



NEWSLETTER

GLOBAL MAPPING

72

Managing Global Geospatial Information and the Future of Global Map -Issues, Challenges and the Role of United Nations-

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Secretary General, ISCGM

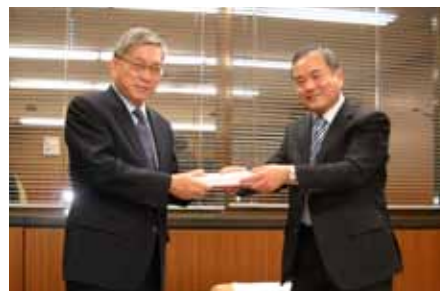


On November 15, Professor Paul Cheung, Chairperson of International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) gave a lecture titled as “Managing Global Geospatial Information and the Future of Global Map-Issues, Challenges and the Role of United Nations-” at Geospatial EXPO 2013 JAPAN, an event which has been held annually in Tokyo. Firstly, Dr. Hiroshi Murakami, Director-General of Planning Department of Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) introduced Professor Cheung that he is ex-director of the United Nations Statistics Division which is charged with geospatial information and that he took up the position of the chairperson of the ISCGM in July this year. Dr. Murakami then explained about the objective of the seminar, i.e., to receive a lecture on the trend of the most up-to-date geospatial information of the world including contributions of future geospatial information to global issues which has been led by the United Nations.

Professor Cheung talked about the status of the most up-to-date undertakings of the world for about an hour. The topics included edge cutting technology of geospatial information and land cover data in

30m resolution; urban analyses in Singapore by using demographic data; examples of application of geospatial information to London Olympic Games, which can be applied in Tokyo; methods and issues of application of statistics and geospatial information; address and geocode; large gaps in geospatial information at global level; establishment and activities of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management which is a mechanism to strengthen consultation and policy among Member States; and his view that government authorities of respective countries should work for geospatial information of their countries, not led by multi-national enterprises, but as an issue of their national sovereignty. He also spoke about the vision of Global Map to reach for, by incorporating his past experiences.

After that, in Tsukuba, Professor Cheung exchanged opinions with Mr. Kazuo Inaba, Director-General of GSI on future activities of UN-GGIM including Global Map for Sustainable Development (GM4SD). He also encouraged ISCGM Secretariat staff and discussed with them on the detailed activities of the ISCGM which should be done at an early date.



Prof. Cheung (left) with Mr. Inaba (right)

Set up of a WG on Strengthening Disaster Response Recommended - Report of UN-GGIM Chengdu Forum -

Shinichi Sakabe
Director, International Affairs Div., Planning Department, GSI

Chengdu Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management took place in Chengdu, Sichuan, China from 15-17 October 2013 convened by the Secretariat of the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), which is situated at the United Nations Statistics Division, and the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG) of China.

With the theme “Development and Applications in Urban Hazard Mapping,” approximately 180 experts from geospatial information authorities of 40 countries and regions, academia, international organizations together with relevant organizations in China took part in the forum.

- Report of the plenary (15-17 October)

Eight sessions were set up at the forum where importance of geospatial information in response to urban disaster and in disaster risk reduction work was addressed, in which importance of National Geospatial Information Authorities (NGIAs) playing an appropriate role was recognized. In addition to presentations from NGIAs of respective countries, examples of advanced effort in regions were also reported by other organizations. The government of Sichuan, the venue of the forum, and New York City, USA presented on examples of GIS application in response to disasters. Developing countries, such as Fiji and Cameroon presented on their efforts. Many researchers in disaster risk analyses also participated in and introduced about the risk assessment by using models, etc.

Japan introduced about the activities in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and called for the needs of active contributions from NGIA in each country, before and at the time of disasters. In order to utilize geospatial information in the event of disasters, importance of update of geospatial information at normal times was also pointed out. To share the experiences and lessons learnt of Japan at the actual disaster response activities were welcomed by many participants.

In conclusion of the forum, a panel discussion took place where conclusions made up of 13 items were finalized. Positive suggestions were made such as discussions to set up a working group to fully utilize technologies and expertise of geospatial information and strengthen disaster response capabilities of respective countries.

- Technical tour (17-18 October)

After the forum, a technical tour was conducted and participants visited the NASG Regional office in Chengdu, a devastated site from the Sichuan Earthquake, etc.

At the NASG Regional office in Chengdu, response activities to the Sichuan Earthquake on 20 April this year were introduced and the participants actually saw uninhabited aerial vehicles (UAVs) and mobile mapping systems (MMS).

On 18 October, a technical tour was made to Wenchuan County, the epicenter of the Great Sichuan Earthquake (Wenchuan Earthquake) and the participants saw the site in which buildings collapsed by the earthquake have been kept and exhibited.

- Schedule

Schedules of events related to the UN-GGIM are the session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNCE-GGIM) in New York, August 2014.



Mr. Hiroshi Une, Director-General of Geocartographic Dept., GSI

The 26th International Cartographic Conference

Mamoru Koarai

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The 26th International Cartographic Conference (ICC) was held in Dresden, Germany from 26 to 30, August. The author made an oral presentation on Global Mapping Project and a poster presentation on damage of liquefaction from the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster.

Approximately 1,500 people of 81 countries mainly from Europe participated in the conference. From Japan, about 10 people who are mainly researchers at universities participated in, which is smaller in number compared to the past conferences.

At the Environmental Monitoring Session, the author made an oral presentation on “Activities for developing Global Map Version 3 data.” There was a question as to whether the data would be developed in a larger scale and data items would be reviewed in relation to the movement of the United Nations. Inconsistency of data accuracy by countries and a possibility of commercial uses were also discussed.

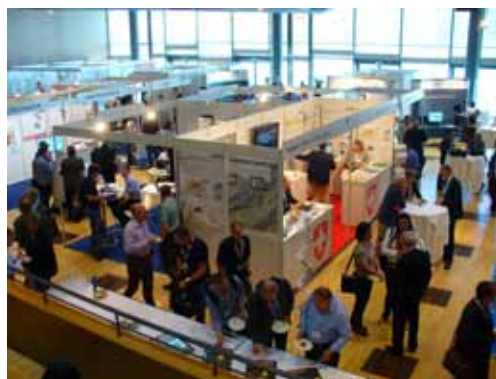
At Natural Disaster Session, many presentations focused on crisis-management systems on flood damage and hurricane, and their map representation. Other than these, a study on rendering of geospatial information and a study on ground laser measurement by MMS, etc. were mainly presented. In Europe, the European Location Framework (ELF) Project, a web service project with the cooperation of respective countries, has been launched and its report was made at the “NMA Session.”

The poster presentation by the author was titled as “Liquefaction damage by the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake in Japan and land condition of

damaged area detected by time-series geospatial information.” Many people were interested in the fact that the amount of the land subsidence caused by liquefaction can be measured in the difference of the result from the aerial laser survey conducted before and after the earthquake.

Besides these presentations, exhibitions by respective organizations and the private sector, a competitive map exhibition, and a children’s map exhibition also took place. Many people attended throughout these events partly because of the exhibition site at which the participants took lunch and coffee break. For the map exhibition, the competition was held in the five areas, i.e., paper map, atlas, digital map, educational map, and others. Among the works from Japan, an assembled map in paper craft on Mt. Showashinzan was awarded third prize in the educational map division. The highest prize throughout the exhibitions was a three-dimensional map of the Grand Canyon presented from the U.K. in the paper map division.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2015 and the next after next will take place in Washington D.C., USA in 2017.

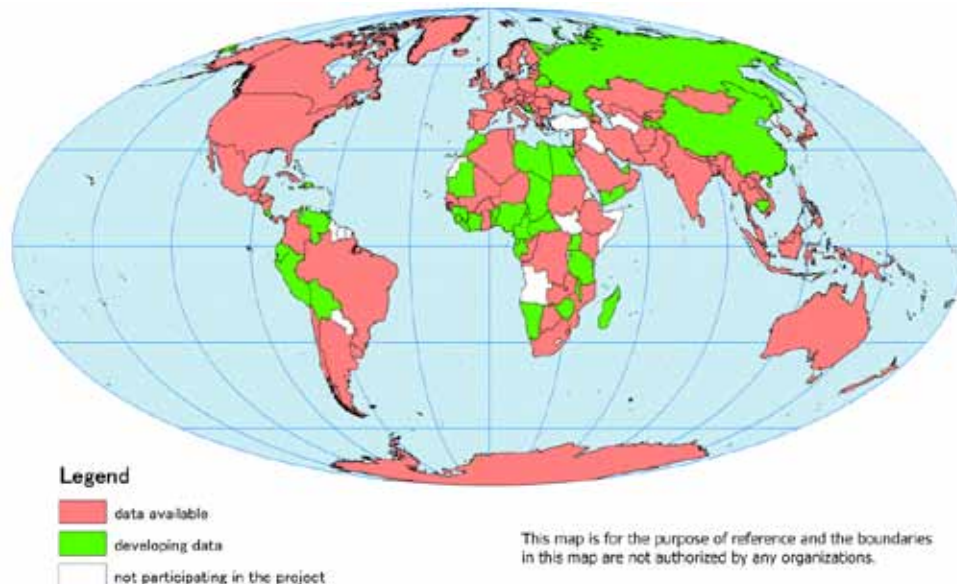


Exhibition

From the Secretariat

Global Map Data Release and Participation in the Global Mapping Project

Currently 166 countries/16 regions participate in the Project. Among them, data of 110 countries/8 regions have been released (Version 2 data are for 68 countries/4 regions.).



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Global Map and Related Meetings

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

2014

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 13-17, Geneva, Switzerland
GEO-X Plenary & 2014 GEO Geneva Ministerial Summit • June 2-6, Berlin, Germany
ISO/TC211 38th Plenary • June 16-21, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
XXV FIG International Congress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August, New York, USA
The 21st Meeting of ISCGM • August, New York, USA
UNCE-GGIM Fourth Session • November, Bali, Indonesia
Third Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP |
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Articles published on this newsletter are not edited and reflect the view of the authors.

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