such issues, with the view of eventually expanding to regions outside the EU?

These are just a few of the key policy issues to be discussed during the workshop, a more detailed agenda will be sent soon. **We very much hope that you will be able to attend the workshop. Please let us know as soon as possible of your decision.** Please send your response to bhavini.rama@kcl.ac.uk as soon as possible.

Working Group Officers:



Chair
Prof. Bhupendra Jasani
Department of War Studies
King's College London
United Kingdom
bhupendra.jasani@kcl.ac.uk



Vice-Chair
Dr. Irmgard Niemeyer
Institute for Mine-Surveying and Geodesy
Freiberg University of Mining and Technology
Germany
irmgard.niemeyer@tu-freiberg.de

WG Website: <http://www.commission8.isprs.org/wg5/>