UN-GGIM

ACADEMIC NETWORK

Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

PROGRESS REPORT

For

7th UN-GGIM Expert Committee Meeting, NY, July 31-August 4, 2017

June 2017

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

As the Chair of the UN-GGIM Academic Network and on behalf of the Network, I am very pleased to present this report to the 7th UN-GGIM Committee of Experts meeting in NY, August 2017. Since the official establishment of the Academic Network at the 6th UN-GGIM Committee of Expert, August 2016 in NY, and in line with its working plan, and the approval of its Terms of References (ToR) at the UN-GGIM Extended Bureau meeting in NY, December 2016, the Network has been very active with series of contributions and participation at several meetings and events, and actively promoted the Network at different international events. In line with its ToR and its working plan, the Academic Network has established an official process for engaging new members.

The main focus of the Network in its first year has been on the establishment of all the required processes to facilitate its operation and membership engagement to support its long term operation. We have successfully established a website as a platform to support our operation, and we also prepared a working plan for the next two years. We will continue our campaign on the membership to expand an active network. In close collaboration with the UN-GGIM Secretariat and as part of our main activities for the next year, we will be design and conduct an International Forum to be held in NY as part of the 7th UN-GGIM Committee of Experts meeting. The Theme of the Forum will be "Secure land rights and smart cities-making it work". We are also planning to conduct a meeting and a possible event as part of the upcoming UN-GGIM High Level Forum-HLF in November in Mexico.

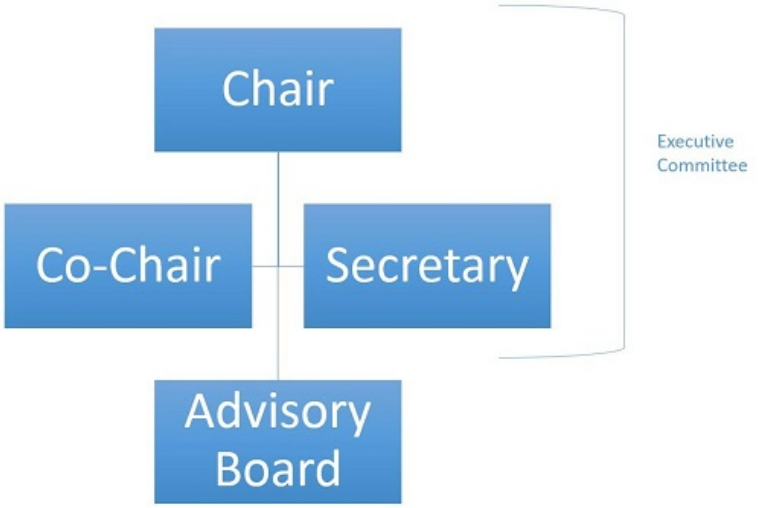
Prof Abbas Rajabifard

Chair, UN-GGIM Academic Network

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

MAIN OFFICERS

According to its approved Terms of References, the Academic Network has an Executive Board comprises of a Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary, and an Advisory Board of 7 members for the operation and coordination of the Academic Network. As a group the Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary constitute the Executive Committee. The following chart shows the organizational structure:



During 2016-2017 year, the elected officer were:

ADVISORY BOARD

The Academic Network Task Team in charge of developing the Terms of References of the Academic Network has accepted to continue their involvement as Advisory Board for the Network. During this first term the board members were:

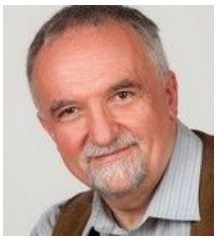
Prof. Huayi Wu, Wuhan University, China

Prof. Joep Crompvoets, KU Leuven, Belgium

Prof. David Coleman, University of New Brunswick, Canada

Prof. Harlan Onsrud, University of Maine, USA

Prof. Menno-Jan Kraak, University of Twente, Netherlands



Prof. Josef Strobl, University of Salzburg, Austria

Prof. Maria Antonia Brovelli, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Prof. Jide Kufoniyi, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

MEETINGS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES

Since the establishment of the Academic Network in 2016, the Academic Network administration has held several meetings and also communicated via emails for different activities related to the Network. These meetings were (online and face to face) primarily to address key administrative matters and assess and decide on membership applications, as well as the strategy for the promotion of the network.

The following table shows the details of the major meetings conducted:

Date	Main matters discussed
Monday 22 August 2016	Finalization of Terms or References and election of Chair (Abbas Rajabifard) and Secretary (Daniel Paez)
Monday 14 November 2016	Working plan and discussion on communication strategy
Wednesday 30 November 2016, Face-to-Face meeting at the GSDI Conference	Discussion on Membership Application Process and Voting Process

Additionally, the Executive Committee had multiple meetings in order to address key administrative issues as well as implementation of the communication strategy, particularly the website, and attendance of representative at different UNGGIM meetings. It is to highlight that the executive committee met in person twice during this initial year (9 April 2017 and 21 December 2016).

MEMBERSHIP

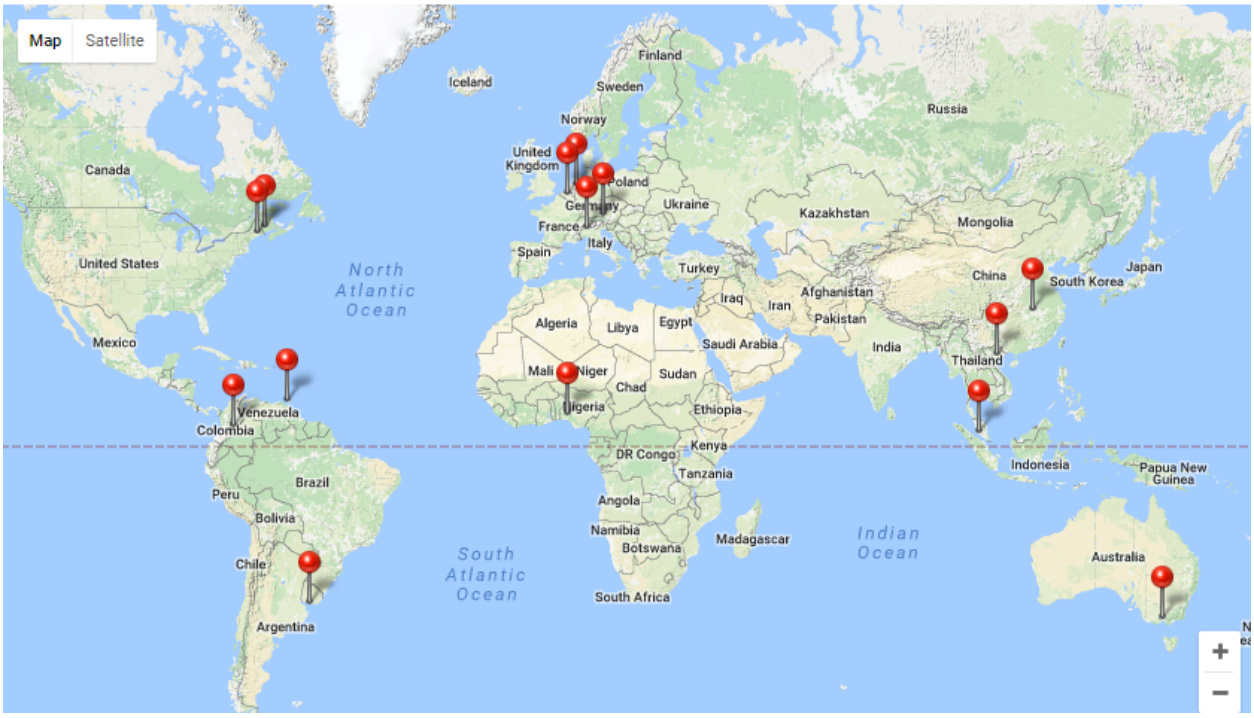
As a new organization, membership is a key element for success of our Academic Network. According to the ToR, the members of the Network are comprised of relevant universities, academic institutions or research centres where geospatial information research and/or education are accomplished and also these interested members want to voluntarily collaborate with UN-GGIM and contribute to the Academic Network.

Currently the Academic Network has 14 members from all continents (this includes members from the Executive and the Advisory Board). According to the ToR, in order to become a member, an online **Expression of Interest (EOI) Form** should be submitted to the Academic Network via its website platform together with a statement on the capabilities and contributions of research and education that the member institution is willing to share with UN-GGIM education member countries. We have developed and approved a voting process by the existing members. New institutional members are voted in when they meet the established objective membership criteria as determined by majority vote of the existing members of the UN-GGIM Academic Network. After reviewing applicant documentation, an online voting service utilizing a simple majority voting method and providing anonymity for voters is used for the voting process at http://www.opavote.org/.

We have received 4 new applications (in addition to the existing Executive and Advisory members) in which have assessed and find all are eligible to join. All applications went for voting and all have received full support to join. The new members of the Academic Network are:

Country	Name of Institute	Primary point of contact Name
Vietnam	FIMO Center, University of Engineering and Technology, Vietnam National University	Bui Quang Hung
Trinidad and Tobago	The University of the West Indies	Bheshem Ramlal
Uruguay	Faculty of Engineering, University of Republic	Rosario Casanova
Malaysia	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	Dr Helmi Zulhaidi Mohd Shafri

The following map illustrates the location of organizations that are currently a member of UNGGIM Academic Network

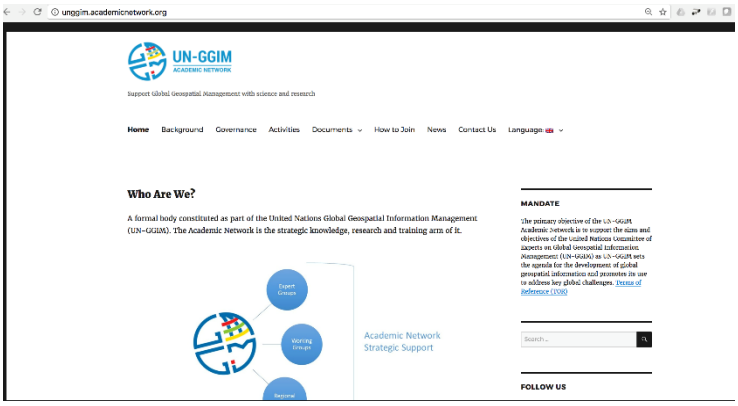


COMMUNICATIONS AND PROMOTION

WEBSITE AND MEDIA

During this first year, the Academic Network successfully had managed to create and launch its official website with a dedicated domain (www.unggim.academinetwork.org). The website has proven to be an invaluable tool to connect members and disseminate information about the Network activities and at the same time an essential tool to conduct key administrate tasks such as accepting nominations for admittance.

In order to facilitate memberships and engage and share materials with a wider communities and jurisdictions, the Academic Network website has been translated and available in 4 languages: **English, French, Spanish and Arabic**.



The Academic Network also has today presence in social media platforms including twitter (@UNGGIMAN) YouTube and Instagram.

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Since the establishment of The Academic Network, we have officially participated, reported and contributed to several UNGGIM Regional meetings and also attended at the UNGGIM Extended Bureau meeting. As part of these meeting the members have activity promoting the Academic Network in these meetings and several events such as congresses, seminars and conferences. To facilitate the promotion of the Network, a pamphlet explaining the Network as well as the process to join has been designed and shared and made available via the Network website as well as hardcopy distribution.

The following table shows a list of events in where the Chair, Secretary and the members of the Advisory Board have activity participated and promoted the UN-GGIM Academic Network:

Date	Event	Participant
September 2016	International Symposium on Smart City, Melbourne	Abbas Rajabifard
September 2016	Pan-American congress on registration and cadaster	Daniel Páez
October 2016	UNGGIM-Asia Pacific Regional Meeting and UNGGIM Intentional Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, 2016 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Abbas Rajabifard
October 2016	Geocongress 2016 – Mexico City, México	Daniel Páez
November 2016	FIG Commission 7 – Annual meeting	Daniel Páez
November 2016	GSDI World Conference, China Taipei	Abbas Rajabifard, David Coleman, Joep Crompvoets, Josef Strobl, Menno-Jan Kraken, Harlan Onsrud
December 2016	UNGGIM Extended Bureau Meeting, NY	Abbas Rajabifard
January 2017	Hydrabad (India –): Geospatial World Forum and Digital Cartographic Summit	Menno-Jan Kraak
February 2017	UNGGIM-Arab States Regional meeting, Qatar	Abbas Rajabifard
March 2017	World Bank Land and Poverty Conference 2017, Washington	Joep Crompvoets, Daniel Páez
April 2017	Boston (United States) –AAG conference	Menno-Jan Kraak

April 2017	UNGGIM-Americas Regional meeting, Santiago de Chile	Daniel Páez
April 2017	Digital Earth Summit and Locate 17 Conference-Sydney	Abbas Rajabifard
April 2017	General Assembly Int'l Hydrographic Organization,Monte Carlo (Monaco)	Menno-Jan Kraak
May 2017	Casablanca (Morocco: Congrès International MORGEO	Menno-Jan Kraak
May 2017	FIG Working Week, Helsinki	Daniel Paez
May 2017	UN-GGIM Kunming Forum	Huayi Wu
June 2017	UN-GGIM Europe, Brussels	Joep Crompvoets

WORKPLAN AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Here is the current working plan to achieve the objectives of the Academic Network:

a) Conduct and facilitate an International Forum as part of the UN-GGIM 7th Expert Committee Meeting, in NY and will be held on Monday 31 July, with the Theme of "Secure land rights and smart cities-making it work". The preparation of the Forum is ongoing and the Forum program is under preparation.

b) Review of the current UN-GGIM WGs' work plan to identify areas for Academic Network support and input;

c) Continuation of Promotion of the Network to potential member institutions;

d) Registry of current capabilities, degree programs, training programs, research, and courses, relevant to UN-GGIM gathered as part of the membership application process as well as through additional means-this process already started and we expand the database as we receive new membership applications;

e) Promotion of the network member institutions in UN-GGIM member countries, say, exhibition of the member institutions, brochure of the network with member institution introductions.

Note: The Registry will contain only the information related to Universities and Research Centers interested in collaborating on a voluntary basis with UN-GGIM. The responsibility for updating the Registry (through the Academic Network website) rests on the member institutions.