

Eighth Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM

Side Event on the Arctic SDI

Tuesday, 31 July 2018

14:00 pm - 16:00 pm

**Venue: Conference Room 11 (CR-11)
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Background

The Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI) was formed to promote the development of a Spatial Data Infrastructure based on international standards. These actions are aimed at providing reliable and interoperable geospatial data for the Arctic via the Arctic SDI Geoportal.

The Arctic SDI is a voluntary, multilateral cooperation between eight National Mapping Agencies of the Arctic and is endorsed by the Arctic Council. Members include: Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States of America. The Arctic SDI is actively partnering with the International Hydrographic community's Arctic Regional Marine SDI Working Group to facilitate coverage of land and water.

The Arctic covers one-sixth of the earth's area, thirty million square kilometers, covering all time zones, eight countries, with a population of four million people speaking over forty indigenous languages and complemented with rich and varied ecosystems. This wide-ranging geographic, demographic and biologic diversity presents significant challenge of coordinating numerous datasets used in the region. Arctic SDI incorporates national and stakeholder goals and objectives into strategic activities meant to improve data management best practices and serve the regional data needs of the Arctic. Non-Arctic countries are welcome to learn from, and share with, Arctic SDI for their regional SDI development.

By sharing data through an open, standards based SDI, thematic areas are strengthened, such as sustainable development, flora and fauna, contaminants, monitoring and assessment, protecting the marine environment, and emergency preparedness and response. Adoption and sharing of the best practices endorsed by this SDI facilitates interoperability of data that ultimately supports the elimination of data silos in support of multi-disciplinary ecosystem-based research and the development of communities of practice to share data.

The Arctic SDI further enables easy access, visualization and methods for combining data to support data-driven decision making using the Arctic SDI geoportal: <https://geoportal.arctic-sdi.org>
Arctic SDI website: <https://arctic-sdi.org>

This side event is organized by the Arctic SDI Board. Delegates are encouraged to also attend the Standards Event for complementary information.

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

Objectives

- Share ongoing work of the Arctic SDI community, including its cooperation with the Arctic Council Working Groups;
- Highlight how Arctic SDI contributes to regional activities providing building blocks for strengthening and expanding the system of system approach to managing data for Sustainable Development Indicators; and,
- Present the Arctic SDI Geoportal, Governance structure, infrastructure, services, tools, and partner commitment.

Proposed Agenda

A moderated interactive session with short presentations, discussions and opportunities for questions, answers and clarifications.

Co-Chairs:

Arvo Kokkonen, Arctic SDI Board Chair & Director General, National Land Survey of Finland, **Finland**

Kevin T. Gallagher, Arctic SDI Board Member & Associate Director, U.S. Geological Survey, **USA**

Introduction to Arctic SDI

(50 minutes)

- Why an Arctic SDI?
- Arctic SDI Strategic Activities
 - Alignment with UN-GGIM Priorities
 - System of systems approach to managing data
- Stakeholder and Partner Engagement: Delivering the Value of an SDI
 - Arctic Council and its Working Groups
 - IHO Arctic Regional Marine SDI Working Group Cooperation
- Arctic SDI governance structure, infrastructure, services, tools

Arctic SDI Geoportal Demo

(10 minutes)

- Visualization and analysis of data such as time-series and “embedded maps”
- Authoritative data services such as National Mapping Agencies Pan-Arctic Topographic Basemap and Gazetteer
- ArcticDEM: Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Model
- Integrated stakeholder thematic data

Discussion

(30 minutes)