



**The Nineteenth Meeting
of International Steering Committee for Global Mapping**

Secretariat of ISCGM



The 19th Meeting of International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) was held in New York, USA on August 12th, 2012. The meeting brought together forty-one persons of committee members, representatives of National Mapping Organizations (NMOs) and other relevant people.

At the meeting, the secretariat reported on data check software and multi-language manuals which were developed to promote the creation of Global Map Version 2 data, and inclusion of the importance of global mapping in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and holding a seminar on Global Mapping at the Rio+20.

Working Group 2 proposed revision of the Global Map Specifications to adapt to higher resolutions of raster data. It was adopted as Version 2.2. Also reported was a result of a questionnaire survey to users that was conducted to promote the use of Global Map data and to discuss specifications for

Global Map Version 3. Working Group 4 reported on the progress of the data development of Global Versions of Global Map Version 2 (Land cover and Percent tree cover); thanked the countries which had contributed to preparing training data; and asked further cooperation in the scheduled data validation.

As the outcome of the discussion at the meeting, the secretariat of the ISCGM will work to improve positional accuracy of data in collaboration with NMOs of respective countries and to carry forward the amendment to specifications in order to efficiently develop Global Map Version 3 data.

Opinions were exchanged on a Global Map for Sustainable Development which was one of the agenda items of the second session of the United Nations Committee of Experts for Global Geospatial Information Management (UNCE-GGIM) held on the following days of the 19th Meeting of ISCGM.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

Noriko Kishimoto Hosonuma

Deputy Director, Applied Map Div., Geocartographic Dept., GSI

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 20th-22nd, 2012 as a follow-up for 20 years to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) held in Rio in 1992 to discuss the way forward of economy, society and environment of 10 years to come.

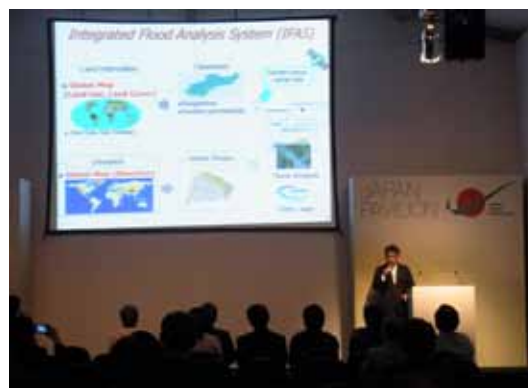
The Earth Summit, where the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity were opened for signature, gave a significant impact on the ideas of sustainable development to date. The Summit triggered the proposal of the Global Mapping Project by Japan.

The Rio+20 gathered approximately 30,000 people including government delegations of 188 U.N. member countries. The Japanese Government delegation, led by Mr. Koichiro Genba, Minister of Foreign Affairs, consisted of 130 members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and other ministries. From Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI), Mr. Yoshikazu Fukushima, Director-General of Geocartographic Department and Secretary General of International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) and the author participated in.

The Rio+20 outcome document, “The future we want” adopted on the 22nd, includes the importance of “reliable geospatial information” and “global mapping.” In concrete terms, in the paragraph of “Technology,” it reads, “We recognize the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations. In this context, we note the relevance of global mapping and recognize the efforts in developing global environmental observing systems,.....”

On the 22nd, a seminar entitled “Global Map and Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development” by the MLIT was held at the Japan Pavilion (open from 13th-24th). Following

the welcome remarks of Mr. Ryuhei Maeda, Director-General for International Affairs of MLIT, GSI made a presentation on the Global Mapping Project and the data use for sustainable development. Dr. Vanessa Lawrence, Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey, U.K., Dr. Luciana Mara Temponi de Oliveira, Technologist, Geographic Information and Statistics, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, and Dr. Masanori Homma, Executive Director, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) presented papers on the use of Global Map and importance of geospatial information and earth observations.



Presentation of Mr. Fukushima at the seminar

Further, at the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) booth of the Japan Pavilion, GSI exhibited panels and gave a lecture on the Global Mapping Project.



Rio+20 Plenary

In the light of the Rio+20 outcomes, NMOs are required to further promote Global Map, which is reliable geospatial information, to build “The future we want” from now on.

Meeting on the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Kazushige Kawase
Director, International Affairs Div., Planning Dpt., GSI

The second session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNCE-GGIM) was held at the Conference Building of the U.N. Headquarters in New York, USA from August 13th to 15th, 2012. The establishment of the UNCE-GGIM was adopted at the United Nations Economic and Social Council on July 27th, 2011, and this session was the second one bringing together approximately 150 representatives of National Mapping Organizations, etc. from 46 countries. From Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI), Mr. Yoshikazu Fukushima, Director-General of Geocartographic Department, Dr. Shigeru Matsuzaka, Executive Officer for International Observation, and two other officials participated in. Prof. D. R. Fraser Taylor participated in on behalf of International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM).

At the opening, Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs gave opening remarks followed by the election of officers, and adoption and endorsement of agenda and other organizational matters. Then, eleven items were discussed including strategic consideration of future trends in geospatial information management: five to ten years vision, and contribution of the committee to the Rio+20 and implications of the outcomes of the Conference.

In relation to global geodetic reference system, Dr. Matsuzaka, on behalf of Japan, reported on the activities of Asia and the Pacific Region as chair of Working Group on Geodetic Reference System of the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP). Dr. Matsuzaka renewedly raised the awareness of the importance of maintenance of geodetic reference system in each member country and proposed a survey to look at the status of adoption of geodetic reference system of each country. It was adopted that the secretariat of the UNCE-GGIM was to send a questionnaire.

At the “contribution of the committee to the Rio+20 and

implications of the outcomes of the Conference” session, Japan commented that it made effort to have “reliable geospatial information” and “the relevance of global mapping” included in Rio+20 outcome document and about the importance of carrying forward the activities connected to policies on global geospatial information management in each country.

Regarding a Global Map for Sustainable Development initiative, Mr. Fukushima introduced Global Mapping Project which has been led mainly by Japan and implemented by National Mapping Organizations around the world. He commented that Japan is ready to lead discussions on the proposed initiative by making use of the experiences gained through the Global Mapping Project. Professor Taylor made valuable comment as chair of ISCGM from his experiences on the Global Mapping Project.



Mr. Fukushima introducing Global Mapping Project

In response, it was adopted in the committee’s decision document that a steering committee be established to promote a Global Map for Sustainable Development in recognition of the significant achievements of the existing Global Map, study user requirements and application, and bring an interim document to the High Level Forum in Qatar in February 2013.

The third session of the UNCE-GGIM will be held in Cambridge, United Kingdom from July 24th-26th, 2013.

GSI will be positively involved in the activities of global geospatial information management led by U.N. and will take necessary actions as the authoritative body for geospatial information in Japan.

Release of Global Map Mali Version 2

Ando Enko Guindo
General Director, Geographic Institute of Mali



Author

The Geographic Institute of Mali (IGM) is the national organization responsible for mapping the territory. The IGM is now under the Infrastructure, Transport, Housing and Urban Ministry tutorship. It was created by erecting the former National Directorate of Cartography and Topography in a Public Administrative Establishment by Ordinance No: 00-009 of February 10, 2000 ratified by Law No: 0033 of July 6, 2000 and aims to participate to the development, implementation and monitoring of the National Policy on Geographic Information concerning the territory of Mali.

The National Policy for Geographical Information (PNIG) was adopted by the Government of Mali in January 2012. It aims to standardize the production, management and dissemination of geographic information, while making the topographical map the geometric repository common to all.

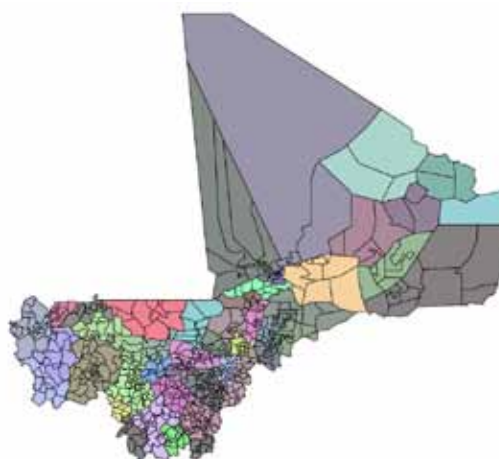
Mali Global Map version 2:

Mali's participation in the Global Mapping has been requested by the Secretariat of the Steering Committee through our Japanese friends. They had requested data from scale 1:1 000 000. But the data vectors in shape files that existed on this scale pertain exclusively to the three regions of Mali to the north of latitude 16°N and south parts of the country was at scale 1:500 000. Both documents put together is certainly not a homogeneous documentation but it serves to fill a void. So that as of May 10, 2012, Mali was part of the list of countries participating in Global Map version 2. Data from Mali may be used

in the fields (agriculture, transport, telecommunications, health, water, education, research, disasters, energy, national security, socio-economy, natural resources, biodiversity, ecosystem, etc ...), under the conditions cited in the data policy statement shown in the download page of the ISCGM website: <http://www.iscgm.org/gmd/download>.

Outlook for Global Map Mali:

Other layers may be added later to those currently available. This improvement in data quality of Mali may be obtained by the realization and implementation of perspectives that are now emerging in the IGM. Indeed, with the support of the European Union, Mali began the work of rebuilding its base mapping at 1:200 000 and the modernization of the IGM. The project should start in October 2012. Following this project, the IGM will have innovative products and services including a generalized and homogeneous mapping at scale 1: 1,000,000. From another perspective JICA is also working to help Mali to establish a GIS on Bamako District at the reference scale 1:5000. We plan later to cover other major cities in Mali and also to improve the territory coverage in maps at 1:50 000. This will allow us to enrich our basic data sets for spatial reference. The IGM modernization will provide a descriptive documentation on existing data sets via Internet (a geo-metadata digital broadcaster).



Global Map Mali: Political boundary layer

JICA Group Training Course Global Mapping for Sustainable Development-2012

Damodar Dhakal
Survey Officer, National Geographic Information Infrastructure Project
Survey Department, Nepal



After closing ceremony at GSI (Author: Third from right)

Human being is most conscious, intelligent, curious and socialized component of society. Due to these characteristics, human tries to know new things, to visit new place and explore new concepts. Human cannot limit his activity and thinking within a certain geographical boundary.

Every people are influenced by above mentioned characters so every people try to know new things, to visit new place, to know cultural and sociological structure, new technology, and scientific trend of new country and places. So every people are looking to fulfill these desires.

At May of year 2012, there was held a training course on “Global Mapping for Sustainable Development” in Japan and seven people from five different countries crossed their geographical boundary to get some technical knowledge about Global Mapping and to have some geographical and cultural knowledge of Japan. They reached to Japan as JICA participant for training course. Out of those seven, two participants were from Nepal and Lao, and one each from Thailand, Serbia and Senegal. The training was started from 14th of May 2012

and run until 2nd of August 2012. The venue for that course was at Geospatial Information Authority of Japan. Most of participants are from NMO of their country and are of expert of GIS and remote sensing. The main mission of the training was the completion of Global Map Version 2 on the time.

We got good management, technical assistance and cooperative environment for the training. It was possible due to the hard working by whole staffs of GSI and JICA Tsukuba. We had excellent, highly skillful and experienced lecturer and advisor to have knowledge about Global Mapping and to enhance the mapping skill and knowledge.

Beside the technical knowledge and new technology for mapping, we got the chance to visit some historical and natural beauty places of Japan. That visit had provided geography, cultural and sociological aspect of those places to us. Also we had chance to visit some governmental and private institution who are involved in surveying mapping work in Japan to know, to share and exchange surveying mapping technology and procedure each other.

On behalf of my fellow participants, we would like to thank the Government of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism for providing full support to complete the training course successfully; the Infrastructure Development Institute-Japan (IDI) and GSI for their concrete hard work and successful facilitation for lectures, workshops and study tours; and Tsukuba International Center (TBIC) for their warm accommodation and kind assistance in all our concerns.

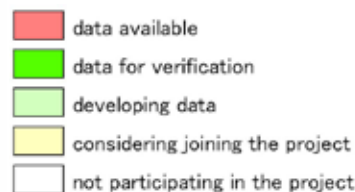
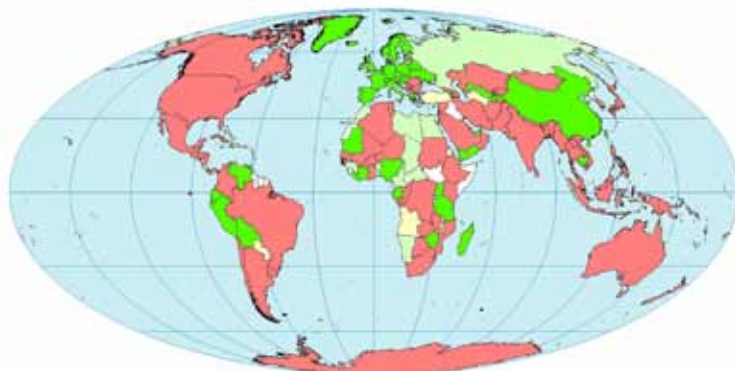
Last but not least, we expressed our warm gratitude to Takahasi-san, Kitaura-san, Mayasan, our technical advisor, Yuhara-san and Datesan, JICA coordinator, Abe-san, IDI coordinator, Ms. Tanaka, JICA program officer in charge for your endurance and continuous assistance. Although the time period is very short, it will be an outstanding memory in our lives.

From the Secretariat

Global Map Data Release and Participation in the Global Mapping Project

Since the last issue of the newsletter on June 25th, 2012, Global Map Version 2 data were released for Jordan (August 22nd), Pakistan (August 31st), and Brazil (September 10th).

Currently 166 countries/16 regions participate in the Project. Among them, data of 76 countries/5 regions have been released (Version 2 data are for 12 countries/1 region.).



This map is for the purpose of reference and the boundaries in this map are not authorized by any organizations.

Global Map and Related Meetings

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

2012

- **29 October-1 November, Bangkok, Thailand**
19th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific
- **22-23 November, Foz de Iguazu, Brazil**
GEO IX Plenary Session

- **11-12 December, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**
ISO/TC211 35th Plenary

2013

- **4-6 February, Doha, Qatar**
Second High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management



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 for subscription and provision of relevant information will be very much appreciated.

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