

**Global Observation of Forest Cover / Global Observation of Landcover Dynamics  
Fire Mapping and Monitoring Implementation Team Meeting  
Canadian Space Agency  
Montréal, Canada  
7-9 February 2005**

Forest Fire Monitoring and Mapping Implementation Team (Fire IT) is one of three theme components of the international panel for Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD). The Fire IT (<http://gofc-fire.umd.edu/index.asp>) is responding to a critical need by fire management agencies, international agencies, and policy makers at national, regional and global levels, for accurate and timely information regarding wildfires in forestland and other vegetated areas.

The Fire IT consists of a number of contributory activities from different research groups and organizations, which demonstrate the operational utility of satellite observations of fire, making the case for long-term observations of fire and the research and development necessary to improve these capabilities to meet user needs.

The Fire IT includes thirteen senior scientists and managers from leading research, monitoring and management agencies around the world. As part of its program, the Fire IT collaborates with and provides support to six self-organized regional networks located around the globe. It also works closely with several other international organizations including the CEOS Calibration and Validation Sub-Group on Land Product Validation, the Global Fire Monitoring Centre, and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Working Group 4 on Wildland Fire.

The Fire IT will hold their annual meeting from 7-9 February 2005 at Montreal, Canada. The meeting will be co-hosted by the Canadian Space Agency, which will provide the venue at their headquarters. Invitees include Fire IT members, other international fire experts, and a team of fire scientists from Natural Resources Canada.

The first day of the meeting will include strategic presentations of state-of-the-art fire monitoring and mapping systems from Canadian and international fire specialists. Day two and three will focus on Fire IT program evaluation and planning for future activities. The results of the meeting will provide important input to the GOFC-GOLD Science and Technical Board meeting, which will be held at Beijing, China in April 2005.