The **UN-GGIM Academic Network** is a coalition of recognized universities, research and education centers or equivalent involved in the research, development and training on geospatial and land information and related matters.

The **Academic Network** will be a platform for the academic community to provide input and to support UN-GGIM in achieving its vision and goals by generating a platform for academic community to input to the UN-GGIM process in the form of strategic knowledge, research, education and training, and will be a strategic arm to empower UN-GGIM to achieve their vision and goals.

The **Academic Network** will provide both research and education capabilities for UN-GGIM, its Regional Organisations, WGs and affiliated members to identify and response to challenges and opportunities in which UN-GGIM can achieve their visions.
• **Dec 2015, NY:** UN-GGIM Bureau discussed the merits and establishment of an **Academic Network** under the auspices of UN-GGIM as a means to capture and include the role and contributions of academia in global geospatial information management.

• **April 2016, Addis Ababa:** an exploratory **UN-GGIM Academic Network** meeting was convened as a Side Event to the **Fourth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM**, in, Ethiopia, on Tuesday 19 April. It was agreed that the Academic Network operates along the same lines as the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JB-GIS) and is able to "self organise" and contributes to the activities of UN-GGIM in a similar and productive manner.
Background-2

• **April 2016**: the Addis Ababa Declaration at the Fourth HLF, endorsed UN-GGIM facilitating the establishment of the Academic Network as a strategic knowledge, research and training arm to assist its activities and objectives.

• **June 2016**: UN-GGIM Secretariat has formed an Academic Network Task Team, with members from different regions, and has appointed Professor Abbas Rajabifard, from the University of Melbourne to Chair with a Mandate to start the process and consultation.

• **August 2016, NY**: GGIM-Academic Network Task Team has presented its report and initial workplan at the UN-GGIM Expert Committee meeting, and the Committee has approved the establishment.

### Academic Network Task Team Members

- Prof Abbas Rajabifard, The University of Melbourne, Australia (Chair)
- 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 Daniel Páez, University of Los Andes, Colombia
- Prof Jide Kufoniyi, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
Academic Network Task Team
Initial Tasks and Activities

• Draft "ToRs" for the UN-GGIM Academic Network.
• Develop a process for membership in the Network.
• Draft potential roles and responsibilities for members to be an effective and active Network.
• Prepare an initial workplan for its activities.
• Conducted its first meeting as a Side Event at the UN-GGIM in August in NY.
• Presented its Progress Report at the UNGGIM August Meeting in NY.

Selected Functions of Academic Network

• **Provide strategic knowledge, research, education and training input and be a strategic arm** to empower UN-GGIM and its related organizations to achieve their visions and goals;
• **Provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among academics** and researchers from the geospatial information management community with a view to advance activities related to the administration, management, and use of geospatial information, and to identify and response to challenges and opportunities in which UN-GGIM and related members can achieve their visions;
• **Advise and support capacity building** programs of the UN-GGIM, WGs, and its Regional Organisations (e.g. UN-GGIM-AP, UN-GGIM-Africa, …);
• Offer advise based on UN-GGIM questions and when we see a gap and inform UN-GGIM of that gap/problem;
• Bring to the attention of UN-GGIM and its regional organizations state-of-the-art research and academic trends on global geospatial information, or write white papers on any of related topics, and also offer training/education in those fields.
Academic Network
Membership, Composition and Terms of Office

- **Academic Network** will comprise of relevant universities, academic institutions or research centres (as members) where geographic information, and or land administration research and/or education are carried out.

- **Members** may be involved in matters relating to surveying, photogrammetry, remote sensing, mapping, cartography, computing, geospatial analysis, web geo-services, socio-economic and environmental modelling, as well as application areas such as infrastructure design and development, water, agriculture, forestry, geology, hydrology, land administration, market research, urban planning, transport, and research on the legal and institutional issues associated with the management of geographic information as well as the use of the relevant technologies.

Academic Network Report

Academic Network
Membership, Composition and Terms of Office

- In order to become a member, an **Expression of Interest (EoI)** with a statement on the capabilities and availability to respond to UN-GGIM academic and research support needs should be submitted to the Academic Network Secretariat.

- A country could have more than one institution accepted in the network. However, each member would nominate one leading academic and up to 2 delegates to the network.

- The **Academic Network** will meet regularly at the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, High Level Forum, and any formal meetings.

- If considered appropriate, the **Academic Network** will establish sub-regional groups inline with UN-GGIM Regional Organisations and or task teams to focus on particular aspects of the programs under its oversight.

- The **Academic Network** will have at least one member in each UN-GGIM Expert Groups and Working Groups.
Academic Network Workplan

To achieve the Academic Network’s objectives, the initial workplan will focus on:

- Review of the current UN-GGIM WGs' workplans to identify the areas for support and input.
- Call and promote for membership and engagement.
- Inventory of current capabilities, training programs, MOOCs, facilities, current projects, etc. relevant to UN-GGIM activities,
- Training and research registry.

THANK YOU