

Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

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Abstract

On 3 August 2015, 55 participants from 23 member states gathered together to attend the side event on improving geospatial information policy, processes and services to support emergency response organized by the Secretariat as part of the 5th session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

During this side event, a preliminary strategic framework developed on the basis of a fact finding analysis with the vision to ensure for the necessary geospatial information and services to be available, of quality and accessible in a coordinated way to decision making and operations during disaster has been presented to the participants before hearing the lessons learned from Japan during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (2011) and from the Philippines during Typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan (2013). The discussion that followed emphasized not only the importance of this topic but also the key role that the UN-GGIM community could play in this regards.

During the plenary session of UN-GGIM committee that followed on 7 August 2015, the recommendations to consider geospatial information and services for disasters as a formal UN-GGIM committee's agenda item and to establish a Working Group to further develop and implement the strategic framework have both been accepted with the support of 31 Member States.

This presentation aims to update the participants to the 20th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP) on what has been progressed since then and to present the way forward.