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## **Real-Time Remote Sensing for Early Warning & Mitigation of Disasters and Epidemics: The Mediterranean Dialogue Earth Observatory**

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Investigators from the United States of America, Morocco and Turkey, have cooperated to establish the Mediterranean Dialogue Earth Observatory (MDEO). The MDEO will provide real-time data from multiple earth observing satellites, near-real-time data products and archival data access in support to inter-disciplinary research, instruction and operational initiatives, with respect to facilitating vulnerability assessment, early warning, impact mitigation and recovery for an array of anthropogenic and biogenic disasters, including floods, storms, earthquakes, hazardous chemical and oil spills, famine, epidemics and epizootics.

Since the beginning of the project, the group has identified uniquely low cost geostationary and tracking ground stations which would make it possible to establish both capabilities at each of the two collaborating universities in Morocco, thereby enabling critical redundancy and dual training facilities focusing on acquisition, archiving, analysis and application of real-time remotely sensed data and near-real-time data products for access by faculty and students, from universities throughout the Mediterranean Dialogue countries, including Egypt. Consequently, capacity building would be assured with respect to both infrastructure and trained key spatial data personnel for time-critical events, throughout the biogenic and anthropogenic disaster cycle (i.e. vulnerability assessment, disaster preparedness, drill exercises, anticipatory mitigation initiatives, early warning, rapid response to emergencies, search & rescue, medical team deployment, humanitarian relief, damage assessment and longer term infrastructural, societal and economic recovery). For the following months, the identification of suitable locations for the ground stations, associated cyber infrastructure, student research assistants and likely end-users of the data and data products is planned.

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**Web page:** [http://www.itap.purdue.edu/pto/NATO\\_KEEO/index\\_en.html](http://www.itap.purdue.edu/pto/NATO_KEEO/index_en.html)