



## Fifth Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM

### SIDE EVENT

# Improving Geospatial Information Policy, Processes and Services to support Emergency Response

Monday, August 3, 2015

2:00 pm - 3:45 pm

Venue: Conference Room B (CR-B)

United Nations, New York

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## Background

At the time of a crisis, all the geospatial information necessary to support decision making should be accessible from authoritative sources, of good quality so that all the stakeholders involved use the same geospatial information to ensure a common operational picture of the situation during the emergency response as well as the recovery and reconstruction phases.

The mechanisms and resources that would allow for the above to take place are generally not in place before a crisis happens. As a result, the many actors simultaneously engaged in the response are not only generating an important volume of concurrent and frequently overlapping geospatial information initiatives but their competing priorities, combined with a lack of coordination and collaboration, are also adding to the burden of the local institutions, which already have to deal with limited resources.

Recent large scale events, such as typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan (2013), Ebola outbreak (2014-2015) and complex emergency situation in Iraq, have exacerbated several issues pertaining to the collection, use and sharing of geospatial information which has emphasized the need to find solutions aiming at improving not only the availability, quality and accessibility of geospatial information but also the coordination and collaboration among all the stakeholders involved in the provision of geospatial information services and this at all levels of decision making and operations and across the whole emergency cycle.

In this context, the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), upon request by and consultation with the UN-GGIM Bureau, has launched a [project](#) to aim at identifying best practices and benchmark for improving effective geospatial information management during an emergency response, with the objective to develop and implement a strategic framework that would address the above mentioned issues.

***“This is an open workshop and all Session Attendees are invited”***



UN-GGIM

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The vision, mission, purpose, stakeholders/partners and core strategies defined in the preliminary version of the strategic framework document will help identifying potential gaps which, if addressed by the geospatial community (national, regional and global geospatial players, including UN-GGIM, UN agencies and NGOs), could improve quality, harmonization, coordination and collaboration to better support emergency response.

Please see the [Concept Note](#): Improving Geospatial Information Policy, Processes and Services to support Emergency Response.

## Draft Agenda:

Moderator: Mr. **Kyoung-Soo Eom**, Chief UN Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section) & UN-GGIM Secretariat

### 1. Keynote Presentation (20 minutes)

- Current situation (fact finding analysis) and Way forward (strategic framework):  
Mr. **Steve Ebener**, UN-GGIM Consultant and former WHO staff member

### 2. Panel Presentation (45 minutes)

#### • Lessons learned from recent events

- Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami (2011):  
Mr. **Hiroshi Murakami**, Director General of Planning Dept., Geospatial Information Authority (GSI), Japan
- Typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan (2013):  
Mr. **Efren P. Carandang**, Deputy Administrator, National Mapping & Resource Information Authority, Philippines
- Ebola outbreak (2014-2015):  
Mr. **Thomas Davis**, Head of GIS, Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), Liberia
- Capacity building on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for ASEAN countries:  
Mr. **Keran Wang**, Chief Space Application Section, UN-ESCAP
- Capacity building on space technology for developing countries:  
Mr. **Lorant Czarán**, Programme Officer, UN-OOSA/UN-SPIDER

### 3. Discussion and Conclusions (40 minutes)

- Moderated interactive discussion with participants

Updated: 29 July 2015

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