



# NEWSLETTER 34

## Earth Observation Summits and Global Map

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**Dr. Ashbindu Singh**

As a follow up to the action plan called by the G-8 Summit held in France, June 2, 2003, the First Earth Observation Summit (EO) at a Ministerial level was held on July 31, 2003 in Washington D.C. with a purpose to promote the development of a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or systems among governments and the international community to understand and address global environmental and economic challenges. To begin a process to develop a conceptual framework and implementation plan for building this comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or systems.

As a result of the Earth Observation Summit, an ad hoc Group on Earth Observations (GEO) -- was established to prepare a 10-Year Implementation Plan for a coordinated, comprehensive, and sustained Earth observation system or systems. A two-day inaugural meeting of the group was held August 1-2 to facilitate planning for the year ahead. Five subgroups, namely, User Requirements and Outreach, Data Utilization, Architecture, Capacity Building and International Cooperation, have been formed. The GEO is co chaired by Mr. A. Mitsos, Director General for Research, European Commission; Mr. A. Yuki, Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan; Mr. Rob Adam, Director General, Department of Science & Technology, South Africa and Adm. C. Lautenbacker, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, USA.

The second GEO meeting was held in Baveno, Italy,

28-29 Nov, 2003. The third meeting was held in Cape town, South Africa. The GEO-4 meeting and Earth Observation Summit II was held in Tokyo. The EO Summit II was inaugurated by the Prime minister of Japan. The Summit adopted the Framework document and the Communiqué. Over 45 countries have already joined the initiative.

The Framework document is the most important document finalized after a long negotiated process by governments. A 10-year Implementation Plan will be developed by a Task Team during the coming months. Governments will discuss governance issue in a meeting in September 2004, GEO-5 will be held in Ottawa and the EO Summit III will be held in Brussels in February 2005.

Due to efforts of ISCGM secretariat, the Global Map has been incorporated into the report of the Data Utilization sub group. The Secretary General of ISCGM Mr. Hiromichi Maruyama attended the EO Summit II in Tokyo as a participant. ISCGM also organized a side event on Global Map during the Summit. For further details see <http://www.earthobservationsummit.gov>.

*(Dr. Singh has been supporting ISCGM activities as an advisor since 1996.)*



**Mr. Koizumi, Japanese Prime Minister, at SummitII**

## Creation of Global Map Web Portal

*Hiromichi Maruyama*  
*Secretary General of ISCGM*

In order to facilitate the use of Global Map data, it was resolved at the tenth meeting of ISCGM in July 2003 to create a system to easily view the Global Map on the browser by using web mapping technology. Concurrently a letter was sent from ESRI to Prof. Taylor, chairperson of ISCGM, proposing to donate their web mapping system product. The letter was introduced at the tenth meeting of ISCGM.

The ISCGM Secretariat discussed the ESRI's proposal in view of facilitating the implementation of the resolution on the web mapping and came to a conclusion to accept the proposal as it is considered to be largely contribute to enhancing the use of Global Map data. It was decided to create a web portal at

the Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) in which the ISCGM Secretariat is located. The ISCGM Secretariat is making a detailed arrangement now.

A contract on the acceptance of the donation will be made and then the technical aspects towards creating the web portal will be discussed. Standardized technology being developed by ISO/TCC211 will be adopted for the creation of the web portal.

The Global Map Web Portal will be operated with a three-year donation period. We are going to consider the better practice of the provision after this period reflecting the users' views and ideas voiced during this period.

## Global Map Poster Exhibit at UN Headquarters in New York

The twelfth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) met at the UN Headquarters, New York on 14-30 April 2004. The CSD-12 Review Session was held for two weeks from 19-30 April as a follow-up of the "Implementation Plan" of the WSSD in 2002, focusing on water, sanitation and human settlement. The ISCGM participated in one of the side events to publicize the Global Mapping project.

The side events were flourished by the participation of a lot of countries, international organizations and NGOs. The ISCGM exhibited a Global Mapping poster panel at the CSD-12 Partnership Fair Poster Exhibit, which took place during the High-Level Segment (28-30 April), to strongly publicize the purpose and the development status of the Global

Mapping project. Many participants stopped at the Global Mapping poster panel with a keen interest.

The side events will be widely expanded at the next session (CSD-13), and the ISCGM will make every effort in promoting the Global Mapping project by positively taking advantage of these opportunities.



Poster Exhibit

## Algeria Participated in Global Mapping

National Institut of Cartography & Remote Sensing of Algeria participated in the Global Mapping project on June 7, 2004. With the participation of Algeria, the number of countries/regions taking part in the project totals 133 as of June 10, 2004.

## A Lecture Meeting "Contribution of Global Map to Earth Observation"

*Takaki Okatani*  
*Secretariat of ISCGM*



**Meeting**

The Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) jointly with International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) hosted a lecture meeting titled "Contribution of Global Map to Earth Observation" on April 24 at National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Tokyo.

This meeting was held as a side event of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO4) which preceded Earth Observation Summit II. The theme of the meeting was how the Global Map, digital geographic datasets for all land area of the globe, can contribute to earth observation projects.

Two overseas lecturers, Dr. Ashbindu Singh, UNEP and Dr. Dietrich E. Leihner, FAO as well as Dr. Ryutaro Tateishi, Associate Professor of Chiba University and Dr. Takeo Tadono, JAXA-Japan Aerospace Exploration

Agency- gave presentations. In addition, Mr. Akira Yaguchi, Deputy Director General of GSI and Hiromichi Maruyama (ISCGM) gave lectures. The topics of the lectures widely ranged from activities of international organizations to technical issues such as development of land cover dataset.

In spite of Saturday morning, the meeting was well participated by about fifty people including the foreign participants in the GEO4 and heated discussions took place after the lecture meeting. The titles of the lectures are as follows.

▪ **Opening address**

Mr. Akira Yaguchi, Deputy Director General, GSI

▪ **Global Map as a Base of Utilization of Global Earth Observation Data**

Hiromichi Maruyama, Secretary General of ISCGM, Director of Geographic Department, GSI

▪ **Development of Global Land Cover Dataset**

Dr. Ryutaro Tateishi, Associate Professor, Chiba University

▪ **Geo-Information and UN Millennium Development Goals and WSSD Plan of Implementation**

Dr. Ashbindh Singh, UNEP

▪ **FAO Activities in Spatial Information Management and Thematic Application**

Dr. Dietrich E. Leihner, FAO

▪ **Overview of ALOS and Its Applications**

Dr. Takeo Tadono, JAXA

### From the Secretariat

● **ISCGM Applies to the UN ECOSOC for a Consultative Status**

**Background**

ISCGM was accredited as an NGO of the Type Two Partnership/Initiative at the WSSD held in South Africa in 2002 to work to realize "Implementation Plan." To this end, it is needed to publicize the activities of the Global Mapping project at the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the United Nation's framework for a follow-up of the progress of the "Implementation Plan."

In February 2004, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decided that the NGOs who

were accredited at the WSSD would be able to participate in the 12th Session of the CSD in 2004 and the 13th Session in 2005 if the consultative status be applied.

An advice was offered from the UN Division for Sustainable Development to the NGOs accredited at the WSSD to acquire the consultative status if they wish to participate in the CSD activities. In response to this advice, the ISCGM applied for the consultative status in March 2003.

**What is Consultative Status?**

The consultative status was started in 1946 to open the ways to NGOs to participate in the UN deliberations. Currently more than 2,400 organizations hold the consultative status.

There are three kinds of status: general, special and roster. The Global Map related organizations which

have the consultative status are ISO (general), ICA (special), FIG (roster) and ISPRS (roster). In establishing consultative status relationships with ECOSOC, the nature and scope of the organization's activities and the assistance expected by the council or its subsidiary bodies in carrying out the functions of ECOSOC will be considered. The decision will be finally made at the ECOSOC after one to two years.

**• Mr. D. Nebert Visited ISCGM Secretariat**

Mr. Dough Nebert, Clearinghouse Coordinator of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) visited the secretariat of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) located at the Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) on March 26, 2004.

On his visit, Mr. Nebert discussed issues on Global Map data with Mr. Hiromichi Maruyama, Secretary General

of ISCGM and Director of Geographic Department, GSI and other secretariat staff. There were meaningful discussions on the following topics.

- GML codification of Global Map data towards the revision of Global Map Specifications
- Technical issues such as Global Map application schema.

**• ISCGM attended UNGEGN Session as an Observer**

ISCGM attended the Twenty-second Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEGN) as an observer. The session took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA from 20 – 29 April 2004.

UNGEGN belongs to United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) which discusses of the definition of terms, methods of

nomenclature and geographical names.

The foci of the session are as follows.

- A plan to construct a UNGEGN database web site on the information of country names and names of major cities with a population of 100,000 and above.
- A report on Euro Geo Names project.

## Global Map and Related Meetings

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

**2004**

- **10 - 12 July, Istanbul, Turkey**  
IC WG II / IV  
5th Joint ICA/ISPRS/EuroGeographics Workshop on Incremental Updating and Versioning of Spatial Data Bases
- **12 - 23 July, Istanbul, Turkey**  
20th ISPRS Congress
- **3 - 7 October 2004 Jakarta, Indonesia**  
FIG Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific
- **18 - 22 October 2004 Munich, Germany**  
UN International Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management

- **7 - 10 November, Berlin, Germany**  
19th International CODATA Conference

**2005**

- **16 - 21 April, Cairo, Egypt**  
FIG Working Week 2005 and GSDI8
- **17, 21 April, Cairo, Egypt**  
12th Meeting of ISCGM
- **9 - 16 July, A Coruna, Spain**  
XXII ICA International Cartographic Conference

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