

GLOBAL MAPPING NEWSLETTER 12

Fifth Meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping

The Fifth Meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) was held on 20 November 1998 at Griffins Lounge, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra, Australia. Thirty persons participated in the meeting hosted by the AUSLIG.

At the beginning of the meeting, administrative matters such as election of chairperson and admission of new members were discussed. Prof. John E. Estes, UCSB, USA was reelected as Chairperson of the Committee. Dato' Majid was appointed as Vice Chairperson, Mr. N. Nagai as Secretary General, and Dr. H. Murakami as Assistant Secretary General. Replacements of Mr. François Faucher by Dr. Robert O'Neil of Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, and Prof. David Rhind by Dr. Geoffrey Robinson of Ordnance Survey were announced.

Mr. Drew Clarke, Chairman of Working Group on Geodesy and Geographic Information (WG-GGI), the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR), and Mr. Claude Luzet, Executive Director of the Multipurpose European Ground Related Information Network (MEGRIN) were approved to be new members. Dr. Tositomo Kanakubo resigned from the advisor and Prof. Michael Wood, President of ICA was appointed as a new advisor.

Reports and discussions on various matters such as activities of the ISCGM and three working groups, revision of "Rules of ISCGM" followed. In the report of recent activities of the ISCGM, Mr. Habermann, Director of UN Statistics Division, clarified that the invitation letter to the Global Map-



Participants of the Meeting

ping Project by the ISCGM had been sent to the heads of national mapping organizations with the recommendation letter of the UN, which was regarded as a significant achievement by the ISCGM.

Regarding the activities of the Working Group on Specifications, draft Global Map Specifications version 3 which was evolved from version 2 and 1 was submitted to and adopted by the Committee and named as Global Map Specifications version 1.0. Finally, the result of the meeting was summarized in the resolutions, which are carried on the following page.

The next meeting will be held in Cambridge, United Kingdom on 24 July 1999 just after the Cambridge Conference.

Resolutions of the Fifth Meeting of the ISCGM

**Canberra, A.C.T., Australia
20 November 1998**

The Fifth Meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (here-in-after referred to as "the Committee") convened on 20 November 1998. Based on the draft Specifications and Action Program having been developed at the previous meetings, the Committee furthered the discussion on the development of the Global Map by the year 2000 and resolved that:



1. To develop and maintain the Global Map is one of the significant activities, complying with Agenda 21, for protecting the global environment, attaining the sustainable development, and securing the base of human existence, and is an important responsibility of countries in the 21st century.
2. Development of the Global Map should be a core activity of national mapping organizations. NMOs should work with other agencies, institutions, and organizations, as appropriate, in the construction of the Global Map.
3. The Committee urges the governments of respective countries to provide financial and institutional support to national mapping organizations sufficient for the development of the Global Map.
4. Appreciating the support of the United Nations in calling countries around the world to participate in the Global Mapping Project, the Committee will make every effort to encourage countries to participate in this project.
5. The committee recognizes and appreciates the efforts of participants in the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Activity. We applaud their moves to facilitate the development of a robust geospatial data framework for the globe. Continued close cooperation, communication and collaboration with those efforts will be valuable in ensuring access to and efficient use of the Global Map.
6. The Committee endorses efforts to improve coordination with the developing GSDI and its working group activities. Therefore we recommend that the heads of each ISCGM working group or their delegates become a member of the appropriate corresponding GSDI working group.
7. The Committee adopts version 3 of the draft Global Map Specifications, developed by the Working Group 2, as Global Map Specifications version 1.0. The Working Group should maintain these specifications in accordance with technological and scientific advances in related fields such as ISO/TC211.
8. The Committee appreciates the presentation by the CEOS representative at this meeting. The Committee will specifically work with CEOS to encourage space agencies to cooperate with the Global Mapping Project and to provide remotely sensed data at nominal charge to national mapping organizations participating in this project.
9. The Committee will hold its next meeting in Cambridge, United Kingdom, hosted by Ordnance Survey on 24 July 1999.
10. The Committee extends sincere thanks to the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group, for very successfully hosting and managing the Fifth Meeting of the ISCGM in Canberra, Australia.

Third Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Conference (GSDI3)**Bob Irwin, AUSLIG**

The 3rd Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) conference was held in Canberra, Australia, from 17-19 November 1998. The Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP) was the host of this event. The Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (AUSLIG) undertook the organisation and running of the conference on behalf of the PCGIAP.

The primary goal of this conference is summarised by the theme – *"Policy and Organisational Framework for a GSDI"*. Ms Jane Smith Patterson, Senior Advisor for Science and Technology to the Governor of North Carolina, USA, and Chair, GSDI Steering Committee, asked that delegates continue to enhance their collective understanding of spatial data infrastructure efforts around the world and to evolve a vision of the GSDI, whilst emphasising that the primary focus was designing and creating the "organisational nucleus" for a GSDI.

Eighty delegates attended the conference. A most pleasing fact was the diverse representation from countries around the world. Overseas delegates travelled to Canberra from Canada, China, Colombia, England, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, South Africa, the Netherlands, and the USA. As well there was a representative from the United Nations, and broad participation from host country Australia.

Dato' Abdul Majid Bin Mohamed, President PCGIAP, welcomed delegates to Canberra. Dato' Majid's optimism and encouragement at the beginning of the conference proved

well founded as delegates contributed strongly over the following days, their effort resulting in resolutions that will see good progress with the GSDI concept and related activities.

The Hon Warren Entsch, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources within the Australian Federal Government, opened the conference together with an announcement on the Australian Spatial Data Directory (ASDD).

Invited speakers and panellists provided presentations on the following key issues:

- The First Generation of National Geographic Information Strategies
- New Developments in National Spatial Data Infrastructures
- Strategic Imperatives of GSDI
- Case Studies of Trans-National Initiatives
- The Commercialisation of Geographic Information

The theme paper *Toward a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Framework* was presented by Michael Brand, President, European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information (EUROGI). The issues raised in this paper, including the merits of various organisational options for a GSDI, were then discussed by delegates. Recommendations and resolutions were debated at the final session.

Mr Russell Higgins, Secretary of the Australian Department of Industry, Science and Resources, emphasised in his presentation that the realisation of a GSDI has the potential to make a significant contribution to global economic development and social well-being.

The important roles of regional and international initiatives in support of the GSDI were noted during the conference, and it was recognised that there are gaps around the world that need to be addressed in the development of the global model.

Presentations, summaries and the resolutions of the conference can be found on the GSDI web site at

<http://www.eurogi.org/gsdi/index.html>

Mr Peter Holland, General Manager of the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group, has taken over as chair of the GSDI Steering Committee through to the next GSDI conference in South Africa in 2000.

The following meetings were held in conjunction with the 3rd GSDI conference:

- Executive Board meeting of the PCGIAP was held prior to the conference;
- 5th meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) was held after the conference; and
- A technical workshop was also held after the conference with the purpose of planning for a GSDI Technical Working Group.

International Workshop on Global Mapping

The International Workshop on Global Mapping will be held in Tsukuba, Japan from 2 to 4 March 1999 organized by the Geographical Survey Institute of the Ministry of Construction and Science and Technology Agency of Japan.

The Workshop invites experts from national mapping organizations in Asian countries to develop the Global Map in Asian region. The researchers of related or-

ganizations will join from Japanese side.

The details and applications of the Global Map will be presented on the first day of the workshop and the participants will discuss technological barriers and way to solve these barriers, tasks in implementing the Global Map and goals of research and development.

Global Map and Related Meetings

Followings are Global Map and related meetings. Information on related meetings will be highly appreciated. Meetings with "*" marks are to be confirmed.

1999

- **2-4 March, Tsukuba, Japan**
International Workshop on Global Mapping
- **4-5 March, Vienna, Austria**
8th Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC211
- **19-23 April, Beijing, China**
5th Meeting of PCGIAP
- **19-23 July, Cambridge, UK**
Cambridge Conference
- **24 July, Cambridge, UK**
6th Meeting of ISCGM
- **14-21 August, Ottawa, Canada**
19th International Cartographic Conference
<http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/ica1999/>
- **29-30 September, Kyoto, Japan**
9th Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC211

- **1-5 November, Fremantle, Australia**
6th South East Asian Surveyors Congress
<http://www.isaust.org.au/40thcong/index.htm>

2000

- **<to be determined>**
15th UNRCCAP & 6th PCGIAP
- **9-10 March, South Africa***
10th Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC211
- **Early in this year, South Africa**
4th GSDI Conference
- **March or April, Capetown, South Africa**
28th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment
- **14-26 July, Amsterdam, Netherlands**
19th ISPRS Congress
- **28-29 September, USA***
11th Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC211

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