



NEWSLETTER

GLOBAL MAPPING

47

Cambridge Conference 2007

Karen McGrath

Senior Consultant, Corporate Office, Ordnance Survey



Conference Participants

The Cambridge Conference is a unique event organised by Great Britain's national mapping agency, Ordnance Survey, and takes place every 4 years in the historic surroundings of St John's College, Cambridge.

This invitation-only event provides a platform for the heads of national mapping and land registry agencies from around the world to share expertise, exchange information and discuss matters of mutual interest face to face.

The theme of the 2007 Cambridge Conference 'Expanding horizons in a shrinking world' focused on geospatial information, the importance of mapping and cadastral organisations and how their work underpins national economic activity.

Since its beginnings in 1928, the conference has always been a unique event and is now a truly global affair. This year 220 delegates attended, representing over 70 countries.

This year's fascinating programme provided a wealth of information which stimulated much debate amongst the delegates. Issues such as how technology is changing

our world, the impacts of global trends, how employees view National Mapping Authorities (NMAs) were tackled.

The keynote guests brought out major points and gave fresh insights to the challenges facing all NMAs. The afternoon workshop programme enabled participants the opportunity for wider debate on a number of varied topics including Land Administration, GI Knowledge Portal, risk management, education and partnering.

At the Conference close, the Chair, Vanessa Lawrence, Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey presented some draft resolutions:

Data collection and use

- The principle of collecting data once to the most appropriate quality and then reusing that data in all suitable contexts is fundamental to good data management and use.
- NMAs must reinforce this principle throughout their work and leadership in their countries.

Reputation and status

- NMAs across the World occupy a special place in the geospatial industry as the providers of definitive



Plenary

information which is relied-on by society.

- It is essential that NMAs continue to develop the reputation and behaviours that this recognition depends on.

Technology

- Technology is one of the main resources available to NMAs in the fulfilment of their role.
- This is equally true in the collection, management and dissemination of data and geospatial products.
- It is important that they continue to harness and exploit technology in the execution of their roles.

Knowledge sharing

- It is essential that as a community NMAs continue to share knowledge and learn from each others' best practice.
- The establishment and population of the web-based Knowledge Portals discussed at this conference will be a key contribution to that process and will contribute knowledge sharing and expert help.

Awareness

- NMAs should be involved pro-actively in the creation of awareness on the importance of maps among politicians, decision makers and the general public.
- They should also create awareness in schools and tertiary institutions and in the private sector.
- This initiative must involve the press and media.

The conference provided the delegates with extensive opportunity for business and social interaction which has become the hallmark of this successful event.

The 14th Meeting of the ISCGM

Toru Nagayama
Secretariat of ISCGM



Meeting Participants

In conjunction with the Cambridge Conference 2007, the ISCGM held its fourteenth meeting on 14 July 2007 in Cambridge, UK. Thirty participants, including ten ISCGM members attended the meeting.

Prof. D. R. Fraser Taylor, Chairperson of the ISCGM made an opening speech highlighting the major progress and challenge of the Project. Then Dr. Hugh Buchanan, Ordnance Survey of UK made a welcome speech on behalf of the hosting organization.

Starting with formalities, Prof. Taylor chaired the meeting. Mr. Peter Holland of Geoscience Australia was reappointed as Vice-chair by Prof. Taylor. Mr. Yoshikazu Fukushima, Secretary General of the ISCGM



Prof. Taylor and Dr. Buchanan

reappointed Dr. Karen Kline as Assistant-Secretary General.

Following that, Mr. Fukushima reported the activities of the Secretariat. He emphasized the rapid progress of Global Map data release since the previous meeting and “Global Map School,” transnational learning experiences with interactive televideoconference systems as a new application of Global Map.

A report of Working Group 1, temporarily chaired by Prof. Taylor and Mr. Fukushima, was presented. It proposed activities and possible timing for release and dissemination of Global Map version 1 and the strategy for the Global Mapping Project Phase 3. Discussions followed and the Committee agreed that Global Map version 1 will be released in an appropriate occasion in 2008 and reconfirmed the importance of outreach of Global Map data to target users.

Working Group 2 reported the activities for revision of the specifications for Global Map version 2, including the formation of two core groups: specification and format respectively, an opinion survey of users and producers on current specifications and test conversion of GM data to GML3 format. Although GML3 became international standard recently, the participants felt that GML3 is premature and suggested to take GML2 as a next format while waiting for the prevalence of GML3.

Prof. Ryutaro Tateishi, chair of Working Group 4 reported the progress of development of global land cover (GLCNMO) and global percent tree cover. He called for the participating organizations to actively respond to the intermediate validation of draft version of these data. The committee also agreed on the revision of specifications concerning WG4 activities.

After introductions of activities of liaison organizations, the Secretariat proposed the release of user-friendly formatted Global Map for further dissemination, trial release of Global Map from participating organizations for facilitating easy update and better outreach, and promotion of activities against disasters such as producing outline maps of disaster stricken areas. The participants generally agreed to the proposals with suggestions and advice.

Finally the resolutions of the meeting were unanimously adopted and the participants thanked Ordnance Survey for its kind support and careful arrangement to host the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 16:40.



Meeting

Resolutions of the 14th Meeting of the ISCGM

Cambridge, United Kingdom

14 July 2007

1. Participation and Data Development

- a) Recognizing that more than one third of global land becomes covered by Global Map Version 1, ISCGM acknowledges the continuing efforts of participating organizations and the assistance of the Secretariat in developing Global Map data.
- b) While there has been an encouraging steady increase in the number of countries participating in the Global Mapping Project since the Thirteenth ISCGM Meeting, further efforts should be made to encourage those countries not yet participating to become involved. In this respect, encouragements to these countries by Members, Advisors, Liaison organizations and other related organizations are suggested.
- c) While there has been significant progress in developing Global Map data version 1 since the Thirteenth ISCGM Meeting, those participating countries that have not yet completed their contribution are strongly encouraged to submit these to the Secretariat by December, 2007 at the latest.
- d) ISCGM encourages the participating organizations of which Global Map data is under verification and the Secretariat to accelerate their verification process and increase the areas covered by Global Map version 1 as much as possible by December 2007.
- e) ISCGM encourages the Secretariat to accelerate its efforts to release Global Map data. Remembering the resolution of the Tenth ISCGM Meeting, to assist in this process ISCGM will accept and release data even though they do not fully comply with Global Map specifications. These data considered as non-official Global Map will be released in 2008.

2. Release of Global Map

- a) ISCGM resolves to release Global Map Version 1 with global coverage at appropriate dates in 2008.
- b) ISCGM encourages members, participating organizations and the Secretariat to actively publicize Global Map. ISCGM acknowledges the significance and needs of participating organizations on releasing

their Global Map data from their websites and recommends that participating organizations interested and the Secretariat jointly examine releasing Global Map data from the participating organizations.

- c) ISCGM resolves to release Global Map with user friendly formats in addition to the officially formatted Global Map.

3. Global Map Outreach Activities

- a) ISCGM acknowledges the outreach activities of Japan and encourages Members to actively engage in the outreach activities in order to accelerate the use of Global Map.
- b) ISCGM anticipates that the above-mentioned outreach activities will lead to a broad and effective use of Global Map for research and policy formulation for environmental protection, mitigation of natural disasters and the achievement of sustainable development.
- c) ISCGM encourages the Secretariat and participating organizations to take actions for disaster mitigation, management and prevention and encourages the Members to support these activities.

4. Strategic Plan

- a) ISCGM acknowledges the continuing efforts of WG1.
- b) ISCGM agrees the amended strategy of Global Mapping Project Phase 3 from WG1.
- c) ISCGM encourages Members to support WG1 Activities.

5. Specification

- a) ISCGM acknowledges the continuing efforts of WG2.
- b) ISCGM endorses the revised Global Map Data Specifications (version 1.3) which is proposed from WG4 through WG2.
- c) ISCGM acknowledges the activities of core members

on specifications and formats for Global Map Version 2 and encourages them to complete the work.

- d) ISCGM encourages Members to support WG2 Activities.

6. Global raster data

- a) ISCGM celebrates the significant progress of global land cover data and global percent tree cover data development by WG4.
- b) ISCGM supports the work arrangements proposed by WG4 in its report towards the completion of Global Map version 1 data development.
- c) ISCGM calls for the participating organizations to actively respond to intermediate validation to be conducted by WG4 from August 2007 to October 2007.
- d) ISCGM encourages Members to support WG4 Activities.

7. Capacity building

- a) Recognizing the significant importance of capacity building in enhancing the development of Global Map, ISCGM gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the organizers and supporters of the Global Mapping Seminars in Dakar, Senegal, including the Global Mapping Partnership Program of the Japanese Government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Direction des Travaux Geographiques et Cartographiques (DTGC) of Senegal.
- b) ISCGM gratefully acknowledges the role of the JICA group training course on Global Mapping which has been held in Japan annually since 1994.
- c) ISCGM continues to gratefully acknowledge the Global Map/GSDI grant program by ESRI and the capacity building grant program by INTERGRAPH.
- d) ISCGM encourages Members to contribute positively to capacity building activities.

8. Partnership with related organizations

- a) ISCGM commends the efforts of the countries in Asia & the Pacific, Africa, and the Americas regions in establishing their regional framework database on Global Map data, and encourages Members in these

regions to strengthen their collaboration with these regional initiatives in order to enhance the sustainability of the Global Mapping Project.

- b) ISCGM welcomes the establishment of cooperation with OneGeology project and encourages the Secretariat to continue necessary communication to strengthen such cooperative activities.
- c) ISCGM will continue to cooperate with ICA and JBGIS in supporting initiatives that support disaster management.
- d) ISCGM welcomes the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI) of initiative of the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) which seeks to enhance interoperability and data-sharing practices among UN entities, partner organizations and member states.

9. GEO

Recognizing the importance of geo-information in the establishment of GEOSS, ISCGM encourages Members, Advisors, Liaison organizations and other related organizations to strengthen their involvement in activities related to the intergovernmental organization of earth observations (GEO).

10. Next meeting

ISCGM encourages the Members and the Secretariat to cooperate in the establishment of a date and venue of the next ISCGM meeting as early as possible.

11. Vote of Thanks

The ISCGM gratefully acknowledges Ordnance Survey for hosting and supporting this meeting.



St John's College

From the Secretariat

Requests for the Validation of Tentative Land Cover Data and Percent Tree Cover Data

ISCGM-WG4 charged with Raster data collected ground truth data (land cover training data) in 2006 in cooperation with NMOs of respective countries of the world and has created tentative land cover data and percent tree cover data, respectively. The secretariat of the ISCGM sent on August 8th, 2007 to fifty-five NMOs concerned, a request for the validation of the tentative data. We would be grateful for their cooperation. The validated results are used to produce the final products which will be completed in the early period of 2008.

ISCGM Submitted Two Maps to ReliefWeb

The secretariat of the ISCGM produced two sheets of "Map of Earthquake hit area, Republic of Peru" by using Global Map data and submitted them to the "ReliefWeb" (<http://www.reliefweb.int/>) as a response to the Peruvian Earthquake occurred in August 15, 2007.

The "ReliefWeb" was established in October 1996 and has been operated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). This site is an online gateway, the largest in the world, dealing with information (documents and maps) on emergencies of humanitarian affairs and disasters.

Global Map Data Release and Participation in the Global Mapping Project

Global Map data of six countries are released since the last issue of the newsletter on June 25, 2007. The name of these countries and the date of release are: Guatemala on July 12, Algeria on July 20, Lebanon on August 14, Sudan on August 27, Brazil (Vector data) on August 31 and India (Vector data) on September 13. Currently the data of 41 countries/2 regions are downloadable from the Web site of the ISCGM. Mauritius participated in the Global Mapping project on July 26, 2007 which is the 157th participating country in addition to 16 regions.

Global Map and Related Meetings

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

2007

- **28 October - 2 November, Xi'an, China**
ISO/TC 211 25th Plenary and Working Group Meetings
- **29 - 31 October, Cape Town, South Africa**
Map Africa 2007
- **28 - 29 November, Cape Town, South Africa**
GEO-IV: Fourth Plenary Session of GEO

2008

- **January/February, Canberra, Australia**
PCGIAP Executive Board Meeting

- **25 - 29 February, St. Augustine, Trinidad**
GSDI 10: Tenth International Conference for Spatial Data Infrastructure
- **29 - 30 May, Copenhagen, Denmark**
ISO/TC 211 26th Plenary
- **14 - 19 June, Stockholm, Sweden**
FIG XXXI General Assembly and Working Week
- **7 - 11 July, Beijing, China**
The XXI Congress of the ISPRS
- **29 February, St. Augustine, Trinidad**
Information Meeting on the Progress of Global Map

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*c/o Geographical Survey Institute (GSI)
1 Kitasato, Tsukuba-shi, 305-0811 Japan
Phone : +81-29-864-6910 Fax : +81-29-864-6923
Homepage : <http://www.iscgm.org>
E-mail : sec@iscgm.org*