



# UNITED NATIONS WORLD GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION CONGRESS



**19-21 November 2018  
Deqing, China**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT and UPDATE**

### **Background**

In six weeks the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) will take place. This note updates you on the Congress following the recent third meeting of the Congress Steering Committee.

With the theme ‘The Geospatial Way to a Better World’, the UNWGIC is truly global. It brings together stakeholders at the highest level to ensure that geospatial information is used in service of social, economic and environmental development. It reflects on the importance of geospatial information, supports both ‘basics’ and innovation, enables geospatial information management and systems, shares knowledge, and demonstrates the importance of international cooperation.

This landmark event is being convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) with the support of the Government of China, through the Ministry of Natural Resources in collaboration with the Government of Zhejiang Province. It takes place at the stunning new Deqing International Convention Center in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China, from 19 to 21 November 2018.

### **Programme**

The programme has developed significantly over the last two months. It includes a high-level Opening Ceremony, Ministerial Dialogue, four Plenary Sessions and a comprehensive programme of Parallel Sessions.

The Plenary Sessions will be dedicated to:

***Sharing the Digital Economy***; an open discussion on improving economies moderated by journalist and geospatial advocate Mr. James Fallows, with panelists including Mr. Jack Dangermond, President of Esri, Mr. Robin Li, Co-founder of Baidu Inc, and Mr. William Priest, Director of the UK Geospatial Commission.

***Attaining Sustainable Development***, moderated by Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), global development sector leaders including Dr. Virginia Burkett, Chief Scientist, Climate and Land Use Change, USGS, Ms. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa, the World Bank and Ministers will provide perspectives on new ways to progress sustainable development.

***Building Smart Societies***; this features global smart society leaders from developing and developed countries, such as Mr. Tan Boon Khai, CEO of Singapore Land Authority, Mr. Colin Bray, CEO of Ordnance Survey Ireland, and Dr. Bowen Zhou, Vice-President of JD.com, as they envision cities of the future as ‘smart’ data driven and ‘location’ enabled, and moderated by Ms. Dorine Burmanje, Co-Chair of UN-GGIM and Chair of the Executive Board of the Netherlands Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency.

***Growing International Cooperation***; moderated by Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe, President of EuroGeographics, the Session will enable global development experts to discuss the growing need for, and leveraging of, international cooperation and partnerships, including the One Belt One Road initiative. This will include the China National Reform and Development Commission, Dr. Jian Liu, Chief Scientist, UN Environment, and Mr. Ross Comstock, Vice President, Information Systems and Technology, Kellogg Foundation.

Over 100 high-quality proposals to run parallel sessions were received by organizers. From these, the International Advisory Committee selected a majority of the proposals and developed a parallel session programme. Each Parallel Session will examine one of 7 themes:

- I. Measuring and Monitoring the SDGs;
- II. Digital Economy, Location Analytics and Big Data;
- III. Smart, Resilient and Sustainable Societies;
- IV. Growing Global Geospatial Capability and Capacity;
- V. Geospatial Innovation, Science and Technology;
- VI. Digital Silk Road and International Partnerships; and
- VII. Sustainable Development in Action.

There are several special sessions, one of which will be the Young Geospatial Professionals Summit, bringing the best of our younger and rising talents together to share their solutions in tackling challenges from poverty to resilience, gender and equity, scarce natural resources and climate change. This is an exciting opportunity for organizations to encourage and develop the next generation of leaders, and for the global community to benefit from the perspective and energy of those upon whose shoulders these challenges increasingly rest.

The Closing Session includes short summaries from the plenary, parallel and special sessions, and issuing of the Moganshan Declaration, a Declaration that will inform the global geospatial information management agenda for coming years.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November there will also be several formal meetings, including the 7th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP and the annual meeting of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau. The latest high-level programme is provided under Annex A. More detail is on the Congress websites.

## **Ministers**

Many Ministers from across the world will attend, and more are asking to do so. Some will take part in Plenary Sessions and many others in a Ministerial Dialogue that discusses the societal, economic and environmental benefits of reliable, timely and quality geospatial information, and consider its role in creating a more sustainable and a better world for all. The Congress will provide Ministers an excellent opportunity to contribute, exchange and engage.

## **Location**

Deqing is a stunning and modern location in Zhejiang Province, not far from Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport and within 3-4 hours from Shanghai Pudong International Airport. It sits at the foot of the Mogao hills, and famed for its tea, sceneries and history, with nearby wetlands and the cultivation of cultured pearls.

The Congress venue recently opened in August, surrounded by gardens, a lake, fountains and trees. The adjacent Exhibition Centre will host an exhibition and technology showcase organized by the hosts, with over 150 geospatial entities already planning to exhibit.



Our hosts will treat us to two great social and cultural occasions, as well as technical visits and cultural tours for accompanying persons. Not only is the venue stunning, hundreds of locals have volunteered to help make this Congress a memorable experience.

## **Registration and Logistics**

There is no registration fee to participate in the Congress, but travel, subsistence and out-of-pocket expenses are met by delegates. Registration is online, it is a process and please register quickly at <http://www.unwgic2018.org> but no later than 31 October 2018. Please submit online the information needed to complete your registration, including request for an official visa letter, and to make your Hotel reservation. When your registration is successful, a registration confirmation letter containing a unique registration number and QR code will be sent to you by email. The registration confirmation letter is required upon arrival in Deqing for on-site registration as a participant of the UNWGIC. Should you have any inquiries about registration, please contact the hosts by email at [info@unwgic2018.org](mailto:info@unwgic2018.org).

## **Further Information**

More information is available on themes, programme, logistics, registration and host organized activities please visit: <http://ggim.un.org/unwgic/> and <http://www.unwgic2018.org> . These websites are updated regularly.

**Please do pass this note widely across your networks**

## Annex: High Level Programme

Session	1. Measuring and Monitoring the SDGs	2. Digital Economy, Location Analytics and Big Data	3. Smart, Resilient and Sustainable Societies	4. Growing Global Geospatial Capability and Capacity	5. Geospatial Innovation, Science and Technology	6. Digital Silk Road and International Partnerships	7. Sustainable Development in Action	Special Sessions
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>								
9:30-10:45	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>							
11:15-12:45	Statistical-Geospatial Integration for Sustainable Development and 2020 Censuses	Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy	Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Urban Spatial Planning	Marine Geospatial Information Development and Applications	Geospatial Innovation, Science and Technology	Digital Belt and Road: Using Big Earth Data for Sustainable Development	Geospatial Information for Urban Sustainable Development	Geospatial Enabled Industry Development
14:00-15:30	<b>Ministerial Dialogue - Towards a More Sustainable World for All</b>							
16:00-17:30	<b>Plenary Session #1: Sharing the Digital Economy</b>							
18:00-20:00	<b>Welcome Reception and Dinner</b>							
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>								
9:00-10:30	<b>Plenary Session #2: Attaining Sustainable Development</b>							
11:00-12:30	<b>Plenary Session #3: Building Smart Societies</b>							
14:00-15:30	Strengthening Capacity: Geo-Referenced Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development Program	Intelligent Transportation and Autonomous Vehicles	How Smart Cities Must Utilize Location Intelligent Infrastructure Management	National Mapping and Geospatial Agencies: To Change is to Prosper	Towards the Future of Geomatics Science - Its Global Impacts	Standards That Make Innovation Possible	The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: What Can Go Wrong With My Maps and Diagrams?	Measuring Deqing's Progress Towards the SDGs with Geo-Statistical Information
16:00-17:30	The Global Indicator Framework: New and Innovative Methods and Disaggregation by Geolocation	Ubiquitous Location Values from Big Data Analytics	Resilience: Impact of Land and Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management	Laws, Regulations and Policy Impacting Collection, Storage, Access and Use of Geospatial Information	Millions of Mappers: Organizing Citizen Generated Geospatial Data for Global Goals	Linking People to Land: The Framework for Effective Land Administration	Natural Resources Management Underpinned by Geospatial Information	Operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework
18:00-21:00	<b>Dinner and Cultural Show</b>							
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>								
9:00-10:30	Geospatial Disaggregation and Aggregation for the SDGs	Innovative Techniques for Big Earth Observation Data Analysis	Bringing New Ideas to Plan Sustainable Societies	An Engagement platform to connect government and citizens to SDGs	National lidar programs: Strategies, data management, and analytics	African Action Plan on Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development	Geospatial data to improve crop yield forecasting and monitoring	Young Geospatial Professionals Summit
11:00-12:30	Sustainable Development Outcomes Using Geospatial Data	Knowledge On-demand Environments	Spatially Enabled Future Cities	Global, Regional, National Geodetic Frameworks: Core to Building a Better World	Global Land Cover and Intelligent Analysis of Remotely Sensed Images	Strengthening National Geospatial Information Management in the Americas	A Sustainable and Resilient World: Research and Capacity Development for Implementing SDGs	
14:00-15:30	<b>Plenary Session #4: Growing International Cooperation</b>							
16:00-17:30	<b>Issuing the Mogsanhan Declaration and Closing Ceremony</b>							



## Formal meetings

Overview of formal UN-GGIM meetings convened on the margins of the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (these are closed meetings, attendance is by invitation only)	
	Morning <span style="float: right;">Afternoon</span>
Saturday, 17 November	Meeting of the Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management
Sunday, 18 November	Meeting of the Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management
Monday 19 November	<b>United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress</b>
Tuesday 20 November	<b>United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress</b>
Wednesday 21 November	<b>United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress</b>
Thursday 22 November	7 <sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP
	Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy
	Meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
	Meeting of the UNWGIC International Advisory Committee
Friday 23 November	Meeting of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau
	Meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy
	Meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

