Welcome to UN-GGIM Academic Network Side-Event

At the UN-GGIM 11th Session

Event Background

- With the advance of new geospatial, information and communication, and education technologies such as massive online teaching and GeoAI, how to tailor education and training to meet the special needs of particular groups within society becomes an important area more than ever.

- The pandemic has disrupted typical education activities across the world. The transition to alternative ways of teaching has created challenges for both students and educators due to uneven implementation and unequal access to technologies, which requires innovative solutions to address likely new "norms".

- Building education capacities at various levels in different forms is certainly one fundamental way to develop solutions to support long-run sustainable development. This requires consultation of global educators, policy makers, trainees, and education contributors such as public and private practitioners, which the UN and its affiliated groups such as the academic network can play a leading role.

Purposes

- Share new experiences on building educational capacities;

- Discuss about what is needed and what is urgent for education and capacity building, and how the Academic Network can contribute; and

- Explore new education initiatives for effective geospatial information management and services through public-private-partnership collaboration

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Agenda

- Welcome
- Short presentation of the Network
- Innovation in Education
  - Prof. Serena Coetzee
- Panel with UN-GGIM Experts
  - 8 experts from UN-GGIM regional committees, WGs and other networks
- Questions from the floor
- Conclusions and final remarks

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Panel with UN GGIM Experts

1. What is needed, from the educational point of view, for facing the "novelties": geo big data (sensors and satellite) and machine learning. Which is the status of expertise in the governmental agencies and how we, as AN, can contribute?

2. Are you aware of support programs to train the trainers on the use of Earth Observation and geospatial technologies to achieve SDGs? Do you believe that there is a need for training material? In your experience, which are the ideal characteristics for such a kind of training material?

3. Do you believe that it is important to have a white paper with successful methodological guidelines for achieving SDGs? Have you already some material and are you interested in collaborating?

4. Which are the most urgent topics in the geospatial domain, where you see more relevant the actions of the AN?

5. Do you believe that an online catalogue of courses/training materials about geospatial information and SDGs can be useful? Are there resources (of any kind) you can put on this activity?

6. The pandemic has taught us that webinars and online training are feasible. Is there a need for UN GGIM members for these initiatives? Do you believe they can be successful? Which characteristics do you see as important for such initiatives?

7. We all know that for achieving SDGs collaboration is essential. In your UN-GGIM network/body, how do you stimulate collaboration? From your experience, what works well and what does not?

8. It should be important to have an overview of all available material/events (publications, workshops, and meetings) on "geospatial information and SDGs". What are you currently using to be informed about this topic?