[SE02-HUM]

UAVs: Opportunities and Challenges for International Aid and Global Development

Name:
Patrick Meier

Affiliation:
Humanitarian UAV Network (UAViators), Founder

Brief Bio
Session Leader(s)

Dr. Meier is an internationally recognized thought leader on humanitarian innovation. His new book, "Digital Humanitarians" has been endorsed by the UN, Red Cross, World Bank, USAID and others. Over the past 12 years, Patrick has worked in dozen countries on a wide range of humanitarian projects. He is currently Director of Social Innovation at QCRI where he works with experts in advanced computing to develop Next Generation Humanitarian Technologies. He is also the founder of the Humanitarian UAV Network.

Abstract
Short description, including alignment with conference themes and objectives

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) stand to play an increasingly important role in humanitarian aid and development. As a new and emerging humanitarian technology, the evidence-base for the added value of this new technology is still necessarily thin. That being said, dozens of UAV projects in recent years highlight the potential impact that this new technology may have in the very near future. The purpose of this breakout session is to provide an overview of use-cases, case studies, lessons learned, best practices and ethical guidelines in the use of UAVs across humanitarian and development projects.

Description
Proposed discussion focus

This breakout session will focus on recent real-world uses of UAVs to demonstrate impact and challenges. Note that the session leader has direct operational experience in humanitarian UAV missions. The session will provide a wide range of use-cases and will solicit feedback from participants on the Humanitarian UAV Guidelines and the Code of Conduct.

Objectives
Justification and expected impact during and after the conference

Increased awareness on the potential and perils of UAV-use in humanitarian and development settings. Solid understanding of lessons learned and best practices. Awareness of ethical guidelines and code of conduct. Ideally this session will help catalyze collaboration on pilot projects using UAVs.

Target Audience

Humanitarian and development professionals who are relatively new to the UAV space as well as those who are highlight experience (so that the latter can also share their experience).