

Minutes of UNGIWG Task Group Managers Videoconference

Date: 18 September 2006

ATTENDED:

New York:

David Kaatrud (WFP)
Lorant Czarán (OCHA)

Bangkok:

Steeve Ebener (WHO) - TG1 Manager

Geneva:

Alain Retière (UNOSAT) - TG3 Manager

Rome:

Jeff Tschirley (FAO)
Mick Wilson (UNEP) - TG4 Manager
John Latham (FAO) - TG2 Manager
Suha Ulgen (OCHA) - TG5 Manager
George Mu'ammár (WFP) - Presented on
behalf of TG6 Manager
Jelle Hielkema (FAO)
Reuben Sessa (FAO)

AGENDA:

1. Introduction by Co-chairs
2. Status of the TGs, the current activities and the future plans.
3. The Seventh Meeting in November 2006, its agenda, exhibits, case studies.
4. UNSDI vision and implementation strategy report.
5. Any other matter.

2. STATUS OF THE TASK GROUPS (current activities, future plans, etc)

TG1 – International and Administrative Boundaries (S. Ebener)

- o Additional funds (200,000 US\$) received to continue the work.
- o In terms of collaboration, Steeve is currently in Bangkok for the 17th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and Pacific (UNRCC-AP) to report on the progresses made in the context of the PCGIAP working Group 2 Pilot project
- o In terms of progresses made these 3 months:
 - contact information updated for 14 countries
 - historic changes updated for 3 countries
 - have received a new map for South Korea and received the authorization to use data map from Brazil.
- o for the coming months the plan to
 - establish the editing node in Asia
 - publish the new edition of the SALB Newsletter
 - the preparation for the GSDI, UNGIWG and ISCGM meetings in Chile
 - continue the discussion with Eurogeographics
 - redefine the SALB Regions

S. Ebener says he is still waiting for comments from the UNGIWG Co/chairs on the SALB-GAUL issue (see email sent weeks ago). J. Tschirley suggests an offline discussion on the phone between S. Ebener and UNGIWG Co-chairs may be held on this after October 2.

TG2– Core Geo-Database (J. Latham):

- After taking over E. Ataman, the need to re-initialize the network is urgent.
- Need to prioritize the workplan in relation to the 13 core data bases available, recently the priority has gone into Land Cover Classification. A new Land Cover Layer at 300 mt resolution, developed in collaboration with FAO/UNEP/JRC/EC, will be available by the end of 2006. Currently not yet validated.
- A new work item proposal for ISO standard of Land Cover was put forward and by end of 2008 a full ISO for Land Cover will be established.
- Layer on Protected Areas improved within FAO; layer on projected population developed in collaboration between FAO/CIESIN.
- E. Ataman coordinated the production of over 1,000 consistent layers to be published in 2007, if ready by October 2006 will be presented at UNGIWG-7.

Co-chairs highlight the need to convene with TG members for officially announcing management handover and preparation of report to be presented at UNGIWG-7.

TG3 – Remote Sensing (A. Retière):

- Due to recent natural disasters the accessibility to satellite data has improved remarkably and good progress has been done with the tool developed within UNGIWG.
- Problems may be due to limited consultation of the tool developed within UNGIWG: people involved in operation are not always aware about the existence of UNGIWG.

A. Retière asks for updating on the approach that DPKO and OCHA have made to GOOGLE, and expresses his skepticism on the added value of such partnership.

Co-chairs suggest the progress on Google approach should be included in the agenda for the next videoconference.

TG4 – Interoperable Services (M. Wilson):

- GeoNetwork workshop organized and well attended. The EC was present as well as the UN family.
- Task activities have been set up to improve GeoNetwork and proposed. Feedback is expected from the SDI AG meeting that is being held in FAO during these days (18-20.09.2006).

J. Tschirley suggests a videoconference with TG members shall be held for updating and preparation of the report to be presented at UNGIWG-7.

TG5 – GIS Map Production Guidelines (S. Ulgen):

- OCHA information management office has done good progress and reached the stage where templates of maps, layouts can be presented. Live web seems to convey the lookout of maps.
- All products will be uploaded on the TG5 website and posted to UNGIWG community. A link on the UNGIWG website could be inserted, with invitation to test the templates.
- Particular efforts have been made to ease the use of layouts on Microsoft Power Point platform.
- Future efforts in standardization need to be consistent with work done by UNSDI.

S. Ulgen commits himself to send out a detailed update on TG activities by next week.

TG6 – Global Navigation Satellite Systems (G. Mu'ammam):

George Mu'ammam presented on behalf Menghestab Haile who was on leave.

- A great deal of work was done by the TG on defining the standards for GPS data collection, hopefully a template will be shown at UNGIWG-7.
 - A detailed progress of activities will be sent through e-mail in the next few days.
- Co-chairs suggest M. Haile organizes a videoconference with TG members, and connections with Michal Smolka for updates on latest progresses.

3. THE SEVENTH MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2006 (its agenda, exhibits, case studies, etc)

1. Provisional keynote speaker identified in Santiago Borrero, the Secretary General of Paigh. He was formally invited but not responded yet. J. Tschirley invites all conveners to put forward any proposal for alternative speakers. S. Ulgen suggests Onsrud (chair of GSDI) could be appropriate. All agree.
2. Suggestions for having one case study for Natural Disasters (options include Indonesia and Kashmir earthquakes) and one for Complex Emergencies (options include DPKO's work in Darfur and Lebanon). A. Retière says UNOSAT is very active in Lebanon and will be very happy to present some of the work done (currently developing a level 3 Atlas – municipality level).
3. Breakout groups worked well last plenary meeting, organizers to make sure appropriate space is booked. A request for confirmation was sent to Santiago, a reply has not been received yet.
4. Logistics is overall under control, only need final confirmation.
5. No feedback received yet for requests of poster exhibition, but too early to have any.
6. Shuffling of few items within the agenda are suggested
7. An itemized agenda needs to be sent out by the end of this week (i.e., by Fri 23rd)
8. It was agreed that the SDI discussion would span two days to allow for informal exchange between Day 2 and 3.
9. It was agreed that a discussion should eventually take place between those involved in the UNSDI formation and national/Regional SDI entities but only after consensus is reached in UNGIWG on the approach to UNSDI.
10. UNSDI can be a valuable input to GSDI and a suggestion to invite key GSDI invitees to UNGIWG reception is made
11. J. Hielkema states a kickoff meeting of UNSDI will be held in Hungary on 28th September this year and it could be an opportunity to check the relationship between Gabor Remetey-Fulopp (organizer of the meeting) and GSDI.

4 UNSDI vision and implementation strategy report

The final draft of UNSDI vision and implementation strategy report was received this morning and should be sent to all invitees of UNGIWG-7 with a cover letter.

5 ANY OTHER MATTER

Issues of ESRI licensing to be followed by someone in New York.

Formal request of CGIAR to be member of UNGIWG advanced, but full membership only given to UN agencies. There may be the need for setting criteria for establishing associate membership.

Reports of the 1st and 2nd UNGIWG plenary meetings sent by S. Ebener to be put online on the UNGIWG web site.

Proposal for 2-3 more meetings before UNGIWG-7, proposal for possible dates to be sent by e-mail.

End.