

Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters Meeting

Venue: Conference Room E (CR-E)

14:30 – 16:00 Monday 5 August 2019

Agenda:

1. Introductory remarks and welcome
2. Discussion and agreement on future work items
 - a. Implementation and monitoring of the Strategic Framework
 - b. Design and implementation of scenario-based exercises on different hazards, including predictive modelling to test and improve the Strategic Framework per country and or region
 - c. Support the Statistical Commission to advance a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics
 - d. Support the preparation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework
3. Structure and management of the working group
4. Turnover of the Philippines Co-chairmanship
5. Summary and closing remarks

Participants:

1. The Philippines **Peter Tiangco** (Co-Chair)
2. The Philippines Chen Rochelle
3. The Philippines Rosal Dolanas
4. The Philippines Benjamin Balais
5. Jamaica **Simone Lloyd** (Co-Chair on behalf of Ms. Michelle Edwards of Jamaica)
6. Jamaica Courtenay Rattray
7. Japan **Shoichi Oki** (new Co-Chair replacing Dr. Peter Tiangco of Philippines)
8. Japan Koji Osumi
9. Japan Basara Miyahara
10. Sweden Anders Sandin
11. China Quanhong Zheng
12. New Zealand Jan Pierce
13. Algeria Hamid Oukaci
14. Canada Peter Murphy
15. Mexico Francisco Media
16. Italy Fabio Vocpe
17. OCHA Craig Williams
18. UNITAR Lars Bromley
19. UNDOS/OICT Erzen Ilijazi
20. UNDOS/OICT Kyoung-Soo Eom
21. UNDOS/OICT Timur Obukhov
22. UNDOS/OICT Ayako Kagawa
23. UNDOS/OICT Gakumin Kato
24. UNFPA Lorant Czarán
25. UNFPA Sainan Zhang
26. UNFPA Maureen Jones
27. UNDRR Laurel Hanson
28. FAO Douglas Muchoney
29. Politecnico Di Milano: Maria Brovelli

30. CIESIN Columbia University: Greg Yetman
31. CIESIN Columbia University: Kytt MacManus
32. CIESIN Columbia University: Mairead Milan
33. Geo-Things Kuo-Yu Chuang
34. Geo-Things Meng-min Chen
35. ESRI Carmelle Terborgh

Key Decisions:

1. Main objectives and future areas of work presented in the meeting were agreed by participants
2. Following the four items of the future areas of work, four task groups were established
3. Leads and members of the task groups are decided as follows;

Task Group	Lead	Members
A. Implementation and monitoring of the Strategic Framework	UN-GGIM Academic Network	ESRI
B. Design and implementation of scenario-based exercises on different hazards, including predictive modelling to test and improve the Strategic Framework per country and or region	Japan	China, Italy, Sweden, UN-GGIM Academic Network, UN-OCHA, UN-GGIM-AP(TBC), UN-GGIM America (TBC), UNDRR (TBC), GeoThings (TBC)
C. Support the Statistical Commission to advance a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics	Jamaica	UN-GGIM Academic Network, UNFPA, Columbia University (CIESIN)
D. Support the preparation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	New Zealand	Mozambique, Poland, GeoThings (TBC)

4. The structure of the working group will be changed to an expert group from a working group (10 for an expert group, 1 for a working group)
5. New Terms of Reference will be drafted accordingly and presented in a plenary session of the UN-GGIM
6. Co-chairmanship of Japan together with Jamaica was nominated by Philippines and unanimously adopted by participants

Main Points of Comments and Discussion:

1. Jamaica showed full commitment to continuous contribution to the working group as a Co-chair.
2. Japan emphasized importance of preparation for natural disasters and showed strong interest in involving and leading Task Group B, leveraging experiences and expertise accumulated in its country. Scenario based approach is a good way to address specific needs and therefore it is one of good approaches to realize the Strategic Framework.
3. Sweden emphasized importance of securing implementation of next actions as a group.
4. Kyoung-Soo Eom, Chief UN-GIS, reiterated importance of implementation and operationalization of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and of collecting and understanding actual demands from participants such as UN-OCHA and UNDRR. In this regard, scenario-based exercises would clarify needs of specific cases.

5. Expert group can have more longer targets for its activity, compared to working group. WG-Disasters prefers to be transferred as an Expert Group.
6. OCHA introduced its activity and resources, such as Common Operation Dataset (COD), emphasized importance of official data of national mapping agencies and statistics divisions as a baseline data together with feedback to national agencies with generated datasets during disaster responses, and introduced that OCHA is actually encouraging use of the Strategic Framework to national mapping agencies that OCHA has been working with in the course of awareness raising. Regarding task group, it pointed out that depending on types of disasters, there are certain types of datasets necessary.
7. Italy introduced Copernicus, the EU's Earth observation programme, and showed interests in contributing Task Group B by sharing experience, use cases, data provision, etc.
8. FAO introduced an activity, earth observation for disaster risk reduction, and support to access to available resources such as satellite images which can be utilized.
9. UN-GGIM Academic network pointed out importance of local (national level) data. In some cases, OpenStreetMap is richer than data of national government in terms of contents. It was also mentioned that web-based geo-catalogue where at least metadata can be access are necessary to confirm access to data holders. Then ideally, data should be shared through web services.
10. ESRI suggested several steps to consider for implementation of the framework. The first step is dissemination of the framework to regional players. It is important to make sure that national emergency responses agencies are aware of the framework, not national mapping agencies and statistical agencies. The second step is to identify focal points in Member States to ensure that related information is shared from participant agencies of UN-GGIM. The third step is clarification of related stakeholders including international agencies for Member States, such as UN-OCHA and UNDRR. The fourth step is to assess available resources of Member States considering different stages of preparedness among Member States to identify needs and gaps. Step 5 is to consider national and regional data warehouse where data are shared with web services, avoiding duplication of database.
11. China states that it is important to see global, regional and local perspective and define needs, generate mechanism and technologies to implement the strategic framework through scenario-based exercise.
12. Philippine explained that assessment tools were aimed to identify availability of geospatial data, their usage, identify gaps in terms of capability, data availability, and policy.

Drafted by Gakumin Kato and Timur Obukhov
Cleared by Kyoung-Soo Eom (7 Aug 2019)