



**Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial
Information Management for Asia and the Pacific
(UN-GGIM-AP)**

Established by a United Nations Resolution



Welcome Address by UN-GGIM-AP President

The 2nd Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP

28-30 October 2013, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Dr. Li Pengde, UN-GGIM-AP President

Honorable Guests, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2nd Plenary Meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP). I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for taking time and effort to participate in this meeting here in Tehran. My special gratitude goes to Mr. Mahmoud Ilkhan, Director of National Cartographic Center, and his staff, for hosting the meeting and providing a wonderful venue.

Counting from our former committee, Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP), this is the third time for our committee to come to Tehran. Fifteen years ago in 1998, PCGIAP convened the 4th plenary meeting and in 2010 PCGIAP Executive Board meeting was held here in Tehran. Thanks for the strong support and active involvement of our host, National Cartographic Centre of Islamic Republic of Iran.

About a year ago, at the 19th UNRCC-AP, we reaffirmed the vital role of the regional committee in implementing the actions and make progress in global geospatial information management. To enhance its role by aligning the unique needs and interests of Asia and the Pacific with UN-GGIM, PCGIAP was renamed to UN-GGIM-AP on 1 November 2012, in accordance with the Resolution adopted at the 19th UNRCC-AP.

For past 11 months, our committee has been taking active roles in promoting the challenges of the Asia and the Pacific region to global discussions at UN-GGIM. This year, the significant progress has made on the global geodetic reference frame. Concerning the particular vulnerabilities in our region, the need for the global geodetic reference frame was initially proposed by the working group of our committee, and tapped into global discussions at UN-GGIM. Now the topic is expected to be tabled at the UN General Assembly Resolutions to urge governments to support a global geodetic frame and related infrastructure. Such progress indicates the vital role of the regional committee. As this meeting marks our committee's 1st anniversary, I hope we can consider how it can further contribute to the regional progress and ultimately to the sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific region.

At this meeting, we will review the Working Groups activities conducted during the past year, which are the driving force of the Committee. I am very thankful to the Chairs and Vice Chairs for the efforts they put to make progress.

Also, there will be reports presented from liaison organizations and member countries during this meeting, which will give us a wonderful opportunity to keep us aware of the latest of regional and global activities on the successful disaster response by NGIAs and the latest of spatial web services provided by NGIAs. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to the distinguished representatives from liaison organizations and member countries for their continued support to UN-GGIM-AP.

Thanks to the great hospitality of our host, a well-designed technical tour is arranged for this afternoon and 30th as part of the meeting program. We will have the opportunity to explore modern and historical landscape of this beautiful country. I wish you all a pleasant and memorable stay in Islamic Republic of Iran and hope that all of you will go home with fond memories of the successful meeting and of friendliness of the people of Iran.

Thank you.