

Capacity Building Workshop for Small Island Developing States: Leveraging Big Earth Data to Evaluate the SDGs Progress

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER OF BIG DATA
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
可持续发展大数据国际研究中心



SDIM



September 1-8, 2025 Beijing, China



Capacity Building Workshop for Small Island Developing States: Leveraging Big Earth Data to Evaluate the SDGs Progress

Hosts

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

**International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals
(CBAS)**

International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE)

**CAS-TWAS Centre of Excellence on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation
(SDIM)**

**United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-
GGKIC)**

**Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences (AIR,
CAS)**



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< Background and Objectives >

Background and Rationale

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) continue to face persistent challenges in data collection and analysis, which hinder effective monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The inaugural 2024 workshop, which brought together 10 participants from 10 SIDS countries, highlighted a strong demand for capacity-building in geospatial technologies. While notable progress has been made, significant gaps remain in institutionalizing these tools within national data systems and decision-making frameworks at the national level.

As a follow-up to both the Fourth International Conference on SIDS and the Summit of the Future, the 2025 Annual Capacity Building Workshop will support the implementation of its outcome document—the *Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS): A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity*—to strengthen SIDS’ capacities in science-based, data-driven decision-making for the SDGs, including through geospatial technologies. It is also aligned with the broader vision of the Pact for the Future, including harnessing science, technology, and innovation to drive evidence-based policies, address global inequalities, and ensure that digital tools contribute meaningfully to eradicating poverty, advancing climate resilience, and leaving no one behind.

Building on the success of the 2024 workshop, aligning with the Pact for the Future’s call to “bridge STI divides,” and recommendations of the 2025 STI Forum, which include inter alia increasing public and private investment in STI, bridging digital divides, establishing ethical governance for emerging technologies, transforming education, and enhancing international collaboration, this 2025 Workshop will focus on practical applications of Big Earth Data for SDGs monitoring and policy implementation. It aims to bridge data gaps and enhance the technological

and institutional capacities of SIDS in adopting digital tools for data management. The workshop will feature diversified knowledge-sharing formats, including lectures, seminars, and presentations, highlighting the potential of big data to advance SDG monitoring and implementation. Participants will gain expertise in state-of-the-art methodologies for SDG indicator monitoring and evaluation, supporting SIDS in tracking progress toward ABAS commitments.

In addition, the workshop will introduce strategic foresight methodologies to help SIDS policymakers anticipate emerging risks, explore future scenarios, and apply long-term thinking to sustainable development planning. The integration of foresight with Big Earth Data will support evidence-based policymaking and the implementation of ABAS and Pact for the Future commitments.

Objectives

- a) Enhance technical skills in Big Earth Data applications for SDG monitoring among SIDS representatives.
- b) Institutionalize frameworks for integrating geospatial technologies into national policies.
- c) Strengthen partnerships between SIDS, UN DESA, and CBAS through South-South knowledge exchange.
- d) Promote practical tools for climate resilience planning, leveraging satellite imagery (e.g., SDGSAT-1) and AI-powered data analysis.
- e) Support national implementation and monitoring of ABAS and Pact for the Future through digital innovation and Earth observation tools.

< Contacts >

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Travel and Accommodation Contacts

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< House-keeping Guidelines >

- a) Participants are required to wear their workshop badge at all times throughout the event.
- b) Please check your email regularly for workshop-related notices and updates.
- c) Kindly retain your hotel room card until the time of checkout.
- d) Please note that the organizers will provide accommodation and assigned meals during the workshop only. Any additional personal expenses—including but not limited to telephone calls, laundry, extra meals, and beverages—shall be borne by the participants.
- e) Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the appointed workshop contact person.

< Notes for Participation >

Before the Course:

a) **Arrival and Punctuality:** Please arrange your schedule to ensure timely attendance at both the Conference Room on the 1st Floor of CBAS Building and the No.1 Conference Room at Beijing Xijiao Hotel for the workshop. During our capacity building workshop, your attendance will be recorded, which is important for evaluating your overall performance.

During the Course:

a) **Active Participation:** We encourage you to actively engage in discussions, raising questions, and sharing your experiences during the workshop sessions.

b) **Respectful Communication:** Please respect the opinions of others and maintain a courteous and respectful manner during all interactions.

After the Course:

a) **Content Usage:** Please be aware that all lectures and presentation materials will be recorded, shared, and used for knowledge-sharing purposes only, rather than for commercial use.

b) **Post-workshop Survey:** A survey will be provided to all participants after all courses. This questionnaire aims to gather feedback from attendees, assessing the quality of our courses and measuring the impact of the event.



< Agenda >

Day 0. Sunday, August 31, 2025

All Day Registration

Venue: Beijing Xijiao Hotel

Day 1. Monday, September 1, 2025

Opening Ceremony of the Capacity Building Workshop

Venue: Conference Room, 1st Floor of CBAS Building

09:00-12:00 Opening Ceremony (*See Annex 1 for agenda*)

12:00-13:30 Lunch and Break

13:30-14:00 Change of Venue

- Meeting Place: Lobby, 1st Floor, CBAS Building
- Transportation: Taking shuttle buses to Beijing Xijiao Hotel

Session 1: SDGSAT-1 for SIDS: Monitoring Sustainable Development from Space

Venue: No.1 Conference Room, Beijing Xijiao Hotel

14:00-17:00 SDGSAT-1 Satellite Data Supports Sustainable Development Monitoring in Small Island Developing States

Speakers: Mr. Nijun Jiang, CBAS; Dr. Yunwei Tang, CBAS

SDGSAT-1 is a satellite dedicated to supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This session will introduce how SDGSAT-1 data can be applied to monitor SDGs in small island

nations, offering valuable insights into environmental challenges and sustainable development pathways.

Day 2. Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Session 2: Applying Strategic Foresight to STI Roadmaps for SIDS: hands-on training

Venue: No.1 Conference Room, Beijing Xijiao Hotel

09:00-12:00 Applying Strategic Foresight to STI Roadmaps for SIDS: hands-on training

Speaker and facilitator: Ms. Azeema Adam, Senior Inter-Regional Adviser, DPIDG, UN DESA

Speaker: Mr. Wei Liu, UN IATT Coordinator, Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA

Speaker: Prof. John Mugabe Ouma, Science and Innovation Policy at the Graduate School of Technology Management (GSTM) at the University of Pretoria, South Africa

Speaker: Mr. Xavier Estico, Executive Chairman of Seychelles Centre for Innovation and Sustainable Development (SCISD); Member of UN SG's 10 High-level Representatives to Promote Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs

This session will introduce practical foresight methods to help SIDS integrate Big Earth Data into long-term STI planning and policy. Participants will engage in interactive exercises such as mapping drivers of change and building simple scenarios to apply foresight directly to their national contexts. It will also highlight approaches for linking foresight with geospatial datasets and for applying these methods within national STI roadmaps, drawing on experiences from the UN DA Project for African SIDS.

12:00-14:00 Lunch and Break

Session 3: Empowering SDGs Implementation with Big Earth Data and AI Platforms

Venue: No.1 Conference Room, Beijing Xijiao Hotel

14:00-16:00 How Large-Scale AI Models Transform SDG Research

Speaker: Dr. Yingchao Piao, Computer Network Information Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences

16:20-17:50 Global SDG Products and Applications Based on Big Earth Data

Speaker: Ms. Ying Sun, CBAS

Day 3. Wednesday, September 3, 2025

09:00-12:00 AI Powered Big Earth Data Platform for SDGs: Infrastructure, System and Applications

Moderator: Dr. Wei Liu, DESA

Speaker: Dr. Yuchu Qin, CBAS

This session will showcase how Big Earth Data and artificial intelligence (AI) are driving progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Experts will present innovative global SDG products, introduce data systems, and discuss the transformative role of large-scale AI models in sustainability research. Participants will learn about the latest tools and methodologies enhancing SDGs monitoring, evaluation, and evidence-based decision-making across multiple scales.

12:00-14:00 Lunch and Break

Session 4: Big Earth Data in Action: From Sustaining Planetary Resources to Global Risk Resilience

Venue: No.1 Conference Room, Beijing Xijiao Hotel

14:00-17:00 Marine Data Mining and Digital Twin Supporting Marine SDGs

Speaker: Prof. Cunjin Xue, CBAS; Ms. Azeema Adam, UN DESA

Day 4. Thursday, September 4, 2025

09:00-12:00 GLC_FCS30D: The First Global 30m Land-Cover Dynamics Monitoring Product with a Fine Classification System

Speaker: Prof. Liangyun Liu, CBAS

12:00-14:00 Lunch and Break

14:00-17:00 Big Earth Data for Disaster Risk Reduction

Speakers: Dr. Bo Yu, CBAS; Prof. Lei Wang, CBAS; Ms. Azeema Adam, UN DESA

This session highlights the critical role of Big Earth Data in addressing global sustainability challenges—from preserving vital marine and terrestrial ecosystems to enhancing resilience against disasters. Experts will present cutting-edge technologies and innovative datasets designed to monitor planetary changes with unprecedented precision and support evidence-based decisions for sustainable development. Attendees will explore applications such as digital twin technology for marine conservation, the breakthrough GLC_FCS30D product for high-resolution global land-cover mapping, and advanced analytical frameworks for disaster risk reduction. Each talk underscores how integrated data-driven approaches are essential for understanding environmental dynamics, mitigating risks, and achieving the SDGs across diverse domains.

Day 5. Friday, September 5, 2025

Session 5: International Partnership and Satellite Data Sharing for SIDS

Venue: No.1 Conference Room, Beijing Xijiao Hotel

09:00-10:15 Geospatial Big Data – Supporting Evidence-Based Decision Making in SIDS

Speaker: Mr. Sandro José Ferreira Semedo, UN-GGKIC

10:25 -11:40 Data Sharing and Applications of China's Natural Resources Satellites for SIDS

Speaker: Prof. Fanghong Ye, Land Satellite Remote Sensing Application Center, Ministry of Natural Resources of P. R. China

12:00-13:00 Lunch and Break

13:00-14:00 Change of Venue

- Meeting Place: Lobby, Beijing Xijiao Hotel
- Transportation: Taking shuttle buses to the Headquarters of the International Science and Technology Organizations

This session explores how cutting-edge geospatial technology can empower SIDS to address their unique sustainable development challenges. The application of Earth observation tools in enhancing decision-making for disaster management, and environmental monitoring, with a focus on practical support mechanisms such as China's Natural Resources Satellites data sharing platform. The dialogue aims to strengthen global partnerships and improve SIDS' access to critical spatial information, fostering innovation and sustainability for island nations.

Session 6: Special Session on Digital Earth Technologies for Promoting Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States and South Pacific Island Countries

Venue: Headquarters of the International Science and Technology Organizations

14:00-17:30 Digital Earth Technologies for Promoting Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States and South Pacific Island Countries

Speakers: Prof. Gensuo Jia, CBAS; Mr. Felix Xavier Estico, SCISD; Prof. Huaguo Zhang & Prof. Shuangling Chen, Second Institute of Oceanography; Prof. Saini Yang, IRDR; Ms. Azeema Adam, UN DESA; Dr. Sharon Torao Pingi, University of Papua New Guinea; Mrs. Chandranee Rughoobur, Ministry of Finance of Mauritius

14:00-14:15 Opening & Welcome

14:15-14:30 Introduction to the International Society for Digital Earth

14:30-16:00 Invited Presentations

16:00-16:10 Coffee Break

16:10-17:00 Panel Discussion

17:00-17:30 Wrap-up and Group Photo

This special session aims to bring together representatives from governments, scientific and technological organizations, and industries of SIDS and the South Pacific Island Countries (SPIC). It will provide a platform for sharing insights and building partnerships that leverage Digital Earth technologies to advance sustainable development in these countries.

Day 6. Saturday, September 6, 2025

The 5th International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (FBAS 2025)

Venue: Conference Room, 2nd / 3rd Floor, Beijing International Convention Centre (BICC)

09:00-10:40 Opening Ceremony of FBAS 2025

10:50-12:20 Plenary Session

12:20-13:30 Lunch and Break

13:30-17:00 Parallel Sessions (Digital Sustainable Development Goals Special Session; Youth Innovation Special Session)

Day 7. Sunday, September 7, 2025

09:00-17:00 Cultural Exchange

Day 8. Monday, September 8, 2025

FBAS 2025

Venue: Conference Room 305/307, 3rd Floor, BICC

09:00-10:15 Plenary Session

10:30-11:30 Parallel Session (Big Earth Data Facilitating African Countries and SDGs for Small Island Developing States: Challenges and Opportunities) *(See Annex 2 for agenda)*

11:30-12:30 Closing Ceremony of Capacity Building Workshop for Small Island Developing States *(See Annex 3 for agenda)*

12:30-13:30 Lunch and Break

15:30-16:30 Closing Ceremony of FBAS 2025

Day 9. Tuesday, September 9, 2025

09:00-12:00 Cultural Exchange (optional)

Departure of Participants

Opening Ceremony of Capacity Building Workshop for Small Island Developing States

Agenda

Time: September 1, 09:00-12:00

Venue: Conference Room, 1st Floor, CBAS Building

09:00-09:30 **Welcome Remarks**
(Moderator: Mr. LIU Wei)

Mr. GUO Huadong Director General, International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)

Mr. Sai Navoti Chief of SIDS Unit, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Mr. LI Pengde Director, United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC)

Mr. WANG Changlin Secretary General, International Society for Digital Earth

09:30-09:40 **Group Photo**

09:40-10:40 **Introductory Reports**
(Moderator: Ms. LIU Jie)

Introduction to SIDS Unit, UN DESA, etc. (Mr. Sai Navoti)

Introduction to CBAS (Mr. CHEN Fang)

Introduction to UN-GGKIC (Mr. Sandro Jose Ferreira Semedo)

10:40-10:50 **Coffee / Tea Break**

10:50-11:30 **Technical Tour of CBAS**

11:30-12:00

Self-introduction and Discussion

(Moderator: Mr. Sai Navoti)

The Main Topics May Include :

- Understanding of Big Earth Data in Support of SDGs
- Difficulties and Challenges Your Country / Region / Local Encounters in Supporting SDGs
- Desired Outcomes and Expectations from the Workshop

Big Earth Data Facilitating African Countries and SDGs for Small Island Developing States: Challenges and Opportunities

Agenda

Time: September 8, 10:30-11:30

Venue: Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Beijing International
Convention Centre (BICC)

Co-chairs:

Mr. LIU Wei United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN
DESA)

Mr. WANG Lei International Research Centre of Big Data for Sustainable
Development Goals (CBAS)

10:30-10:40

Opening Remarks

(Moderator: Mr. Chen Fang)

Mr. GUO Huadong

Director General, International Research Cent of Big
Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)

Mr. LIU Wei

UN IATT Coordinator, Sustainable Development
Officer, United Nations Department of Economic and
Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Mr. CHEN Rui

Deputy Director, China Centre for International
Science and Technology Exchange

10:40-11:10

Knowledge-Sharing Panel Discussion: Exchange of Experiences and the Way Forward

(Moderator: Mr. Sai Navoti)

Mr. Sai Navoti

Opportunities and Challenges for Small Island
States: An Overview

Ms. Azeema Adam

Foresight approaches for linking Big Earth Data to
coherent STI and DRR strategies in SIDS

Mr. Declan Kirrane Topic TBD

Mr. WANG Lei Big Earth Data for Disaster Risk Reduction in SIDS and African Countries

Participants from Capacity Building Workshop 2025

This concluding panel will provide an opportunity for SIDS participants to share experiences, reflect on lessons learned from the workshop, and discuss pathways for applying Big Earth Data in their national contexts. The discussion will also touch on how foresight approaches can complement these efforts by supporting longer-term planning and coherence. It will highlight next steps for strengthening capacities, fostering collaboration, and informing follow-up support under ABAS and the Pact for the Future.

11:10-11:30 **Closing Remarks**
(Moderator: Mr. WANG Lei)

Mr. Sai Navoti SIDS Unit, UN DESA

Mr. CHEN Fang CBAS

Closing Ceremony of Capacity Building Workshop for Small Island Developing States **Agenda**

Time: September 8, 11:30-12:20

Venue: Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Beijing International
Convention Centre (BICC)

Co-chairs:

Mr. Sai Navoti

Chief of SIDS Unit, United Nations Department of Economic and
Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Mr. CHEN Fang

Deputy Director General, International Research Centre of Big Data for
Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)

11:30-11:35 Opening Remarks

Mr. GUO Huadong, International Research Centre of Big
Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)

11:35-11:40 Outcome Statement by Mr. Sai Navoti

11:40-11:55 Certificate Award & Group Photo

Mr. GUO Huadong and Mr. Sai Navoti,
to all participants

11:55-12:10 Remarks by Participants from Workshop

12:10-12:30 Closing Remarks

Mr. Sai Navoti

Mr. CHEN Fang

< Venue >



Conference Room on the 1st Floor of CBAS Building

No. 9 Dengzhuang South Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100094,
China



No.1 Conference Room at Beijing Xijiao Hotel

No.18 Wangzhuang Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100083, China



Beijing International Convention Centre (BICC)

Courtyard 8, Beichen East Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100101,
China

< Venue Map >

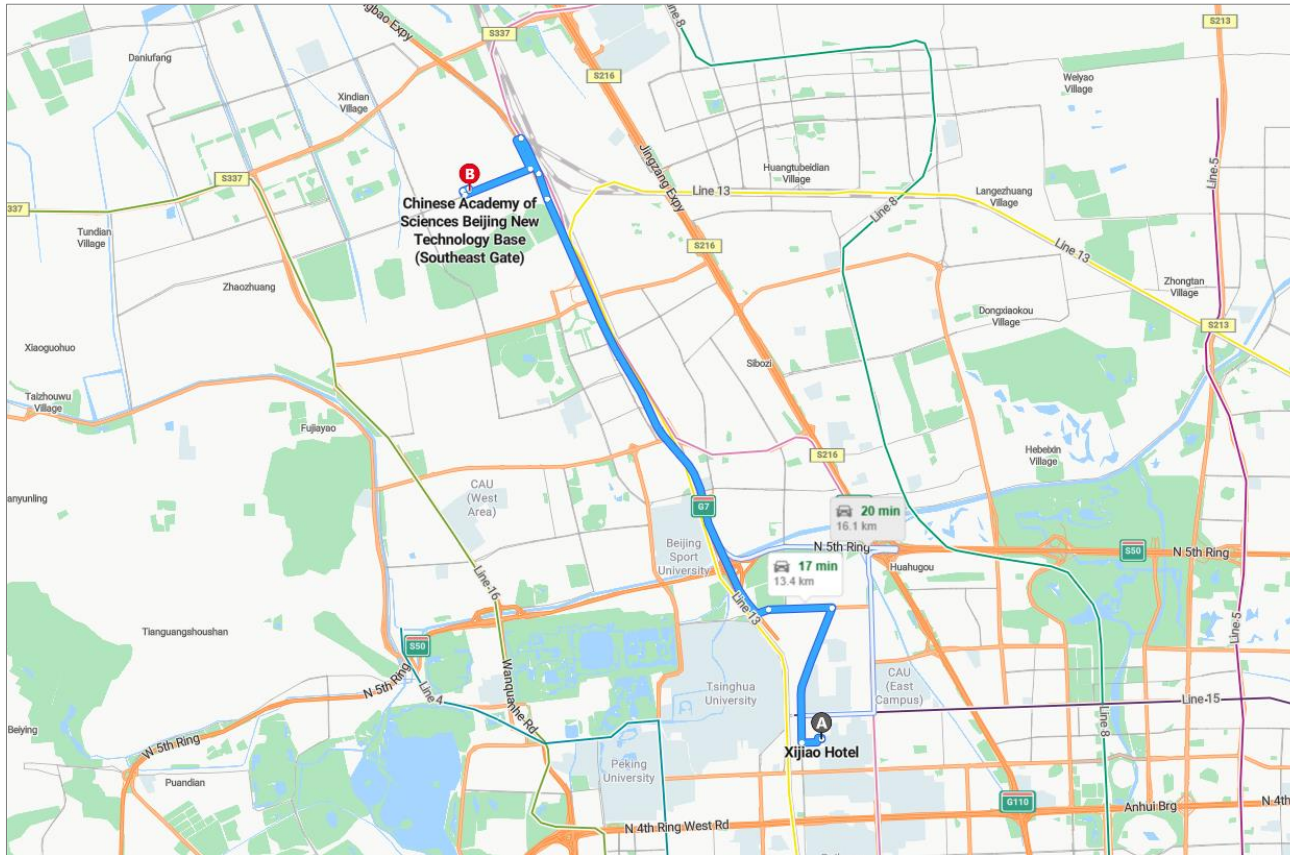


Figure 1. Route Map from Beijing Xijiao Hotel (A) to CBAS Building (B).

[**Distance:** 13.4 kilometers; **Transportation:** Shuttle bus arranged by the Workshop organizers]

< Venue Map >

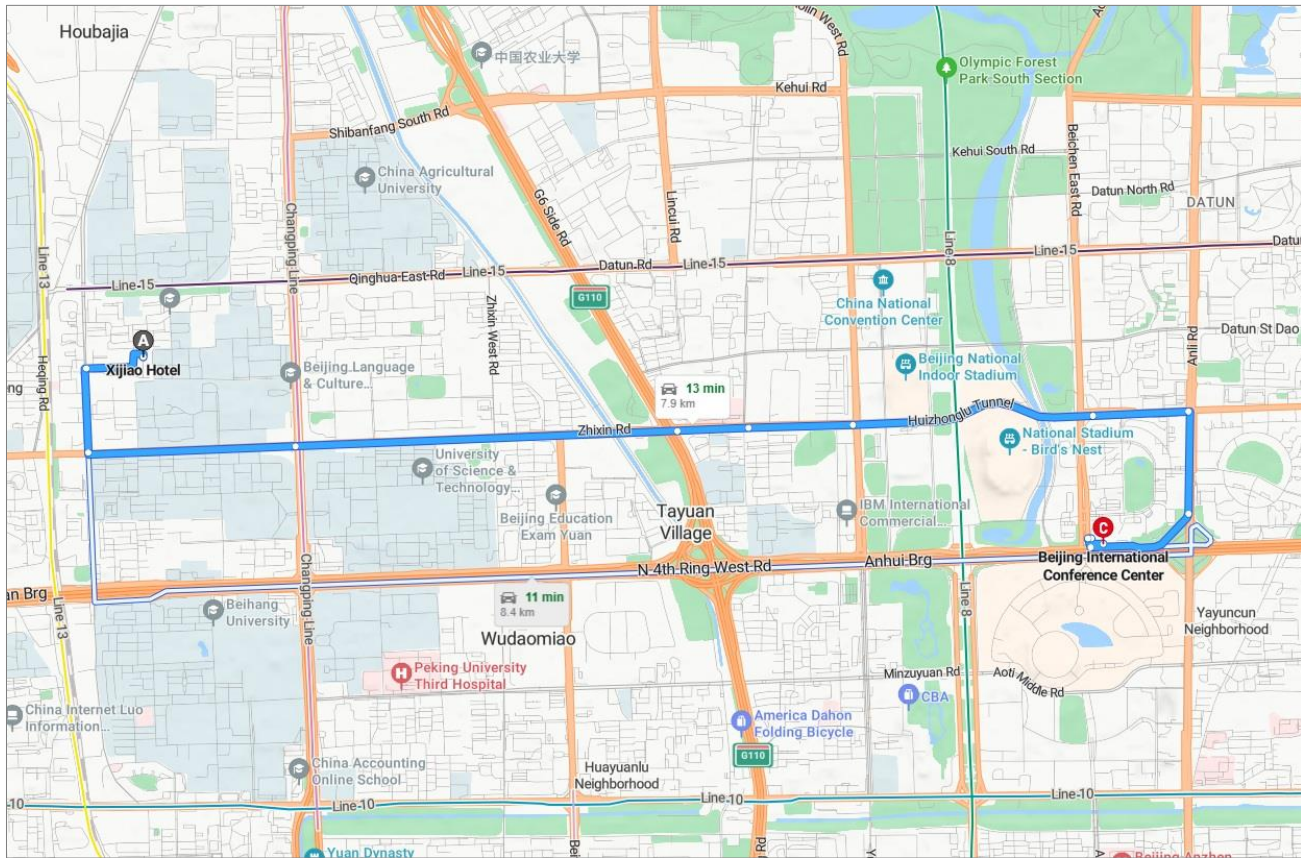


Figure 2. Route Map from Beijing Xijiao Hotel (A) to Beijing International Convention Centre (BICC) (C).
[**Distance:** 7.9 kilometers; **Transportation:** Shuttle bus arranged by the Workshop organizers]

