



UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

**Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial
Information Management for Asia and the Pacific
(UN-GGIM-AP)**



Established by a United Nations Resolution

Dear colleagues,

**UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information
Management
&
Fifth UN-GGIM-AP Plenary Meeting
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 16-20 October 2016**

We are pleased to announce that the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia, through the Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM), will jointly organise and host **the UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, in conjunction with the Fifth UN-GGIM-AP Plenary Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 16-20 October 2016.**

Noting the updates on recent developments and increased focus that could have an impact on legal and policy frameworks supporting geospatial information, and recognizing the growing need for geospatial professionals to understand the legislative and regulatory processes and their implications for the entire geospatial community, UN-GGIM adopted the decision 5/107 at its Fifth Session in August 2015, and agreed that a plan of action and strategy should be prepared in consultation with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, relevant Member States and other experts, in order to begin the advocacy and engagement process among relevant parties. In this regard, the Committee of Experts supported the convening of an international forum on legal and policy issues and frameworks at an appropriate time in 2016, with a view to taking a more proactive role in and facilitating a more informed dialogue on the identified issues, including national policies.

The **UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management** is being staged in pursuance of the aforementioned decision. It will bring together global geospatial and legal policy makers, discussing issues relating to the collection, use, provenance and accessibility of data, and sharing their experiences and methodologies in the areas of open data, data protection, data sharing policies, privacy, as well as licensing of geospatial information. The Forum will also provide a platform for the global geospatial information community to discuss and understand the legislative and regulatory processes, and their implications, pertaining to geospatial data.

Along with the Forum, the **Fifth UN-GGIM-AP Plenary Meeting** will report on the major

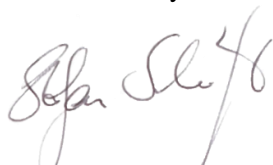
outcomes of the ECOSOC Session and the Sixth Session of UN-GGIM held earlier in 2016, review the considerations and subsequent decisions on the further modalities of UN-GGIM, summarize the various activities and progress of the Working Groups undertaken during the past year, and discuss the roles and contributions of the Regional Committee in response to the further development of UN-GGIM. A number of side workshops and special meetings will also be convened on 16-17 Oct, 2016.

We are delighted to send you this announcement letter and kindly ask that you mark your calendars accordingly. In an effort to inform a wide cross section of the professional geospatial information community and policy makers, we ask that you share this information with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders in your country.

Detailed information about the Forum and the Plenary Meeting will be available at the UN-GGIM-AP website (<http://www.un-ggim-ap.org>). Should you have any questions about the meetings, please contact the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat by un-ggim-ap.china@nasg.gov.cn. For registration, please visit the host website (<http://www.unggim-ap2016.org>), and contact Dr. Teng Chee Hua from JUPEM (tengcheehua@jupem.gov.my).

Together with our co-organizers, we thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and look forward to your positive response and active participation.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest

Director

UN-GGIM Secretariat

United Nations Statistics Division



Hiroshi Murakami

President

UN-GGIM-AP