

Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative

**GOFC/GOLD Workshop: Observational Data in Support of NEESPI Non-boreal Zone,
Rostov-on-Don, Russia**

August 23 - 26, 2004

General Information about the Meeting

A workshop on *Observational Data* in support of research goals of the Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative (NEESPI) will be convened in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. The overall rationale for this workshop is the need for data capacity building in support of the NEESPI. To address this need the workshop will augment the newly-developed Northern Eurasia Regional Information Network (NERIN) by focusing on (1) the requirements for *in situ* data needed to achieve NEESPI goals, and (2) the availability of the data collected and archived by existing operational and scientific networks. NERIN will serve to link these networks and use them as a basis for development of a new network oriented towards support of the NEESPI research agenda. The workshop will also (a) review the available *in situ* datasets that are currently used or potentially useful in NEESPI research, (b) assess methods available for integration of satellite and *in situ* observations, (c) promote understanding of capabilities of earth observing systems to meet information requirements of the broad user community engaged in data collection and application development, and (e) encourage information exchange and interdisciplinary collaborative research among research teams active across the region.

OBSERVATIONAL DATA
in Support of Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative (NEESPI)
Non-boreal Zone,

Regional GOFc-GOLD Workshop
August 23-25, 2004
Rostov-on-Don, Russia

This regional GOFc/GOLD (<http://www.fao.org/gtos/gofc-gold/index.html>) Workshop is designed to promote the development of research infrastructure in support of NEESPI (<http://neespi.gsfc.nasa.gov>). NEESPI seeks to establish a large-scale, international, interdisciplinary program aimed at developing a better understanding of interactions between ecosystem, atmosphere, and human dynamics across Northern Eurasia. A major factor in the success of NEESPI is the development of the network of scientists and institutions capable of meeting the needs of NEESPI research agenda. The workshop will augment the newly-developed Northern Eurasia Regional Information Network (NERIN) with observational data inventory as the initial primary activity. The workshop will focus primarily on requirements to and availability of remotely sensed and *in situ* data collected and archived by existing operational and scientific observational networks. NERIN will provide a framework for linking these networks and use them as a basis for development of a new network oriented towards support of NEESPI research agenda.

Many years of research and operational data collection in Northern Eurasia have produced a large body of knowledge and data that can be made available to support new research. Better understanding of available data resources is critical for planning new research and data collections. In preparation for the workshop all participants and all interested professionals are strongly encouraged to fill in METADATA ENTRY FORM <http://wwwdata.forestry.oregonstate.edu/MDEDIT/teamform.aspx> . This is intended to capture basic information about the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of a data set. The results of data inventory will be reviewed at the workshop to help determine the priority data needs for the implementation of NEESPI.

Workshop agenda will cover the major thematic components of NEESPI Science Plan with particular relevance to the non-boreal aspects of the study region including:

- agricultural land use, both cultivation and grazing;
- grasslands;
- deserts;
- non-boreal forests, woodlands, and wetlands;
- coastal zone processes
- quality of inland waters;
- urban land cover dynamics;
- aerosols with a particular emphasis on dust; and

in addition, a special session will be held to conclude unfinished business from the February boreal zone workshop in St. Petersburg.

Attendance at the workshop is by invitation only.

Abstracts of presentations will be posted at NEESPI web site on August 10, 2004.