



GLOBAL MAPPING NEWSLETTER 48

Global Mapping at PAIGH Meetings 2007

Edwin Hunt

*MGA Project Coordinator
Military Geographic Institute of Chile*



**MGA Executive Committee at MGA-3
Itu, Brazil, June 2007**

This year, Global Mapping has been present at two major meetings of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History - PAIGH. The Americas Global Map project (MGA in Spanish) constitutes the system for cooperation between PAIGH and ISCGM.

Over the 27th, 28th and 29th of June 2007, the four constituent Commissions of the PAIGH held their technical coordination meetings in the town of Itu, Brazil. During the sessions of the Cartography Commission, to which the MGA is attached, a presentation was given on the progress of the MGA. In conjunction with the PAIGH Commission meetings, on June the 30th the MGA Executive Committee held its own annual meeting, its third since foundation in 2005.

Later, the PAIGH, in conjunction with the GSDI Association and with the main cartographic agency in Colombia, the "Instituto Geografico Agustin Codazzi" – IGAC -organized a symposium of presentations on the theme of Spatial Data Infrastructures in the Americas during the period 6th and 7th of November 2007 in the city of Bogota, Colombia. The MGA Coordinator was invited to speak about the MGA, so a presentation was given which briefly introduced Global

Mapping as run by the ISCGM, then detailed the key proposals of the MGA and recommended the participation in these by the organizations represented at the symposium.

The SDI Symposium was held in conjunction with the meeting of the PAIGH Council, in session during the 8th and 9th of November. Here, PAIGH announced its approval for continuing the MGA project during 2008 (the MGA, as a PAIGH Technical Cooperation project, needs to be renewed on a yearly basis).

A significant number of key figures and decision-makers from Cartographic Agencies and other organisations relevant to or potentially relevant to Global Mapping, from all over the Western Hemisphere, were present at the PAIGH Commission meetings, at the SDI Symposium, and at the PAIGH Council Meeting, so many useful contacts were made at all these events to gather support for the MGA.

The key MGA programs developed at the MGA-3 meeting and highlighted during the PAIGH and IGAC events are :

- (1) a survey of data availability and needs for small-scale mapping in the Americas. The survey, now under preparation with some financial support from the GSDI Association, is to be released soon.
- (2) a continuous map of the Americas, using principally existing GM V.1 data for the vector layers. A work plan or technical methodology for the creation of the continental vector map is now being drafted.

The MGA gives thanks to the IGAC of Colombia for its invitation to the IDE Symposium.

A Step Towards a New Globe

Rosa Karmoka

*Head of Preparing Map Branch, GIS Department-Data Processing Lab.
General Organization of Remote Sensing, Syria*



JICA Global Mapping Course 2007 Participants

Through over the history nature was our tender mother, providing us with all our needs.

And since we are spoiled children we exhausted our mother's resources so she starts ringing bells that she becomes sick -the symptoms are the global environmental changes - and it is time to exchange rolls if we want to survive, now we are asked to take care of this huge blue child to be the mother of our earth.

The most important concept in this job is monitoring, aiming to know what, where and when could be driven only by map.

This was the base stone to work on Global Map that can provide researchers with the important accurate up to date information to form a holistic view for the planet helping solve our mounting environmental problems, as well as using our resources in a sustainable manner.

In response to "Agenda 21 which called for an action program for addressing global environment" adopted at the "Earth Summit" in 1992, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan proposed "Global Mapping Project" for contribution to the global environmental conservation from mapping sector, so

Geographical Survey Institute undertook the secretary of the project and assessed the technological needs of such this project specially for developing countries, so through the cooperation with JICA organized a course to improve remote sensing and geographical information system skills of the participants of these countries.

During the period from 14 August to 3 November, 2007 I was a member of nine participants from Afghanistan, Honduras, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Syria and Yemen who have attended the Global Mapping Course 2007.

It was a big chance for me and my colleagues to be introduced to the latest advances in remote sensing and geographical information system and related environmental issues. Lectures, practices and activities grafted with visits to the most developed organizations like JAXA, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Tokyo Cartographic Company, Japan Meteorological Agency, Chiba University, Nara University, Hiroshima Institute of Technology and of course Tsukuba University.

Through this course we were able to contribute our countries Global Maps, and in addition to the technical and scientific trend there was a special care by JICA and GSI to cover the human and touristic aspects achieved through a study trip to Kyoto Osaka and Hiroshima.

We consider ourselves lucky to have this opportunity to try the calm nature of Japan, visiting huge beautiful shrines and starting to make lovely Japanese friends.

Really it was a great feeling to be close to the Far East authenticity, enjoying unique traditions of Japan.

JAPAN thanks for everything.

Exhibition of Global Map/Percent Tree Cover Map (tentative version) by GSI

Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) who serves as the secretariat of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) started on 20 November 2007 to exhibit output vegetation data (Percent Tree Cover data) being developed by ISCGM. The map as large as 5m by 10m has been displayed on the floor of the entrance hall of “The Science Museum of Map and Survey” of GSI which attracts the interest of the visitors.

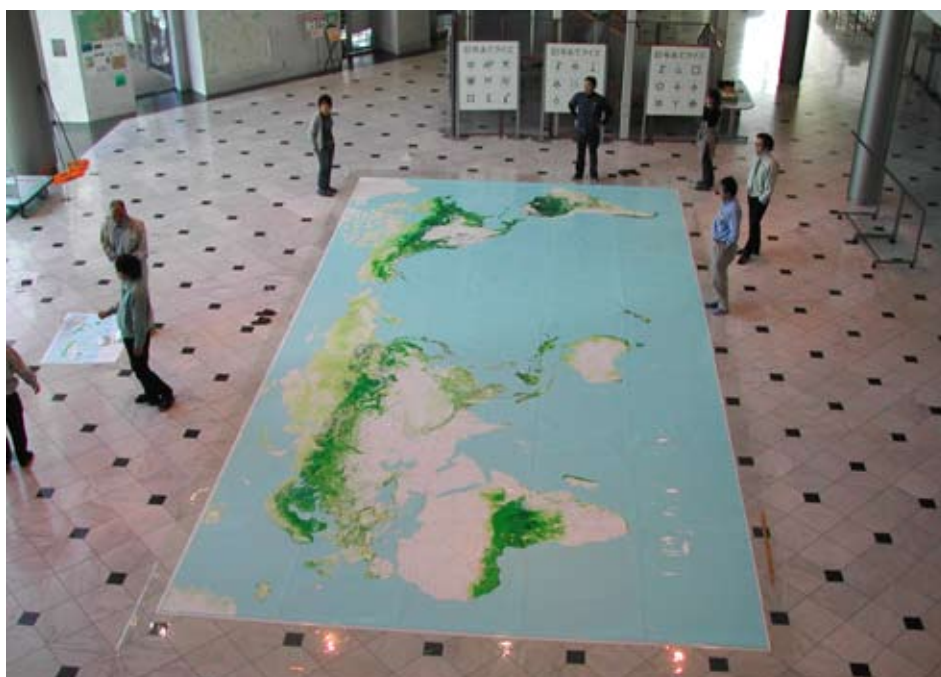


Japanese media took up this news on the following day, and a Science Links Japan (<http://sciencelinks.jp/>), which is a gateway to overseas on the resources of Japan's scientific and technological information, has been carrying this issue on its website since 26 November, thus the map shows strong interest of the public.

Science Links Japan



GSI Staff Matching Map Sheets



Map at the Science Museum of Map and Survey

From the Secretariat

Global Map Data Release and Participation in the Global Mapping Project

Global Map data of three countries are released since the last issue of the newsletter on September 25, 2007. The name of these countries and the date of release are: Indonesia on Sep. 27, Niger on Nov. 21 and Uruguay on Dec. 3. Currently the data of 44 countries/2 regions are downloadable from the Web site of ISCGM. Two countries newly participated in the project. The name of these countries and dates of their participation are: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on Oct. 11 and Tonga on 26, 2007. Currently 159 countries/16 regions participate in the Global Mapping project.

Global Mapping Forum 2008

Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) and International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) will jointly hold a Global Mapping Forum 2008. The details of the Forum are as follows:

Dates: Thursday, 5 June – Saturday, 7 June, 2008

Venue: United Nations University (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan)

Tentative program: June 5 Registration, Opening, Lectures, etc.

June 6 Presentations on research and Closing

June 7 Excursion

Admission: Free (Advanced registration is requisite.)

Papers on “Research and studies on global environmental or other relevant fields by using Global Map data (including various activity reports)” are invited which will be submitted by the end of January 2008. In addition, a Poster Session will take place during the Forum and posters on the above-mentioned theme are also invited.

Further information on the Forum is carried on the website of ISCGM (<http://www.iscgm.org/>), or please contact the secretariat of ISCGM (sec@iscgm.org).

Currently the secretariat of ISCGM is preparing a special site for the Global Mapping Forum 2008. Registration will be made through this site. If an Internet access is problematic, please complete and send the enclosed registration form to the secretariat of ISCGM by fax or other means.

The secretariat of ISCGM welcomes any inquiries on the Global Mapping Forum 2008.

Global Map and Related Meetings

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

2008

- **25 - 29 February, St. Augustine, Trinidad**
GSDI 10:Tenth International Conference for Spatial Data Infrastructure
- **29 February, St. Augustine, Trinidad**
Information Meeting on the Progress of Global Map
- **March, Canberra, Australia**
PCGIAP Executive Board Meeting
- **29 - 30 May, Copenhagen, Denmark**
ISO/TC 211 26th Plenary
- **5 - 7 June, Tokyo, Japan**
Global Mapping Forum 2008
- **June, Tokyo, Japan (TBD)**
Meeting of ISCGM

- **14 - 19 June, Stockholm, Sweden**
FIG XXXI General Assembly and Working Week
- **3 - 11 July, Beijing, China**
The XXI Congress of the ISPRS
- **19 - 22 August, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
The 14th PCGIAP Meeting and the International Seminar on Land Administration and Spatially Enabled Government

2009

- **15 - 19 June, Rotterdam, Netherlands**
GSDI 11:Eleventh International Conference for Spatial Data Infrastructure

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

*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*