

GLOBAL MAPPING NEWSLETTER 8

First Global Mapping Forum was held with Success

"Global Mapping Forum '97 in Gifu" was held at Gifu Prefectural Library in Gifu City, Japan from 12 to 14 November, 1997. Five hundred and eight people participated in the forum from 27 countries and 5 international organizations.

Global Mapping Forum was recommended in the statement of Interregional Seminar on Global Mapping for the Implementation of Multinational Environmental Agreements held in Santa Barbara, USA in November 1996 to bring together data users and providers to exchange views and information. Similar recommendations were made at the Fourteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok in February 1997 and the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas held in New York in June 1997.

Twenty eight lectures and reports were presented on 12 and 13 November by the representatives of national mapping organizations and experts of regional development and environment in keynote lectures, special session and six other sessions.

In the keynote lectures, Dr. Hideki Kaji, Director of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development, made the presentation on "Geographic Information for Regional Development Planning" and stressed the importance of maps



and geographical information showing the activities of UNCRD. Under the title of "Global Mapping: Opportunities and Challenges," Prof. John E. Estes of the University of California, Santa Barbara, USA, who is chairperson of ISCGM, addressed that we had to take advantage of this opportunity to organize all people related and integrate data in seamless framework for sustainable development, as the world is paying increasing attentions to global environmental issues.

At each session, requests and expectations to Global Map were expressed by the experts of environmental issues and regional development, who are the potential users of Global Map. Also reports were made by the representatives of national mapping organizations on the status and efforts of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) of re-

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for Global Mapping (ISCGM)

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spective countries.

At the special session chaired by Mr. Kunio Nonomura, Director General of GSI, 4 lectures were given under the theme of "Geographic Information for Decision Making" by Dr. Jiro Kondo, President of Central Environment Council, Mr. Tsuneo Morimoto, Vice-Governor of Gifu Prefecture, Mr. Kotaro Hashimoto, Vice-Minister

of Construction for Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Construction and Ms. Beatrice Labonne, Director of Division for Economic and Social Development and Natural Resources Management, UNDESA.

On 14 November, a technical tour was made.

The Third Meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping



The Third ISCGM Meeting was held on November 15, 1997 at Special Conference Room of the Gifu Prefectural Library. Prof. John E. Estes, UCSB, USA was reelected Chairperson of the Committee, and Dato' Majid was appointed as Vice Chairperson, Mr. N. Nagai as Secretary General and Dr. H. Murakami as Assistant Secretary General. Mr. Abbas Rajabifard of National Cartographic Center of Iran was approved to be a new member. Mr. Mahaman Laminou of Institut Geographique Na-

tional du Niger was approved to be a member as the successor of Mr. Waziri Maman.

The Committee discussed specifications of Global Map and action program for the implementation of Global Mapping. Global Mapping related activities are introduced by the members concerned. The Committee adopted the resolution, which follows.

The Resolution of the Third Meeting of ISCGM

The concept of Global Mapping is becoming more widely accepted in the world community as reflected in the report of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/S.19/1, June 1997) through the efforts of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (here-in-after referred to as "the Committee") and related organizations. Further, the Committee recognizes urgent actions should be taken to ensure the development of Global Map by the year 2000. These globally consistent, digital thematic maps are essential for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and for addressing sustainable development issues. The Third Meeting of the Committee discussed specific measures to facilitate the implementation of Global Map. The Committee, especially, focused discussions on specifications of Global Map and an action program for the production of Global Map. Based on discussions by the participants at the meeting, the Committee resolves that:

1. Building upon the resolutions of the First and

the Second Meeting of the Committee and the Action Program, the Committee and national mapping and related organizations should continue the efforts towards our goal of the development of Global Map by the year 2000.

2. The Committee adopts the draft Technical Specifications defined in this meeting and appoints a working group to continue to evolve these specifications in accord with the efforts of ISO/TC211 in order to ensure that Global Map is useful for many applications by using the appropriate standards for geographic data.
3. The Committee adopts the draft Action Program presented by Working Group 1 and developed by the Secretariat. The Working Group should continue to refine this program in accordance with the discussions held at the meeting in order to take advantage of institutional, technological and scientific advances

that can facilitate all countries joining in the development of Global Map.

4. The Committee will facilitate the ability of all countries to join in efforts to evaluate existing global geographic data, such as GTOPO30, VMAP Level 0 and the Global Land Cover Characterization Database, and assist in finding ways to improve the quality of these data and enhance their potential use in the creation of Global Map.
5. The Committee should coordinate with SCAR-GGI in order to ensure data development of Global Map in Antarctica.
6. The Committee should actively work together with organizations interested in promoting the development of improved spatial data; national, regional and global spatial data infrastructures (SDIs); that can enhance the development of, access to, use of, and quality

of Global Map. In addition, the Committee should establish liaison status with ISO/TC211.

7. The Committee will hold its next meeting in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA, hosted by the US Geological Survey, EROS Data Center, during the week of June 15-19, 1998.
8. The Committee extends sincere thanks to the Geographical Survey Institute, the UN Centre for Regional Development, the Science and Technology Agency, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Japan Map Center, the Gifu Prefecture, the Gifu Prefectural Library and the ISCGM Secretariat for organizing, hosting, and managing a very successful Global Mapping Forum '97 and the Third Meeting of the ISCGM in Gifu, Japan.

CD-ROMs

Associated with Global Mapping Forum '97 in Gifu, Global Mapping Data CD-ROMs were produced by GSI and Ministry of Construction. The data were based as much as possible on Global Map Technical Specifications (draft).

Two CD-ROMs were produced: One covers entire Japan and was produced from the National Land Digital Information prepared by the Geographical Survey Institute. The other covers the Mekong River Basin in the Indochina Peninsula and was produced from satellite data and Digital Chart of the World.

These CD-ROMs were distributed to the participants at Global Mapping Forum '97 in Gifu and the purpose of which is to contribute to the

discussion to evolve Global Map Technical Specifications. The same data are to be released on the WWW.

Data contents of CD-ROMs are as follows:

- Elevation
- Land use
- Vegetation
- Rivers/Lakes
- Transportation
- Administrative boundary

and a viewer software which can deal with above data sets.

If you have any comment, please send e-mail to ISCGM Secretariat.

Network Forum Pages Open

One and half years have passed since we opened the ISCGM's Home Page.

To date, we have improved our Web site by adding Newsletter pages, information and reports of Santa Barbara Seminar and Forum in Gifu. In this October, we also started the mirror site of GTOPO30 pages managed by USGS.

We have opened Network Forum pages in our site since 7 November in order to exchange information or discuss issues on Global Mapping, ISCGM or Global Spatial Data Infrastructures from institutional, technical and other aspects.

All readers of our Homepage can express their fresh opinions in these pages. We continue to improve our Homepage by making users' interface

easier, adding reference functions and others.

We would appreciate any suggestions, views, requests and advice on Global Mapping. We wish that objectives of Global Mapping will be reinforced and applications of Global Map will be widened through discussions in the Network Forum.

URL:<http://www1.gsi-mc.go.jp/iscgm-sec/nwf-home.html>

We hope the Network Forum will become an active site by your enthusiastic support (contributions).

Fourth Meeting of Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP)

The 4th Meeting of PCGIAP will be held in Tehran, Iran, from 28 February to 4 March, 1998, at Iranian Center for International Conference (ICIC). The brief agenda of the meeting has now arranged as follows:

On the first day of the meeting, registration of delegates and a visit to National Cartographic Center (NCC) will be done.

On the second day, Executive Board member meeting, Official opening, including Welcome by the president of PCGIAP, Formal opening by the President Deputy of I.R. of Iran, and chair of the Host Organizing Committee as keynote speaker, and plenary session are scheduled. At the plenary session, reports will be presented by the President, Secretary, and related bodies including UNRCC AP, UNRCC Americas, EUROGI, ISCGM and GSDI Conference. Also a paper will be presented by the Secretary of the PCGIAP regarding to future activities of PC. The second day will be ended by discussion on Programs, Structures, Relationships to other initiatives (e.g. EUROGI, Global Mapping, GSDI) and role of UNRCC for AP.

On the third day Plenary session, Meeting of

the working groups are planned.

On the fourth day, continuation of the meeting of the working groups and visit to different Iranian Organizations will be done.

And finally, Plenary session including reports on Working groups, update plans for PCGIAP, arrangement and resolutions for the next meeting, concluding speech by the president, and official closing will be in the last day.

It is also to say that, PCGIAP is a formal liaison body to the European Umbrella for Geographic Information (EUROGI), and with this liaison, members from both side can participate actively in each other's meeting, contribute toward the harmonization of the work in both of organizations, and promote the emergence of a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI).

For more information, please contact the Iranian Host Organizing Committee at:

ncc2@dc.i.iran.com

Look forward to welcoming you in Tehran.

Abbas Rajabifard NCC, Tehran, Iran

-contributed by Mr. Abbas Rajabifard-

Global Map and Related Meetings

Followings are Global Map and related meetings.

Meetings with "? " mark have not been fixed yet.

1998

- **28 February-4 March, Tehran, Iran**
4th Meeting of PCGIAP
- **5-6 March, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada**
6th Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC211
<http://www.statkart.no/isotc211/>
- **25-27 March, Aguascalientes, Mexico**
WG for Coordination of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences
- **8-11 June, Ottawa, Canada**
10th International Geomatics Conference on Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI'98)
<http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/sdi98/>
- **During the week of June 15-19,**

Sioux Falls, SD, USA

Global Mapping Forum & 4th ISCGM

- **24-25 September, Beijing, China**
7th Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC211
- **Second half, Australia**
3rd GSDI hosted by PCGIAP
- ISCGM?

1999

- **Summer, Cambridge, UK**
4th GSDI & ISCGM?
- **September/October, Washington D.C., USA**
Mapping in the New Millennium? hosted by National Geographic Society