



# GLOBAL MAPPING NEWSLETTER 53

## Global Map Presentation at the Third GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium

*Taro Ubukawa*  
*Secretariat of ISCGM*

The Third Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Asia-Pacific Symposium took place in Kyoto, Japan from 4 to 6 February 2009 to explore the ways to strengthen collaboration on improving observation, prediction and data sharing in the fields of climate change, water resource management, ecosystem maintenance and disasters under the theme of “Cross-cutting data sharing in the Asia-Pacific Region.” The symposium brought together approximately 250 participants from government, academia and industry. Presentations and exchange of ideas were made throughout the symposium.

Geographical Survey Institute of Japan (GSI) as the Secretariat of ISCGM participated in the symposium to introduce Global Mapping project.

At the Inter-disciplinary Session WG5 entitled “Toward Collaboration among Climate, Water and Disasters Societal Benefit Areas” on February 5, Yoshikazu Fukushima, Secretary General of ISCGM,



Presentation by Yoshikazu Fukushima

presented the outline of the Global Mapping project. Global Map was also presented throughout the symposium at the Exhibition in the Banquet Hall of the venue. Three posters, which included the whole images of Global Land Cover by National Mapping Organization (GLCNMO) and Percent Tree Cover, were posted on the entrance wall and drew interest of the audiences. Global Map brochures were also distributed to the participants.

Following this symposium, the 9th GEOSS Architecture and Data Committee was held from 9 to 10 February. Yoshikazu Fukushima presented the GEO Task DA-06-05 “Guideline of Basic Geographic Data” led by GSI/ISCGM. The guidance document was developed by a survey on basic geographic datasets and GEO Task sheet for Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs). Global Map is found as a project most fit for GEOSS SBAs. Global Map continues to collaborate with GEOSS through one of the GEO Work plans (US-09-03a). The next GEOSS Asia-Pacific symposium will be held in Indonesia.



Exhibit of Global Map posters

## Workshop on the Application of Global Map

*Takayuki Nakamura*

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

A Workshop on the Application of Global Map was held in Tokyo on Sunday, 8 March 2009 organized by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan.

The MLIT has been making effort to expand the use and application of Global Map by promoting models including “Global Map School” in environmental, disaster prevention and educational fields based on the “Application Strategy for Global Maps” established in 2004 by the Committee on Application Strategy for Global Maps chaired by Dr. Yoshio Tsukio, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo. The endeavors that the MLIT has made to date address a raise in awareness of the Global Mapping project and dissemination of the utility of Global Map as well as possibilities of its application. On the other hand, Land Cover data and Percent Tree Cover data which cover the whole land area of the globe were completed last year in 2008 and we have come to hear many voices, “I want to use Global Map data and want to know how to do in a more concrete way.” In order to cope with this request, we carried out a practice at the Workshop by using computer and exchanged ideas so that Global Map data can be used for concrete activities, such as international contribution and international exchange. The Workshop was attended by about 50 people from NGOs of environmental and disaster prevention field, research institute and educational field.

On the morning, the outline of Global Map was explained, and Global Map data and examples of the data application were introduced. The MLIT presented the outline of the Global Mapping project and the possibilities of data application for countermeasures against climate change. Then concrete examples of the application were introduced respectively on: “Global Map School” by Dr. Hiroshi Ota, Chair of “Global Map School” Organizing Committee, who teaches at Keio Futsubu School and Ferris University; and international collaboration for creating Global Disaster Safety Map by Dr. Yoshie Naya of Japan Education and Resource Network, an NPO, who is Executive Director of Natural Disaster Youth Summit and a teacher of Kawanishi High School in Hyogo Prefecture. An explanation was made by the Secretariat of International Steering

Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) on the details of Global Map data and the basic knowledge of GIS.

On the afternoon, a practice of Global Map data processing by using simplified GIS software and exchange of ideas were done. In the practice, creating and editing of data, putting pictures onto maps, data retrieving, importing CSV file, and displaying statistic graph and coloring of symbol adjustment were made by using Global Map data downloaded from ISCGM Home Page. The participants were enthusiastic and asked various questions on the data and data processing. At the exchange of ideas session, a positive idea to use the data for the future international activities, an expectation to Global Map to become a platform which shares various geographic information, and a request to hold a workshop in local cities were expressed.

The MLIT will continue to work for the promotion of application of Global Map in cooperation with the Secretariat of ISCGM and relevant organizations.



Explanation by Secretariat of ISCGM (GSI)



Practice

## Global Map Application in Columbia University

*Jeremiah Trinidad-Christensen*  
*Columbia University Libraries*  
*GIS/Map Librarian*

*The Secretariat of ISCGM introduces application of Global Map data at Columbia University Library.*

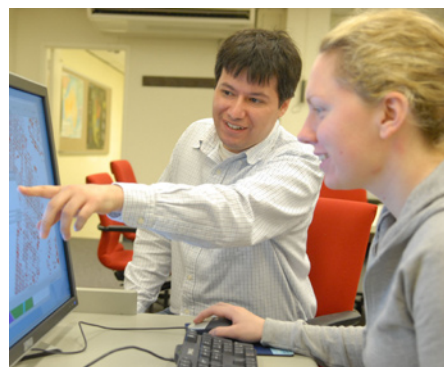
The screenshot shows the Columbia University Spatial Data Catalog interface. At the top, it says 'CU Home' and 'Search & Directories A-Z Index'. The main header is 'COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK'. Below that is 'CU SPATIAL DATA CATALOG'. A search bar contains 'iscgm' and a 'Search' button. The results show 'Your search returned 76'. The first result is 'Australia Airports' by 'Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (AUSLIG)' from 2000. The abstract describes it as a point theme representing airports and airfields in Australia. A small map of Australia is shown to the right. The 'Available at' link is [https://www1.columbia.edu/sec/acis/eds/dgate/studies/C1301/data/australia\\_aerofacp.zip](https://www1.columbia.edu/sec/acis/eds/dgate/studies/C1301/data/australia_aerofacp.zip). There is also a 'Metadata' button.

In March 2008, we received permission to place the ISCGM Global Mapping data into the Columbia University Spatial Data Catalog (<http://gis.columbia.edu/data.html>). The datasets are an invaluable resource to our students, faculty, and staff and fill gaps in our collection providing base layer data for use in various class projects and research at Columbia University covering a wide range of topics. However the original format required skills most of our users did not have in order to prep the data for their work.

We requested permission to make the datasets available as shapefiles for the vector layers, and as ESRI GRID's for the raster datasets. The layers also went through some minor processing. For polygon layers, we converted the features to multipart polygons and removed the tile references since our users are more interested in the areas as a whole in order to join together with their own research data. For each of the raster datasets, tiles were merged into single layers, one for each of the four layers available. For each dataset, FGDC metadata records were created by our GIS/Metadata Librarian using the documentation available from the Global Mapping site. The individual layers were then compressed

into zip files and the metadata records placed into the catalog with links for download.

The Columbia University Spatial Data Catalog first went live at the end of 2007 as a resource for distributing spatial data including scanned maps within the Libraries collection to students, faculty, and staff. The majority of the data in the catalog are password protected and only available to current Columbia users, however there are a few datasets available to everyone. Data is searchable using selected fields in FGDC metadata records modified or created by our staff.



Jeremiah Trinidad-Christensen (center) at work

## From the Secretariat

### **International Workshop on the Revision of Specifications for Global Map Version 2**

A workshop is organized by Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) and International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) for drafting new specifications and new data formats for a more user-friendly Global Map. The details are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 8 – Thursday, 10, September 2009

Venue: Geographical Survey Institute

Address: KITASATO 1, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan

Program (provisional)

Day 1: Opening, Efforts of overall Global Map and the revision of specifications (open)

Day 2: Discussion on the revision of specifications

Day 3: Discussion on the revision of specifications, conclusion and closing

The details will be informed on the ISCGM Web site ([www.iscgm.org](http://www.iscgm.org)) by the Secretariat as soon as determined. We would welcome your inquiries on the Global Map Workshop. Please contact the Secretariat.

### **Global Map Data Release and Participation in the Global Mapping Project**

Since the last issue of the newsletter on December 25, 2008, Global Map Mauritius was released on January 16, 2009. Currently 164 countries/16 regions participate in the Project.

## Global Map and Related Meetings

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

### **2009**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>28 April - 1 May, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</b><br/>CODIST - 1 The First Session of the Committee on Development Information, Science &amp; Technology</li> <li>• <b>3 - 8 May, Eilat, Israel</b><br/>FIG Working Week and the XXXII General Assembly</li> <li>• <b>28 - 29 May, Molde, Norway</b><br/>ISO/TC211 28th Plenary</li> <li>• <b>15 - 19 June, Rotterdam, Netherlands</b><br/>GSDI 11: Eleventh International Conference for Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (including ISCGM Informal Meeting -tbd- )</li> <li>• <b>12 - 16 July, England, U. K.</b><br/>CC: The Exchange</li> <li>• <b>10 - 14 August, New York, USA</b><br/>UNRCC-Americas</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>9 - 12 September, Beijing, China</b><br/>6th International Symposium on Digital Earth</li> <li>• <b>8 - 10 September, Tsukuba, Japan</b><br/>International Workshop on the Revision of Specifications for Global Map Version 2</li> <li>• <b>25 October, Bangkok, Thailand (tbd)</b><br/>16th Meeting of ISCGM</li> <li>• <b>26 - 30 October, Bangkok, Thailand</b><br/>18th UNRCC-AP/15th PCGIAP Meeting</li> <li>• <b>26 - 29 October, Kampara, Uganda</b><br/>AfricaGIS 2009</li> <li>• <b>15 - 21 November, Santiago, Chile</b><br/>XXIV International Cartography Conference</li> <li>• <b>17 - 18 November, Washington D. C., USA</b><br/>GEO-VI</li> </ul> |
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The Newsletter is distributed as information paper on Global Mapping to more than 1,200 people of NMOs, Global Map data users and other interested people of the world. Your contribution of articles, requests of subscription and provision of relevant information will be very much appreciated.

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