

INTRODUCTION

This publication consists of 11 selected papers from workshops organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, within the framework of the Programme on Space Applications in 2004.

The Programme on Space Applications was established in 1971, with one of its main objectives to further general knowledge and experiences in the field of space technology between developed and developing countries. The Programme organizes around ten workshops, seminars and training courses on an annual basis for students and professionals from developing countries with the aim of increasing local capabilities in space technologies, thus helping to promote the peaceful use of outer space, in accordance with United Nations goals and principles. These activities bring together professionals from developed and developing countries and allow for an exchange of information in several space-related fields, including telecommunications, remote sensing and satellite applications, global environment and land resources management and international space regulations.

This volume of "Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications" is the sixteenth publication in an annual series that began in 1989. The selected papers discuss a variety of science policy issues and are published in the language of submission.