

## ■ **Background Document: Report of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific**

### **1. Summary**

1. This report highlights the activities carried out by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) since the Sixth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) held from 1-5 August 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The report also proposes the priority issues of the Asia and the Pacific Region for consideration by the Committee of Experts.

### **2. Background**

2. UN-GGIM-AP was established on 1 November 2012 on the basis of the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP), in accordance with the Resolution adopted at the Nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP).
3. According to the ECOSOC Resolution on “Strengthening Institutional Arrangements on Geospatial Information Management”, the Committee operates under the purview of UN-GGIM and submits its reports and recommendations to UN-GGIM.

### **3. Objectives**

4. UN-GGIM-AP inherits exactly the same mission and membership as those of PCGIAP, and aims to prompt globally the unique needs and interests of the region as the representing body of the National Geospatial Information Authorities of 56 countries and regions in Asia and the Pacific while cooperating with other regional and global entities.

### **4. Activities**

#### **4.1 Contribution to UN-GGIM**

5. UN-GGIM-AP has operated effectively and in line with the mandate given by UN-GGIM, contributing to its activities and producing tangible outputs.
6. UN-GGIM-AP supported the implementation of the ECOSOC resolution “Strengthening Institutional Arrangements on Geospatial Information Management” (27 July 2016). At the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, the amendments to the Statutes of UN-GGIM-AP were adopted in accordance with this resolution.
7. UN-GGIM-AP supported and contributed to the UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Framework for Geospatial Information held in conjunction with the Fifth Plenary of UN-GGIM-AP from 16-20 October 2017 in Kuala Lumpur,

Malaysia. At the Forum, adopted was the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information.

8. UN-GGIM-AP actively participated in the work of the Expanded UN-GGIM Bureau, and supported UN-GGIM capacity building efforts.
9. UN-GGIM-AP substantively supported the UN-GGIM WG on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data with regional activities of SDI interoperation.
10. UN-GGIM-AP shared regional status and best practices of disaster risk management with UN-GGIM WG on Disasters, and contributed to the global consultation on “Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters”.
11. UN-GGIM-AP continued its contribution to the development of GGRF Roadmap, and has been engaged in the establishment of UN-GGIM Sub-committee on Geodesy.
12. UN-GGIM-AP participated in the activities of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Working Group on Geospatial Information.
13. UN-GGIM-AP supported the Kunming Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the overarching theme “Cities of the Future: Smart, Resilient and Sustainable” held from 10-12 May 2017 in Kunming, China.

#### **4.2 Working Group Activities**

14. **Working Group 1 on Geodetic Reference Frame** aims to support Asia and Pacific countries to respond to the General Assembly Resolution on A Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) for Sustainable Development, and to facilitate regional geodetic cooperation and capacity development.
15. To improve access to the GGRF while also supporting regional geodetic cooperation within the Asia Pacific region: an additional GNSS CORS site from Thailand is now contributing data to the APREF GNSS network; preparations are also underway to reprocess the APREF data archive using the IGS14 reference frame.
16. The ongoing coordination of the regional GNSS campaign - Asia Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP). Having collected data from 8 member countries, the APRGP2016 campaign is in the process of data assembly and analysis. APRGP 2017 Campaign is currently being planned.
17. WG1 continued its contribution to the Asia-Pacific Geodetic Capacity Building (APGCB) Project through organizing joint workshops and seminars.
18. WG1 held the Forum on Geospatial and GNSS CORS Infrastructure in collaboration with FIG and JUPEM from 16 - 17 October 2016 alongside the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary of UN-GGIM-AP in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
19. WG1 continued to support the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC) including assisting with the development of their strategic plan.

20. WG1 will hold a technical seminar jointly with FIG, IAG, Japan Federation of Surveyors, IGC and Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) from 29-30 July 2017 before the IAG-IASPEI 2017 in Kobe, Japan.
21. **Working Group 2 on Disaster Risk Management** aims to enhance the capability of NGIAs in Asia and the Pacific region to leverage geospatial information for disaster risk reduction, so as to promote the effective implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).
22. WG2 finalized and published the result report of the first questionnaires survey on the present roles of disaster management authorities and NGIAs in the Asia and the Pacific region, as well as the first Best Practices collection. WG2 also shared the reports with UN-GGIM WG-Disasters.
23. WG2 carried on the second survey on Best Practices based on the analysis results of the NGIAs' best practices. The feedback assembly and results analysis are underway.
24. WG2 is examining the scheme and outline of the guideline for elaboration based on the Best Practice survey.
25. **Working Group 3 on Regional SDI** aims to investigate and assess the status of NSDI development of the member countries in the Asia and Pacific region, and to identify the common data and service standards for regional SDI interoperation.
26. WG3 continued to receive and analyze the responses to the questionnaire on the status of NSDI development of the member countries.
27. WG3 established a pilot portal for Regional SDI Service Interoperation, which can integrate on-line services released by different agencies and countries based on OGC standards. Users can apply the newly developed functions of adding map layers to overlay their own maps with the data from the SDI.
28. WG3 shared the activities and achievements of UN-GGIM-AP WG3 in regional SDI interoperation with the UN-GGIM WG on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data.
29. WG3 will hold an International Seminar on Construction and Application of Spatial Data Infrastructure from Sept. 15-22, 2017 in Beijing and Wuhan, China), in conjunction with the ISPRS 2017 Geospatial Week from Sept. 18-22, 2017 in Wuhan, China).
30. **Working Group 4 on Cadastre and Land Management** aims to promote land administration framework and good practices for the Asia and Pacific region. Main work steps are to identify land issues in the region, propose affordable framework and good practices for the region, and disseminate good practices and enhance training and capacity development.
31. WG4 carried on the first and second surveys to investigate the cultural, social, administrative and technical environments of the countries in the Asia and Pacific region. The analysis report has been completed.

32. WG4 carried out case study on Korea's land information system construction, and proposed the draft report of land management framework based on the analysis.
33. WG4 held a workshop on Fit-For-Purpose and Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) to share good practices and promote the capacity building of land management in the Asia and Pacific region on 17 October 2016, alongside the 5<sup>th</sup> UN-GGIM-AP Plenary.

#### **4.3 Publicity and Outreach**

34. The UN-GGIM-AP website<sup>1</sup> is kept updated with the activities of the Committee and its four Working Groups.
35. The Fifth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP was held in conjunction with the UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Framework for Geospatial Information. The meeting documents and technical reports can be found at both the UN-GGIM-AP website and the UN-GGIM website<sup>2</sup>.

### **5. Partnership, Regional and International Collaboration**

36. UN-GGIM-AP continues to build partnerships with regional and international organizations through participation to the various meetings at regional and global levels and exchange of experience and best practices.
37. UN-GGIM-AP continues to maintain close relationships with other liaison organizations including FIG, ISO/TC211, ISPRS, IAG and ICA through jointly organizing workshops and forums, and participation in the meetings.

### **6. Regional Priority Issues**

38. During the current three-year term of activities until 2018, UN-GGIM-AP is focusing its work on four topics as the priority issues in the AP region, i.e. (1) Geodetic reference framework, (2) Disaster risk management, (3) Regional SDI, and (4) Cadastre and land management. Working Groups set up on these topics have made efforts to share data and best practices as well as to facilitate the capacity building. The Working Groups have also been liaising with the relevant working groups of the Committee of Experts in order to make synergistic outcomes.
39. In addition to these four topics, UN-GGIM-AP is conscious of the fundamental need of capacity building in the region. Meeting such need is particularly important in the Asia Pacific region due to the inhomogeneity in the stage of geospatial infrastructure development among the member countries, nearly 70% of which are developing countries and small island states. UN-GGIM-AP, therefore, seeks every opportunity of providing quality seminars and training programmes that are available to the member countries. The successful results of the two UN-GGIM-AP WG workshops held in October 2016 indicate the progress made by UN-GGIM-AP in this task. UN-GGIM-AP has further scheduled a series of workshops and seminars in the next half

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://ggim.un.org/Kuala%20Lumpur%20Forum.html>

of 2017. The 6<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP will draw attention on the Kumamoto case of disaster management, which will be a good opportunity for capacity building on disaster issues in the region.

40. The UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Framework for Geospatial Information produced tangible results including the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information. It is time that we move forward based on the Declaration to consider establishing WG on this topic, develop related strategy and plan of action to begin the advocacy and engagement process, and contribute to developing member states' capacity on this topic.
41. UN-GGIM-AP will continue to promote multilateral collaboration to facilitate inclusive exchange of information, knowledge and experience so as to implement priorities and address challenges at all levels.

## **7. Future Plans**

42. The following meetings of UN-GGIM-AP are scheduled:
  - i. International Seminar on Construction and Application of Spatial Data Infrastructure (Beijing/Wuhan, China, 15-22 September 2017)
  - ii. The Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP (Kumamoto, Japan, 17-19 October 2017)
43. UN-GGIM-AP will continue to actively contribute to the work of the UN-GGIM and take necessary actions upon requests by the Committee of Experts.