



UN-GGIM International Forum on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

Hilton Hotel, Bridgetown, Barbados
4-5 and 8 September 2016

Biographies of moderators, keynote speakers and panelists

The Honorary Ambassador Jesús Alberto López González



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mexico to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Born on April 9th 1972, Jesús Alberto López González possesses a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), as well as a Master's Degree in Development Policies in Latin America from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London. He also pursued his studies and later obtained a PhD in Government from the University of London. He has worked for various institutions including Cemex, Colegio de Veracruz and finally the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. He is a founding member of the National Science and Technology Council's (CONACYT) Research Network on the Quality of Democracy in Mexico and the author of two books and various academic articles. As of June 3rd 2016, he has been officially accredited as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mexico to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Honorary Ambassador Jesús Alberto López González will provide welcome remarks at the Opening Ceremony

Rolando Ocampo



Co-Chair UN-GGIM, and Vice President of National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico

He has an Actuarial Science degree at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM for its acronym in Spanish). He studied the Master of General Statistics at the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain, as well as a Masters in Economics of Education and Labor at the Carlos III University from the same city. From 1984-1989 he worked at the Department of Statistics of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI for its acronym in Spanish), participating in the design and implementation of various surveys on the private manufacturing sector and establishments. In 1994 he joined again the INEGI and was in charge of Methodologies, Analysis and Procedures Coordination, implementing the Purchasing Power Parities Program (PPP), coordinated internationally by the OECD; and the International Comparison Program coordinated by ECLAC. From 1997 to 1999 he was Director General of GAUSSC, where he developed various public opinion surveys for public and private entities, including TV Azteca, various political parties and the presidential campaign of Vicente



Fox. From January 2001 to 2004 he was Director General of Public Opinion of the Presidency of the Republic; and in 2005 he was Undersecretary of Sectorial Policy of the Ministry of Agrarian Reform. Later, in 2006, he served as Chief Director of the National Agrarian Registry (RAN). From 2007 to March 2013, he was Director General of the Center for Latin American Intelligence (CILA for its acronym in Spanish), an international consulting firm. Alternatively, from 2008 to March 2013 he served at HOMEX as Head of the land reserve and government relations, for the central region of the country. In March 20, 2013 he was appointed Vice-President of INEGI's Government Board, in charge of the Geographic and the Environment Information Subsystem. From August of that same year, he chairs the Regional Committee of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas), and Co-Chairs the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management since August 2015. He also Co-Chairs the Expert Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information and became elected member of the ISI on 2014, served as IAOS representative to the Scientific Program Committee of the World Statistics Congress of Rio de Janeiro 2015 and once again serves as IAOS representative to the SPC for the Marrakech 2017 WSC. Since June 2014 he is Mexico's Principal for the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

Mr. Ocampo will provide welcome remarks at the Opening Ceremony;

Rohan A. Richards



Co-Chair WG-Disasters, and Principal Director, Ministry of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change, Jamaica

Rohan A. Richards currently serves as Principal Director in the National Spatial Data Management Division of the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation. Mr. Richards holds a Master of Science Degree in Natural Resources Management and Bachelors in Applied Chemistry & Chemistry with Postgraduate Diplomas in Public Administration and Leadership Development. He has held several positions within government at the senior policy as well as administrative levels and has led the development of several sector area policies. In his current capacity, he provides technical and policy proposals and recommendations to support and implement the spatial data management goals of the government; and has led the implementation of several enterprise level WebGIS projects, including the development of a parish-based Disaster Risk Information Platform and a geospatial data post disaster assessment mobile tool.

Mr. Richards will moderate Opening Ceremony and Session 2A "Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part A: Before Disasters]"; provide keynote presentation in Session 1 "Strategic Framework on geospatial information and services for disasters" and Session 4 "The Future we want"; and participate as a panellist in Session 3 "Potential areas of collaboration between UN-GGIM Framework, Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Peter Tiangco



Co-Chair WG-Disasters, and Administrator of the National Mapping & Resource Information Agency, Philippines.

Dr. Peter Nilo Tiangco is the Administrator of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority of the Republic of the Philippines. He has more than thirty years of experience in space technology applications to natural resource development planning, and development and management highlighted by extensive field practice, research, technical training and specialized skills in geospatial information technology. He held numerous positions in international organizations and government agencies where he developed expertise in hydrography and oceanography, land use planning, ecotourism project planning and forest



resource management. At present, he holds a leadership post in the Working Group on Disasters of the UN Committee of Experts in Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) as its co-chair.

Dr. Tiangco will provide welcome remarks at the Opening Ceremony; will provide keynote presentation in Session 1 “Strategic Framework on geospatial information and services for disasters” and Session 3 “Potential areas of collaboration between UN-GGIM Framework, Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”; and will moderate Session 4 “The Future we want”;

Louis Brown,



Chair, Working Group on Geospatial Information for Climate Change and Disasters, UN-GGIM Americas. Secretary General – VROMI Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure, Sint Maarten

Louis Brown holds a Bachelor’s degree in Architectural Design from the University of Florida and a Propaedeutic Degree in Dutch Law from the University of the Netherlands Antilles, and has had significant trainings in Public Management and Policy at the Open University of the Netherlands. Louis has 24 years of experience with the Government of Sint Maarten, in various policy functions in the areas of housing, spatial planning and environment. In the last 12 years Louis has held executive positions within the Government of Sint Maarten, such as the Director of the Bureau of Programs and Projects, the Director of Management Support Services, and since 2010 when Sint Maarten became a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands he is the Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure, with the Dutch acronym VROMI. The Ministry of VROMI, is one of the critical Emergency Support Functions, namely that of Public Works within the Disaster Management Team of Sint Maarten. Under the guidance of Louis, VROMI is the lead agency responsible for advancing the Geospatial Information Management agenda for Sint Maarten, and as such Louis is the representative of Sint Maarten in UNGGIM Americas.

Mr. Brown will participate as a panellist in Session 1 “Strategic Framework on geospatial information and services for disasters”.

Ratan Kumar Goswami



Deputy Director (Survey), Survey of Bangladesh (SOB)

Presently Mr. Goswami is in-charge of Digital Section of No.1 Cartography Office of Survey of Bangladesh. Mr. Goswami is monitoring and supervising the digital cartographic work like digitization, symbolization, editing and generalization etc. according to GIS specification. In the field season Mr. Goswami carried out the responsibility of “Officer in Charge” for supervising 1:25,000 scale base map and 1:5,000 scale city map survey. He also carried out GPS/GNSS survey, Total Station survey and Boundary Demarcation survey as per requirement.

Mr. Goswami will participate as a panellist in Session 2B “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part B: During Disasters]”, Session 2C “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part C: After Disasters]” and Session 4 “The future we want”.



Robert Harewood



Deputy Director, Department of Emergency Management, Government of Barbados

Captain Harewood, who is a Commissioned Officer in the Barbados Regiment (Reserve), Barbados Defence Force, is the Acting Deputy Director at the Disaster of Emergency Management (DEM). He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology and Psychology from the University of the West Indies, a Master of Science Degree in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management from the University of Leicester and a Professional Diploma in Project Management from Cambridge University. He is also a Certified Business Continuity Manager. Captain Harewood has professional training and certification in Damage Assessment & Needs Analysis, Urban Search & Rescue, Incident Command, and Emergency Operations Centre operations. Captain Harewood has been directly involved in the disaster management field for 14 years. During that time he was employed on a 4-year contract term with the British Virgin Islands' Department of Disaster Management as the Programme Manager for the territories' Community Preparedness Programme; as consultant with the Barbados Ministry of Tourism to help establish their Emergency Operations Centre and develop Tourism Sector Emergency Plans; and a 2-year contract assignment at the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency in its Preparedness and Response Programme – with responsibility for the coordination the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU), as well as Regional Plan development and exercising. At the DEM, Captain Harewood has had responsibility for, amongst other things, the Emergency Operations Centre Management, Plan Development and Review, Exercising, Training and Mass Crowd Planning.

Mr. Harewood will participate as a panellist in Session 2C “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part C: After Disasters]”

Alvaro Monett Hernandez



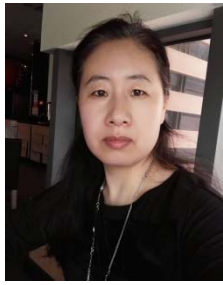
Executive Secretary, SNIT, Chile

Alvaro Monett Hernandez is Geographer from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and serves as Executive Secretary of the National System for Territorial Information Coordination (SNIT) established in the Ministry of National Assets of Chile. This government initiative, created by Supreme Decree, aims to implement the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). Within the Executive Secretariat of SNIT, Mr. Monett coordinates four areas of work: sectorial and regional coordination; information and standards; technology and development, and institutional strengthening. Over the past two years he has been involved in the formulation of a national policy for geospatial information and a law project for the national geospatial infrastructure. Internationally, Mr. Monett plays the role of Vice President in the regional chapter of the United Nations initiative for Global Geospatial Information Management, UN-GGIM: Americas, and also acts as coordinator of the working group on SDI promotion and assessment.

Mr. Monett will participate as a panellist in Session 2A “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part A: Before Disasters]” and Session 2C “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part C: After Disasters]”.



Quanhong Zheng



Head of GeoDatabase Department, Sichuan Geomatics Center, NASG, China

Quanhong Zheng is an Advanced GIS Engineer, works for Sichuan Bureau of Surveying Mapping and Geoinformation. She has rich experience in geodatabase management and GIS emergency service for disasters. Quanhong Zheng was graduated from International Institute For Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) In 2003 where she got a GIS Master of Science degree. She has a half year working experience with UN Cartographic Section as a fellow in 2014.

Ms. Zheng will participate as a panellist in Session 2B “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part B: During Disasters]”.

Akapusi Tuifagalele



Director for the Disaster Management Office, Fiji

Mr. Akapusi Tuifagalele is a career civil servant and rose through the Fiji Government ranks to become the Director, National Disaster Management Office. Prior to this appointment, he was the Executive Director for the Fiji National Road Safety Council. He has numerous years spent in the disaster management field and he is the current architect of Fiji’s Natural Disaster Management Act. Mr Tuifagalele attained a Bachelor of Science degree at the Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia and later a Master of Business Administration at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji.

Mr. Tuifagalele will participate as a panellist in Session 2A “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part A: Before Disasters]”.

Mark Codling



GIS Infrastructure Manager, National Spatial Data Management Division, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Jamaica

Mark A. Codling serves as GIS Infrastructure Manager within the National Spatial Data Management Division of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation in Jamaica, with responsibility for Enterprise GIS Solutions for the government of Jamaica. Mr. Codling holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of the Technology, Jamaica, a Certificate in Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment from ITC, Netherlands and is (USAID) certified in conducting Initial Damage Assessment. He recently completed his Masters in Disaster Management from the University of Auckland, New Zealand with a specialization in Transport Infrastructure Resilience. He has implemented WebGIS projects across several public sector organizations in Jamaica in the areas of electric utility, land management, social development, disaster and emergency management. Mr. Codling has been working to address the technological issues involved in the development of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Jamaica, using geospatial technology to create a framework for data sharing and access to improve decision making capabilities within the public and private sectors.

Mr. Codling will participate as a panellist in Session 2C “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part C: After Disasters]”.



Carlos Valdés



Director General of the National Center for Disaster Prevention, Mexico

Geophysical Engineer from the National University of Mexico

MC and PhD in Geophysics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA.

Senior researcher at the Department of Seismology, Institute of Geophysics, at the National University of México.

Responsible of the National Seismic Network of Mexico.

Director of the National Disaster Prevention Center of México.

Mr. Valdés will provide keynote presentation in Session 2A “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part A: Before Disasters]”

Francisco Javier Jimenez Nava



Deputy Director General of Natural Resources and Environment, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico

He is a Geological Engineer graduated from the National Polytechnic Institute; he has done Master in Science studies in Geology in the Graduate Studies Section of the School of Engineering and Architecture; as well as a Diploma in Remote Sensing in Codazzi Bogota, Colombia; Diploma in Electronic Government at the Technological Institute and Higher Studies of Monterrey, he is also a graduate of the Lead International Program, cohort 13.

Currently holds is the Deputy Director General of Natural Resources and Environment; in the National Institute of Statistic and Geography (INEGI), previously he held various positions and responsibilities in the areas of Geology and Hydrology as part of the Natural Resources Mapping in the same agency.

He has participated in several projects, including the generation of methodologies for Geology and Ground and Surface Water Mapping; in the digitization of analogic Natural Resources Mapd, and the elaboration of documents for standards in the production of geospatial data for Mexico. Some projects with international scope include the Environmental Atlas of North America and the North America Land Cover Monitoring System, cooperating with the United States Geological Survey and Natural Resources Canada.

Mr. Jimenez Nava will participate as a panellist in Session 2B “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part B: During Disasters]”.

Efren P. Carandang



Deputy Administrator, National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic of the Philippines

Mr. Efren Carandang is an adviser on the implementation of National Spatial Data Infrastructure, the Philippine Geoportal Project, and various geospatial initiatives on disaster risk reduction and management in the Philippines. He is a member of the Task Team that developed the UN-GGIM Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters. Mr. Carandang also oversees the implementation of various environment and natural resources mapping activities such as land classification, land cover, coastal resource, and other thematic mapping work. He is also working on maritime boundaries and Law of the Sea issues.

Mr. Carandang will moderate Session 2B “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part B: During Disasters]”



K. D. Parakum Shantha



Deputy Surveyor General, Sri Lanka Survey Department

Mr. Parakum Shantha is a highly acclaimed professional in surveying sciences both as a practitioner and a trainer. Having graduated from the University of Colombo after completing B.Sc. (Honors) degree in 1983, Mr. Parakum Shantha pursued a post graduate diploma in Surveying Sciences at the Institute of Surveying and Mapping, Diyatalawa, Sri Lanka. In 1993 he obtained M.Sc. in Geo-Informatics from ITC, The Netherland and got Diploma in Management for professionals in 2008 from Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration. Mr. Parakum Shantha is a member of the Surveyors' Institute of Sri Lanka. Mr. Parakum Shantha served as a Lecturer at the Institute of Surveying and Mapping, Diyatalawa, Sri Lanka. He also serve as Visiting Lecturer in Surveying, Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing for the B.Sc. and M.Sc. Courses in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. He has 30 years experiences in the Sri Lanka Survey Department and presently work as Deputy Surveyor General in Information Technology.

Mr. Shantha will participate as a panellist in Session 2A "Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part A: Before Disasters]".

Arturo López-Portillo



Director of Disaster Risk Reduction and Transport, Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

Arturo López-Portillo Contreras is a civil engineer. He is Mexican and has 31 years of experience in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in North, Central and South America, the Caribbean Region, Africa, the Indian Ocean and Asia. Mr. López-Portillo has worked as staff, or as a consultant, for several regional and international organisations such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the World Bank, UNDP Barbados and OECS, UNDP Seychelles, UNDP Nepal, UNDP Ethiopia, OCHA Nepal, the Disaster Programme of the UN Pan American Health Organization for Barbados and OECS, and in projects funded by OAS, CIDA, DFID, USAID, CTO, AusAID, EU, etc. Besides worked for 10 years in DRM for his own government, Mr. López-Portillo worked for three years in the National Emergency Management Office in Saint Lucia; one year and a half in the National Disaster Management Agency in Grenada, and a year and a half in the Department of Risk and Disaster Management of the Seychelles Islands. He is familiar with Small Islands Developing States' characteristics, capabilities, needs and challenges regarding Disaster Risk Management. Currently, Mr. López-Portillo is the Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States. He is based in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Arturo López-Portillo will participate as a panellist in Session 2B "Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part B: During Disasters]"

Ronald Jackson



Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

Mr. Ronald Jackson assumed the post of Executive Director CDEMA on April 3, 2013. Prior this appointment, Mr Jackson served in the capacity of Director General of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) in Jamaica, a position he held since August 2006 until March 2013. He previously served ODPEM as Deputy Director General, Senior Director of the Preparedness and Operations Division and as Regional Coordinator for the Southern parishes. Mr. Jackson has been extensively involved in disaster management at the national, regional and international level in various capacities. At the national level, he



lent his expertise to the coordination of the national response to the impact of Hurricanes Charlie, Ivan (2004); Dennis and Emily (2005); Tropical Depression 16 and subsequently Tropical Storm Nicole (2010) and most recently Hurricane Sandy (2012). He has been instrumental in the development of the Guidelines for Child-Friendly Disaster Management and Response, Reinstatement of the ODPEM Dedicated Communication Network and Revision of the Emergency Welfare Plan. In 2010 Mr. Jackson received a Certificate of Commendation from the Caribbean Community for his contribution to the rescue and recovery efforts in the aftermath of the January 2010 Haiti Earthquake. Mr. Jackson also served as a member of CDEMA's Technical Advisory Committee, President of the IDB Caribbean Policy Dialogue Forum, the co-chair for the Inter American Network for Disaster Management and represented the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Member States on the Hyogo Framework for Action Mid-Term Review Committee and Post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action Committee. Mr. Jackson holds a Master of Science Degree (M.Sc.) in Natural Resource Management and Environmental Resource Management from the University of the West Indies and a Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc.) in Physical Planning and Environmental Resource Development from the University of Technology. He recently achieved a Masters Certificate in Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting.

Mr. Jackson will provide keynote presentation in Session 2C "Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part C: After Disasters]"

Cecille Blake



Team Member, United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations.

Cecille joined the United Nations Statistics Division in August 2012. Before joining the United Nations she served as the National GIS Coordinator/Senior Director of the National Spatial Data Management Division, Government of Jamaica for 15 years. In Jamaica she led the development and management of Jamaica's Spatial Data Infrastructure. Cecille previously worked at the then Survey Department in the Land Information System Unit in various capacities. She has a first degree from the University of the West Indies –Mona in Geography and Social Sciences, post graduate work in GIS with specialisation in Land Information Systems from ITC in the Netherlands and a MSc in Management Information Systems from the University of the West Indies Mona.

Ms. Blake will moderate Session 3 "Potential areas of collaboration between UN-GGIM Framework, Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and will participate as a panellist in Session 1 "Strategic Framework on geospatial information and services for disasters".

Kyoung Soo Eom



Chief UNGIS (former Cartographic Section), United Nations, UN-GGIM Secretariat

Mr. Kyoung-Soo Eom has been serving as Chief of the Geospatial Information (former Cartographic) Section since 2005 in the United Nations. The Section supports geospatial information needs of the Security Council and the UN Secretariat including UN field missions. It provides GIS services to Security Council members, decision makers, political analysts, information managers, planning & operation teams, humanitarian affairs, economic & social affairs, safety & security and logisticians with a wide array of geospatial services. The Section is also providing support to the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), as co-Secretariat including the UN-GGIM Working Group Meeting on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters.

Mr. Eom will moderate Session 1 "Strategic Framework on geospatial information and services for disasters".



Keiko Saito



Disaster Risk Management Specialist, GFDRR, The World Bank Group

Dr. Keiko Saito is a Disaster Risk Management Specialist at the Innovation Lab, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the World Bank Group. She specializes in the application of geospatial data for disaster risk management. She brings with her more than 15 years of experience in this field. Her current primary focus is the standardization and mainstreaming of the use of remotely sensed data and other geospatial tools for effective risk assessment and management throughout the disaster cycle from preparedness through to recovery and reconstruction. Prior to joining the Bank, she has been working in multidisciplinary risk management/assessment teams at Cambridge Architectural Research Ltd as a Director, as Willis Research Fellow and as a Senior Research Associate at the Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge. A native of Japan, she has a PhD on the use of remotely sensed data for post-earthquake damage assessment from University of Cambridge, UK.

Dr. Saito will moderate Session 2C “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part C: After Disasters]” and participate as a panellist in Session 2A “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part A: Before Disasters]” and Session 3 “Potential areas of collaboration between UN-GGIM Framework, Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Tyler Radford



Executive Director, Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

Tyler currently serves as Executive Director of the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (known as "HOT"). He joined HOT in April 2015 after 12 years leading diverse, people-focused, technology and data-enabled projects across the public, private, nonprofit, and international humanitarian sectors for organizations such as the American Red Cross, Save the Children, the United Nations Secretariat, and for Fortune 500 firms as a private sector consultant with Deloitte Consulting. In his role at HOT, Tyler oversees a team of 22 staff deployed globally and works to engage and coordinate the efforts of thousands of HOT disaster mapping volunteers for projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to joining HOT, Tyler led the American Red Cross Hurricane Sandy (New York) community disaster recovery strategy development and implementation and directed a team of community recovery specialists engaging affected residents and community organizations on the ground. Before joining the Red Cross, Tyler worked in a number of post-disaster and community development contexts in the U.S. and internationally. He taught in Metropolitan College of New York's Emergency Management Program, and developed training curriculum in religious and cultural competency in disaster for the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. Radford will provide keynote presentation in Session 2B “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part B: During Disasters]” and participate as a panellist in Session 2A “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part A: Before Disasters]”.

Alan Mills



Preparedness Coordinator, MapAction

Alan Mills is a geographer from the UK who consults on national GIS policy and practice, environmental and land issues, particularly in small island developing states. He was the national GIS officer in the British Virgin Islands for two years. He has been a volunteer with MapAction for 12 years, is now a director of the charity and is their preparedness coordinator. He has deployed on 10 emergency missions and many training and preparedness missions



aiming to build international and national capacity in emergency response information management

Mr. Mills will participate as a panellist in Session 2C “Experiences, practices, approaches and challenges [Part C: After Disasters]”.

Scott Simmons



Executive Director of the Standards Program, OGC

Mr. Simmons leads the OGC Standards Program. In this role, he coordinates member-driven standards development activities and ensures that all OGC standards progress through the organization’s consensus process to approval and publication. Preceding his time as a member of the OGC staff, Mr. Simmons was an active member of OGC, promoting best practices in 3D Information Management (3DIM) as chair and chairing or participating in numerous OGC infrastructure, mobility, and web services working groups. His OGC-related research has focused on data lifecycle management, integration, and dissemination. Prior to joining OGC, Mr. Simmons was the Chief Technology Officer for TechniGraphics continuing after its acquisition by CACI. Mr. Simmons started his career in 1988 as a petroleum geologist where he leveraged the practical application of geospatial technology. Mr. Simmons has also served as an Adjunct Professor at the College of Wooster, on several Advisory Boards, and as a subject matter expert for seminars at universities and conferences around the World. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Texas and a Master of Science degree in Geology from Southern Methodist University.

Mr. Simmons will provide keynote presentation in Session 1 “Strategic Framework on geospatial information and services for disasters” and participate as a panellist in Session 3 “Potential areas of collaboration between UN-GGIM Framework, Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Valrie Grant



President, URISA Caribbean Chapter, Managing Director – GeoTechVision

Valrie is the founder and Managing Director of GeoTechVision. She is a certified GIS professional with over 15 years of experience in Geospatial Sciences and over 8 years’ experience as an entrepreneur. She is the current president of the Caribbean Urban Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) Chapter, a board member for URISA International, a member of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Americas Caribbean Project Technical Committee. She is an accredited facilitator by the World Bank/ Infodev Women Innovators Network in the Caribbean (WINC) Accelerator Program. She is chair of the Guyana Small Business Bureau and the current president of Women Entrepreneurs Network (WENC) Guyana Chapter. Valrie has received several recognitions and awards including the Jamaica GIS Entrepreneur Award (2012), The URISA Caribbean Chapter Leadership Award (2012), The National Commercial Bank’s “Women in Business” Award, 2013, Business Excellence Forum Female Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2015, Jamaica Chamber of Commerce Young Entrepreneur , 2014 and Commonwealth Woman Entrepreneur of the Year , 2015. She now serves as brand ambassador for commonwealth Businesswomen.

Ms. Grant will provide welcome remarks at the Opening Ceremony; and participate as a panellist in Session 4 “The Future we want”

