

# NEWSLETTER GLOBAL MAPPING 24

## Asia and the Pacific has Recognized the Importance of Global Mapping for Sustainable Development

Hiroshi Une, ISCGM Secretariat

High-level Regional Meeting for World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) for Asia and the Pacific was held from 27 to 29 November 2001 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, jointly hosted by the Asian Development Bank, ESCAP, UNDP and UNEP. The Minister-level delegations of 49 member states and associates of ESCAP, representatives of UN bodies and other international organizations and members of various NGOs attended the Meeting. After the series of enthusiastic discussions, it adopted "Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific", which outlines key policy issues, priorities, goals, constraints and actions in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa. Hiroshi UNE, GSI Japan participated in the Meeting as a member of Japanese delegates and made efforts to brief other participants on the importance of Global Mapping to the objectives of the meeting. As the results, following paragraph was included in the Regional Platform as a part of "Key Issues and Priorities for Sustainable Development":

"At the national, subregional and regional levels, the existing mechanisms and infrastructure for data and information flow need to be coordinated and strengthened by promoting the utilization of tech-

nologies including earth observation, geographical information systems and global mapping technologies, and cooperation in the transfer of best practice and technologies." Full text of the document is available at:

[http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/prep\\_process/asiapacific.html](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/prep_process/asiapacific.html)

The preparation processes toward WSSD proceeds to the global level discussion. The Second UN Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for WSSD will take place from 28 January to 8 February at UN Headquarters in New York. During the meeting (on 1 February), Secretariat of ISCGM plans to hold a side event at the site. It will be a mini-seminar style event, with presentations by several ISCGM members.



## Africa GIS Conference

Mr. Yoshikazu Fukushima

Infrastructure Development Institute, Japan

AFRICAGIS Conference was held at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi in Kenya from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> in November 2001. The conference has been biannually held in Africa and was hosted by GIS-Kenya and UNEP in this year. Many presentations are targeted on sustainable development with geo-spatial information in

Africa. One of the reasons is that Earth Summit + 10 will be held in 2002 in Johannesburg. Outline of Global Mapping was prepared by Mr. Kubo, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan and presented by Fukushima, Infrastructure Development Institute of Japan.

Mr. Mbaria, Survey of Kenya presented the experience of Global Map of Kenya with big attention. Another main topic is SDI and standardization. The concept of SDI has been disseminated in African countries. All sessions were well managed and very active under the chairmanship of Dr. Foresman, UNEP and well accommodated by friendly Kenyans. Amazing fact is that more than 400 people from 35

countries attended the conference. The conference was successfully concluded by Mr. Nyapola, Survey of Kenya. It was convinced in this conference that Africa is now a forefront of implementation of GIS and is a very important region for Global Mapping Project and GSDI.

### ISCGM Representation at the Technical Committee Meeting for RCMRD

Dr. Wilbur Ottichilo, Director General for Regional Centre

Mr. Haggai Nyapola, Director of Surveys, Kenya



The 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical Committee for Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) was held in Nairobi Kenya from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2001.

Representatives of member countries for RCMRD from the following countries attended the meeting; Botswana, Ethiopia, Namibia, Swaziland, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Kenya and E.C.A.

Mr. Hiroshi Une, from the ISCGM Secretariat and Mr. Norishige Kubo of MLIT participated in the meeting by highlighting the progress being made in the Global Mapping initiative and the WSSD to be held in Johannesburg.

Mr. Une gave an outline on the concept of Global Mapping. These included its objectives, specifications, operations, and the participation of the African countries. The current status of the project was also given, and 17 African countries, including 8 member states

of the Centre had joined the project. Member countries of the Centre were urged to fully support and participate in the Global Mapping Project.

Mr. Kubo gave a presentation on the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The purpose of this presentation was to sensitise the member States to prepare for their participation in the Summit.

An outline of the various developments, meetings and preparations going on the WSSD, which will take place from 26 August to 4 September 2002, in Johannesburg, South Africa was made.

The Director General of RCMRD observed that the Centre, being a regional organization was in a better position, to participate in the implementation of some of the objectives of the Global Mapping Project, particularly the capacity building objective.

One of the resolutions of the Governing Council meeting of the RCMRD held between 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2001 in Nairobi urged member states to participate in international initiatives such as Global Mapping, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI), International Standards Organisation (ISO) and Technical Committee 211(TC 211).

## Global Mapping Group Training Course Year 2001

"A supportive environment needs to be established to facilitate public access to information on global environmental issues using such tools as global mapping, geographic information systems and remote sensing." Agenda 21.



Over 2000 years ago, there were 'global maps' such as Polynesian sailing charts to support international trade and to understand relative location. Today, we are in an era of improved technology such as Remote Sensing using satellites, Geographic Information Systems with tools provided through computer hardware and software.

We therefore need new and better global map thematic datasets to manage and protect our natural resources, ensure our safety and health and promote business and growth on a sustainable basis.

In the light of these factors, the Global Map concept was conceived in 1992 to bring about a reliable, accurate and timely thematic data. Through the efforts of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Geographical Survey Institute (GSI), group training course in Global Mapping was started in 1999 with the objective of disseminating the concept in order to speed up the production process of the Global Map.

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2001 - 15<sup>th</sup> December 2001, five (5) participants from Ghana, Uganda, Myanmar, Laos and Nicaragua participated in the program with the theme 'Global Mapping - Application of GIS for Sustainable Development'.

The course which comprised of lectures, practices and observation tours was beneficial to the participants because of the introduction of new technologies in Remote Sensing, Geographical Information Systems, Global Positioning systems and the use of Internet for Global Mapping with topics such as ISO (standardization), Global warming, acid rain, ozone depletion and meteorology.

Global environmental resource management in the areas of monitoring, analysis and forecasting with the use of the Global Map concept also opened our perception to the importance of preserving our environment.

Lastly, the participants extend their appreciation to JICA, GSI and TBIC and all loving Japanese people for their wonderful reception at places of interest to know about their history and culture. The group training course with its international character has actually brought us together in the spirit of unity, understanding, friendship and respect which will eventually culminate in fostering global and regional cooperation in future.

Chris Kweku DZEBLOR  
Senior Cartographer  
Survey Department  
Ghana

## Report on Access of Global Map Data

About one year has passed since the Global Map data were released in November 2000 and to date data of ten countries have been available. It was started with the data of Version 0, and Japan, Nepal, Laos, Sri Lanka and Thailand of Version 1, followed by the Philippines in December, Colombia in May 2001, Australia in June, Bangladesh in July and Mongolia in December.

We have summed up the status of downloading from the start till the end of November 2001.

Number of registered persons: App. 2,700

Number of downloading (app.):

GMView: 2,600

Version 0: 5,400

Version 1: 10,800

total: 18,800

As for Version 1, downloading of Global Map of Japan is 7,800 entries which is 72 percent of the Version 1. The more countries develop and release the data, the more users access the data.

## Status of Participation in Global Mapping

Status of participation in Global Mapping

As of December 25, 2001

Number of countries/regions participated in Global Mapping

89 countries/regions

Number of countries/regions considering the participation

32 countries/regions

Recent participation in Global Mapping

Name of organization

Country name

Date of participation

CERGEC - Centre de Recherche Geographique  
et de Production Cartographique

Republique de CONGO

October 9th

State Land Service of the Republic of Latvia

Latvia

December 5th

Land Survey Department

Uganda

December 18th

## Global Map Data Released

Data Released: Mongolia on December 4th

## Global Map and Related Meetings

Followings are Global Map and related meetings. Information on related meetings will be highly appreciated.

2002

- 28 January-8 February, New York, USA  
CSD10 2nd PrepCom
- 12-15 February, Tokyo, Japan  
13th CEOS/WGISS
- March or April, New York, USA  
CSD10 3rd PrepCom
- 19-26 April, Washington D.C., USA  
XII FIG Congress & XV General Assembly
- 23-24 May, Bangkok, Thailand  
14th ISO/TC211 Plenary Meeting
- 6-17 May, Indonesia  
CSD10 4th PrepCom

- 26 August-6 September, Berlin, Germany  
The 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
- 26 August-4 September,  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
World Summit on Sustainable Development
- 16-19 September, Budapest, Hungary  
6th GSDI Conference
- 20 September, Budapest, Hungary  
9th Meeting of ISCGM

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