

**The Fifth Plenary Meeting of
The Regional Committee of Global Geospatial Information Management
for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP)**

16-20 October 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Resolutions

1. Geodetic Reference Frame

The Meeting,

Reaffirming that the Global Geodetic Reference Frame underpins satellite positioning technology, provides the framework for all geospatial activity and is a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster risk reduction, land management, and supports sustainable development;

Recognizing the General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/69/266) on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development;

Recognizing also the importance of data sharing to enable global and regional products and services to be related to individual countries to support decision makers to address social and environmental issues such as rapid urbanisation, sustainable development, disaster management, and complex crustal dynamics;

Noting the challenges of building technical capacity in the Asia Pacific region to modernise national geospatial and geodetic infrastructure, in particular GNSS CORS densification, geodetic datum determination, unification of height systems, and integration and interoperability of fundamental datasets;

Noting further the challenges of sustaining geospatial and geodetic infrastructure with respect to accessing reliable communications, obtaining and justifying resources, and modernising relevant legislation, policies, and practices particularly in the context of the administering geospatial and geodetic data;

Noting further the lack of awareness of the value and importance of geospatial and geodetic infrastructure amongst some sectors of government, industry and the wider community;

Noting further the present limited availability of qualified young geodetic surveyors in the region;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP

- a) Support geodetic experts to attend appropriate regional forums, such as the UN-GGIM-AP Working Group 1 meetings;
- b) Engage in multilateral collaboration to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences so as to address the geospatial and geodetic infrastructure and system challenges;
- c) Adopt the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) by participating in regional geodetic programmes such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Reference Frame (APREF) and the Asia Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP);

- d) Share geospatial and geodetic data openly and freely to support for example the connection of national datums to global systems so that decision makers can address global and regional issues such as sea level change through the use of global and regional products and services;
- e) Consider sharing real-time geodetic observations to support disaster risk reduction including tsunami warning;
- f) Proactively participate in communication and outreach activities to raise the profile of geodesy as a service to society;
- g) Engage with the relevant academic community to review and implement appropriate courses of study or curriculum to be aligned with the modern requirements for operational geodetic or geospatial scientists;
- h) Advocate promote and communicate the value and importance of geospatial and geodetic infrastructure and information to decision makers, governments, industry, and wider community;
- i) Provide opportunities to develop technical knowledge through internships and short term attachment programs for geodetic and geospatial scientists;
- j) Evaluate and modernise legal and institutional arrangements pertaining to administering geospatial and geodetic data and infrastructure;
- k) Encourage and facilitate technical capability development through training, workshops, and cooperation in GNSS CORS densification, GNSS data processing, geodetic datum and geoid determination, geodetic datum transformations, geospatial data integration and interoperability, and the use of open geodetic software and the sharing of best practice examples and use cases;
- l) Work closely with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), in particular the FIG Asia Pacific Capacity Development Network (AP-CDN), the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council (PGSC), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and other relevant organisations to develop geodetic capability in the Asia Pacific.

2. Disaster Risk Management

The Meeting,

Recognizing that the Asia-Pacific region is prone to many natural hazards and devastating disasters, and that geospatial information plays a very important role in making timely and improved decisions to support and respond to emergency situations;

Noting that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), which was adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015, made a clear call on developing, updating and disseminating location-based disaster risk information, including risk maps, by using geospatial information technology;

Recalling the resolution at 20th UNRCC-AP recommending that the Committee formulate a guideline to encourage NGIAs to contribute, through geospatial activities, to the effective implementation of the SFDRR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and

Noting further that the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disaster has made a considerable progress in developing and refining the draft Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters 2016-2030;

Recommends that the UN-GGIM-AP

- a) Complete the identification of the potential areas for contribution of NGIAs through the use of geospatial information to the effective implementation of SFDRR;
- b) Compile a collection of best practices on the use of geospatial information for disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific region;
- c) Formulate a draft guideline to encourage NGIAs to contribute, through geospatial activities, to the effective implementation of the SFDRR, based on the results of activities related to disaster risk management; and
- d) Encourage member States to share earth observation infrastructure technology and data resources for disaster.

3. Regional SDI

The Meeting,

Recognizing that geospatial information is essential to monitoring progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

Recognizing that the national spatial data infrastructures of Member States will provide the trusted information to support both the Sustainable Development Goals as well as national priorities;

Noting that interoperability of geospatial information between Member States, and with statistical and other information, is necessary to achieve these Goals and priorities;

Noting that the national spatial data infrastructures of Member States are at different levels of maturity;

Noting further that national mapping authorities face many common technical, legal and institutional challenges which hinder the availability, quality, interoperability, accessibility and sharing of geospatial information;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP

- a) Complete the investigation on the status of NSDI development of the member countries;
- b) From the investigation, analyse both Member States' priorities for the development of their national SDIs and the challenges and successes faced by more mature SDIs;
- c) Assist the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in defining how geospatial information can be applied to support monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;
- d) Identify the common standards and other requirements for regional SDI;
- e) Give suggestions to Member States that would need to be applied to their SDIs in order to support national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- f) Assist Member States in the development of resources, capabilities and technical expertise to make these changes;

- g) Continue the pilot study on the Regional SDI portal for testing the interoperability of geospatial information across Member States.

4. Cadastre and Land Management

The Meeting,

Recognizing that UN-GGIM-AP Working Group 4 focuses on judicial, regulatory, fiscal, and information for cadastre and land management;

Recognizing that the capacity to build legal and institutional frameworks for land management is equally important for developing and developed countries;

Recognizing also that sustainable land development is dependent on legislative and institutional systems;

Recognizing the need to provide lawmakers and policymakers in developing countries with practical information and guidance to understand, develop and strengthen the legal and institutional capacity for land management issues;

Noting that the integration of land information and cadastre is crucial for land administration, especially in developing countries;

Further noting that the 6th session of UN-GGIM proposed a coastal area management agenda in their Land Administration and Management working group;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP

- a) Support the development of legislation, institutional arrangements, databases and maps, as well as the funding mechanisms required to implement and maintain an affordable land administration system based on land rights, land use, and land development;
- b) Further develop coastal area management models for GIS applications in Member States;
- c) Encourage NGIAs to engage in and contribute to effective coastal area management and administration systems with their fundamental data;
- d) Share information related to cadastre and land Management through the WG4 website (<http://bsn.ngii.go.kr/ggim-ap-wg4>).

5. International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information

The Meeting,

Thanking the Government of Malaysia, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia and the department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia for the hosting of this International Forum, the hospitality and the courtesies extended to all national delegations;

Thanking all the moderators, presenters, national delegations and participants for all the contributions towards the success of this International Forum;

Noting that the participants met in the context to exchange knowledge, experience and good practices and to enhance cooperation towards better policy and legal frameworks in geospatial information for sustainable development;

Wholeheartedly accepting and adopting the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information;

Recommends that UN-GGIM-AP request the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its Seventh Session to

- a) Consider establishing a working group to explore policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information, with participants from both the geospatial and legal communities;
- b) Develop a strategy and plan of action on policy and legal issues in order to begin the advocacy and engagement process, inclusive of a guide to the licensing and dissemination of geospatial information that can provide guidance to Member States;
- c) Contribute to developing capacity within the Member States on the policy and legal issues that impact the collection, use, storage and dissemination of geospatial information;
- d) Adopt this Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information.