



**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 3rd Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP 10 November 2014 Bali, Indonesia

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 3rd Plenary Meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP). I wish to express my appreciation to all of you for your continued support to UN-GGIM-AP and effort to participate in this meeting here in Bali. I offer my utmost gratitude to the government of Bali Province, Mrs. Titiek Suparwati, Acting Head of Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia (BIG), and the BIG staffs, for hosting this meeting and providing a wonderful venue for us. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to the distinguished representatives from liaison organizations for their continued support to UN-GGIM-AP.

It has only been 2 years since UN-GGIM-AP was re-established from Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP). Yet, we have already achieved some notable accomplishments. One of them was international agreement on a global geodetic reference frame, GGRF, at the fourth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, UN-GGIM, held in this August. As many of you may remember, the need for international cooperation towards a more sustainable operational GGRF and infrastructure was initially expressed by the working group of our former committee, PCGIAP, and started from this region. At the 4th Session in August this year in New York, UN-GGIM endorsed the first resolution on GGRF and it is expected to be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly for an endorsement by the Member States to seek support and commitment at the highest level.

Another accomplishment was the establishment of a number of other UN-GGIM regional entities. Now UN-GGIM: Americas, and Europe have been established, and Arab States and Africa are preparing for formally establishing their regional bodies.

UN-GGIM-AP has taken the leading role in this development, by becoming the first regional entity for UN-GGIM framework 2 years ago.

These accomplishments within a relatively short period highlight the vital role of this regional committee in taking forward regional agenda at the global level. And as the driving force behind this, I would like to thank the Chairs and Vice Chairs of our three Working Groups for all the efforts they have put to address the significant challenges in this region and make progress.

At this meeting, we will first have the privilege of knowing the latest activities of liaison organizations including International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM), International Cartographic Association (ICA), UN-GGIM, and UN-GGIM: Europe. I am very thankful for their participation in this plenary and their presentations. Then we will have a wonderful opportunity to have a special session with UN-HABITAT, and FIG on land administration. Land administration is one of the important issues in the region, to which our mapping community could make significant contribution. I am particularly grateful for the kind support provided by the UN-HABITAT and FIG in making such a valuable session available for this region.

In accordance with the tradition of this Committee to learn from the experiences of member countries on specific themes, we selected disaster management and capacity building as this plenary's themes and will have the opportunity to share our experiences, lessons learned and good practices on the challenges and achievements. In addition, as the core program of this Committee, we will review the Working Groups' activities conducted during the past year, and discuss the next steps for the coming year. I hope all of you will enjoy these sessions and engage in interesting discussions with one another. I thank you in advance for your kind cooperation and input throughout the sessions of the 3rd plenary meeting.

Also, we should not forget that today, we are meeting here in Bali at a critical point of time as the year 2015 will soon be upon us. The year 2015 will be a pivotal for many of us, not only because it marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of this regional group in 1995 since PCGIAP, but also there will be a number of landmark events taking place including the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDDR), and the 20th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP). Also, 2015 is the year which marks the endpoint for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the new internationally agreed commitments for the post-2015 period will be set.

As these milestone events are approaching quickly, we should take full advantage of opportunities for next few days to work together and discuss not only short-term strategies in taking forward the regional agenda, but also long-term strategies in promoting the optimal use of geospatial information in global agendas including a number of the development goals. I am convinced that we will be able to realize this together, as we have done so in the past, with the support and cooperation from all the members.

Finally, I wish you all a pleasant and memorable stay in Bali, Indonesia, and hope that all of you will go home with fond memories of the successful meeting and of friendliness of the people of Indonesia.

Thank you.