The Present Status of Global Mapping Project
International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM)

Third Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP
2014-11-10/12
Bali, Indonesia

1 Progress of Global Mapping Project

1.1 Progress of Global Map development
Global Map data (national and regional version) were released for 111 countries and eight regions from the ISCGM website at http://www.iscgm.org/ or from those of some participating organizations as of 17 October 2014. These data correspond to 65% of the whole land area of the earth (Figure 1). In addition, ISCGM released Global Map Version 2, Global Land Cover and Percent Tree Cover, in July 2013, and Global Elevation in July 2014.

1.2 Participation in Global Mapping Project
Participating countries and regions are steadily increasing and now come to 167 countries and 16 regions. This corresponds to 96% of the whole land area of the earth.

1.3 New ISCGM Initiatives
ISCGM newly proposed a catalogue service of global map thematic layers and a web platform for urban hazard maps. Prototypes of these services are now released from ISCGM’s website.

Figure 1: Progress of Global Mapping Project

Figure 2: Future Work Schedule
2 ISCGM activities

2.1 ISCGM’s Mission
The ISCGM was established in February 1996 to spearhead ‘global mapping’ in response to the call for urgent actions at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro for greater information support on ‘the status and trends of the planet’s ecosystem, natural resources, pollution and socioeconomic variables’. The mission of the ISCGM is “to examine measures that concerned national, regional, and international organizations can take to foster the development of Global Mapping in order to facilitate the implementation of global agreements and conventions for environmental protection as well as the mitigation of natural disasters and to encourage economic growth within the context of sustainable development” (Article 2 of the Rules).

2.2 ISCGM’s Contribution to UNGGIM/GM4SD
At the third session of UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNCE-GGIM), the committee advised a closer working relationship should be developed between the working group on the GM4SD (Global Map for Sustainable Development) and ISCGM and expected that ISCGM will play a central operating role. At the fourth session of UNCE-GGIM, the committee requested its GM4SD working group and ISCGM to increase their synergy in proposing a strategic and operational work plan.

2.3 Administrative Issues
After ten years service as chair of ISCGM, Professor D. R. Fraser Taylor successfully concluded his term as the chair of ISCGM at the 20th meeting of ISCGM in July 2013. ISCGM appointed Professor Paul Cheung, National University of Singapore and former Director of UN Statistics Division, as new chair of ISCGM. In addition, Mr. Toru Nagayama was appointed as secretary general of ISCGM in April 2014, taking over from Mr. Yoshikazu Fukushima.

2.4 ISCGM Meeting
The 21st meeting of ISCGM was held in New York, USA in August 2014, preceding the fourth session of UNCE-GGIM. One of the important agenda items was sharing of technical experience in global mapping. An issue of deepening coordination with respective regions was also discussed. The meeting gathered about 80 participants, and 14 presentations were made from countries, regional bodies, international organizations, and private companies giving short lectures on their own activities. The 22nd meeting of ISCGM is scheduled to be held in New York, USA in August 2015, preceding the fifth session of UNCE-GGIM.