



GLOBAL MAPPING NEWSLETTER 37

Visit to Egyptian Survey Authority

Hisakazu Sasaki

ISCGM Secretariat

Director for Environmental Geographic Information, GSI



ESA's headquarters

In order to prepare for the forthcoming Twelfth Meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM12) scheduled in April 2005, Mr. Nobuo Nagai, former Secretary General of ISCGM and Hisakazu Sasaki of the secretariat of ISCGM called on the Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA) on 15th February and met with Eng. M. Hisham Nasr, Chairman of ESA. We handed Eng. Nasr a letter from Mr. Akira Yaguchi, Director General of the Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) who took office in January 2005 and confirmed ESA's intention to participate in the Global Mapping project. We also requested the honor of Eng. Nasr's presence at the ISCGM12 and was warmly accepted.

Egypt is well known to the world not only as the birthplace of one of the four ancient civilizations, but also as the place which remains the footprint of a very long surveying history represented in the construction of the pyramids.

Presently ESA is an organization with more than ten thousand staff members under the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. It is the official surveying organization in Egypt whose activities

range from control surveying, plotting of aerial photos, field survey and mapping to printing, except for aerial photographing conducted by the remote sensing authority. Various maps, from large scale at 1:500 to small scale at 1: 1 million, are produced partially upon the requests from the departments of the national government and local governments. Cadastral surveying occupies most of their work. About eighty percent of their



ESA's staff at work

staff is engaged in this work. For this purpose ESA has twenty-six branch offices. The workshops for mapping we visited have a modern working environment with digital equipment. We looked at map revision using remotely sensed images and ortho images of aerial photos among other works.

Taking this occasion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the warm hospitality that we received from Eng. Nasr and the staff of ESA.



Warm welcome by Eng. Nasr (2nd from right)

Global Map and Disaster Prevention - Toward Recovery

Mr. B. J. P. Mendis
Surveyor General of Sri Lanka

Tsunami Disaster – Districts Affected Situation as at 02nd Feb 2005



confined in to refugee camps or with relatives.

Administratively the tsunami hit parts of 68 3rd level administrative areas in 14 districts out of a total of 25 districts. The total damage to the properties is estimated to be US\$ 1 billion with a large proportion of damage is concentrated in housing, fisheries, tourism, transportation and communication. It is estimated that US\$ 1.5 billion is needed for effective implementation of recovery and reconstruction activities.

The tsunami attack created a highly challenging situation for us as the National Mapping Organisation, in supplying information to those who are involved in relief operations, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. It was one of those times where those who are otherwise indifferent to geographic information

became to realize its fullest importance.

General condition of disaster

The Tsunami occurred on 26th December 2004 resulted by an earthquake off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia which attacked Sri Lankan coastal belt in unprecedented manner can be described as the worst ever natural disaster for the country in the written history. It attacked part of north, entire east and south and part of the west covering nearly 2/3 rd of the coastal belt. The effect of Tsunami varied at different places but extended up to few kilometers in side the country in certain places, particularly in the eastern flat area. It killed 30,974 people, while 4,698 reported to be missing according to the official sources. It injured 23,176 and displaced 548,931 people making them

How Global Map can contribute to disaster prevention and recovery.

The effect of the 26th December 2004 tsunami was seen in many countries in the south Asian region from Indonesia to Maldives in particular, which means that it has affected to a certain part of the globe and has changed the geographical data of those countries. Since the Global Map is a project of developing fundamental geographic digital dataset for the global land area for the purpose of understanding the present status of the global environment, the Global Map can be used to evaluate the impact on environment due to tsunami.



Mr. B. J. P. Mendis

Expectation to Global Mapping project

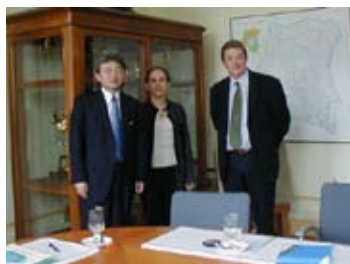
The tsunami has paved the way to many new expectations to the Global Mapping project. We know the Global Map is an effective tool in solving

global environmental problems, as the Global Mapping is based on the standardized specifications covering a number of data categories such as vegetation and land utilization which are directly linked to the global environment.

Global Mapping project must increase its efforts to integrate its activities with both national and international organizations including governments, civil society and the private sector through cooperation. Global Mapping project must consider the appropriateness of the larger scales and encourage participants to integrate larger scale data with the existing Global Map framework so that the scales can be interactive.

Ten Year Implementation Plan for GEOSS was adopted in EOS-III

Hironmichi Maruyama
Secretary General, ISCGM



**Meeting at NGI/IGN
Brussels, Belgium**



**EOS-III
Brussels, Belgium**

The Third Earth Observation Summit (EOS-III) was held in Brussels, Belgium on 16 February 2005 with the participation of representatives of more than 50 countries and 30 international organizations including ISCGM. After EOS-I, which was held on 31 July 2003, very concentrative discussions were made on "The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)" and finally its ten year implementation plan was adopted in this summit. The resolution of EOS-III, which includes the phrase referring to the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan Reference Document, and communiqué related with tsunami

that struck the Indian Ocean region, 26th December 2004, were also adopted. These documents including Reference Document are found in GEO Web site at <http://earthobservations.org/>. Kyoto Protocol entered into force on the same day when EOS-III was held. Therefore, a number of national representatives mentioned the importance of GEOSS in relation to Kyoto Protocol.

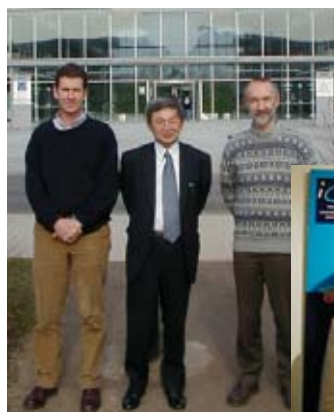
Preceding EOS-III, the sixth meeting of ad hoc Group on Earth Observations (GEO), which serves as working committee for EOS, was also held in Brussels on 14th -15th February 2005. More than 300 people participated in the meeting representing about 60 countries and 40 international organizations. Three documents adopted at EOS-III were finally prepared through very intensive 2 days discussions. It is noted that three geo-information related organizations, GSDI, ISPRS, and OGC, newly joined as participating organizations in GEO.

At EOS-III, GEO was resolved to change from ad hoc one to an official one as an institutional

framework to implement GEOSS in accordance with its implementation plan. The first meeting of GEO will be held in Geneva, where new secretariat of GEO is supposed to be located, in May 2005. As there are various descriptions on geo-information and Global Mapping both in the implementation plan and its reference document, ISCGM has to be continuously and actively involved in GEO activities.

Taking full advantage of visiting Brussels, I visited Nationaal Geografisch Instituut / Institut Géographique National in Brussels, EuroGeographics, and Institut Géographique National in Paris. In these three organizations, I discussed various issues on promoting Global Mapping such as participation in the project and promotion of use of the Global Maps. I would

like to thank Ms. Ingrid VANDEN BERGHE, Mr. Jean THEATRE in NGI/IGN, Mr. Nick LAND, Mr. Claude LUZET in EuroGeographics, and Mr. Jean-Michel NATAF in IGN for their warm welcome and dedicated discussions.



In front of building housing EuroGeographics



Meeting at IGN

Announcement from the Secretariat of ISCGM

ISCGM Home Page which provides various kinds of information related to Global Mapping was updated. Please visit www.iscgm.org/

Four countries newly participated in the Global Mapping project: **Azerbaijan Republic** on 9th February, **Armenia** on 17th February, **Equatorial Guinea** on 18th February, and **Democratic Republic of Congo** on 9th March, which totals the number of project participating countries/regions to 141.

Global Map and Related Meetings

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

2005

- **16 - 21 April, Cairo, Egypt**
FIG Working Week 2005 and GSDI8
- **17, 21 April, Cairo, Egypt**
12th Meeting of ISCGM, Global Mapping Session
- **2 - 4 May, Geneva, Switzerland**
GEO - I
- **27 June - 1 July, New York**
UNRCC Americas
- **3-6 July, Southampton, UK**
CC: The exchange
<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/nmonet/work>
- **9 - 16 July, A Coruna, Spain**
XXII ICA International Cartographic Conference

Published by : The Secretariat of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM)

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