

Webinar on Education and Capacity Building to support the Global Geospatial Information Management

06:00 a.m. to 07:45 a.m. New York (EDT/UTC-4), August 18, 2021

Concept Note

Background

The primary objective of the UN-GGIM Academic Network 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. One of its aims is to provide 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.

Since the establishment of the Network in 2016, it has successfully organized events during the 7th, 8th, and 9th UN-GGIM Sessions in New York. In this year, an online webinar will be organized before the 11th Session of UN-GGIM, with a theme on “Education and Capacity Building to support the Global Geospatial Information Management”.

Taking advantage of the opportunities offered by new geospatial and information and communication and education technologies such as massive online teaching and learning and GeoAI, how to tailor education and training to the special needs of particular groups within society becomes an important area more than ever. In addition, 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 educational 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, with which the UN and its affiliated groups can play a leading role.

This side event will get together the Academic Network members, key people from UN-GGIM regional committees and working groups, and other interested participants to explore gaps, challenges and opportunities facing education capacity building from a global perspective in the context of rapid advancement of related technologies.

Objectives

The side event aims at the following objectives through presentations, panel discussions and Q/A:

- 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

**United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Academic Network**

Provisional Agenda

Time	Topic	Speakers	
06:00 - 06:10	Welcome Presentation of the Network	Prof. Songnian Li	Ryerson University, Deputy Chair, UN-GGIM Academic Network
06:10 - 06:15	Innovation in Education	Prof. Ivana Ivánová	Curtin University, Secretary, UN-GGIM Academic Network
06:15 - 07:25	Expert Panel from across the global geospatial information community	Prof. Serena Coetzee	University of Pretoria Chair of the Regional UN-GGIM Africa Academic Network
07:25 - 07:40	Questions from the floor	Moderators: Prof. Maria A. Brovelli, Prof. Songnian Li	
07:40 - 07:45	Conclusions and final remarks		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Andre Nonguierma, UNECA and UN-GGIM Africa Secretariat• Dr. Paloma Merodio Gómez, Mexico and President of UN-GGIM Américas• Dr. Bandar Almuslimani, Saudi Arabia and Chair UN-GGIM Arab States• Dr. Adam Lewis, Geoscience Australia• Prof. Joep Cromptoets, KU Leuven and Chair of the Regional UN-GGIM Europe Academic Network• Ms. Michelle Edwards, Jamaica and Co-Chair of the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters• Mr. Alexandre Caldas, UN Environment Programme and Chair of the UN Geospatial Network• Mr. Kyoung-Soo Eom, UN Geospatial Information Section	

Registration Procedure and Connection Details

This webinar is open to all participants and no formal registration is required.

Please register to the seminar at this link:

https://ryerson.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4jz3pyAURjqzrZlOPfGVJw

To participate, please connect 5 minutes before the scheduled start time on Zoom. The information about registering and joining Zoom webinar will be made available through emails.

Organisers and Contact Details:

This side event is organised by the UN-GGIM Academic Network.

For further information, please contact us at unggimacademicnetwork@gmail.com.