

The first Global Mapping seminar was held in Nairobi, Kenya

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The first Global Mapping Seminar in Nairobi, Kenya from 19 to 23, August 2002. 20 experts from 18 African countries attended the seminar to learn about the policy and technical perspective of Global Map and its promotion. The seminar was regarded as an important step for further promoting Global Mapping and spatial data initiatives in African countries.

The Seminar started with the one-day open workshop entitled “Promoting Global Mapping in African Context.” The workshop was commemorating the first Global Mapping Seminar. The workshop was held for the purpose of exchanging the opinions and sharing the views on: promotion of Global Mapping Project in Africa; strengthening partnerships between Global Mapping Project and relevant initiatives and their contribution to sustainable development in Africa. Facilitated by Mr. James Sogoh, principal of Kenya Institute of Surveying and Mapping, following presentation were made in the Seminar.

- Outline of Global Mapping Project and current status (Mr. Sumio Onishi, ISCGM),
- Implementation of the Project in Africa (Mr. Haggai Nyapola, Survey of Kenya),
- Activities of Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) (Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, RCMRD),
- African SDI -concepts and components (Dr.Ottichilo, RCMRD for Dr. Kate Lance, US Geological Survey),
- UNEP activities in geographic information field(Mr. Timo Maukonen, United Nations Environment Programme),
- Development of Africover Project (Mr. Luca Alinovi, Food and Agriculture Organization) and
- Introduction Global Mapping Partnership Project and Input of Global Mapping to World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (Mr. Toru Nagayama, MLIT).

During the three and a half days in the middle of Seminar, attendants of the seminar took lectures on outline of geographic information system, basic operation of Arcview GIS software and processing of Global Map data by using the software. Following the lectures, they took practice of GIS software operation and data processing by using PCs provided for each.

Last the seminar had a half day session on further steps for promotion of Global Mapping, with the presentation on establishing spatial data infrastructure (SDI) at national level and the application case study of global map, and following discussions. The seminar closed with the certificate awarding

ceremony.

Through carrying out the Seminar, participants generally share the following points:

- The Seminar provided an good opportunity of transfer of geographic information technology to African countries;
- Both political and technological perspectives of Global Mapping were paid attention in a balanced manner;
- Development of Global Mapping will bring double outcomes to developing countries: one is capacity building in geographic information technology and the other contribution to world community for establishing global spatial data infrastructure;
- Enhancement of partnership with sister initiatives such as FAO/UNEP Africover project should be explored to avoid the duplication of work exercised by participating countries; and
- The venue of the next Seminar could perhaps be in Western Africa region where enrollment of countries to Global Mapping project is not sufficient.

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) and Regional center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), jointly carried out the Seminar with the support from Survey of Kenya (SOK), Kenya Institute of Survey and Mapping (KISM) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA),

The following 18 African countries attended the seminar; Benin, Botswana, Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.