



GLOBAL MAPPING NEWSLETTER 38

The Twelfth Meeting of ISCGM

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The Twelfth Meeting of the International Steering Committee was recently held immediately prior to the FIG Working Week/GSDI 8 conference in Cairo, Egypt. Some of the key topics of the meeting were the revision of the specifications and the definition of 'commercial use.'

Specifications were one of the dominant themes of the meeting. The main point was the move from VPF format to GML format, which was seen to be a positive move according to the meeting participants. The move to GML will allow Global Map to be more easily used in today's Internet based software and technology. In addition, some smaller changes to the current specifications were made to assist the Secretariat in processing the data more quickly in order to place them on the website, including dropping the requirement for names to be in all capital letters. Also falling under the specifications category are the proposed changes for the raster data layers for future versions of Global Map. Prof. Tateishi proposed the use of the Land Cover Classification System (LCCS) developed by the FAO and submitted to ISO as a proposed standard. This change will make Global Map more internationally compatible with other data sets developed by other organizations.

Regarding commercial use: Dr. Nick Land of EuroGeographics proposed that for the purposes

of Global Map, that commercial use be defined as "the re-selling of Global Map data as either a distributor or as a value-added reseller." One advantage of moving to a web based data delivery system, such as the web mapping portal under development, is the ability to accommodate multiple business models. However, the technology is still being developed, and therefore the ability to accommodate many different business models is not necessarily available today. Another key point made during the discussion is the distinction between licensing and charging – providing a license to use data does not necessarily imply charging for use of the data. In addition, as was pointed out, while the data may be available free of charge to the end use, the development of the data did incur costs.

The next meeting of the ISCGM is scheduled for November 2006 in Santiago, Chile.



ISCGM 12 Participants