



The Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies and the Second High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, Doha, Qatar, February 2013

ADDRESS BY JOINT BOARD OF GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETIES
CHAIR PROFESSOR WILLIAM CARTWRIGHT

Greetings to

His Excellency, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al-Thani

Ministers and national representatives

H.E. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

H.E. Dr. Vanessa Lawrence, Co-Chair, UN-GGIM Committee of Experts

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jabor Bin Jassim Al Thani, President, Qatar Statistics Authority

Distinguished Delegates and Participants

Representatives of the JBGIS Organisations

Representatives of Sister organizations

Colleagues from the International Geospatial community

Colleagues from the United Nations community

Friends

On this occasion of the Second High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, Doha, Qatar, I would like to convey the greetings from the member organisations and delegates in attendance from the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies. The Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies is most honoured to be part of this Forum in Doha.

I would like to thank the Government of Qatar, the Qatar Statistics Authority, the United Nations Statistics Division and the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts for the invitation to the Joint Board to continue contributing to this key global initiative in the geospatial sciences.

The Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies is a coalition of leading international geospatial societies that speaks on behalf of the geospatial profession at the international level, especially to the United Nations and other global stakeholders. It coordinates activities within the geospatial society and organizations, internationally.

Membership of the Joint Board comprises:

- Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association
- IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (IEEE-GRSS)
- International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

- International Cartographic Association (ICA)
- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
- International Geographical Union (IGU)
- International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
- International Map Industry Association (IMIA)
- International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)
- International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM)

Rapid advances in technology, information access, methodologies and equipment have meant that geospatial information is collected, globally, to high precision, processed using innovative software applications and made available via contemporary communications methods.

Member organizations of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies are the leading societies in international geospatial information championing the

- determination;
- monitoring;
- connectivity; and
- delivery

of information about place. This information is underpinned by accurate geodetic data from globally-distributed geodetic infrastructure, precision data collection methods, comprehensive analysis tools, the provision of global geospatial information, integrated data collection and mapping activities, formalized agreements and specifications and innovative means for information provision and visualization.

The Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, through the various individual and collaborative efforts of member organizations, support the endeavours of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management initiatives, in association with the United Nations Statistics Division.

The Joint Board commends the Government of Qatar for their support of the initiative by hosting this Second High Level Forum. We value our participation in the Forum over the next days in Doha to forward the agenda.

Thank you.



Professor William Cartwright AM
Chair
Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies