



NEWSLETTER

GLOBAL MAPPING

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Second High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) and Related Meetings

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The Second High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management took place in Doha, Qatar bringing together representatives of geospatial information authorities from respective countries, cabinet ministers of several countries, and international organizations and private sector related to geospatial information.

Exchange Forum with the Geospatial Industry was held on February 3rd followed by the Second High Level Forum on GGIM from 4th to 6th. As a side event, Seminar on Regional Cooperation in Geospatial Information Management of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was held on February 7th.

The Exchange Forum facilitated the involvement of the geospatial industry at the most senior levels and discussed four focus issues.

The Second High Level Forum on GGIM, hosted by the Qatar Government, had participation of 300 people who represent geospatial information authorities and other organizations from about 60 countries, 10 UN representatives and about 50 representatives from international organizations and the private sector. At the opening ceremony, H.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Qatar delivered an address of welcome. Then discussions were done at the following five sessions:

1. Building a National Geospatial Information System: Driving Forces, Success Stories
2. Future Trends in Geospatial Information: Growing the Information Base, Promoting Greater Use
3. Developing an Effective Global Geodetic Reference Framework and Supporting Location-Based Services
4. Geospatial Information and Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
5. Challenges in Developing Core Global Reference Datasets

At the Session 4, “Geospatial Information and Sustainable Development (Rio+20),” the author made a keynote address on the activities of the “Global Map for Sustainable Development (GM4SD)” Working Group. It included an interim report on a survey related to the map sites of respective countries, international organization and the private sector, and application of geospatial information, which was made in accordance with the decision of the Second United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (2nd UNCE-GGIM) in August 2012. Also introduced were implementation of a peer review which is intended to develop Global Map into a base map (which does not include geographical name and boundary information) of the platform that can be used at the map sites of respective countries, organization and the private sector, and a policy to conduct verification on technical and institutional issues of the platform dealing with regional urban disaster prevention which attracts much interest of the people in respective countries. Then, activities of each country and region in response to Rio+20 were introduced by the representatives from Belgium, Norway, Indonesia and European Environment Agency. Finally, Professor Paul Cheung stressed the future activities of the GM4SD Working Group and the importance of application to urban disasters. After the session, an informal meeting of GM4SD took place.

At the conclusion of the forum, Summary of the Chairperson and Doha Declaration were adopted.

Release of Global Map Latvia Version 2

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Author

The State Agency “Latvian Geospatial Information Agency” (LGIA) is the leading institution in Latvia implementing the national policy in the area of geodesy, cartography and geospatial information. The range of LGIA activities is very wide. LGIA develops and maintains the National Geodetic Network, a permanent global positioning base stations’ system “Positioning System of Latvia”; acquires, compiles and updates geospatial information reference data, including land surface images and remote sensing data, orthophotos, digital surface and terrain models, as well as topographic maps within the scale row 1:250 000 - 1:2 000. LGIA produces overview maps at scales 1:500 000 and 1:1 000 000 as well. LGIA also develops and maintains the national Geographical Names Database.

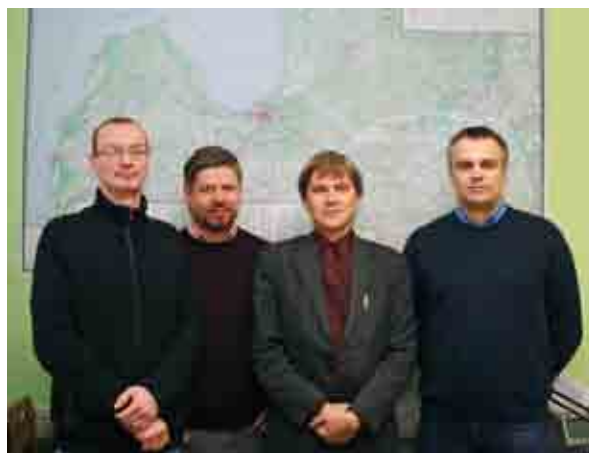
Since December 5, 2001, Latvia has been part of the Global Mapping project. In 2004, data for the first Latvia Global Map release was finished. Global Map Latvia version 2 was officially released on November 22, 2012 and is available on the ISCGM website. So that everyone interested in would have access to the correct mapping data about Latvia.

Global Map Latvia version 2 has introduced many changes in comparison with the previous version. The data has been prepared according to new specification

and a user friendly and standardised vector data format GML introduced. All vector layers - Boundaries, Transportation, Drainage and Population Centres were updated. The layer Boundaries is the most updated, as in July, 2009 administrative territorial reform in Latvia was completed. Not just boundaries were changed, a shift from a two-level to one-level municipalities took place. Other vector layers contain up-to-date information, thus improving the data quality and increasing its volume.

LGIA is interested in publishing the correct information on Latvia available outside its boundaries. Unfortunately, quite frequently the internet sources provide wrong data about Latvia. The most often made mistakes are related with wrong place names, out of time road network data, incorrect hydrographic information.

LGIA management consider participation in Global Map project a very important. LGIA is always enthusiastic about getting involved in international projects, as they are a source of valuable experience for the agency specialists.



Global Map team

Release of Global Map Botswana Version 2

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Author

The Department of Surveys and Mapping (DSM) is the main national mapping organization of Botswana. The major function of the department is the collection, management and dissemination of geo-spatial data using technologies such as: surveying, mapping, remote sensing and geographic information system.

The responsibilities include the following:

- providing National Survey Control framework,
- execution of cadastral survey countrywide, statutory examination and approval of all cadastral surveys,
- National Mapping Programme. providing topographic maps, aerial photographs, ortho photos, remote sensing data and thematic maps,
- The development, management and maintenance of the national geographic database,
- Dissemination of geo-information.

Botswana first got involved with Global Mapping Project activities during the production of Global Map Version 1 in 2002/2003. The International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) secretariat

had written to National Mapping Agencies requesting for assistance with geographic data for their respective countries for Global Map development. DSM in response to the request submitted datasets to ISCGM secretariat.

DSM for the past 10 years has been updating its national database and data from this database has been utilized to develop Global Map Version 2 of Botswana.

The topographical datasets of the national database were digitized from black and white one meter pixel national ortho photos images which cover the entire country. Administrative boundaries were derived from geographical coordinates sourced from land surveyors. Satellite images and Global Positioning Systems are used for updating the national data sets.

The objective of the national database which forms a base for national mapping and existing information systems is to support development and decision making.

Datasets which comprised drainage, transportation, boundaries and population centers were adjusted according to Global Mapping Specifications and validated with Global Mapping Data Check (GMDC) software provided by ISCGM secretariat. Metadata was prepared for the Global Map data using the template provided.

The Global Mapping Project is a very good project and will go a long way in increasing awareness and knowledge about our geographic products. It has opened a new chance for utilization of Botswana maps and geographical data world wide.

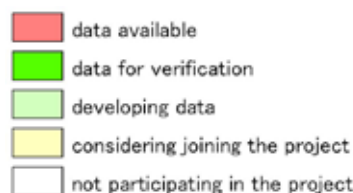
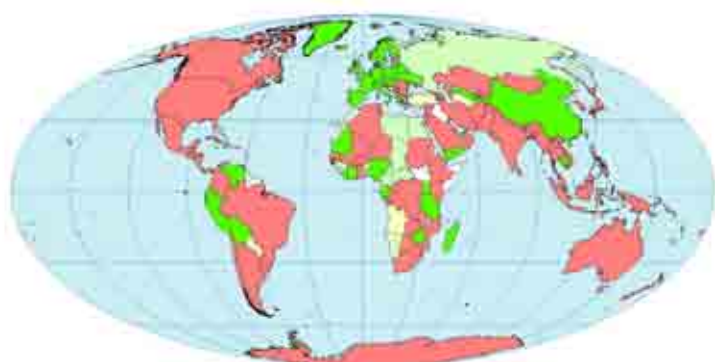
From the Secretariat

Global Map Data Release and Participation in the Global Mapping Project

Since the last issue of the newsletter on December 25, 2012, Global Map Version 2 data for the following countries/regions have been newly released. We thank them for their data creation:

Data release in January 2013: Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, Lao P.D.R.,
 in February 2013: Georgia, Niger, Oman, the Philippines, Saint Helena Islands,
 in March 2013: Dominica, Mozambique, Uruguay, Zanzibar

Currently 166 countries/16 regions participate in the Project. Among them, data of 76 countries/7 regions have been released (Version 2 data are for 30 countries/3 regions.).



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.

2013

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 24-26, Cheugdu, China
Chengdu Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management • April 26, Cheugdu, China
First United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific Board Meeting • July 21-24, Cambridge, U.K.
Cambridge Conference 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 24-26, Cambridge, U.K.
United Nations Committee of Expert on Global Geospatial Information Management Third Session • October 28-30, Tehran, Iran
Second Meeting of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific |
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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 for subscription and provision of relevant information will be very much appreciated.

Articles published on this newsletter are not edited and reflect the view of the authors.

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