2023 Belt and Road Forum on Digital Earth

Declaration

Digital Earth in Support of Sustainable Development in Belt and Road Countries

We, participants from scientific, engineering, and education communities, as well as government agencies and industry enterprises attending the Forum from 33 countries, gathered at the 2023 Belt and Road Forum on Digital Earth in Beijing, China from December 6 to 7, 2023.

RECALLING commitments from all the Belt and Road countries on the support of UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development;

REAFFIRMING the transformative potential of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to balance economic growth, social well-being, and environmental protection, protect the health and safety of global citizens, and improve global development through strengthening collective wide cooperation;

NOTING that the theme of climate change, and the protection of our ecological environment have become key topics of global governance, posing serious challenges to human survival and development, and becoming core elements affecting the economic and social security, stability, and future development of countries and regions worldwide, in particular the developing countries;

NOTING that missing data, unbalanced technology development, and challenges to monitor targets, have restricted the implementation of the SDGs, especially in some Belt and Road countries;

RECOGNIZING the vital driving forces of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in tackling global challenges and supporting the SDGs, and the important role that scientific academic and education exchange can play in all Belt and Road countries to further develop STI;
REALIZING the increasing importance of the technologies used for Digital Earth (such as data collection, management, analyses and modelling) in the advancement of science and digital transformation, which requires a closer alignment of communities of research and industry with increasing investment in STI;

REALIZING that digital technology has become an important means of monitoring and assessing sustainable development and that it plays an important role in support of government policy-making and evidence-based decision-making;

REALIZING the importance of strengthening the collaboration of Digital Earth relevant fields, in particular, in facilitating access to open data, and implementing the SDGs;

TAKING NOTE that the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) is an organization that brings together scientific associations, academic communities, and the private sectors;

On the occasion of this Forum during the Tenth Anniversary of the "Belt and Road Initiative", we are willing to further promote open data access, digital technology innovation and global knowledge sharing, strengthen scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges in areas related to Digital Earth as a mean to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda, to support the sustainable development of Belt and Road countries.

WE PROPOSE:
Under the framework of ISDE and its ISDE - Digital Belt and Road Alliance, with the support of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) to:

a) Continue the development of Digital Earth technology in the Belt and Road countries, advance scientific and technological innovations, optimize the development models, strengthen open access to scientific data, share the achievements of technological progress, for the common benefit of all Belt and Road countries;

b) Encourage and support the participation of the young generation in the Belt and Road countries, so as to benefit the youth to become the leaders sustaining our Earth with digital geo-sciences;
c) Continue to assist and encourage the implementation of Digital Earth technologies in the Belt and Road countries, and make further efforts to support actions related to the UN SDGs;

d) Continue to strengthen close cooperation among individual scientists, scientific research institutes, engineering departments, education sectors, governance agencies, scientific organizations, and the private sector, in the Belt and Road countries, making efforts to address the challenges of sustainable development through the use of science and technology required for Digital Earth;

e) Use the ISDE Digital Belt and Road Alliance to promote multilateral cooperation mechanism, strengthening international academic exchanges and cooperation, reinforcing capacities, and expanding new channels for the development of "industry, education and research", so as to create a good cooperation environment for the sustainable development of all Belt and Road countries.

December 7th    2023 Beijing