

Seventh UN-GGIM Session in New York



The Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) has changed its name to the UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies Board. A meeting was organised for the attending presidents of the member societies.

The Seventh Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was held from 31 July to 4 August 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA. FIG President Prof Chryssy Potsiou and FIG Vice President Mr Mikael Lilje represented the FIG. About 400 participants from more than 90 countries joined the event together with more than 70 observers. Good locational data is of growing importance in today's world. UN-GGIM coordinates the use and application of such data for sustainable development, disaster management, peace missions, climate mitigation, environment, water and so on. The Seventh Session was opened by Mr Liu, under-secretary-general from the United

Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The agenda included, amongst other things, reports on the global geodetic reference frame, determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes, trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management, legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data, implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community and integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.

The Committee of Experts noted and supported the 2017-2021 Strategic Framework and indicated that its implementation should be supported by regional committees. The Committee endorsed the formal establishment of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and agreed with the terms of reference. Membership from developing countries is encouraged. The report on 'fundamental data themes' received many comments and observations, mainly related to data quality and actuality with less focus on coverage. 'Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes' is generally accepted – this can be compared with the European INSPIRE initiative. The Committee endorsed the establishment of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information. The integration of statistical and geospatial information was further discussed. The Committee encouraged the continued refinement and implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, including:

formulating standardised data and metadata interoperability; paying attention to Big Data; developing technical tools and processes that are able to address regional and subregional integration challenges, and in this context considering specific examples of institutional agreements and practices. The Work Plan 2017/2018 for Land Administration and Management was endorsed after applying some textual refinements to the document. There were contributions on relevant land indicators of the global indicator framework in support of efforts to improve and accelerate the proportion of the global population that has access to secure tenure of land. A number of interesting side events were organised, among them the Academic Network Forum Event, in close collaboration with and the support of UN-Expert Group on Land Administration and Management, UN-GGIM Private Sector Network, and UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies. The Forum focused on the theme of 'Secure Land Rights and Smart Cities – Making It Work for Sustainable Development' and included a presentation by the president of FIG. Ms Dorine Burmanje from Netherlands Kadaster was elected as co-chair of UN-GGIM, and Cameroon is to take over the role of rapporteur from Burkina Faso. By Chryssy Potsiou and Kees de Zeeuw

More information
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Update on the GSDI Capacity-Building Programme



An important element of the GSDI Association's Strategic Plan 2015-2020 focuses on capacity building. This has various aspects, including workshops, webinars, a knowledge bank of online resources, funded GSDI Strategic Projects, and participation in various conferences and meetings, to promote spatial data infrastructure (SDI).

Beginning in November 2016, a series of webinars focusing on marine/coastal SDI issues was initiated, running to the end of 2017. The topics include an introductory webinar on the GSDI Marine SDI (MSDI) Best Practice Project; focus on MSDI in Malaysia, Brazil and Denmark/Baltic states; focus on coastal SDI issues; three webinars focused on the role of SDI in marine cadastre and an

overview of the latest marine data standards work of IHO and OGC.

Beginning in September 2017, a series of four webinars will cover SDI Data Policy, Governance and eGovernment; Licensing and IPR; Standards for NSDI & Metadata Profiling; and NSDI Organisational Issues. GSDI webinars are open to all at no cost;