

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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Report of the Regional Committee of United Nations  
Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific**

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\* Prepared by UN-GGIM-AP



## **Report of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific**

### **1. Summary**

1. This report highlights the activities carried out by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), formerly the Permanent Committee on Geographical Information System Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP), since the last report submitted to the Nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP) in Bangkok, Thailand from 29 October to 1 November 2012.

### **2. Background**

2. PCGIAP was established in 1995 in accordance with the Resolution adopted at the 13th UNRCC-AP. The committee aimed to maximize the economic benefits of geographic information and provided a forum for nations from Asia and the Pacific to cooperate in development of a regional spatial data infrastructure and to contribute to the development of the global geographic information infrastructure. Since its establishment, PCGIAP had undertaken various projects and successfully responded to the needs of the region.

3. In 2011, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial information Management (UN-GGIM) was established in accordance with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution. UN-GGIM aims at playing a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and promoting its use to address key global challenges. UN-GGIM acts as the formal intergovernmental mechanism to discuss, enhance and coordinate global geospatial information management activities among Member States and relevant international organizations.

4. In order to align with the global architecture, in November 2012, PCGIAP was renamed to UN-GGIM-AP in accordance with the Resolution adopted at the 19th UNRCC-AP in Bangkok. UN-GGIM-AP enhanced its role to address regional issues in global discussions and to commit to align the programme work of the UN-GGIM.

### **3. Major Achievements**

5. During the past three years since its establishment in 2012, UN-GGIM-AP has been working on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> UNRCC-AP by organizing three working groups, and convened three annual plenary meetings in Bangkok, Tehran and Bali to follow up on the progress of the implementation as well as to share best practices and experiences. All the meeting materials and update of the UN-GGIM-AP activities have been shared through the UN-GGIM-AP website<sup>1</sup> as well as through the UN-GGIM-AP knowledge base<sup>2</sup>. The major achievements through these activities are summarized below.

#### **a. Geodetic Reference Framework for Sustainable Development**

6. Resolution 1 of the 19<sup>th</sup> UNRCC-AP recommended that cooperation in geodetic data sharing amongst national agencies should be facilitated in order to build a common geodetic reference framework across the region. In accordance with this resolution, projects including Asia Pacific Reference Frame Project (APREF), Asia Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP), Asia Pacific

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/top/Knowledge\\_Base.htm](http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/top/Knowledge_Base.htm)

Regional Height System Unification Project (APRHSU) and Asia-Pacific Geodetic Capacity Building Project (APGCB) have been conducted during the past three years as briefly summarized below:

- APREF: The number of incorporated GNSS data from CORS networks has increased from 420 stations in 2012 to approximately 600 stations, contributed by 28 Countries in Asia and the Pacific.
- APRGP: Annual GNSS campaigns were carried out in 2013, 2014, and 2015. Analysis reports have been distributed to the Member States.
- APRHSU: Two questionnaires on height systems were distributed to the member countries and the responses were analyzed.
- APGCB: Technical workshops were held jointly with FIG, IAG, and UN-ICG.

7. In addition to the projects mentioned above, assistance is provided to the development and analysis of a global geodetic questionnaire for UN-GGIM based on discussions held at the forum held during the 19th UNRCC-AP in 2012. UN-GGIM-AP also assisted the development of draft text and adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution titled *A Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) for Sustainable Development*.

#### **b. Data Sharing and Integration for Disaster Management**

8. In accordance with Resolution 2, projects were carried out to support data sharing for disaster management, including research to identify user requirements associated with risk assessment, preparedness planning, rescue and recovery.

9. In its efforts to design and implement a regional geoportal for disaster management, a proto-type geoportal was released in close cooperation with Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG) of Indonesia under the domain of UN-GGIM-AP<sup>3</sup> after the 3rd UN-GGIM-AP Plenary meeting in 2014 in Bali, Indonesia. After an earthquake struck Nepal on 25th April 2015, InSAR-derived crustal deformation data using ALOS2 radar images and Global Map data for elevation and land cover of central Nepal were shared through the geoportal.

#### **c. Place-based Information Management for Economic Growth**

10. In accordance with Resolution 3 and 4, projects were conducted to encourage national geospatial information authorities in the region to utilize and share geospatial information through web/cloud based platforms and other smart services as well as to support development of a legal framework required to support the integration, sharing, access to and dissemination of place-based data.

11. With the funding provided by the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) for 2014-2015, investigation was continued on the status of mapping of the world. Another projects were conducted on rapid data acquisition for Australia and Malaysia while also conducting ongoing projects on smart services for the delivery of geospatial information, development of capability to deliver and use geospatial information, and case study on web-based distributed geo-data management and online services in China.

#### **d. Capacity Building and Advocacy**

12. UN-GGIM-AP supported a number of capacity building and advocacy activities in cooperation with member states and international organizations. Major activities of the past three years include:

- UN-GGIM-AP/FIG Workshop at Pacific Small Island Developing States Symposium (2013)
- UN GGIM AP/FIG/IAG/UN-ICG Reference Frames in Practice - The Future (2014)
- UN-GGIM-AP Session on Global Geodetic Reference Frame and CORS (2014)
- GSI/ISCGM Symposium on Application of Geospatial Technology in Urban Disaster Management (March, 2015) with support from UN-GGIM-AP, held in Sendai, Japan in conjunction with the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- UN-GGIM-AP/ALAGaC International Workshop on National Spatial Data Infrastructure and its Applications (June, 2015), held in Terelj, Mongolia, which adopted “*Terelj Declaration on National Spatial Data Infrastructure and its Applications*”<sup>4</sup>.
- FIG/UN-GGIM-AP/IAG/ICG/SLA Technical Seminar on Vertical Reference Frames in Practice (July, 2015), held in Singapore

<sup>3</sup> <http://geoportal-prototype.un-ggim-ap.org/unggim/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/Document/NSDI\\_WS\\_150609.html](http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/Document/NSDI_WS_150609.html)

#### **4. Contribution to UN-GGIM**

13. UN-GGIM-AP has contributed to UN-GGIM activities mainly through the activities conducted by its working groups.

14. With regard to the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution, A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development, in February 2015, UN-GGIM-AP took a key role in such activities as preparation of a draft and facilitation in the process of adopting the resolution.

15. The investigation on the Status of Mapping in the World, the joint work conducted by UN-GGIM and ISPRS was successfully completed through the assistance of UN-GGIM-AP activities related to the work on Place-based Information Management for Economic Growth.

16. Regional issues identified through the surveys conducted by the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat for the member countries were reported to annual UN-GGIM sessions. The Secretariat also supported the development of UN-GGIM knowledge base by expressing views on the contents and providing the relevant materials to be uploaded to the knowledge base.

17. UN-GGIM-AP supported the UN-GGIM activities including the International Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information, Chengdu Forum on UN-GGIM, and the Second and the Third High Level Forum on UN-GGIM.

#### **5. Way forward**

18. In order to exchange views of participants in UN-GGIM5 from Asia-Pacific region on the report of “Programme review of the work of the Committee during the 2011-2015 period,” particularly on the consolidation of UNRCCs into UN-GGIM, UN-GGIM-AP held an informal consultation as a side event on 7 August 2015 during the UN-GGIM5. Participants expressed their positive views on the consolidation.

#### **6. Conclusion**

19. The UN-GGIM-AP, established on 1st November 2012, has been continuing on a wide range of activities inherited from its former body, PCGIAP, in the Asia and Pacific region. The cooperation, goodwill and dedication of many countries, organizations and people in the region have enabled the UN-GGIM-AP to successfully contribute to important achievements for the geospatial information community in the last three years. For example, the resolution on “Global Geodetic Reference Framework (GGRF) for Sustainable Development” was adopted at the General Assembly of United Nations, which was the first UNGA resolution in the field of survey/geospatial information. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted in the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 Sendai Japan, describes the significance of geospatial information in disaster risk management. The post-2015 development agenda, which is now called “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, convened from 25th to 27th September, 2015, explicitly states the importance of geospatial information for the global issues such as sustainable development, climate change, and disaster risk reduction.

20. Representing the geospatial community in the largest and most populous region in the world with possibly the highest economic development potential as well as with the high risk of climate change impacts and a variety of natural disasters, the UN-GGIM-AP has a very important role for the implementation of the global agenda, including GGRF, SFDRR and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN-GGIM-AP will be committed to contributing to making progress in the implementation by fostering and strengthening national, regional, and global cooperation among member countries through the framework of UN-GGIM.

21. To continue the path of progress, nothing is more essential than the support from the United Nations and involvement and contributions from the 56 members. The UN-GGIM-AP is determined to move forward and meet the challenges ahead through cooperation among UN-GGIM-AP member countries and at all levels from national to global for the next three years.