

First Expert meeting of the UN-GGIM & IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information
with the theme “Advancing Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management”

Chiang Mai, Thailand
4 – 8 May 2026



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Agenda Item #13

Review of the Draft Vision, Mission, Workplan

Co-Chairs



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Vision and Mission






Vision: Trusted, interoperable marine geospatial information is accessible to all nations, fully integrated with national geospatial information infrastructures, and underpins the governance and sustainable management of oceans, seas, coasts, and inland waterways.

Mission: To enable and develop practical and tangible solutions and approaches to address policy, legal, technical, collaborative, and operational requirements to realize the value of accessible, interoperable and trusted marine geospatial information from sea to land.



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Updated Joint Workplan

Engagement & Coordination	Capacity Development	Standards & Interoperability	Innovation & Integration	Communication & Advocacy
				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strengthen strategic engagement across UN, IHO & global partners▪ Understand the global legal framework▪ Facilitate knowledge exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Create inventory of existing training resources▪ Assess current training needs▪ Develop core training syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Establish comprehensive metadata standards▪ Review & align IHO and UN-GGIM frameworks▪ Simplify standards for novice users	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Contribute to the IHO MGI Portal▪ Explore uses of AI in the maritime sector▪ Promote the interface between land & sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop & share supporting materials▪ Maintain & refresh web pages▪ Conduct JWGMGI meetings



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Engagement and Coordination

Goal	Representative Tasks	Potential Sub-Tasks
<p>Strengthen partnerships and global alignment for increased collaboration and institutional support</p>	<p>Strengthen strategic engagement and collaboration across UN, IHO, and global partners by mapping governance linkages and actively participating in key events to build institutional support</p>	<p>Identify and liaise with key strategic partners Map governance gaps and linkages to relevant organisations Participate in strategic events and create side events/ meetings as appropriate</p>
	<p>Understand the global legal framework and support as appropriate</p>	<p>Form Policy and Legal Task Group and engage with policy and legal communities and support Member States by analyzing global and national governance frameworks, identifying emerging issues, and providing guidance to strengthen institutional capacity Examine the role of integrated marine geospatial information management to support the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement</p>
	<p>Facilitate knowledge exchange to strengthen regional and global engagement by presenting national and regional MSDI initiatives and achievements</p>	<p>Member states to provide national reports and case studies (i.e. land/ sea interface. AI) at annual meetings Provide RHC MSDI Ambassador updates at annual meetings Create procedures for cooperation resource for RHC MSDI Ambassadors</p>



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Capacity Development and Inclusion

Goal	Representative Tasks	Potential Sub-Tasks
Enhance technical capacity and inclusivity across member states	Create inventory of existing training resources	Compile and maintain a catalogue of existing technical training programs, organized by duration, format, target audience, and technical level, to support user needs
	Assess member states' current training needs	Develop and distribute a training assessment questionnaire to identify current knowledge levels, pinpoint skill gaps, and prioritize future training requirements
	Develop a core training syllabus for effective marine geospatial information management to build consistent hydrographic capacity across Member States	Define common competency themes aligned with IHO standards (i.e. CAT-A, CAT-B)
		Explore existing materials to build upon and include "Train the Trainer" and AI integration modules



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Standards and Interoperability

Goal	Representative Tasks	Potential Sub-Tasks
Align frameworks and simplify standards to improve data consistency and accessibility	Establish comprehensive metadata standards and guidance for marine geospatial information, defining core elements, recommended schemas, and best practices	Form Metadata Task Group to finalize the Metadata Guidance Document, building on Singapore's previous work Explore opportunities for practical application of the guidance, perhaps via pilot project Engage the community by building a collaborative environment for metadata best practices
	Review and align IHO and UN-GGIM frameworks (e.g., C-17 and IGIF-Hydro) to establish a clear, sustainable approach for maintaining and updating working group documents	Form Document Management Task Group to begin alignment assessment Consider alignment/ incorporation of other existing frameworks (i.e. MSP tool box, OGC-UNGGIM-IHO Standards Guide) Update OGC-UNGGIM-IHO Standards Guide
	Simplify standards for novice users with various needs and make more AI-friendly	



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Innovation and Integration

Goal	Representative Tasks	Potential Sub-Tasks
<p>Drive innovation and integration by advancing technologies and tools that modernize marine geospatial information systems and enable seamless interoperability across diverse user needs</p>	<p>Contribute to the development and implementation of the IHO MGI Portal</p>	<p>Develop guidance document and standardize best practices for managing new and existing layers/ data in the IHO MGI Portal</p> <p>Explore additional layers that can be included in the IHO MGI Portal</p>
	<p>Explore and document existing and potential uses of AI in the maritime sector</p>	<p>Apply GeoAI and deep learning within marine geospatial information to model and predict dynamic environments</p> <p>Explore AI uses to help advance S-100 for non-navigation applications</p> <p>SDB data in shallow waters for non-navigation purposes</p>
	<p>Promote the interface between land and sea</p>	<p>Explore key issues affecting land/ sea integration (vertical datum, recommended datasets, etc.)</p>



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Communication and Advocacy

Goal	Representative Tasks	Potential Sub-Tasks
Promote awareness and outreach for increased visibility and stakeholder engagement	Develop and disseminate supporting materials that showcase JWGMGI expertise, foster information sharing, and strengthen collaborative relationships	Create marine geospatial information story maps to demonstrate the value of marine geospatial information Publish policy briefs
	Maintain and refresh web pages (updated workplan, ToR, publications etc.)	
	Conduct virtual and in-person meetings of JWGMGI, arrange adjacent open forum/ international seminar when possible	



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Review of Actions and Decisions

UN-GGIM and IHO Secretariat



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- **[Action]** IHO members to review the list of MSDI portals and provide an update to the Co-Chairs and the IHO Secretariat.
- **[Action]** The UN-GGIM Secretariat to share with, or inform, the IHO Secretariat of any information related to MGI to be posted on the IHO webpage for the IHO community.
- **[Decision]** The WG agreed that the metadata practice from Singapore for MGI shall serve as the baseline for the Metadata Guidance.
- **[Decision]** The WG approved the vision and mission proposed by the Co-Chairs, reflecting the UN-GGIM and IHO strategic directions, the WG's ToR, and taking into account comments and inputs received during the meeting.
- **[Decision]** The WG approved the updated Joint Work Programme for 2026–2029.



Agenda Item #14

Election of the Co-Chairs

UN-GGIM and IHO Secretariat



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Agenda Item #15

Reporting to Respective Governing Bodies

UN-GGIM and IHO Secretariat

- Points for Discussion for JWGMGI report to UN-GGIM CoE – UN-GGIM Secretariat
- UN-GGIM IGIF Summary – UN-GGIM Secretariat



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Next steps, summary, and close

Logistics

- Next meeting – UN-GGIM and IHO Secretariat



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