



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

Established by a United Nations Resolution



June 12, 2017

Dear colleagues,

**Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial
Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP)
Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan
16-19 October 2017**

I am pleased to announce that the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), in collaboration with the Government of Japan, through the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI), will jointly organize the Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan, from 16-19 October 2017.

Noting that the countries in the Asia-Pacific region are prone to different types of natural disasters, including earthquakes, tropical storms, floods, and volcanic eruptions, UN-GGIM-AP has regarded disaster risk management as one of the priority issues within the region. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted in 2015 at the UN General Assembly calls for the use of geospatial information technology for disaster risk reduction. To implement this Framework from the regional perspective, UN-GGIM-AP has set up a working group to explore the potential roles of NGIAs in the applications and services of geospatial information, and to develop a guideline on the use of geospatial information for disasters.

As the meeting venue of this Plenary, Kumamoto Prefecture of Japan has suffered two consecutive disastrous earthquakes in April 2016, which caused 211 fatalities and up to 3.7 trillion yen financial damage. The Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) used geospatial information to respond to this disaster and try to minimize the losses in each of the phases of disaster cycle. Based on the understanding that reviewing how a country has responded with geospatial information on a specific disaster case would clarify the differences in disaster management of member countries, and facilitate the development of the guideline, the Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP will draw attention to the Kumamoto case of disaster management.

A special session will be arranged to introduce GSI's responses to the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. It will provide a great opportunity for open discussions on the potential roles of NGIAs in the disaster risk management. Participants will be made to place themselves in the position of GSI during the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake and think about what they could do with geospatial information to respond to the disaster. Member countries of UN-GGIM-AP, as well as the international liaison organizations are invited to participate in and contribute to the discussion of this crucial topic.

Besides, the Plenary Meeting will cover its conventional agenda items, including report on the major outcomes of the Seventh Session of UN-GGIM held in August 2017, reviewing the considerations and subsequent decisions on the further modalities of UN-GGIM, summarizing the various activities and

progress of the Committee and its four Working Groups during the past year, and discussing the roles and contributions of the Regional Committee to the further development of UN-GGIM.

On October 16th, there will also be a forum on geodetic data sharing jointly organized by UN-GGIM-AP WG1 and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). This event will examine the regional challenges, benefits and opportunities of exchanging geodetic data. Senior decision makers responsible for geodetic data sharing policy are urged all to participate in this meeting.

I am delighted to send you this announcement letter and kindly ask you to mark your calendar accordingly. In an effort to involve all the stakeholders within the Asia-Pacific region and the related international organizations, I ask you to share this information with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders in your country.

Detailed information about the Plenary Meeting will be available at the UN-GGIM-AP website (www.un-ggim-ap.org). Should you have any questions about the Meeting, please contact the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat by un-ggim-ap.china@nsg.gov.cn. For registration, please visit the host website (<https://gsi-intl.github.io/ggim-ap-kumamoto/>), and contact the host by gsi-un-ggim-ap.japan@ml.mlit.go.jp.

I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and look forward to your active participation.

Yours sincerely,



Hiroshi Murakami
President
UN-GGIM-AP