



# NEWSLETTER

GLOBAL MAPPING

Final issue

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## The 23rd Meeting of ISCGM

**Toru Nagayama**  
Secretary General of ISCGM



The 23rd Meeting of International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) was held on August 3rd, 2016 at the United Nations, New York. About 40 delegates from NGIAs, International Organizations and the private sector participated in the meeting (Professor Paul Chung of Singapore National University as Chair) to discuss the policies and progress of Global Mapping Project.

The proposal of the Chair, that is dissolving ISCGM and transferring the data to the UN Geospatial Information Section (UNGIS), were discussed and approved at the meeting. The Secretariat made a presentation on its past activities of Global Mapping Project. Subsequently, the representatives of the three project participating organizations and two international organizations looked back over the 20 years history of Global Mapping Project and shared their activities and the results.

### 【Vietnam】

Mr. Ngoc Lam Hoang introduced his country's experiences of making and revising the Global Map of Viet Nam by taking an opportunity of participating in JICA's training course on Global Mapping in Japan.

### 【Senegal】

Mr. Mamadou Djigo introduced West African countries' experiences and Global Mapping Seminars held in Dakar, Senegal in 2005, 2006, and 2008 which gave an opportunity to West African countries to learn the importance of geospatial information and digital mapping technique in policy making processes.

### 【PAIGH (Pan-American Institute of Geography and History)】

Dr. Rodrigo Barriga Vargas introduced their activities on Global Mapping Working Group which lead to the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) that PAIGH is promoting.

### 【EuroGeographics】

Mr. Mick Cory introduced the importance of open geospatial information and its activities on open data at EuroGeographics.

Lastly, Kyong-Soo Eom, Chief of UNGIS, explained that the Global Map data to be transferred by the end of March 2017 will be utilized in the various activities of the United Nations. Many countries and organizations attending the meeting expressed their gratitude to the Government of Japan as well as Geospatial Information Authority of Japan which has functioned as the Secretariat.

The Chair, Professor Chung, concluded the meeting by listing three points as the spirits of ISCGM. They are: Important platform to assist activities of geospatial information of various countries; its open data policy at the time when even the United Nations did not open global data due to its political reasons; and a help desk for Global Mapping participating countries to respond to technical questions.

Global Map data has been developed by ISCGM over 20 years since its establishment in 1996. The data transfer to UNGIS is expected to expand its utility.

## The Sixth Session of the UNCE-GGIM

**Akira Sasagawa**  
Deputy Director of Environmental Geography Div., Geographic Dept., GSI  
Secretariat of ISCGM



United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information (UNCE-GGIM) (Co-chair: Dr. Timothy Trainer, Geospatial Information Senior Researcher at US Bureau of the Census and two other persons) was established in 2011 under the United Nations Economic and Social Council and aims at discussing various issues concerning global management of geospatial information.

The sixth session was held on August 4, 2016 with more than 310 experts from over 90 countries, regions, international organizations and the private sector.

At the meeting, in the discussions on the road map towards the maintenance of Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development (GGRF) resolved at the UN General Assembly in February 2015 and a working group to implement it, many Member States agreed on making the road map. Further, several Member States expressed their opinions on an upgrade of the Working Group to Sub-committee and the upgrade was resolved.

Five priority areas of the strategic framework, i.e., governance and policies, awareness raising and capacity building, data management, common infrastructure and services, and resource mobilization decided at Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG-Disasters) were discussed and supported by many Member States and it was resolved that regional activities and activities of the Working Group were encouraged to work complementary by keeping in mind that the drafting of the strategic framework will successfully be resolved at the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Furthermore, as to a topic of reviewing the United Nations' activities on geospatial information management, necessity of unifying various organizations such as UNCE-GGIM and United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEGN) has been confirmed for maintaining sustainable activities and it was confirmed that UNCE-GGIM Secretariat continues to conduct a survey on resource in geospatial information, activities and governance at the UN.

In addition, local committees that were held along with the Committee of Experts confirmed the future programs of their respective committees and their efforts.

Geospatial Information Authority of Japan will continue to participate in and contribute to the GGRF Sub-committee, WG-Disasters, and Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific.

The seventh session of UNCE-GGIM is scheduled to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in August 2017.





## Thank you ISCGM for global geospatial vision ahead of time

**Ayako Kagawa**

**Geographic Information Officer, Chief Cartographic Unit, Geospatial Information Section,  
United Nations and  
Secretariat to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information  
Management**

I was informed that I was going to be involved in the Global Map project on my first day of work. Just out of university with a Bachelor degree in Geography, I was excited that the resolution of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Earth Summit of 1992 which I studied at length during one of my degree courses had transpired into action by the Government of Japan. Between 1995 and 1998, I had the pleasure to work behind the scenes in various events and meetings the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and the Secretariat of ISCGM planned and organized.

Being curious in learning how global policy initiatives translate to national geospatial policies, and knowing the realities of the lack of geospatial data or technological limitations at the time, I truly believed that the Global Map was going to be a building block in providing the baseline data for global level environmental and sustainable development issues. Looking back, I think it was not the data itself, but the development of a sharing sense of global geospatial community, both in the global vision and the geospatial technical expertise which is to be the legacy of Global Map.

Two decades later, I felt nostalgic participating in the final 23rd ISCGM meeting held on 2 August 2016 in New York, United States of America but at the same time, a privilege of witnessing the start and closure of this global venture. During the meeting, the transfer of Global Map data in support of the United Nations operations was agreed. As strange as it may sound, I feel it is an honour but also a great responsibility being in the receiving end of the data, as I currently work as a Geographic Information Officer of the United Nations to support its operations, and as a Secretariat to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). Therefore, for me, the engagement with ISCGM has been a full circle.

The new mandate of the UN-GGIM, Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management (E/2016/L.28) adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in July 2016, calls for the continued contribution by the global geospatial community in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

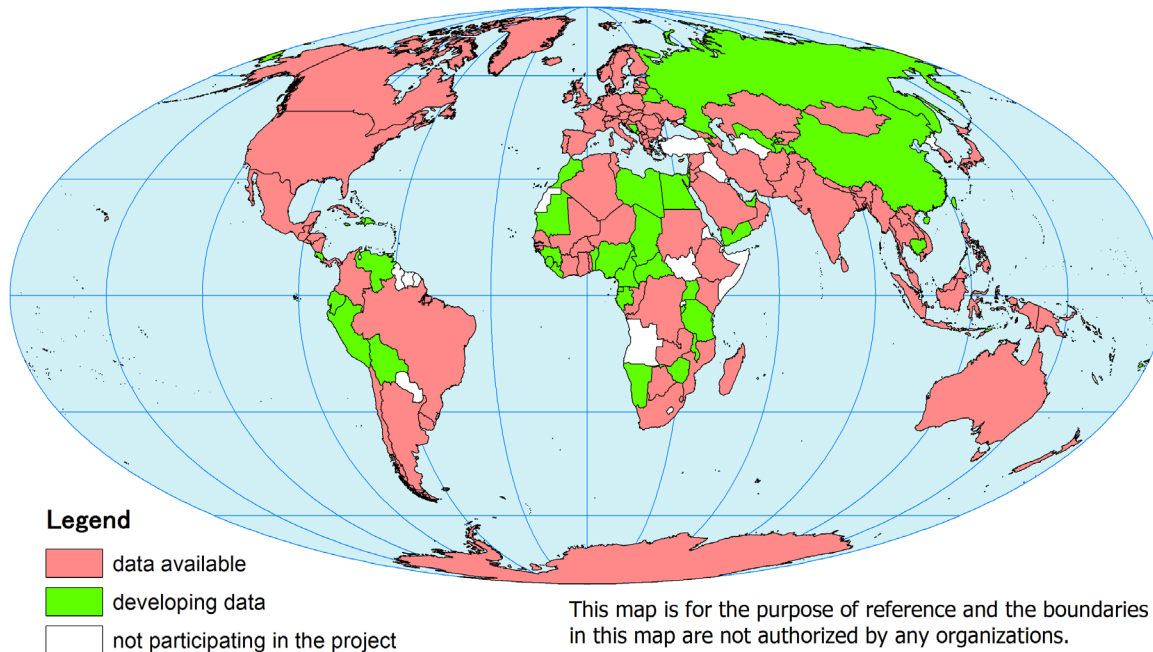
Without the learning experiences the global geospatial community built through ISCGM and Global Map, I believe we will not be in a confident position today as a community to declare our relevance in the global policy agenda setting.



## From the Secretariat

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

Currently 168 countries/16 regions participate in the Project. Among them, data of 114 countries/8 regions have been released (Version 2 data are for 90 countries/4 regions).



## Global Map Related Meetings

### 2017

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 29-June 2, Helsinki, Finland<br/>FIG Working Week 2017</li> <li>• July 2-6, Oxford, U.K.<br/>Cambridge Conference 2017</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August, New York, USA<br/>Seventh Session of UNCE-GGIM</li> <li>• October, Kumamoto City, Japan<br/>Sixth UN-GGIM-AP Plenary Meeting</li> </ul> |
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## Announcement of the final issue Global Map Newsletter

As we report on this issue of the newsletter, dissolution of International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) was resolved at the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of ISCGM. As a result, this is the final issue of Global Mapping Newsletter.

The first issue was published in March 1996, and 84 issues, including the special issues, have been read by more than 1,200 people each time around the world over 20 years. We would like to express our thanks to you for reading the newsletter.

Back numbers are currently posted at: <http://www.iscgm.org/>, however this website will be closed in December 2016. We would like to inform you of the new site to carry the Newsletter at the above site.



The Newsletter is distributed as information paper on Global Mapping to more than 1,200 people of NGIAs, 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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