Eighth Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM
UN-GGIM Academic Network Meeting

Thursday, 2 August 2018
8:00 – 10:00 am
Conference Room 12 (CR-12)
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Meeting Minutes

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

1. ## Welcome and Opening Remarks

Prof. Abbas Rajabifard, Chair of the Academic Network, welcomed the attendees and everybody shortly introduced themselves:
Abbas Rajabifard - University of Melbourne (Australia)
Maria Antonia Brovelli - Politecnico di Milano (Italy)
Rosario Casanova - Uruguay University (Uruguay)
Joep Crompvoet - KU Leuven (Belgium)
Gary Jeffress - Texas University Corpus Christi (US)
Gottfried Konecny - University of Hannover (Germany)
Jorge Prado Molina - UNAM (Mexico)
Maryam Rabiee - University of Melbourne (Australia)
Saeid Pirasteh - Waterloo University (Canada)
Michael Starek - Texas University Corpus Christi (US)
Josef Strobl - University of Salzburg (Austria)
Tom Veldkamp - University of Twente (The Netherlands)
Kyoung-Soo Eom - UN GIS
Hidenori Fujimura - UN DFS GIS
Ayako Kagawa - UN DFS GIS
Fabien Lezeau - UN DFS GIS
Timur Obukhov - UN GIS
Irma Britten - Francis and Taylor (USA)

Professor Rajabifard presented the past activities and the workplan 2018-2019

2. ## Reflection on Second Academic Network forum

The Forum "The SDGs Connectivity Dilemma: Urban Settlements, Resilience, and Sustainability" was held on 30th July 208 as side event of the Eighth Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM UN-

GGIM Academic Network Meeting. The Forum was a success and well attended. Based on the good work and the outcomes of our two forums (this year and last year) we will choose a theme allowing people to work collaboratively and more in contact with the different working groups of UN-GGIM and in line with their agendas. Therefore, our presence in the Working Groups is really fundamental.

3. Organisation of the Network

Currently there are over 30 Academic Network members, plus over 20 members that are involved in the Academic Network Americas, which will be added to the Academic Network via our online EOI. There were also requests for accepting individual applications, but this is not in line with the institutional characteristics of the Network. Applications are at level of Universities and Research centres, not single professors or researchers. As part of the 2018-2019 workplan the members will engage new members.

4. Research Project

The Academic Network has identified two research projects that will be conducted in the next year, in collaboration with the Network Members and the FIG Commission 7:

Cadastral Template 2.0 and Sustainable Development
Using the data collected over 50 countries, this research project will discuss global trends and propose effective local, national, and global solutions with emphasis on how Cadastral Template 2.0 can contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. The Cadastral Template is a spatial data foundation for sustainable development and the significant role of land in development will be expanded in this research to facilitate the SDGs.

The Role of Geospatial Research and Innovation in Implementing the SDGs
The Academic Network will identify research areas that will contribute to the analysis and implementation of the SDGs. Many projects were proposed. In the following a complete list, considering also the proposals sent by email.

Prof. Joep Crompvoet:
- Smart Cities and impact from disruptive technologies
- Crowdsourcing
- Good Governance

Prof. Rosario Casanova:
- Analyse the State of art on education and research in the countries members, detect gaps (questionnaires are already available) and provide guidance about the available courses and educational material.
- Evaluate data quality and give capacity to countries to assess the quality of their products
- Look into DATA CUBE Nasa and adapt those courses to the reality of the specific regions of the world, preparing material/guides with case of studies that let people understand and be able to apply the knowledge taught to their reality.

Prof. Maria Brovelli:
- UN Open GIS (implementation of an open source platform for the operational field mission of UN; this is the project leaded by the GIS Unit of UN

- High-Resolution Global Land Cover maps production, validation, and intercomparison. This will benefit of the availability of the recent new available open imagery of the ESA Sentinels. And, on the other side, it is a fundamental variable for studying and monitoring phenomena like urbanization, deforestation, soil consumption and climate change. This is a project partially supported by ISPRS. Open training material has been prepared in the frame of this project.

Prof. Harlan Onsrud proposes to solicit and create each year a refereed set of videos that support the aims and objectives of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). Think of these videos as similar to TED Talks by leading experts on topics of interest to the government members of UNGGIM.
Parameters or processes for this initiative might include:

- Solicit topics from UNGGIM member delegates for which they would most like explanations of complex, innovative, or exciting concepts from the academic expert community (i.e. probably solicit through an online survey with an initial list of suggestions) Talks might be either research based, or practice based as long as germane to the needs of UNGGIM.
- An Academic Network Educational Video Editorial Committee develops a call to be distributed to the global academic community
In the solicitation of full videos from the global academic community requirements might include:
A. No video longer than 8 minutes
B. Must follow prescribed format similar to TED talks and be of high quality (a sample would be supplied)
C. Videos would be peer reviewed by at least three other academic experts on the topic and revisions may be required
D. Final professional editing would be performed for consistency and quality

- Let's assume that 20 topics are suggested by UNGGIM governments and 50 short videos are submitted by academics on a range of these topics in the first year. Ten and only ten might be selected for posting on the UNGGIM web site as a peer-reviewed product. This collection would have an explicit web publication date. Those that don't make it the first year might be encouraged to submit again with explicit suggestions for corrections for the next year. (Alternative: Do like TED talks and publish as many as possible that pass the peer review process? If so, would we need events that force deadlines where talks are presented? ... such as at conferences around the globe)

ESRI proposes to collaborate to the LEARN curriculum to support the SDGs based on the SDG Data Hub. This is all based on sdg.org. Learn by doing: Examine Global Poverty Using UN Sustainable Development Goals
https://www.esri.com/arcgis-blog/products/arcgis-online/mapping/examine-global-poverty-using-un-sustainable-development-goals/
Sample result:
https://learngis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=63ba9823b2414927bb39352fa4538488
https://learn.arcgis.com/en/
https://learngis.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html

5. Report from Academic Network Regional Committees

UN Academic Network – European branch

This branch was founded at the 7th Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM (August 2017). At the moment, 10 of the current 29 UN-GGIM AN members are European.

The European branch had the following actions:

- Contribution to Executive Committee meeting of UN-GGIM Europe (Brussels, 23 January 2018;
- Organisation of 'Meeting of the European branch of UN-GGIM Academic Network'. This event took place in Milan (Italy), 9 February 2018. Representatives from 9 European universities participated to this event. The participants mainly discussed future actions
- Participation to General Assembly of UN-GGIM Europe (Brussels, 7 June 2018)
- Organisation of meetings with representatives of key 'European' network/umbrella organisations, such as UN-GGIM Europe, EuroSDR, EuroGeographics, AGILE) and participation to their events
- Active contribution to the Forum on 'The SDGs Connectivity Dilemma: Urban Settlements, Resilience, and Sustainability (9 out 22 speakers were European)

The European branch will launch a strong promotion campaign to attract new European members in Autumn 2018 with help of key 'European' network/umbrella organisations

UN Academic Network – America branch

Rosario Casanova, Chair of the Academic Network America, presented the American branch activities and plans

This branch was proposed in December 2016 in the Meeting of UN-GGIM Americas. Now, ANA has 17 members. The Academic Network Americas had the following actions:

- Participation on the UN-GGIM Americas Meeting on April 2017, Chile. Including the 'Meeting of members of Americas Academic Network' Representatives from 6 universities participated to this event. The participants mainly discussed terms of reference of the network and future actions.
- Presented to UN-GGIM: Americas and Academic Network the terms of reference of ANA and its organization, July 2017.
- Participation in the Sixth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts UN-GGIM, New York. Oral Presentation of ANA in the side event of UN-GGIM: Americas and assistance to side event of Academic Network., New York, August 2017.
- Active participation in the Fifth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM, Mexico City, November 2017.
- First Meeting: new authorities of UN-GGIM Americas and ANA, Mexico City, November 2017.The participants mainly discussed future actions in common.
- Assistance to the Workshop/Course of Integration of Geostatistical and Geospatial Information for members of the Caribbean Project and the Americas, Mexico City, November 2017.
- Active Participation in the Eight Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts UN-GGIM, New York. Oral Presentation of ANA in the side event of UN-GGIM: Americas and the side event of Academic Network, New York, August 2018. In both meetings, the working plan and surveys done by ANA were presented.
- Assistance to the Workshop/Course Earth Observations and Geospatial Information for the Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals for members of the Caribbean Project and the Americas, New York, July 2018.

- Assistance to the Forum 'The SDGs Connectivity Dilemma: Urban Settlements, Resilience, and Sustainability" by Academic Network, New York, July 2018.

The work plan of 2018 includes the following objectives:

- Promote the Academic Network and recruit new members.
- Identify universities and educational centres involved in research and development of geospatial information and related topics in the Americas.
- Assess geospatial training and capacity requirements of governmental institutions of Member Countries of America.
- Identify the challenges and opportunities perceived by the Global Academic Network and by UN-GGIM: Americas and turn them into the academic sphere of the region to promote their inclusion and development.
- Develop academic strategies aligned with the UN-GGIM: Americas Work Plan and advice on their capacity building programs.
- Identify and inform UN-GGIM: Americas about different academic knowledge or problems that may exist or arise and propose timely initiatives for such issues and challenges.
- Promote collaboration among universities and research centres in the Americas, including the identification of common research topics and relevant trends.
- Explore the need for Regional School of Geospatial Information Management.

6. Assign Academic Network Representatives to UN-GGIM Working Groups

1. Working Group on Development of a Statement of Shared Principles for the Management of Geospatial Information: open for nomination
2. Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements in Geospatial Information Management: Joep Crompvoet - KU Leuven (Belgium)
3. Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters: Maria Brovelli - Politecnico di Milano (Italy)
4. Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes: Josef Strobl - University of Salzburg (Austria)
5. Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management: open for nomination
6. Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information: Gary Jeffress and Michael Starek - Texas University Corpus Christi (US)

8. Future direction and plans

For the initiatives for next year, check the Action Plan 2018-2019

9. Other Business

During the meeting there was an interesting and informative presentation given by Mrs. Ayako Kagawa, Chief of the Cartographic Uni of the Geospatial Information Section of the United Nations, about the United Nations Peace Operations Normative Framework. Mr. Kyoung-Soo Eom, Chief of the Geospatial

Information Section Information & Communications Technology Division (ICTD), Department of Field Support (DFS) of the United Nations, shortly introduced the UN Open GIS Project. The two contributions are considered of high interest of the Network and future collaborations between the Geospatial Unit of United Nations and the Academic Network are under study.

As a follow up of this item, a meeting was held between Chair and Deputy-chair of UN Cartographic Section and Chair and Deputy-chair of the Academic Network on 3 August 2018. At the meeting, a project was designed by the Academic Network to the operation of the UN. The Discussion has been well developed and the team agreed to define a scope for closer collaboration.