Scoping Note on
Critical Issues in Global Geographic Information Management (GGIM)

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1. Governance: global consultation and governance

Global Mapping Project is an existing initiative for global geographic information management. It has achieved some solid results such as the release of Global Map Version 1 including Global Land Cover and Percent Tree Cover data in 2008 and technology transfer to the developing countries concerning the development of SDI. In 2009 Global Map Specifications Version 2 was adopted which reflected the opinions of participating countries to the project, and by 2012 Global Map Version 2 will be developed. In 1998 we obtained a letter of recommendation from Director of United Nations Statistics Division which highlights the importance of the project and this has encouraged the participation in the project. PC-IDEA and PAIGH have been made technical assistance to develop Global Map data of the Americas.
Efforts to develop Global Map should be continued with the cooperation of National Mapping Organizations (NMOs) of the world and related organizations. However, support to developing countries for the development of Global Map is currently not sufficient. We expect it will be promoted under the auspices of UN.

2. Technical Reviews

2.1 Interoperability of systems and data

In the Global Map Specifications ISO19136 (GML3.2.1) is adopted as the distribution format of vector data and ISO19115 as metadata standard, respecting activities of ISO/TC211 and OGC. Global Mapping Project has contributed to the dissemination of international standards.

2.2 Common technical solutions and standards

ISCGM has been preparing a manual for the development and update of Global Map for the reference of NMOs. This manual will be distributed to participating countries after reflecting their opinions. This is a good example on the use of common technical solutions and standards.

2.3 Data integration and layering

Global Map Specifications are compliant with international standards including those of ISO/TC211, World Geodetic System is adopted as its coordinate system. In addition, “administrative boundaries” feature has administrative code and SALB code as its attribute. These characteristics enable Global Map to be used in combination with other geospatial information including statistics and satellite imagery.
If the cooperation between national mapping organizations and national statistical organizations is strengthened for GGIM, the use of statistics through administrative codes will be fostered.

2.4 Public rendering of geographic information by the private sector

When geographic information is used for international decision making, the information developed and authorized by each nation should be used. Global Map is developed and authorized by NMOs.

3. Global Applications: Climate Change, Vulnerability, Disaster Management

To effectively cope with global issues such as climate change, disaster prevention, water resource management, desertification and extinction of biodiversity, global geographic dataset in consistent specifications is indispensable. In the UNCoE on GGIM, the measures for development and utilization of Global Map should be discussed among NMOs, international and regional organizations and academies and effective cooperation with other related projects should be promoted.

4. Capacity building and technology transfer

Geospatial Information Authority of Japan has contributed to the development of Global Map and SDI, by receiving 94 trainees from 57 countries through JICA training course on Global Mapping and assisting developing countries in data development. ESRI and Intergraph have provided grant program for Global Mapping Project. These efforts should be continued and expanded.