



# NEWSLETTER

GLOBAL MAPPING

71

## Message from Prof. D. R. Fraser Taylor, Ex-Chairperson of ISCGM



After ten years of service as Chair of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) I have decided to step down. As Global map enters a new phase of its development it is time for new leadership. Since I first took over as Chair in late 2002 Global Map has made remarkable progress and I would like to thank all members and member nations who have helped make this possible. In particular, we all owe a debt of gratitude to a dedicated Secretariat at what is now the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan. I have had the pleasure of working with three secretary-generals over the years, all of whom have provided outstanding administrative service in leading a dedicated Secretariat team.

In 2002, 90 nations and regions were participating in Global Map with a further 30 considering participation. Data were available for only 11 nations. As of April 8, 2013, 182 nations and regions were participating in Global map with a further 12 considering participation. This was 96.1% of the world by area and 97.3% by population. Global Map data were available for 117 nations and regions with a further 26 under development for a total of 79.6% of the world's surface area and 91.2% by population. By any measure this is remarkable progress.

The year 2013 is also important in that the data for Euroglobal Map are now finally available for use by the Global Map community after many years of negotiations.

With the emergence of the United Nations Global Map for Sustainable Development, Global Map faces new challenges and opportunities. ISCGM has been very supportive of this new initiative and Global Map will form an important component of UNGM4SD although the particular details remain to be worked at.

Although I am stepping down as Chair of ISCGM I intend to continue to play an active role in Geospatial Data Management at the international level and to UN-GGIM and GEOSS in particular as well as to the implementation of UNGM4D which is an initiative in which I have had a personal and professional interest for some time. Global Map's interests and those of UNGM4D are complementary but these, at present, are not synonymous. The Chair of ISCGM has the responsibility to ensure that Global Map interests are protected. Stepping down will relieve me of that responsibility and create greater freedom of action in the international arena.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Chair of ISCGM and I thank all members of the Global Map community for their support. I wish the incoming Chair, Professor Paul Cheung, every success and I am sure that Global Map will flourish under his leadership.

D. R. Fraser Taylor

## The 20th Meeting of ISCGM

*Yoshikazu Fukushima*  
*Secretary General, ISCGM*



The 20th meeting of ISCGM was held at Churchill College in Cambridge, UK on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Twenty one people including members and delegates of international organizations attended the meeting.

Prof. D. R. Fraser Taylor, Chair of ISCGM, remarked significant achievements of Global Map in a decade and announced that he decided to step down from the chair. A recommendation report on new chair, prepared by Chair Selection Committee chaired by Dr. Kadir, Malaysia, was discussed. In conclusion, ISCGM unanimously agreed to appoint Prof. Paul Cheung, National University of Singapore and is former Director of UN Statistics Division, as a new Chair of ISCGM. Prof. Cheung is the third Chair of ISCGM succeeded from Prof. John Estes and Prof. Fraser Taylor.

Prof. Ryutaro Tateishi, chair of Working Group 4, reported that Global Land Cover and Global Percent Tree Cover datasets with 15 second resolution using MODIS have been developed and are downloadable from ISCGM website since 19<sup>th</sup> July. Mr. Dave Lovell, EuroGeographics, made a presentation on the outstanding project of European Location Framework (ELF) led by EuroGeographics.

As for the future activities, Global Elevation datasets with 15 second resolution, same resolution as Global Land Cover data and Global Percent Tree Cover data which have been developed this time, will be developed by the Secretariat using existing global elevation data. These elevation data will be expected to promote cross usage among land cover, percent tree cover and elevation. In order to promote the use of Global Map data, a questionnaire survey on simplifying the expression of data policy of individual countries will be conducted.



## Cambridge Conference 2013 and UNCE-GGIM3

*Taro Ubukawa*

*Deputy Director, Environmental Geography Div., Geocartographic Dpt., GSI*



*Dr. Hiroshi Murakami, GSI presenting GM4SD*

The Cambridge Conference 2013 took place in Cambridge, UK, from July 21 to 24 and coupled with the third session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNCE-GGIM) which ran from July 24 to 26. Both Prof. Paul Cheung and Prof. D. R. Fraser Taylor, current and ex Chair, and Yoshikazu Fukushima, Secretary General, joined a series of relevant conferences.

### Cambridge Conference 2013

The conference was organized by Ordinance Survey of UK bringing together heads of National Mapping Organizations (NMOs) to provide unique opportunities to share their good practices and learn the latest trends in geospatial information management. Approximately 160 people from 66 countries including academia and industry joined the conference. The theme of the Cambridge Conference 2013 “Bringing Geographic Authority to Information” focused on the synergy between geospatial information and other information, and discussed the roles of National Geospatial Information Authorities (NGIAs) in this field. Decision makers gave keynotes and showed their experiences of applying geospatial information in various fields such as security, climate and transportation. A number of regional and inter-

governmental initiatives were also introduced. The conference was successfully concluded by the joint session with UNCE-GGIM. During the sessions, birth of a Royal Baby was reported which provided the floor with a temporal congratulatory atmosphere.

### UNCE-GGIM

The third session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNCE-GGIM) was held at the Corn Exchange. Approximately 250 experts from United Nations Member States, international organizations, and industries attended the meeting.

Starting with formalities, a lot of important issues on global geospatial information management were discussed. At the discussion toward building global geodetic reference system, importance of strengthening contribution of each country was recognized, and it was agreed that a working group be established to draft a United Nations General Assembly resolution on this matter, and many countries expressed their participation in this working group.

Development of Global Map for Sustainable Development (GM4SD) was also discussed where Professor Paul Cheung, ISCGM Chairperson, actively made comments. The Committee of Experts acknowledged the ISCGM’s Contribution over the past two decades to develop Global Map and advised a closer working relationship be evolved between GM4SD and ISCGM with the latter playing a central operating role.

The fourth session of UNCE-GGIM is scheduled at the UN Headquarters in New York in August 2014.

## Release of Global Map Version 2: Sri Lanka

*Mrs. A. L. S. C. Perera*  
*Deputy Surveyor General (LIS/GIS), Survey Department of Sri Lanka*



*Author*

Sri Lanka Survey Department is the National Surveying and Mapping Organization which was empowered by the Survey Act No. 17 of 2002. Its major functions include the responsibility for producing geo-spatial information to the nation by means of land surveying and mapping. Besides that the department is the national focal point for Remote Sensing and Global Positioning System and represents the Global Mapping Project organized by the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM). The Survey Department is one of the oldest departments and was established on 2nd August 1800. Surveyor General is the head of the Surveying and Mapping profession and chairman of the Sri Lanka Land Survey Council. It takes a leadership in implementing National Programme on Title Registration by providing an accurate survey plan for land parcel. Eighty percent of the 1:10,000 scale topographic data is also available as an accurate product to be used for wide range of applications.

### Sri Lanka Global Map Version 2

Data for the first version of the Global Map was submitted in 1999. Data for the first version was vector data that was created by digitizing as per layer categories used in Sri Lanka map of 1:250,000. Data themes were administration boundaries, roads, railways, forests, streams, tanks, village names, buildings, cities, contours, lagoons, peaks and based on the Transverse Mercator projection system. The data covers totally 65,610 sq.km land area and falls between the Northern

latitude of 5° 55' and 9° 51' and the longitude 79° 41' to 81° 53'. The developed data of Sri Lanka as the Global Map was released in year of 2000. It is composed of eight layers, namely Boundaries, Drainage, Transportation, Population centers, Elevation, Land cover, Land use and Vegetations. First four layers were vector data and latter four layers were raster images. The referenced coordinate system was ITRF94 coordinate system. During 2007 the landuse/landcover data layers were updated as per request made by Global Mapping secretariat.

After publishing this data in 2000 as a first version, the request made by the secretariat to get ready for version 2 was informed to us well in advance. Based on the queries made by the secretariat, several attempts had been made to compile the landuse/landcover data that matches with the global classification. Having a comparatively small extent of the country the delineation of very small landuse plots were dispensable. It was very hard to apply the global classification to the local context like Sri Lanka.

Due to the recent developments in the Southern part of the country, we have updated the transportation layer using different type of data sources.

The airport data layer was also updated after opening of the new Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport. The release of the version 2 data was announced in our department website in order for use by map user community. The software that was released by the Global Mapping secretariat also immensely helped to check the accuracy of data.

The Surveyor General is encouraging to use the Global Map dataset and communicated it with geo-spatial data user community, by stating that the Copy rights of the data are owned by the Survey Department and allow using at no cost for non-profitable purpose.

**Many Thanks to Prof. D. R. Fraser Taylor**



Thanks to Professor Taylor’s strong leadership over ten years, “Global Map” has truly become a map of a global scale. As it is referred to in the article by Professor Taylor, this is evident when one sees the progress in the number of the project participating countries and the number of the countries whose data have been developed.

Professor Taylor was appointed as chairperson in May 2002 and his first ISCGM meeting took place in September 2002. He took a leading role in Global Mapping Forum in Okinawa, Japan in July 2003.

After that, Professor Taylor, together with the secretariat, has encouraged countries around the world to participate in the Global Mapping Project and develop Global Map data. In order to develop Global Map data, generally, it takes one year to secure human resources and a budget after a National Mapping Organization (NMO) of each country understands the importance of the data development. Further, it takes two more years for technical staff to understand the method to create Global Map, create quality datasets, and determine data policy. As an actual performance, a remarkable increase in the number of data-developed-countries is made between the ISCGM meeting in Chile in 2006 and Global Mapping Forum in Tokyo in 2008,



in which the number of data-developed countries and regions had grown from 27 to 73. In these years, in addition to the effort of Professor Taylor, cooperation from NMOs and academic and research institutions were important as they contributed to encouraging participation and providing technical assistance. After that, it took two years to update Global Map Specifications, and in March 2013, the number of data-developed countries and regions increased for about 40 due to the important fact that European data could be released free of charge.

From the viewpoint of the secretariat, it was a decade that Professor Taylor’s leadership as a tough negotiator who takes advantage of various occasions was outstanding. In the future, Secretariat wishes Professor Taylor much continued good health and great success.

Yoshikazu Fukushima  
Secretary General of ISCGM

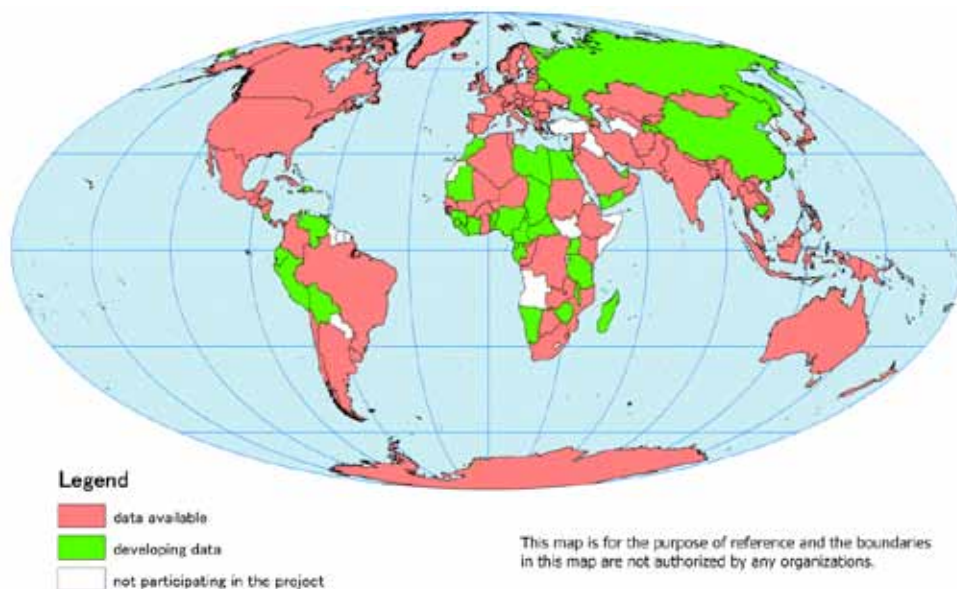


## From the Secretariat

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

Since the last issue of the newsletter on June 25, 2013, Global Map Version 2 data of El Salvador were released on July 3rd. We thank their data creation and submission.

Currently 166 countries/16 regions participate in the Project. Among them, data of 109 countries/8 regions have been released (Version 2 data are for 69 countries/4 regions.).



### Newsletter Distribution by e-mail

If you would like to change receiving Global Mapping Newsletter form hardcopy to e-mail, please inform the secretariat (sec@iscgm.org) of your name, address and e-mail address.

## Global Map and Related Meetings

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

### 2013

- **October 15-17, Chengdu, China**  
Chengdu Forum on UN-GGIM
- **October 28-30, Tehran, Iran**  
Second Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP
- **November 4-8, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**  
GSDI 14

- **November 14-15, California, USA**  
ISO/TC211 37th Plenary

### 2014

- **January 13-17, Geneva, Switzerland**  
GEO-X Plenary & 2014 GEO Geneva Ministerial Summit



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 is not edited and reflect the view of the authors.

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

*c/o Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI)  
1 Kitasato, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 305-0811 Japan  
Phone : +81-29-864-6910 Fax : +81-29-864-8087  
Homepage : <http://www.iscgm.org/>  
E-mail : [sec@iscgm.org](mailto:sec@iscgm.org)*