



MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR GEOSPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE AMERICAS PC-IDEA

Venue: Centro de Convenções Sul América, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Date/Time: August 16, 2012, 12 p.m. to 18 p.m.

Participants:

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Agenda:

1. Opening and Welcome, verifying quorum and agenda review
2. General Reports
3. 2011 PC-IDEA questionnaire
4. Advances in "Capacity building" work plan
5. Advances in "Standards and technical specifications" work plan
6. Advances in "Best Practices" work plan
7. New PC-IDEA website
8. Presentation on PC-IDEA goals for August 2013 and proposal of cooperation with PAIGH
9. Agreements summary and closure

1. Opening and Welcome, verifying quorum and agenda review

The Vice-President of CP-IDEA welcomed and thanked everyone's presence. He reported that the President was unable to attend the meeting for personal reasons and that he would be chairing the meeting at his request. He then read the proposed agenda, clarifying the points to be discussed.

The Executive Secretary reported that the quorum required for holding the meeting (Article 29) had been reached, as 13 members/countries were present, as well as Colombia's virtual participation via videoconference.

2. General Reports

2.1. The Executive Secretary of the CP-IDEA presented the activities of the Committee from August 2011 to August 2012, including the following subjects:

- a) Current composition
- b) Meetings (plenary and GTplan)
- c) Participation of CP-IDEA in UN events (GGIM)
- d) Upcoming GGIM events
- e) Work Plan 2010 - 2013
- f) Cooperation with the PAIGH and existing Resolutions
- g) Expected results for 2013
- h) Reports and publications planned until 2013
- i) Publication: Results of the 2011 Questionnaire
- j) Magazines, publications, interviews and books
- k) Event of Natural disaster risk - IDE
- l) Participation in congresses and events
- m) Requests to participants:
 - Countries that haven't indicated alternate members should do so.
 - Those countries are: Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, United States and Venezuela.
 - It was reinforced that the Executive Secretary can help in disseminating news, courses and events on the topic through her communication channels, but she needs members to inform her more frequently and regularly.
 - Members should forward works and presentations of relevance to the topic to the Executive Secretary so they can be placed in the web archives of the Committee.
- n) Next Plenary: August 2013, during the 10th UNRCC-A



2.2. The Vice-President of CP-IDEA reported on the second meeting of the Committee of Experts of the United Nations, which happened in the previous days, 13th to 15th August. He attended the meeting not only as Chile's representative but also as CP-IDEA's Vice-President.

- The themes discussed were as follows:
- Strategic consideration of future trends in geospatial information management: vision of five to ten years
- Contribution of the Committee to the UN Conference Rio + 20
- Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee
- Consideration of an ethical statement for approval by the global geospatial community
- Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information
- A worldwide study on the status of cartography
- Global Geodetic Reference System
- Development of a global map to sustainable development

The meeting's proceedings may be found at:

<http://ggim.un.org/2nd%20Session/Report-Submitted.pdf>

In relation to the Global Map initiative, it was requested the responses to the questionnaire to be strengthened so that the results are representative of the reality of each region.

The Vice-President of CP-IDEA presented the activities undertaken by the Standing Committee related to the progress in implementing the resolutions of the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, the 2009-2013 work plan, and a description of the plan's final products.

3. 2011 PC-IDEA questionnaire: conclusions and application prospects for 2013

The Coordinator and the Vice-Coordinator of GTplan first presented a summary of the five topics of the questionnaire: training, rules, best practices, SDI development, and innovations in Geographic/Cartographic Institutes, as follows:

- Training: priority topics, needs, actors and aim of the existing groups and courses;
- Rules: general aspects, themes, priorities, producers' and users' rules of general application and territorial reach, and use of international standards;
- Best practices: existence of documented best practices, knowledge of best practices in other countries, need to have documented best practices, and objective of the audience to be reached;
- SDI development: institutional arrangements (legal framework, models of financing policies), data access (availability and documentation), social and economic impact, and existing courses;
- Innovations in Institutes: themes and technologies used, business models, and institutional ordering.

Then, the findings of the publication "Diagnosis on relevant issues of the management of geospatial information and development of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) in the Americas" were presented.

3.1 General:

- a) Important advances concerning the existence of legal frameworks on SDI, SDI policies, availability of data and services, and the development of landmark data;
- b) The low level of monitoring the impact of SDI, and their usefulness for decision makers and society;
- c) The lack of documentation and dissemination of best practices;
- d) The low level of standardization of thematic information.



3.2 Capacity building:

- a) The priority themes for training vary according to the target audience; Identified themes and requests that should be considered in a training plan for the region;
- b) The geospatial data infrastructure is a common theme to all target audiences;
- c) As for the type of courses and implementation modalities, classroom is the most requested;
- d) Distance learning is not preferred;
- e) It is needed to complete the survey on the offering of workshops and conferences, short courses (one to two weeks), and long courses (1 month).

3.3 Standards and technical specifications:

- a) It is important to incorporate into national processes the modeled thematic data and documentation of their technical specifications;
- b)
- c) The CP-IDEA should assess the progress and support it through the provision of tools, methods and best practices;
- d) In terms of international standards, the use of ISO 19100 and OGC is very different;
- e) The challenge for CP-IDEA is to define a minimum set of core standards to be used by all countries of the Committee;
- f) Priority should be given in contributing to the implementation process of these standards through dissemination, exchange of good practices and training.

3.4 Best practices:

- a) Many of the countries surveyed do not document their best practices and success stories;
- b)
- c) The CP-IDEA should focus on promoting this activity in the countries of the region;
- d) Efficient mechanisms for dissemination of good practices by virtual means should be activated;
- e) The language barriers that affect the use of this documentation should be overcome; The IDE observatory, which is being implemented, could act as a bank of good practices.

3.5 Institutional scope:

- a) Countries with an established legal framework and funding models in operation have the highest levels of advancement in their geospatial data infrastructures;
- b) The challenge for CP-IDEA is to support the countries that are lagging in their implementation processes of the IDE;
- c) CP-IDEA should make available existing documentation, facilitating knowledge about the successful experiences in establishment legal frameworks;
- d) CP-IDEA should make a permanent record of the advances on this subject experienced by countries.

3.6 On the 2013 questionnaire:

GTplan coordinators reported on the new questionnaire to be applied at the beginning of 2013 in order to complement the 2011 one and be able to compare the results. The idea is to have a much shorter and more simplified questionnaire.

Regarding innovations at Cartographic/Geographic Institutes, some additions are intended in order to enable comparison regarding risks, business model and conditions of access to information, as these came out as a trend in the 2011 questionnaire.

It was emphasized the need to review the funding policies of Cartographic/Geographic Institutes to assess costs and benefits of distributing cartographic products free of charge.



4. Presentation of advances in the "Capacity Building" work plan

The presentation of this topic was done by the coordination of the CAP subgroup via videoconference because Colombia's representatives could not be present at the meeting.

It was informed that from the results of the questionnaire two forms have been designed to capture offers and demands of training, which will feed the Training Observatory. The Observatory's implementation will take place during the fourth quarter of 2012.

It was highlighted the importance of having the following information clear and well defined in order to implement the training plan: sources of financing, responsible people, partnerships, dissemination and implementation strategies.

5. Presentation of the advances in the "Technical standards and specifications" working plan

The coordinator mentioned the phases of the SubWG's working plan that have already been covered: design of a vision for integrating IG in the region, and diagnosis of the development and use of standards at national and regional levels. He proposed the following as the next stages:

- 5.1. Creation of a working group on standards;
- 5.2. Proposal of core standards for the region;
- 5.3. Implementation of a standards database recommend by CP-IDEA;
- 5.4. Survey on information for the 2013 questionnaire.

The Coordinator gave the Executive Secretary a draft for these core standards: "Proposal for a Reference Terminology". In order to move the work forward, the Coordinator requested the creation of this group with various formations for later submission of this proposal to be worked within the framework of the new group.

6. Presentation of the advances in the "good practices" working plan

The Coordinator of the PRA subWG presented an overview of the activities related to good practices: evaluation and compilation, analysis of results, and needs. She also presented the development of guidelines for the implementation of SDI in the Americas. The final products will be the report of the results of the questionnaire (completed), a compilation of good practices (ongoing) and an SDI implementation manual for the Americas (ongoing).

Funding through NRCan has been approved for the manual.

The content of this work was also mentioned, such as the glossary of terms to ensure consistency between the members of PC-IDEA; the SDI manual; and a chapter to measure and follow up the benefits and impacts of the SDI.

The next steps include: dissemination of good practices compiled by the CP-IDEA website; translation of the glossary of terms; linking with the GTplan for the definition of the structure and elaboration of the draft Handbook of SDI for the Americas; project management for SDI manual; revision of the 2013 questionnaire; production of the final version of the SDI manual in English; analysis of the 2013 questionnaire; and presentation of the manual and results of studies on the Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, in August 2013.



7. Presentation of the new CP-IDEA website

The proposal to the new CP-IDEA website was presented. The main objectives are to provide a space for communication and exchange of experiences among member countries, to support the dissemination of activities from national SDI's, to facilitate the access to training, good practices and standards information.

The SubWG TEC coordinator presented the features of the new website highlighting the restructuring of content (grouping, review and categorization), an exclusive section for minutes, presentations and other documents, and four new sections to house the standards database, the training observatory, the SDI observatory and working areas.

Joomla is the platform used to manage the content. It allows content management by multiple users, has good integration with other external systems and a calendar of activities, among other facilities.

The *hosting* of the new site will be a server at Chile's "Ministerio de Bienes Nacionales" but a technological solution should be found so that the site can migrate without any major problems when managing of the website changes to another country.

Tasks to be executed until the end of the year are the following: checking and updating contact's data (August 2012), definition of procedures and responsibilities for maintenance and load of the sections (October 2012), content load including the previous website (October 2012), informing procedures to the countries (October 2012), expiration of training observatory (November 2012), and completion of the standards database implementation (December 2012).

Other future tasks, with no determined date yet, include translation into English of the main pages and implementation of the Webinar application.

8. Presentation of CP-IDEA goals for August 2013 and proposed cooperation with the PAIGH

8.1. Targets

The targets to be met until August 2013, when the 10th Regional Cartographic Conference of the Americas (10th UNRCC) will take place in New York, were briefly presented:

- Implementation of an observatory of capabilities, with offered and requested demands;
- Completion of the training plan for the Americas;
- Definition of standards for the Americas;
- Implementation of an observatory of standards;
- Launch of a guide of good practices including a chapter on the social and economic impacts of the SDI;
- Release of a study on institutional models of national cartography agencies and those responsible for national SDI, identifying weaknesses and strengths;
- Launch of a new website with the observatories mentioned above plus a discussion forum.

8.2. Cooperation with the PAIGH

The Vice-President reported on a meeting with the PAIGH Secretary General, Santiago Borrero, in that same week in New York, on the occasion of the GGIM 2. They discussed the CP-IDEA/PAIGH joint working plan as well as some details of the 44th meeting of the Directing Council to be held in November 2012 in Buenos Aires.



Canada's representative requested clarification regarding how these resolutions had been prepared, as well as the existence of a memorandum of understanding.

It was defined that CP-IDEA President will make the appropriate clarifications on the matter, since the subject was treated by him.

9. Final Agreements and Closure

Summary of agreements	
1	Update PBworks for member countries: the Executive Secretary will send Chile the updated contact list and Chile will send the communication and instructions.
2	Establishment of a procedure for the maintenance of the capacity building area and inclusion of information by the member countries: preparation of a list of tasks and those in charge in consultation with Colombia.
3	Formalization of the working group on CP-IDEA standards. A communication on this will be sent to member countries inviting them to participate: Mexico to write the invitation and the Executive Secretary to forward it to the member countries.
4	Member countries will be asked to review the context document for the normalization in the region: Mexico to send the documentation to the Executive Secretary.
5	There is consensus on leverage existing initiatives in standardization and foster partnerships and coordination with the corresponding institutions.
6	Optimization of the SDI observatory's management features for the publication of good practices.
7	Countries will be asked summaries of documents that form part of the SDI Observatory.
8	Update the information on partnerships related with national SDI's and national cartography institutes.
9	Definition of procedures and responsibilities to maintain CP-IDEA's website: Chile to make a proposal.
10	Check the possibility of having a module to access SDI specific information from countries.
11	CP-IDEA President will be asked to inform the member countries about partnerships with PAIGH in order to complement working plans and to establish funding projects.
12	Member countries will be asked to send their comments on the content and features of the new version of the CP-IDEA website: Chile to send the draft to the Executive Secretary.
13	Member countries will be asked to send comments on the SDI manual, which is under development, especially on the structure and the draft manual: Canada to send it first to GTplan and then to the CP-IDEA (this applies to the structure and final draft).



CP-IDEA's Vice-President adjourned the meeting by expressing his satisfaction with the results and requesting commitment so that the August 2013 targets are accomplished.

The presentations will be available at: <http://www.cp-idea.org/> - Reuniones/CP-IDEA y Reuniones/Grupos de Trabajo

Translation:

Report originally made in Portuguese and translated later into English and Spanish.

Translation (Portuguese/English): Leonardo Zechlinski Maya, IBGE