

Regional Workshop on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)

*Geospatial Foundations for Africa's Development, Innovation
and Resilience*

Partnership and role of Academic Network

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17-21 November 2025



Workshop on United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) ahead of the
Eleventh Session of the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Africa
(UN-GGIM Africa)

- **Need for Improved Participation of Geospatial Capacity Building Institutions in UNGGIM Academic Network**
- **Capacity building requirements and role of academic network**
 - **Joint Education Programmes and Networks**



UN-GGIM Academic Network

<https://unggim.academicnetwork.org/>

- The Academic Network of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) is a coalition of recognized universities and research and education centers involved in research, development and education on geospatial, land information and related matters, run on a volunteer basis.
- The Network's primary objective is to support the aims and objectives of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) by facilitating access globally to research and education capabilities for UN-GGIM and its affiliated members to identify and respond to challenges and opportunities for UN-GGIM and related UN offices.



UN-GGIM Academic Network

- The Network's membership includes Members and Associate Members, and **there is no fee for membership.**
- The Members are universities, academic institutions, or research centers, headquartered in the nations that are part of the United Nations, where geospatial information research and/or education are accomplished with an established track record and that want to voluntarily collaborate with the UN-GGIM.
- The Associate Members are internationally recognized, non-academic/research entities, for example academic publishers and education divisions/centers of companies, who wish to participate in and/or contribute to the Network and whose business or operation is relevant to the aspects of education and research in the areas of interest of the UN-GGIM, with an established track record. Associate members participate fully in the discussions and activities of the Network but do not have the right to vote and are not eligible for any position of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board.



UN-GGIM Academic Network

The Network aims to assist with the development and management of global geospatial information and promote its use to address key global challenges by:

- Serving as a strategic academic arm for the UN-GGIM and its related organizations and affiliated members in achieving their visions and goals;
- Providing academic counsel and guidance to the UN-GGIM concerning strategic knowledge, research, education and training and its geospatial information education and capacity building programs, by identifying and informing knowledge gaps or problems that may exist or arise and proposing initiatives as appropriate to address them;
- Providing a forum for coordination and dialogue among academics and researchers from the geospatial information management community to advance activities related to competencies and qualifications needed for the administration, management, and use of geospatial information, and to identify and respond to challenges and opportunities in which UN-GGIM and related members can achieve their visions;



UN-GGIM Academic Network

- Providing a communication platform for member countries to bring to the attention of the Network's key problems, needs, and areas of research that are of high interest to local, national, and regional organizations, and for the Network to share the needs of member countries to its members to develop solutions;
- Building capacities by developing an inventory of international education programs open to and recommended for UN-GGIM actors, reporting state-of-the-art research and academic competence trends on global geospatial information, writing white papers on any related topics, and offering education and training in those fields;
- Undertaking activities that promote and foster collaboration between universities and research groups at both national and international levels, including identifying and addressing common research topics and overarching trends; and



UN-GGIM Academic Network

- Encouraging members to undertake work that can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN and other areas as appropriate, including access to land and property rights, ownership, land degradation, rapid urbanization, and climate change, in coordination with other expert entities.
- The network is also supporting educational institutions with provision of free and open source educational materials: <https://unggim.academicnetwork.org/educational-material/>





Global Map of UN-GGIM Academic Network Members

Source: <https://unggim.academicnetwork.org/members/> Last updated July 26, 2025



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UN-GGIM Academic Network: Membership as at 26th July 2025

- 80 Members and 3 Associate Members
- 10 out of the 80 members are in Africa:
 - Burkina Faso 1
 - Egypt 1
 - Nigeria 5
 - Ghana 1
 - Namibia 1
 - South Africa 1



S/N	Country	University / Institute	Primary Point of Contact
1	Burkina Faso	<u>Ecole Superieure Polytechnique de la Jeunesse</u>	TRAORE Sekou
2	Egypt	<u>Benha University</u>	Ayman Elshehaby
3	Ghana	<u>University of Ghana</u>	Alex Barimah Owusu
4	Namibia	<u>Namibia University of Science and Technology</u>	Oluibukun Ajayi
5	Nigeria	<u>African Regional Institute of Geospatial Information Sciences and Technologies</u>	Lazarus Mustapha Ojigi
6	Nigeria	<u>Ahmadu Bello University</u>	Adamu Ahmed
7	Nigeria	<u>Federal School of Surveying</u>	Olufemi Felix Iyiola
8	Nigeria	<u>Obafemi Awolowo University</u>	Nathaniel Olugbade Adeoye
9	Nigeria	<u>University of Lagos</u>	Muyiwa Agunbiade
10	South Africa	<u>University of Pretoria</u>	Christel Hansen

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Capacity building requirements and role of academic network



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The education and training programmes required for sustainable development should be geared towards the following four levels:

- (a) **High-level policy-makers:** which can be achieved through short-term workshops in the fundamental as well as institutional aspects of geospatial information;
- (b) **Management and Professional staff:** New employees in this category should be already educated in the modern technology while opportunities must be also provided for mid-career training and retraining of those already in employment to broaden their outlook and keep up to date on modern developments in geospatial information;
- (c) **Technical Support Staff:** Education and training/retraining of technicians and technologists for efficient production, management and use of geospatial information; and
- (d) **General Public:** through mass media and public lectures on the use and benefits of geospatial information.

Kufoniyi, O. (2004). Problem of curriculum development for geoinformation technology in Africa. In: Ayeni, O. O., Nwilo, P. C., Omojola, A. & Olaleye, J. B. (Eds.) *Geoinformation for Sustainable Development in Africa* (pp. 85-94), African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)



Joint Education Programmes and Networks

- South-South network
- North-South network



Joint Education Programmes and Networks

- The south-south joint education network is limited to collaboration among two or more institutions of learning in the less developed countries (LDCs) carrying out joint research and training programmes thereby sharing facilities.
- The collaboration can be among institutions that are located in the same country (intra-national) or in different countries (international) but only in developing countries, African countries in this case.
- E.g. AFRIGIST-FUTA, AFRIGIST-OAU, AFRIGIST (Nigeria)-AbomeyCalavi (Benin)



Joint Education Programmes and Networks

- The North-South joint education network involves the collaboration of one or more institution(s) in the LDCs (in an African country) and one or more institution(s) in the developed countries (outside Africa).
- This type of network has the advantage of regular update of curriculum including north-south staff and student exchange programmes.
- E.g. former ITC-RECTAS, RECTAS-GDTA, RECTAS-Clarke University



Joint education network will contribute to rapid national and regional development by:

- Providing qualified graduates for immediate productivity.
- Retraining existing personnel for improved productivity and introduction of modern production techniques.
- Retraining academic staff so as to be able to modernize their curricula in line with modern trend.
- Significant saving in foreign exchange through efficient local training and reduced stay abroad.
- Assisting production organizations through well-equipped consultancy services.
- Multiplier effect resulting from the trainers in the programme training the others in their institutions thus leading to rapid increase in capacity.
- The network will also facilitate faster technology transfer by running part of the education programme in partner institutions, taking advantage of the strengths of the partners.

