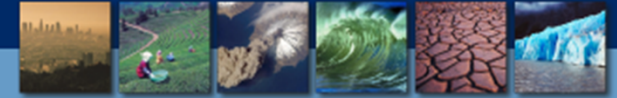


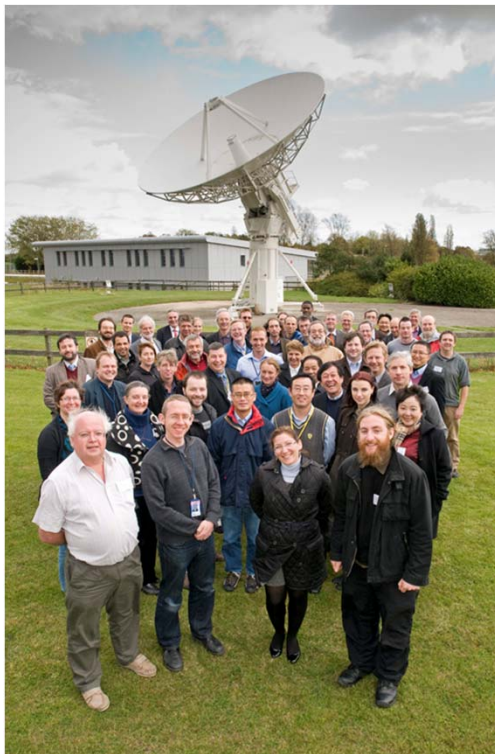
The Quality Assurance Framework for Earth Observation (QA4EO)



A QA4EO Workshop on Providing Harmonised Quality Information in Earth Observation Data by 2015, chaired by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and hosted by RAL Space, was held from 18 – 20 October 2011 in the UK

QA4EO Essential Principle

Data and derived products shall have associated with them an indicator of their quality to enable users to assess its suitability for their application - “fitness for purpose”



Quality Indicators (QIs) should be ascribed to data and products. A QI should provide sufficient information to allow all users to readily evaluate its “fitness for purpose”

QIs need to be based on a documented and quantifiable assessment of evidence demonstrating the level of traceability to internationally agreed (where possible SI) reference standards

Current Objectives:

- Establish a dedicated committee / working group within the GEO structure to be the mechanism to take QA4EO forwards and seek implementation throughout GEOSS. Provide input into GEO-VIII.
- Prepare an implementation plan for GEO Plenary 2012 to officially seek GEO adoption and implementation of QA4EO throughout GEOSS.
- Embed QA4EO into the workings of the SBAs by establishing, and working on, links from QA4EO into specific GEO SBA tasks.
- Elevate cross-cutting activities of QA4EO developed within CEOS to the GEO level; e.g., CEOS is developing key QA4EO examples using Forest Carbon Tracking, Atmospheric Composition, and Global Digital Elevation Models
- Promote QA4EO at GEO-level workshops (capacity building, etc.) to stakeholders and as a way to assess progress made in targeted areas.