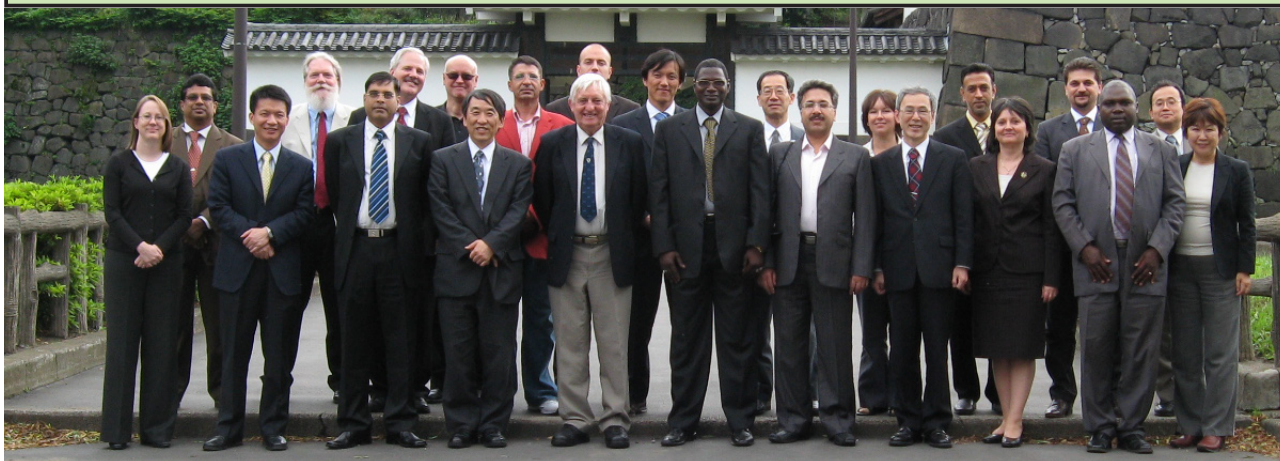




GLOBAL MAPPING NEWSLETTER 50

The Fifteenth Meeting of ISCGM

*Dr. Karen Munroe
Assistant Secretary General of ISCGM*



The 15th Meeting of the ISCGM was held immediately before the Global Mapping Forum 2008, in Tokyo, Japan, on 4 June. This meeting was particularly important because Global Map is reaching the end of Phase II, and preparing to enter Phase III. During Phase II, Global Map Version 1.0 will be completed and released. With the release of Global Map Bhutan, Moldova, United States, and Saint Vincent and Grenadines at Global Mapping Forum 2008, this means that 59.5 % of the terrestrial surface of the earth is now available as Global Map Version 1.0.

As Phase II nears the end and Global Map Version 1.0 is expected to be completed by the end of 2008, the framework for Phase III, Global Map Version 2.0 is beginning to be established. Several key issues were discussed:

The specifications of Global Map need to be updated to reflect the latest technological advances, and to ensure that Global Map data are interoperable with existing software and other data sets. The goal is to leverage the experience of ISCGM member organizations in the specifications update process.

A proposal was made to make changes to the raster data layers of Global Map, replacing the land use with agricultural land. A questionnaire will be sent to participating National Mapping organizations

requesting their opinion on this. The consensus at the meeting was that land use could be derived from existing land cover and percent tree cover data, and that having a derived data layer provided no additional information.

Another key discussion item was the need for trained personnel. Organizations within developing countries that have already received grants and training are losing trained personnel. This hinders their ability to continue to participate in Global Map and update their data for future versions of Global Map.

The Global Map Secretariat has been providing data to relief organizations for recent disasters, including the flooding in Myanmar, and will continue to do so. There is an approximate two day response time during which the Secretariat determines whether Global Map data are appropriate. The Secretariat will be compiling a list of agencies and contacts to facilitate communication and data sharing in the event of a disaster.

This is an exciting time for Global Map, with the upcoming completion of Version 1 and the establishment of the framework for Version 2 in the next Phase. Many ideas were introduced at this meeting, and they will continue to be discussed into the future as Phase III and Global Map Version 2.0 are begun.

Resolutions of the Fifteenth Meeting of ISCGM

*Tokyo, Japan
4 June 2008*

1. Participation and Data Development

a) Recognizing that approximately 60% of the terrestrial surface of the earth (with the exception of two layers) has been 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) Recognizing that Version 1 of Global Land Cover and Global Percent Tree Cover (Vegetation) have been completed, ISCGM acknowledges the efforts of Working Group 4 (Raster Data) and the National Mapping Organizations of 41 countries which have contributed to providing ground truth data and intermediate validation results.

c) While there has been an encouragingly steady increase in the number of countries participating in the Global Mapping project since the Fourteenth ISCGM Meeting, further efforts should be made to encourage those countries not yet participating to become involved. In this respect, Members, Advisors, Liaison Organizations and other related organizations should encourage increased participation.

d) While there has been significant progress in development of Global Map Version 1 since the Fourteenth ISCGM Meeting, those participating countries that have not yet completed their contribution are strongly encouraged to submit these to the Secretariat by December 2008 at the latest.

e) ISCGM encourages the participating organizations whose Global Map data is under verification and the Secretariat to accelerate the verification process and increase the areas covered by Global Map Version 1 as much as possible by December 2008.

2. Release of Global Map

a) ISCGM resolves to release Global Land Cover (GLCNMO) and Global Percent Tree Cover

(Vegetation) as layers of Global Map Version 1 on 5th June 2008.

b) Recalling the resolution of the Fourteenth ISCGM Meeting, ISCGM agrees with the release of non-official Global Map created using existing data from Global Map Version 0 by the Secretariat and not authorized by concerned countries or regions on 5th June 2008.

c) ISCGM encourages Members, Advisors, Liaison Organizations, and other participating organizations and the Secretariat to continue to publicize Global Map.

3. Global Map Outreach Activities

a) ISCGM acknowledges the outreach activities of Japan such as holding a symposium on Global Map by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and encourages Members to actively engage in similar 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 and for education and other purposes.

c) ISCGM encourages the Secretariat and participating organizations to take action to make a list of contact points which could be used for collecting opinions on Global Map.

4. Strategic Plan

ISCGM encourages Working Group 1 (Strategic Plan) to create a detailed strategic plan for Phase 3 in accordance with the draft document on revised Global Map Data Specifications (version 1.3) by Working Group 2 (Specifications).

5. Specifications

a) ISCGM acknowledges the continuing efforts of Working Group 2 (Specifications) and its core members and encourages them to complete the revision of the specifications as soon as practical.

b) ISCGM encourages Members to support Working Group 2 (Specifications) activities.

6. Capacity Building

a) Recognizing the significant importance of capacity building in enhancing the development of Global Map, ISCGM gratefully acknowledges the activities of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) in capacity building in Africa and 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) Recognizing that the Kenya Institute of Surveying and Mapping was established with the support of the Japanese government through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of Kenya through Survey of Kenya, the Institute has been and can continue to be, with JICA support, utilized for capacity building in the region.

c) ISCGM gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) in coordinating and assisting in the development of Global Map of Americas.

d) ISCGM gratefully acknowledges the role of the Japan International Cooperating Agency (JICA) group training course on Global Mapping which has been held in Japan annually since 1994.

e) ISCGM continues to gratefully acknowledge the Global Map/GSDI grant program by ESRI and the capacity building grant program by Intergraph.

f) ISCGM encourages Members to contribute positively to capacity building activities.

7. Partnership with Related Organizations

a) ISCGM will continue to cooperate with the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) in supporting initiatives that support disaster management and capacity building in Africa.

b) ISCGM will continue to cooperate with the OneGeology project.

8. Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Recognizing the importance of geo-information in the establishment of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), ISCGM encourages Members, Advisors, Liaison Organizations and other related organizations to strengthen their involvement in activities related to the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

9. Next Meeting

ISCGM encourages the Members and the Secretariat to cooperate in the establishment of a date and venue for the Sixteenth ISCGM Meeting as soon as possible.

10. Vote of Thanks

The ISCGM gratefully acknowledges the Geographical Survey Institute for hosting and supporting this meeting. The Committee also gratefully acknowledges the extraordinary efforts of the ISCGM Secretariat in preparing and hosting this meeting; in organizing and conducting the Global Mapping Forum 2008; and in providing expert technical support to all participating nations.



Global Mapping Forum 2008

Katsuto Nakagawa
Secretariat of ISCGM

A “Global Mapping Forum 2008” was held in Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan from 5-7 June 2008 jointly organized by the Geographical Survey Institute of Japan (GSI), the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM), and the United Nations University (UNU) bringing together more than 300 participants from 26 countries. This is the fifth Global Mapping Forum after the last forum in Okinawa, Japan in 2003.

June 5th, the first day of the forum and the Earth Day, was opened by speeches of H. E. Mr. Takuya Hirai, Senior Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT) and Dr. Iwao Kobori, Senior Programme Advisor of the UNU followed by keynote lecture by Prof. D. R. Fraser Taylor, Chairperson of ISCGM; report of the outline of Global Map by Dr. Kazuo Komaki, Director General of GSI; and special lectures by Mr. Toshiro Kojima, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, Japan and Dr. Yoshio Tsukio, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo on global environment and Global Map from the standpoint of the Government and a key figure, respectively. Then efforts for global environment and involvement of geographic information including Global Map were presented in the lectures from the perspective of expertise and viewpoint by Prof. Paul Cheung, Director of Statistics Division, U. N.; Mr. Jarmo Ratia, Past-President of GSDI Association; Dr. Akimasa Sumi, Professor of the University of Tokyo who is an expert of global warming studies; and Mr. Satoshi Mukuta, Managing Director, Nippon Keidanren of Japan, an organization of business world of Japan.

After the closing of the first day sessions, a reception was held in the UNU where we had an honor to have the participation and welcome speech on importance of Global Map by H. E. Mr. Tetsuzo Fuyushiba, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.



Opening remarks by H. E. Mr. Hirai
Senior Vice-Minister, MLIT

On the second day, 18 oral presentations by producers and users of Global Map and 15 poster presentations took place. Many examples and possibilities of the development and use of Global Map data were introduced. Then a panel discussion was held on the future of Global Map and finally the two-day agenda in the UNU was closed by adopting “Global Map Tokyo Declaration” resulting from discussions by all the participants. The Tokyo Declaration states that Global Map gives a common understanding to the people involved in the environmental issues, and therefore has to be user friendly, that coordination between users and producers are essential and that capacity building is needed. The full text of the declaration follows.

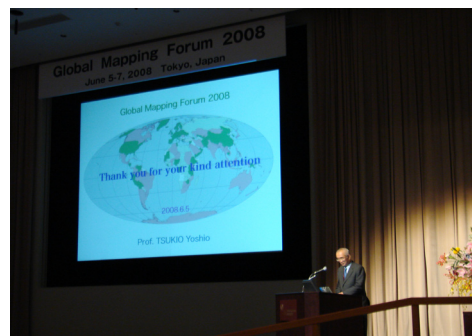
On the final day, an excursion was made to visit a “Global Map School.”



Speech by H. E. Mr. Fuyushiba, Minister, MLIT



Key note lecture by Prof. Taylor



Special lecture by Prof. Tsukio

The Global Map School is an effort to give exchange classes between the students of different countries by using Global Map. This is a part of application strategies implemented by the MLIT to enhance the use of Global Map data. The Global Map School is led by Dr. Hiroshi Ota of Keio Futsubu School. This is the third Global Map School.

On this day, the school took place between Dr. Ota's students at Keio Futsubu together with Chutobu Junior High School and Princess Chulaborn's College Nakhon Si Thammarat of Thailand. With an appropriate lead by the teachers of both schools, the students introduced respective countries and areas they live and exchanged ideas on global environment by using Global Map.

The excursion, which was planned to visit this exchange class attended by total of 35 people, made a visit to Keio Futsubu School in Yokohama, a site of the Japan side.

After the exchange class, ideas and opinions were exchanged between Dr. Ota with relevant people of the Japan side and the excursion participants. Many comments were made by the excursion participants that highly evaluated this exchange class conducted by using Global Map.

All the three-day schedule of the Global Mapping Forum was concluded by this excursion. We are sincerely grateful for the contribution and cooperation of all the forum participants.



Dr. Ota of Keio Futsubu



Students of Keio at the exchange class



Exchange of opinions after the class

Global Map Tokyo Declaration

Three hundred and forty-six participants from 26 countries met in Tokyo, Japan at Global Mapping Forum 2008 to celebrate the near completion of Global Map Version 1 and discussed the development and use of Global Map to cope with global environmental problems and other issues at a global scale. The participants adopted the following statement at the closing session of the Forum on 6th of June 2008.

Recalling that during the Earth Summit in 1992, the nations of the world addressed global environmental problems and adopted Agenda 21, that ISCGM was established to promote the development of Global Map, and that in 2002 global environment was further discussed in Johannesburg at WSSD where the goal of the development of Global Map was further supported.

We express our gratitude to 179 countries and regions of the world who have participated in the project for their efforts to bring Global Map to this stage.

At the same time, we work to further expand the use of Global Map. We also call on all those countries

not yet committed to Global Map to join and work to ensure coverage of the terrestrial surface of the earth.

We further recognize that global environmental problems such as climate change, deforestation and desertification have become serious problems for humanity, that issues on climate change will be a major topic at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit in July, which brings together world leaders. All people, including those dedicated to mapping the earth should make a contribution to solving these problems.

The users and producers of Global Map call for the strengthening and coordination required to make Global Map, which has been developed with common specifications and internationally agreed standards, and which accurately describes the status and impact of human activities. Global Map gives a common understanding to people who live on the earth. Global Map should be more usable and easily available to assist in decision-making to help solve the common environmental problems facing humanity. Of particular importance in this respect is capacity building activities for and with developing nations.

Global Map Symposium

Takayuki Nakamura

*Deputy Director, International Policy Unit for Infrastructure, Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan*

Global Map Symposium was held at Jiji Press Hall in Ginza, Tokyo on March 26, 2008. More than 250 people participated in the symposium from educational field, NGOs in environmental/disaster prevention fields, mapping, press and other fields.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT) established in 2003 a “Committee on Application Strategy for Global Maps” composed of key figures, chaired by Dr. Yoshio Tsukio, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo. The committee formulated in 2004 an action plan, “Global Map Application Strategy” to promote the use of Global Map data. Based on this action plan, efforts have been made to gain recognition of Global Map and to expand the use of Global Map data by promoting models including “Global Map School” in environmental, disaster prevention and educational fields.

This symposium was held as a part of these efforts taking the occasions of the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, the main theme of which is global environmental problems, and near completion of Global Map data for the whole land of the globe aiming to consider use and possibilities of contribution of Global Map data not only to issues at the global scale, but also in various fields.

The symposium composed of two sessions. At the first session, a keynote lecture titled as “Significance of Global Map” was given by Prof. Yoshio Tsukio. At the second session, 1) explanation of efforts by the Government by Dr. Kazuo Komaki, Director General of the Geographical Survey Institute (GSI); 2) presentations of example of use in environmental, educational, disaster prevention, international exchange and other fields; and 3) a panel discussion to consider use and future prospect of Global Map were held.

As an example of use, an explanation was made by Dr. Mitsuko Masui, Director of Zoorasia Yokohama Zoological Gardens, Ms. Kaori Manabe who is an artist, and Dr. Kazuo Komaki, Director General of GSI on the habitat of rare animals in Borneo by using elevation and Percent Tree Cover data. The use of Global Map was also introduced in the presentations of “Global Map School” by Dr. Hiroshi Ota, Keio Futsubu School and Lecturer of Ferris University, Chair of Global Map School project; disaster reduction collaborative education by Dr. Yoshie

Naya, Vice Project Leader of “Natural Disaster Youth Summit,” Japan Educational And Resource Network (JEARN); and the study of migratory birds by Mr. Kiyooki Ozaki, Director of Bird Migration Research Center, Yamashina Institute for Ornithology. Examples of use by Okinawa Shogaku High School, Keio Futsubu School and JEARN were also presented in the hall lobby.

A panel discussion was held by the above-mentioned presenters presided by Mr. Kazuma Yamane, a non-fiction writer. Expectations to time-series data and oceanographic data were mentioned from the perspective of researchers. Requests for a manual in English and for a workshop to acquire technology for use were made from a person involved in international exchange program. Suggestions were also made for the development of an environment in which anyone can browse and use Global Map on the Internet, development of various data for overlay, interlock with GPS, expansion of Global Map Contest, and to advertise for the nickname of Global Map.

Based on these suggestions, the MLIT will work together with GSI to make more user-friendly and usable Global Map.

Reference:URL “Share the Global Map” Project
<http://www.globalmap.org/>



Panel discussion



Introducing example of use

TICADIV and Global Map

Takayuki Nakamura

*Deputy Director, International Policy Unit for Infrastructure, Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan*

The Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICADIV) was held in Yokohama, Japan from 28 - 30 May 2008.

TICAD, which takes place at an interval of five years since 1993, is an international conference organized by the Government of Japan jointly with the United Nations, the World Bank and other organizations focusing on the development of Africa.

Fifty-one African countries including 40 heads and those of similar class participated in the Conference. Over 3,000 participants from African countries, international organizations, donor countries, private sector, NGOs, etc. met to mainly discuss “Boosting Economic Growth,” “Ensuring Human Security” and “Addressing Environmental Issues and Climate Change.”

One of the resulting documents from the TICADIV is “Yokohama Action Plan.” This paper describes concrete matters of supports to African countries to be taken in the next five years. In this “Yokohama Action Plan,” a support concerning Global Map was described as follows.

Yokohama Action Plan (excerption)

**Addressing Environmental/Climate Change issues
Actions to be taking in the next 5 years under the
TICAD Process**

2. Adaptation·

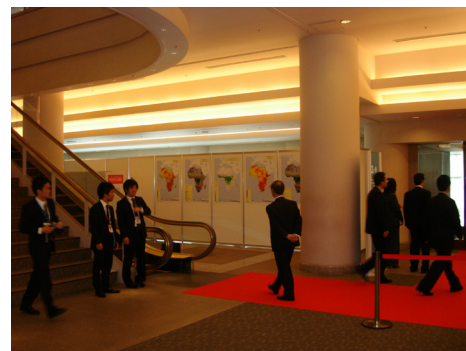
Promote technical assistance such as establishing and updating the Global Map data for the entire Africa, describing the status of its environment in five years.

The MLIT has implemented technical assistance to African countries for the development and application of Global Map through Global Map Africa Seminar, as a part of Global Map Partnership Program, in Kenya from 2002-2004 and in Senegal from 2005-2007, jointly organized by MLIT, ISCGM and RCMRD (Kenya)/DTGC (Senegal) and through JICA training course hosted by the GSI. MLIT intends to continue to support African countries by expanding partnerships with them.

Global Map was addressed at various scenes of the TICADIV. At the conference venue, Percent Tree

Cover data, Land Cover data and Elevation data of Global Map were projected on the screens until just before H. E. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan started to deliver a speech. The data were also projected at sessions under respective themes as a reference of discussions. Distribution of a paper holder, for 2,000 sheets, to the participants, display of Global Map near the entrance of the first floor and a link between TICADIV and ISCGM web sites were also done. In doing these, cooperation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and GSI was gained.

Reference: www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad4/index.html



Display of Global Map near the entrance of the first floor (Global Map welcomes African representatives.)



Scene just before the opening
(Screens were set on both sides of the front.)



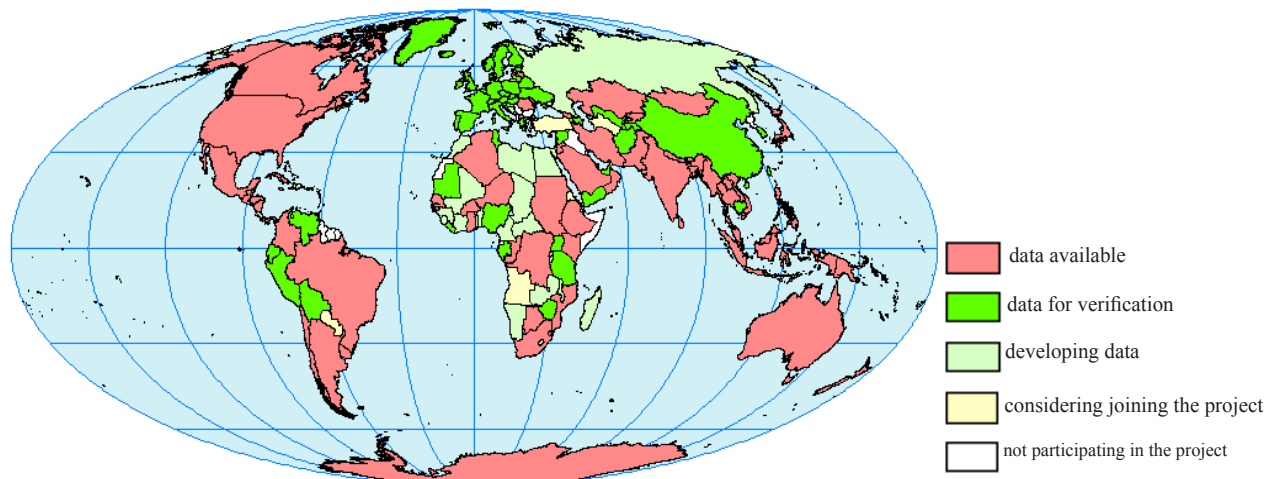
Scene of a session

From the Secretariat

Following the establishment of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) in February 1996, the Global Mapping Newsletter was started to publish in March, the next month of the ISCGM's inaugural. We have come to publish its 50th issue for this time. We will continue to provide information on Global Mapping which can be used not only for the environment, but also for various field. We would be grateful for your continued support and cooperation.

Global Map Data Release and Participation in the Global Mapping Project

Global Map data of 16 countries are released since the last announcement on March 25, 2008. The name of these countries and the date of release are: Pakistan on April 14, Oman and Papua New Guinea on April 15, Belize on April 30, Honduras and Dem. Rep. of the Congo on May 8, Nicaragua and Saint Lucia on May 13, Ethiopia on May 15, Senegal on May 21, Rep. of Congo on May 23, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Moldova, Guinea-Bissau and United States on June 3, and Bhutan on June 5, 2008. Currently 163 countries/16 regions participate in the Global Mapping project.



Global Map and Related Meetings

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

2008

- **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 (including ISCGM Informal Meeting)
- **10 - 14 November, Colombo, Sri Lanka**
The 29th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS)
- **4 - 5 December, Tsukuba, Japan**
ISO/TC211 27th Plenary

2009

- **24 May, New York, USA**
UNRCC-Americas
- **May, Oslo, Norway**
ISO/TC211 28th Plenary
- **15 - 19 June, Rotterdam, Netherlands**
GSDI 11: Eleventh International Conference for Global Spatial Data Infrastructure
- **November, Santiago, Chile**
XXIV International Cartographic Conference (ICC2009)

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