

Regional Workshop for Promoting the Asia-Pacific Geospatial Information Platform

16 October 2020, 10:00-13:00 (UTC+7, Bangkok time)
Venue: Videoconference via MS Teams

Background:

Integrating geospatial data, existing statistics and ground-based information and exploiting new data sources, analytics, processes and tools has proven instrumental to deliver timely and authoritative information necessary for governments, businesses, communities and citizens to take action and make evidenced-based decisions. It is also a vital asset to provide far-reaching solutions to pressing issues facing humanity, ranging from health – and notably the COVID-19 pandemic – education, food security, agriculture, energy, to disaster risk reduction and building resilience.

Key challenges remain in efficient and effective use of geospatial information: data is (1) scattered among data holders, data users, and sub-regional networks at the country / sub-regional levels; (2) data is not open, shared, sometimes partial, and managed by various ministries/sectors that do not connect properly to each other; (3) data is not managed by a leading organization to integrate regional data stakeholders, platforms and data network under one umbrella in the Asia Pacific region; and (4) no guidance through a regional intergovernmental agreement or framework arrangement that sets out the scope, benefits and responsibility of regional data integration and provides a clear mandate that promotes networked and integrated geospatial information in the region.

In this connection, ESCAP, as the Secretariat of UN-GGIM-AP has initiated a long-term initiative over the next 10 years from 2020 to 2030 to provide member States with an integrated geospatial data hub through the operation of an Asia-Pacific geospatial information platform across countries.

The key objective of the initiative is to (1) promote the sharing and use of geospatial information services and products among member States; (2) strengthen UN-GGIM-AP geospatial data sharing platform, as a digital bigdata source, to provide geospatial information products and services in a more systematic manner; and (3) provide persistent advisory services and capacity building programmes to member States of ESCAP and UN-GGIM-AP.

This initiative meets growing demands in the Asia-Pacific region, as emphasized by ESCAP member States at the third Session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation (CICTSTI) held in August 2020, on better leverage innovative technologies, data and tools for big data and evidence-based decision making. It supports the secretariat's preparatory work for strengthening regional geospatial data platforms in support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

This initiative also contributes to the regional realization of the Geospatial Strategy for the United Nations, which aims to mainstream the use of geospatial information across the United Nations Secretariat for unified, integrated, and accessible information, analysis, and visualization for evidence-based decision-making and data action in support of peace and security, human rights, international law, development, and humanitarian aid.

This initial phase plan to achieve these objectives over 10 years are as below:

- **1st Phase (2020 - 2022): Preparation Phase**

- ✓ Key output: (1) a draft work plan promote the sharing and use of geospatial information services and products among member States in the Asia Pacific region; (2) a draft Intergovernmental agreement on sharing and use of geospatial information among member States of UN-GGIM-AP; (3) a draft technical operational guidelines (TOR); and (4) a draft plan on building the UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Service Center; and (5) improved design of UN-GGIM-AP website.
- ✓ Present the brief concept note to the 9th Plenary Meeting of the UN-GGIM-AP in early November 2020 for adoption of the plan for building the UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Service Center.
- ✓ Invite member countries to express their interest in hosting the center with financing of operation during the 9th Plenary Meeting.
- ✓ Host country presents the detailed action plan with operational TOR and the estimate of financing and cost to Executive Board and the 10th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in 2021 for adoption.
- ✓ Submit the adopted plan to the 4th Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Bali, in 2022.

- **2nd Phase (2023 - 2026): Activation Phase**

- ✓ Complete the construction of the UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Information Service Center

- ✓ Test operate the center
 - ✓ Provide geospatial information service, product and capacity building training to UN-GGIM-AP member countries.
- **3rd Phase (2027 – 2030): Full Operation Phase**
 - ✓ Operate the UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Information Service Center.

This initiative will directly contribute to the implementation of the “Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030)”, provides regional support to the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) 1 of UN-GGIM, and the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 on “Strengthening institutional arrangements, including arrangements involving regional commissions”. In this connection, ESCAP has started a new project in 2020 to materialize the initiative, entitled “Building the Asia-Pacific Geospatial Data Network Hub in support of UN-GGIM-AP and SDGs Achievement”, with the support of Government of Republic of Korea, to implement the UN-GGIM-AP resolution, adopted at the Eighth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in November 2019 on enhancing regional cooperation on sharing of geospatial information among member countries. As one activity of the project, the Secretariat is organizing a regional workshop on 20 October 2020 (tbc), in order to share and discuss draft ideas regarding how to promote the sharing and use of geospatial information services and products among member States of UN-GGIM-AP and discuss initial ideas on building the UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Service Center.

Regional Workshop (16 October 2020)

Key Objectives

- Discuss how we work better together to promote the sharing and use of geospatial information services and products among member States of UN-GGIM-AP;
- Explore and share good frameworks, models and practices to promote the sharing and use of geospatial information services and products as good references;
- Discuss initial ideas for building the UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Service Center under the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat
- Discuss the future direction and work plan

¹ IGIF is the endorsed framework of UN-GGIM to provide a basis and guide for lower to middle income countries on geospatial information management and related infrastructures.

Date and Meeting Mode

- Date and time: 16 October 2020, 10:00-13:00 (UTC+7, Bangkok time)
- Meeting mode: videoconference via MS Teams application

Organizers and Participating Experts

1. Organizer:
 - Secretariat of UN-GGIM-AP, with support of ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD) of UN ESCAP
2. Invited participants and experts:
 - Member countries of UN-GGIM-AP
 - Regional experts
 - Partner organizations

Online Registration [HERE](#) before 16 October 2020

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccD1GnOu2zrRNh0mpegMie-lUMVFJVEhNQTJIM0RNMExKUIFDOEJWUjJSUS4u>

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