

NEWSLETTER GLOBAL MAPPING 25

Global Mapping Paved the Way to Johannesburg

Hiroshi Une, Geographical Survey Institute, Japan



Preparatory process for the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) has advanced its step to the global level. Second Preparatory Committee for WSSD (PreCom 2) was held from 27 January to 8 February 2002 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. ISCGM took a variety of action for briefing the importance of Global Mapping as a successful implementation of Agenda 21 throughout the meeting.

The side event on *Earth Observation and Global Mapping Initiatives for Sustainable Development*, jointly hosted by the Government of Japan and the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping, took place for 90 minutes beginning at 18:15 on 1 February 2002, at conference room 6 of the United Nations Conference Center. It was one of the best attended among all the side events at PrepCom 2. Forty people from 13 countries and UN organizations participated in the discussion in addition to the presenters and support personnel.

First half of the event focused on the contribution of earth observation initiatives for sustainable development. Mr. Naomasa MURAKOSHI, Special Assistant of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, presented *Global Forest*

Monitoring for Sustainable Development. Dr. Riko OKI, Senior Researcher, National Space Development Agency of Japan, presented *the Global and Enhanced Observations of Monsoon and Global Water Cycle*.

Latter half of the event was allocated for the Global Mapping.

Mr. Minoru AKIYAMA, Secretary General of ISCGM, presented *Overview of the Contribution of Global Mapping*. He gave an outline of the Global Mapping initiative, in the light of importance of Global Mapping for the object of WSSD.

Mr. Santiago BORRERO, Director General, Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute of Colombia, presented *International Cooperation for Development of Global Map*. He explained the importance of geographic data for the development of the nations, especially in developing countries. He also emphasized the importance of international cooperation for developing global geographic data by introducing initiatives of GSDI and PCIDEA.

Dr. John A. KELMELIS, Chief Scientist for Geography, United States Geological Survey, described *Future Applications of Global Map for Sustainable Development*. He discussed some of the future characteristics of the Global Map and its applications that would be much more useful to developing countries. He talked about what is currently available and in more detail on the directions for the future and what its value would be.

All speakers emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary and international cooperation in the develop-

ment and use of satellite data and the Global Map. The importance of applications was discussed both in the presentations and the question and answer period. The audience appeared to be very interested in how satellite data and the Global Map could be used by developing nations to improve their economies and standards of living as well as aiding all nations protect the environment.

Though the time available for presentations was not enough, the presentations were well received and numerous questions were asked both during and after the side event.

Through the efforts of the members and collaborators of ISCGM, especially the Japanese delegation to PrepCom 2, (members of Secretariat of ISCGM were registered and acted as the representatives of the Japanese delegation), people of all nations attending PrepCom 2 learned of the existence and importance of Global Map. It was proved by the fact that the Chairman's Paper, which was released at the end of PrepCom 2, included following two paragraphs:

IX. Means of Implementation

Information for Decision-making

28 (c)

Promote the development and wider use of satellite

technology applications, including global mapping and geographic information systems, through international cooperation, to provide vital information on, for example, environmental impacts, land use and land-use changes.

28 (d)

Encourage the development of applications for the atmosphere, oceans, and land components including global mapping and geographic information systems, through international cooperation.

The third Preparatory Committee for WSSD (PrepCom 3) takes place also in UN Headquarters in NY from 25 March to 5 April, 2002. ISCGM will continue to make every effort throughout all the processes to the World Summit.



ISCGM Officially Registered as NGO of WSSD

The Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF)

and the Collaborative Efforts on Spatial Data

Santiago Borrero, Chair GSDI Steering Committee

UNEP organized recently in Cartagena, Colombia (13-15 February, 2002) the 7th Special Session of its Governing Council. More than 80 ministers of environment and 120 delegations attended the event.

Although the agenda was saturated with political issues, relevant for the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), a place was allocated to consider advances pertaining "cred-

ible information serving sound environmental policy."

In this context, of particular value, is the Civil Society Statement, there adopted for WSSD when, referring to 'governance for Sustainable Development, including capacity building' the Declaration states that "substantial financial support is needed for a comprehensive strategy on education and information for sustainable development."

As part of the event, a special session was organized

by UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment to present the UN-wide Earthwatch Decision Support System conceived, in accordance with Chapter 40 of Agenda 21, to improve information sharing and access for international governance, taking advantage of ongoing global activities in information standards, policies and content.

Based on a practical demonstration of the beneficial relationships UNEP is seeking to provide to its constituencies, the Earthwatch DSS vision was presented by Tim Foresman, Director of UNEP's EWA Division.

Explicitly, Tim stressed the need for efficient inter-relationships with ISCGM, GSDI, DE, UNGIWG and OGC.

Afterwards, the impression left is that Earthwatch is a sound initiative. The future, however, will indicate if it is another umbrella concept developed within the complex UN system. In any case, to advance, EDSS requires lots of support, coordination and collaboration; of course, it means also that UNEP is opening a new door for GSDI and GM.

Global Land Cover 2000 Project "First Results" Workshop

Hiroshi P. Sato, Geographical Survey Institute, Japan



Global Land Cover 2000 Project "First Results" workshop was held from 18 - 22 March 2002 at Europe Commission/Joint Research Center in Ispra, Italy. Objective of this project is to produce global land cover classification data in 1km resolution as of the year 2000 using SPOT/VEGETATION. Fifty-nine people from 21 countries were expected to participate in the workshop, but there were some absences. Dr. Ryutaro Tateishi, Associate Professor of Chiba University and myself attended the workshop from Japan.

The workshop included presentations by respective researchers on 18th and 19th, subcommittee meetings on 20th and 21st, and conclusion on 22nd.

At the presentations, researchers illustrated the results of data preparation of land cover classification for Europe, South America, Asia and Africa. Most of the data were prepared by using the same method, done firstly by clustering the areas divided by unsupervised classification to fit the reality, and allotting legends to

these clusters. Dr. Tateishi showed the result of land cover data produced by supervised classification method and proposed a method for collecting and sorting ground truth to improve the classification accuracy. In addition, researchers proposed a method for data quality assessment and introduced relevant projects and specifications of SPOT satellite to be launched.

At the subcommittee meetings, the participants were divided into four groups, i.e. Europe, South America, Asia and Africa and attended the meeting depending on the region of their interest, where validity of the classification result prepared by each researcher was discussed.

At the conclusion, to release the details of the presentations in the means such as web site; respective researchers should submit the land cover classification data again by November after validating the quality; and to aggregate the classification data of each region into global data were confirmed among the participants before closing.



Seminar on Advanced Technology for Applications of Global Map

Yoshikazu Fukushima, Infrastructure Development Institute (IDI)

Research on advanced applications of GM for Ganges Basin has been done by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan with researchers of the University of Tokyo. The result of the research was introduced at the seminar in Dhaka on March 19, 2002 supported by the Survey of Bangladesh (SOB). Applications models of "Water Resources Assessment (Dr. Ochi)", "National Management of Agricultural Production (Dr. Rajan)" and "Land Use Analysis (Dr.

Shibasaki)" were presented from the University of Tokyo. "Introduction of GM" (Fukushima, IDI)", "Water flow of Bangladesh (Dr. Hoque, Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization)" and "Summary to promote GM (Brig. Gen. Shahidullah, SOB)" were also presented. Significant number of participants of the seminar were highly interested in applications of GM and raised importance of GM project.

Status of Participation in Global Mapping

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As of March 25, 2002

Number of countries/regions participated in Global Mapping

90 countries/regions

Number of countries/regions considering the participation

31 countries/regions

Recent participation in Global Mapping

Name of organization	Country name	Date of participation
National Center of Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics "GIS Centras"	Lithuania	January 29th, 2002

Global Map Data Released

Data Released: Panama on March 28th

Global Map and Related Meetings

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

2002

- **19-26 April, Washington D.C., USA**
XII FIG Congress & XV General Assembly
- **23-24 May, Bangkok, Thailand**
14th ISO/TC211 Plenary Meeting
- **27 May-7 June, Bali, Indonesia**
CSD10 4th PrepCom
- **17-19 June, Washington D.C., USA**
The 3rd Plenary Meeting of UNGIWG

- **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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