
Preface

This publication is devoted to the prospects of using aerospace monitoring potential for new approach to disaster management matter: early warning about cataclasmic natural events and man-made catastrophes. The International Global Monitoring Aerospace System (IGMASS) is actively promoted on the international level within recent 3 years initiative of Russian scientific and public organizations to create a system for early warning of the world society about global threats, including those of space origin. On base of the Project, implemented under the auspices of the International Academy of Astronautics, there is the conception of so-called disaster precursors, manifested as geosphere anomalies, identification with the use of special equipment of space, air and ground base, and forecasting of geological or meteorological character catastrophic phenomena on this base. Furthermore, among the prospect IGMASS issues there are early warning about near-Earth objects (meteor and asteroid threats), as well as dangerous situations in the near-Earth space, caused by “space debris” phenomenon. Finally, IGMASS will be able to provide a solution of a wide range of humanitarian issues of mankind, such as: protection and preservation of cultural values, eradication of illiteracy (distance learning) and disease control (telemedicine), providing conditions for gradual formation of global common “information security field”.

The authors analyze the nature of disasters and man-made emergencies, opportunities for their effective forecasting with the use of aerospace monitoring, the key trends of the up-to-date space technologies, which will be able to reduce global risks and threats to the world society, ensuring sustainable development of civilization.

The book is intended to introduce the IGMASS concept to the wider scientific community and popularize it as an advanced Russian initiative to integrate the efforts of the international community on the peaceful using of outer space for the benefit and prosperity of all people on the Globe.

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