



# GLOBAL MAPPING NEWSLETTER 10

## Global Mapping Forum '98 was held in the Mecca of Remote Sensing



“Global Mapping Forum '98-Information for the 21st Century-” was held at US Geological Survey, EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA, during June 15-18, 1998. Sixty-two persons from fifteen countries participated in the forum.

Following “Global Mapping Forum '97 in Gifu” held in Japan last year, this was the second one as Global Mapping Forum, the objective of which is to bring together data users and providers to exchange views and information on Global Mapping.

On Tuesday, June 16, Global Mapping Forum '98 was opened by Welcome Address of Dr. Lauer, Chief of USGS EROS Data Center, and Mr. Nagai, Secretary General of ISCGM.

Dr. Anderson mentioned the objectives of the forum such as understanding of current status of global data and building partnership between national mapping organizations, academics, NGOs and others. Mr. Loveland made Keynote Address on the achievement in global land mapping over the past few years, especially global land cover database recently developed. Following the Keynote Address, 11 presentations were made on specific themes, such

as sustainable development and integration of physical and socio-economic data.

Mr. Swift started the program of the forum on June 17 by presenting activities on ISCGM Specifications Working Group. Mr. Masaharu followed him by introducing the booklet on Global Mapping describing expected applications of Global Map. After the presentations on environmental monitoring, assessment and management, panel discussion on themes of this forum was chaired by Mr. Holland. Several issues, such as a lack of good global data sets, new technology for updating the Global Map, necessity of standardization of data and meta data facilitating the use of the Global Map were presented.

In the afternoon, Dr. Lauer moderated the panel discussion of issues in Mapping for the 21st Century. Three panelists, Mr. Nonomura, GSI, Dr. Witmer, USGS, and Prof. Yang Kai, National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping (NBSM) of China, who are all members of the ISCGM, strongly supported the Global Mapping Project and stressed the activities in global scale should be core activities of national mapping organizations in the 21st Century.

Finally, Global Mapping Forum '98 was wrapped up by the enthusiastic remarks of Prof. Estes, chairperson of ISCGM.

Preceding the opening of the Forum, a working group meeting of ISCGM and tours of EROS Data Center were held on Monday, June 15. Huge storage of satellite data and aerial photographs in the basement of EROS Data Center astonished the participants of the tours. On June 18, the fourth meeting of the ISCGM was held.

## The Fourth Meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping

The Fourth ISCGM Meeting was held on June 18, 1998 at Executive Meeting Room of the EROS Data Center. Prof. John E. Estes, UCSB, USA was reelected Chairperson of the Committee, and

Dato' Abdul Majid was appointed as Vice Chairperson, Mr. N. Nagai as Secretary General and Dr. H. Murakami as Assistant Secretary General. Twenty six persons including nine m



*Participants of the Fourth Meeting of ISCGM*

member of ISCGM participated in the Committee, where evolution of Global Map Specifications and invitations to the Global Mapping Project for national mapping organizations in the world were discussed as main topics. As a result, the Committee adopted the following resolutions:

#### **Resolutions of the Fourth Meeting of ISCGM**

The Fourth Meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (here-in-after referred to as "the Committee") convened on June 18, 1998. Based on the draft Technical Specifications and Action Program adopted at the last meeting, the Committee furthered the discussion of the development of the Global Map by the year 2000 and resolved that:

1. Building upon the resolutions of the previous Meetings of the Committee and the revised Action Program and Technical Specifications, the Committee and national mapping and related organizations should take concrete actions as soon as possible towards our goal of the development of Global Map by the year 2000 thus providing a foundation data set for the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI).
2. The Committee should ask national mapping and related organizations to participate in the Global Mapping Project in cooperation with the United Nations, by sending the invitation documents to be adopted by the Committee.
3. The Committee should cooperate with space agencies to maximize the usefulness of remotely sensed data.
4. The Committee should begin to draft a strategic plan on the maintenance of the Global Map after the year 2000 directed towards establishing a specified organizational arrangement for maintaining the Global Map.
5. Participants in the Global Mapping project should be encouraged to support capacity building efforts to promote the participation of developing countries in this effort.
6. In relation to technical specifications:
  - a. That draft Global Map Specifications Version 2 be adopted;
  - b. That Version 2 of the draft Specifications be referenced from the Global Mapping Internet Home Page;
  - c. That the Working Group continues to develop the Specifications, particularly in the following areas:
    - i. Describing the principles that are guiding the development of the Global Map and the specification;
    - ii. Describing the intended uses of the dataset;
    - iii. Addressing outstanding issues between the Specification adopted at the Third Meeting of the ISCGM (here-in-after referred to as Version 1 of the Specifications) and Version 2 of the Specifications;
    - iv. Respond to feedback from ISCGM members, the broader mapping community, and on developments in ISO/TC211.
  - d. That ISCGM members actively assess the core data sets (VMAP0, GTOPO30, and Global Land Cover Characteristics Database) in parallel with their implementation of the Specifications. Specific actions in support of this activity include:
    - i. The Working Group preparing guidelines on undertaking the assessment;
    - ii. The Secretariat facilitating support for members requiring assistance in undertaking the assessment;
    - iii. Members with the capacity to do so fast-tracking data supply.
7. A new Working Group be established to address:
  - a. Development of a policy framework for access to the Global Map product;
  - b. Determination of potential users and uses of the dataset. This might include sponsorship of application case studies;
  - c. Development of guidelines for provision of datasets by national mapping organizations, and arrangements for assembly and distribution of the Global Map product.
8. The Committee will hold its next meeting in Canberra, Australia, hosted by the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group on 20

November 1998.

9. The Committee extends sincere thanks to the United States Geological Survey, EROS Data

Center for hosting a very successful Global Mapping Forum '98 and the Fourth Meeting of the ISCGM in Sioux Falls, USA.

## Call for Comment on Global Map Specifications



A working group to continue the development of the draft technical specifications for the Global Map was appointed at the third ISCGM meeting held in Gifu last November.

The working group has now published a draft of the technical specifications and is calling for comments from the international community.

An Australian, Peter Holland was appointed convenor and, after a call for nominations, the following people joined the working group:

- Prof Jiang Jingtong, China
- Mr Abbas Rajabifard, Iran
- Mr Hiromichi Maruyama/  
Mr Tsuneo Tanaka, Japan
- Mr Alan Swift, Australia
- Ms Giovanna Lorenzin, Australia

The draft specifications have been placed on the World Wide Web at:

[http://www.auslig.gov.au/mapping/global\\_map/spec.htm](http://www.auslig.gov.au/mapping/global_map/spec.htm)

for comment.

According to the initial authors, Ms Lorenzin and Mr Swift, both from the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group, the strategy is to define a product that is as easy to produce as possible, taking into account the size of the project and the time frame.

At various stages, the draft was sent for comment to the working group members by e-mail. The group met at Sioux Falls, in America on June 18 and a draft was circulated with the papers of the Fourth ISCGM meeting.

“We regard this as an evolving document,” said Alan Swift. “We believe the specifications will need further detail in some areas and may need changes as the Global Map project takes shape.

“We encourage anyone interested in the Global Map to give us feedback at any stage of the specification process. This feedback from users is critical for the long term success of the project,” he said.

Giovanna Lorenzin  
AUSLIG

## Time to Request for Participation in Global Mapping Project is Approaching

To develop the Global Map by the year 2000, it is required to have the participation of as many national mapping and related organizations as possible. Fol-

lowing the resolution Item 2 of the Fourth Meeting of the ISCGM, ISCGM is supposed to send the invitation of asking for participation to the Global Mapping

Project to national mapping and related organizations in cooperation with the United Nations.

To promote the participation, ~~there will be three~~ kinds of participation in the Global Mapping Project, as described in the draft Action Program adopted at the Third Meeting of the ISCGM. Organizations of Level B develop the Global Map data of their own countries. Organizations of Level C provide materi-

als required for the development of the Global Map, such as topographic maps, to ISCGM. Level A countries develop the Global Map not only of their counties, but also of category C countries.

Participation of many organizations is expected.

**Your participation saves the earth!**

### Meeting on Global Mapping in Southeast Asia

GSI organized the Meeting on Global Mapping in Southeast Asia in Tsukuba, Japan, from 17 to 19 March. Representatives from the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, where GSI plans to develop the Global Map data in fiscal 1998, participated.

Three representatives were very cooperative towards the Global Mapping Project, and confirmed that cooperative works with GSI on the development of the Global Map should be started after official procedures.

### New "Global Map Pamphlet" and "Global Map Booklet" are Available Now

New "Global Map Pamphlet" and "Global Map Booklet" are available now. These publications were handed to the participants at Global Mapping Forum 98 and the fourth meeting of ISCGM held at EROS Data Center on 15-18

June 1998.

They are distributed by the Secretariat of ISCGM on your request, and also will be popped up the Global Mapping Homepage soon.

### Global Map and Related Meetings

Followings are Global Map and related meetings. Meetings with "?" mark have not been fixed yet.

#### 1998

- **24-25 September, Beijing, China**  
7th Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC211
- **17-19 November, Canberra, Australia**  
3rd GSDI hosted by PCGIAP
- **20 November, Canberra, Australia**  
5th ISCGM

#### 1999

- **4-5 March, Vienna, Austria**  
8th Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC211
- **19-23 April, Beijing, China**

5th meeting of PCGIAP

- **July, Cambridge, UK**  
Cambridge Conference
- **14-21 August, Ottawa, Canada**  
19th International Cartographic Conference
- **29-30 September, Kyoto, Japan**  
9th Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC211
- **September/October, Washington D.C., USA**  
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