

Kuala Lumpur Declaration *on* *Spatially Enabled Government & Society*

We, the participants of the United Nations sponsored Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific International Symposium on Spatially Enabled Government and Society, with the theme "Towards Spatial Maturity" held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on February 15th and 16th, 2012, having met in the context of building trust to promote understanding and to enhance collaboration in the field of geospatial information and spatial enablement that addresses current national, regional and global challenges, hereby issue this ***Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Spatially Enabled Government and Society.***

Recalling Resolution 16 at the 13th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 1994 that established the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP),

Noting Resolution 1 at the 16th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2003 on the importance of spatial data infrastructures in supporting sustainable development at national, regional and global levels,

Further noting Resolution 5 at the 18th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2009 to understand, compare and determine the state of spatially enabled government and society including levels of maturity and governance of spatial data infrastructure in the region,

Bearing in mind that the rapid development and increased demand for spatial information infrastructures in all countries in past years has made geospatial information an invaluable tool in policy planning and evidence-based decision making,

Mindful that spatial enablement, that is, the ability to add location to almost all existing information, unlocks the wealth of existing knowledge about social, economic and environmental matters, and can play a vital role in understanding and addressing the many challenges that we face in an increasingly complex and interconnected world,

Acknowledging that spatial enablement, by definition, requires information to be collected, updated, analyzed, represented, and communicated, together with information on ownership and custodianship, in a consistent manner to underpin effective delivery systems, good governance, public safety and security towards the well being of societies, the environment and economy,



Recognizing that geospatial information includes 'fundamental data' that is essential and therefore must have authority, currency, resilience and sustainability, be comprehensive, freely available, accessible and usable for informed decision-making, which immediately leads to better policies and sustainable actions, and more open, accountable, responsive and efficient governments,

Agree that spatially enabled societies and governments, recognizing that all activities and events have a geographical and temporal context, make decisions and organize their affairs through the effective and efficient use of spatial data, information and services,

Resolve to fully support the initiative of the United Nations to implement global mechanisms to foster geospatial information management among the Member States, international organizations, and the private sector, and in this regard to make every effort to:

- enhance national efforts including investments towards the managing of all information spatially and the realizing of spatially enabled governments and societies with a focus on citizens and users;
- confirm the importance of governance and legislative frameworks and the need for legislative interoperability;
- confirm the importance of authoritative and assured data and information, encourage the incorporation of volunteered information, develop enabling platforms by locating, connecting and delivering information from different scales, purposes and origins;
- confirm the importance of common geodetic reference frameworks, positioning and network infrastructures;
- avail resources to invest, manage and sustain the capture, collection and collation of fundamental data and information and to reduce duplication in these efforts;
- build and use common standards and frameworks to ensure interoperability;
- enhance institutional arrangements and stakeholder collaborations; and
- improve returns on investment through better coordination, use and reuse of data, information and systems and to enhance innovation and productivity.

Kuala Lumpur
16th February 2012