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## CONAE takes over chairmanship of the International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters'

The Argentinean Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales (CONAE) is the current lead agency of the International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters' from April to October 2016, succeeding the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in the rotating six months chairmanship. This is the fourth time that CONAE takes the leader agency role, from its entry to the Charter in 2003.

The new leading period started with the organization of the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Charter, held in Córdoba, Argentina, from April 18 to 21, 2016, with the presence of 28 delegates of Charter Member agencies from Europe, Asia, North and South America: ESA, CNES, CSA, CONAE, JAXA, USGS, DMC/UKSA, CNSA, DLR, KARI, EUMETSAT, ROSCOSMOS, and the recently joined ABAE, from Venezuela. During the meeting, the Executive Secretariat and the Board members addressed operational issues for the short, middle and long term, with the objective to further improve the reactivity and performance of the Charter to support emergency response measures to major disasters worldwide.



### Recent Activation

- [Forest Fires in Russian Federation](#)
- [Tornado in China](#)
- [Flood in China](#)
- [Flood in the United States](#)
- [Cyclone Roanu in Bangladesh](#)
- [Sinabung Volcano in Indonesia](#)
- [Flood in Sri Lanka](#)

### Charter Members

- [European Space Agency \(ESA\)](#)
- [Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales \(CNES\)](#)
- [Canadian Space Agency \(CSA\)](#)
- [Indian Space Research Organisation \(ISRO\)](#)
- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#)
- [Argentina's Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales \(CONAE\)](#)
- [Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency \(JAXA\)](#)
- [US Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#)
- [DMC International Imaging \(DMC\)](#)
- [China National Space Administration \(CNSA\)](#)
- [German Aerospace Center \(DLR\)](#)
- [Korea Aerospace Research Institute \(KARI\)](#)
- [National Institute for Space Research \(INPE\)](#)
- [European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites \(EUMETSAT\)](#)
- [The Russian Federal Space Agency \(ROSCOSMOS\)](#)
- [Bolivarian Agency for Space Activities \(ABAE\)](#)

Bringing together new and efficient space technologies to support disaster management



## UN/India Workshop on 'Use of Earth Observation Data for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction: Asian Experience' at Hyderabad, India

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)'s National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) organized a three-day UN/India Workshop on 'Use of Earth Observation Data for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction: Asian Experience' during March 8-10, 2016 at Hyderabad, India. Shri A S Kiran Kumar, Chairman ISRO inaugurated the workshop emphasizing the need for sharing knowledge and experiences in disaster management and the importance of team work for disaster risk reduction.



A series of sessions were conducted on challenges in Disaster Management with earth observation satellites, field experiences, disaster risk assessment, early warning system and emergency response, capacity building in disaster management and fostering international cooperation for promoting space technology. About 120 officers from India and abroad (26 countries) participated in the workshop. Organizations like UNOOSA, UN-SPIDER, UNESCAP, UNDP, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre), Saint Xavier University (USA) and also representatives from remote sensing and disaster management departments from Asia and Africa actively participated.

ISRO has made a specific presentation on promoting Universal Access of International Charter and explained about the International Charter and how various space faring countries are getting benefited being part of the Charter. For those countries, which are not space faring nations, particularly, Asian and African nations, how they can benefit from the Charter through Universal Access provision.

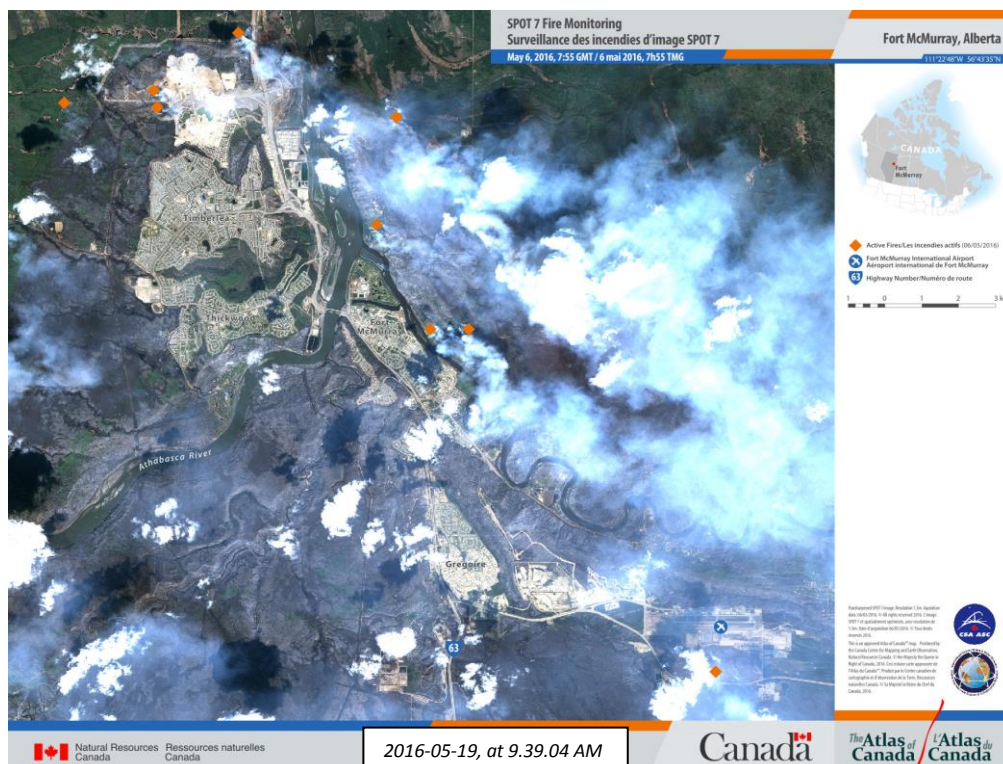


## Charter Products “aided situational awareness” of Fort McMurray Wildfires in Alberta, Canada

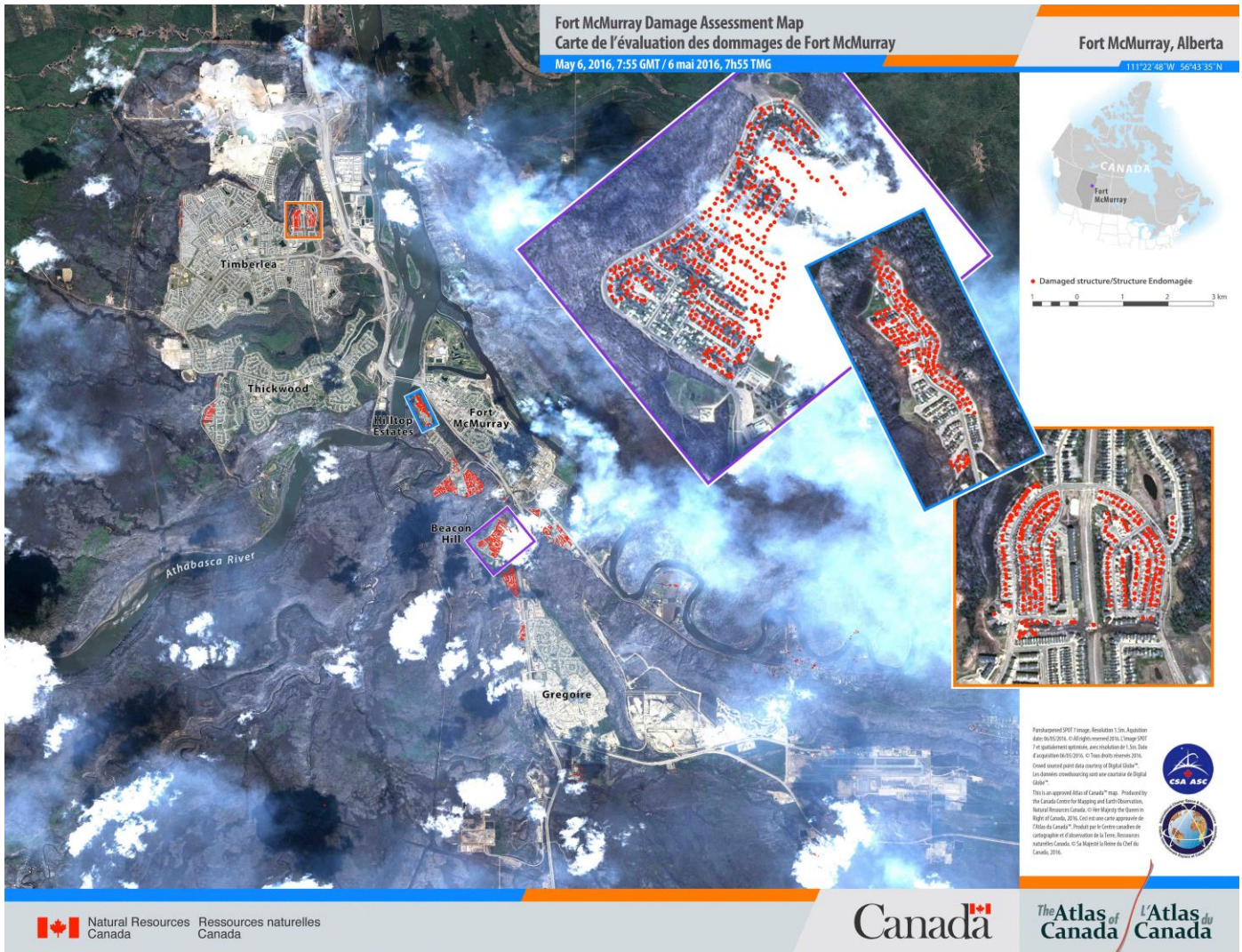
Wildfires affecting the small city of Fort McMurray and the surrounding areas in the province of Alberta, Canada, began on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. Although the exact cause of the fires remains unknown, these were propagated by high temperatures and strong winds, quickly increasing their intensity and prompting an evacuation order for the entire city.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Canadian Authorized User, Public Safety Canada, activated the International Charter ‘Space and Major Disasters’ at the request of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Immediately following the activation request, satellites of the Charter member space agencies and other contributors began to acquire data on the affected areas. The Canadian Space Agency appointed a Project Manager to coordinate the data acquisition, processing, value-adding and fast delivery of the image products to the end-user. Natural Resources Canada mobilized its resources on an emergency basis and performed most of the value-added work.

The fires spread across roughly 590,000 hectares, forcing the evacuation of more than 80,000 residents, and destroying approximately 2,400 structures. While the devastated area was imaged from May 4<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> through the efforts of the International Charter, an impressive amount of 546 images were acquired by a total of 21 satellites. These images played a role in tracking the movement of the wildfires, which was important in trying to predict where emergency resources would be needed next. According to Mr. Jon Wright, Alberta Emergency Management Agency “*The remote sensing resources we received as a result of the Charter definitely aided our situational awareness at a time when it was needed most. We will likely be referring to the content for a long time to come*”.



# INTERNATIONAL CHARTER NEWSLETTER



Two damage assessment maps show the location of active fires (orange squares) on June 5, 2016, as well as damaged structures (red circles) on May 6, 2016.



## Project Manager Training Course in CONAE's Space Center, Argentina

CONAE organized a Charter Project Manager (PM) training course at the Argentinean Space Center "Teófilo Tabanera" in Córdoba province, on April 22, 2016. Delegates from CNES, CONAE, DLR, DMC/UK ESA and JAXA gave a day long workshop to a total of 21 trainees from the Bolivian and the Argentinean civil defense agencies "Sistema Nacional de Gestión de Riesgos (SINAGER)" and "Dirección Nacional de Protección Civil", and students of the "Maestría en Aplicaciones de Información Espacial" of the Gulich Institute (a joint program between Córdoba National University and CONAE).



The trainees had the opportunity to learn more about the Charter system, its history, functions and interfaces, and the role of PMs processing and distributing satellite images products. They also could gain information on the partner agencies and their assets, the Earth Observation Data and Products, and the Charter Tools.

The participants were very enthusiastic having the chance to share the knowledge of two experienced PMs from Germany, and their work in previous activations. This course raised the Charter PM capabilities in Latin America, increasing the number of professionals prepared to accomplish the PM role in the region.