

## Virtual Regional Seminar on Operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in Asia and the Pacific

25 November and 02 December 2020  
10:00 am to 12:00 noon (UTC+7, Bangkok time)  
Videoconferencing via MS Teams

### Background

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**<sup>1</sup> provides the global policy to guide the way countries collectively manage and transform the social, economic and environmental dimensions of people, planet and prosperity. The broad and transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also provides tremendous opportunity for the geospatial community to meet the unprecedented need for more and new sources of data covering all aspects of sustainable development. It demands new data acquisition and integration approaches and the need for “high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, including earth observations and geospatial information”, and with commensurate new and innovative data sources and methods.

All countries and all sectors need geospatial information for national development and decision-making. Geospatial Information reflects the physical world (both natural and built) in which all human, economic and environmental activities take place, and provides the digital version of our world. Geospatial information also provides the integrative platform for all digital data that has a location dimension to it. Geospatial information has the very real potential for forming a new and emerging “data ecosystem” for sustainable development in which integrated data systems, that are comprehensive and coordinated, are able to provide evidence on the state of the Earth, people, events and activities, and to deliver timely information necessary for communities, organizations and governments to build accountability and make informed and evidenced-based decisions. There is a need to significantly support countries, developing countries in particular, to work towards nationally integrated information systems through the formulation of appropriate frameworks, guidelines and methodologies which can be operationalized within and across countries and regions.

At its tenth session the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), in making Decision 10/103, “welcomed the **Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)**<sup>2</sup> as a means to strengthen national geospatial information management arrangements within and across Member States; and noted the global significance of the IGIF, which forms a **key**

<sup>1</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

<sup>2</sup> Adopted at the eighth session of UN-GGIM in August 2018; <https://ggim.un.org/IGIF/>

**umbrella** for the many activities under the purview of the Committee of Experts, including the regional committees of UN-GGIM, and its thematic groups, which can be applied to any country to guide transformational change”. UN-GGIM encouraged consideration for a programme, in coordination with the regional committees of UN-GGIM and regional commissions of the United Nations, to leverage the IGIF and its Implementation Guide to strengthen national capacities to effectively manage the geospatial resources to modernize national geospatial information arrangements in Member States, particularly in developing countries, to advocate and raise awareness, as appropriate.

The Ministerial Conference of the Asia-Pacific region adopted in October 2018 the **Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030)**<sup>3</sup>, a regionally-coordinated, inclusive and needs-driven blueprint that harnesses space and geospatial applications, as well as digital innovations to support countries, particularly those with special needs, to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It includes 188 actions in the following thematic areas: a) disaster risk management; b) natural resource management; c) connectivity; d) social development; e) energy; and f) climate change. The implementation modalities are through: a) research and knowledge-sharing; b) capacity building and technical support; and c) intergovernmental discussions and regional practices. Among the three, capacity-development and technical support has been identified by countries as the priority.

The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) was jointly developed by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Bank under a collaborative arrangement. The IGIF provides a basis, a reference and a mechanism for countries when establishing or strengthening their national geospatial information management arrangements and related infrastructures, or to coordinate activities to achieve alignment between and across existing national capabilities and infrastructures. The Framework translates high-level concepts to practical implementation guidance and does this by leveraging seven (7) underpinning principles, eight (8) goals and nine (9) strategic pathways as a means for governments to establish, improve and sustain more effective geospatial information management arrangements. The **IGIF Implementation Guide**<sup>4</sup>, adopted in September 2020 by UN-GGIM<sup>5</sup> at its tenth session, provides the specific guidance and recommended actions to be taken by Member States to establish, improve or strengthen their national arrangements in geospatial information management, systems and infrastructures.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that timely, available and accessible geospatial information, and integrated with statistics and other information, with combined analyses, are prerequisite for good policy-making and supporting and tracking development progress. However, there is still a lack of awareness, understanding and uptake of the vital and integrative role of geospatial information, particularly in developing countries.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-plan-action-space-applications-sustainable-development-2018-2030>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ggim.un.org/IGIF/part2.cshtml>

<sup>5</sup> <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-session/>

## About the Virtual Regional Seminar

This Virtual Regional Seminar, jointly organized by the UN-GGIM and UN-GGIM-AP Secretariats with the support of the Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), is a two-session seminar held over two days. The programme is designed to raise and improve awareness, knowledge and understanding of the IGIF, to introduce and inform participants from Asia and the Pacific of the overarching strategic framework, the implementation guidance, approach and available resource materials to operationalize the IGIF according to their national circumstances. It aims at sharing knowledge and experiences amongst countries engaged and interested in operationalizing the IGIF.

The Virtual Regional Seminar seeks to contribute to the strengthening of nationally integrated geospatial information management towards the production, dissemination and application of geospatial information for the implementation of national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The IGIF, anchored by its nine strategic pathways, together with the Implementation Guide, provides Member States with a comprehensive mechanism for articulating and demonstrating national leadership in integrated geospatial information management, and the capacity to take positive steps.

### *Objectives*

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- a) Raise awareness of, and improve knowledge and understanding on, the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework - the Overarching Strategic Framework (IGIF Part I)<sup>6</sup> and the Implementation Guide (IGIF Part II)<sup>7</sup>;
- b) Introduce an approach to operationalize the IGIF through country-level Action Plans towards nationally integrated geospatial information management; and
- c) Share ongoing national experience in designing and developing country-level Action Plans towards operationalizing the IGIF.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://ggim.un.org/IGIF/part1.cshtml>

<sup>7</sup> <https://ggim.un.org/IGIF/part2.cshtml>

## Participants

The Virtual Regional Seminar is open to interested participants from governments, but prior registration is required for all interested participants. Participants are expected to be expert representatives of Member States in Asia and the Pacific, expected to be Director-Generals or Chief Executives, Directors or senior level officials from Ministries, Agencies or Departments responsible for geospatial information management nationally. They will have a desire to address and improve the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information nationally, and to realize vital and integrative role of geospatial information.

## Provisional annotated agenda

The provisional annotated agenda for the Virtual Regional Seminar is as follows:

Day 1: 25 November 2020	
<p>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (UTC+7)</p>	<p><b>Welcome, introductions and setting the scene</b></p> <p><u>Welcome remarks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Oki Shoichi Vice-President of Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP); Director-General of Planning Department, Geospatial Information Authority of Japan</li> <li>▪ Ms. Tiziana Bonapace Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)</li> </ul> <p><u>Setting the scene:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nationally integrated geospatial information management for evidence-based policies and decisions for the wellbeing of people and planet UN-GGIM Secretariat, Mr. Greg Scott</li> </ul> <p><u>Facilitated discussion</u></p> <p><b>The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework - strengthening national geospatial information management capacities and capabilities</b></p> <p><u>National perspectives:</u></p> <p>National impetus and considerations for improving and strengthening arrangements in geospatial information management and capacities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia, Mr. Syahrudin</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ State Agency on Land Resources, Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Almaz Abdiev</li> <li>▪ Agency for Land Administration, Geodesy and Cartography Mongolia, Ms. Bayarmaa Enkhtur</li> </ul> <p><u>Integrated Geospatial Information Framework:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A reference and mechanism for improving and strengthening nationally integrated geospatial information management and capacities UN-GGIM Secretariat, Mr. TEO CheeHai</li> </ul> <p><u>Facilitated discussion</u></p>
<b>Day 2: 02 December 2020</b>	
<p>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (UTC+7)</p>	<p><b>Operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework</b></p> <p><u>National perspectives:</u></p> <p>National experiences in assessing and analysing national situation to design and develop IGIF country-level Action Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Fiji, Ms. Meizyanne Hicks</li> <li>▪ Survey Department, Nepal, Mr. Susheel Dangol</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Tonga, Ms. Rosamond Bing</li> </ul> <p><u>Integrated Geospatial Information Framework:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guidance, options and actions provided in the Implementation Guide and addresses each of the nine strategic pathways to capture strategic to operational needs of a country UN-GGIM Secretariat, Mr. TEO CheeHai</li> </ul> <p><u>Facilitated discussion</u></p> <p><b>Next steps and close</b></p> <p><u>Summary and next steps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UN Secretariat for Global Geospatial Information Management Mr. Greg Scott, Inter-regional Adviser</li> </ul> <p><u>Closing remarks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Oki Shoichi Vice-President of Regional Committee on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP); Director-General of Planning Department, Geospatial Information Authority of Japan</li> </ul>

## Organisers

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), as the Secretariat of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), will jointly organise the meeting with the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

## Points of Contact

Administrative arrangements including registration:

**Ms. Verena Kausche**

*UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat*

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Substantive matters:

**Mr. Teo CheeHai**

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