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13th CHRIS MEETING
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Report on Activities of the ICA SPATIAL DATA STANDARDS COMMISSION

(Michel Huet, IHB)

The ICA Spatial Data Standards Commission held its 2001 Summer Meeting from 30 July to 3 August 2001 at the Tibet Hotel, Beijing, China, under the Chairmanship of Prof. Harold Moellering, State University of Ohio, USA. This meeting immediately preceded the 20th ICA Conference, which was held on the following week. Attendees were from Czech Rep., China, Cuba, France, Israel, Korea (Rep. of), Netherlands, Russian Federation, South Africa, USA and the IHB. The main points discussed at the meeting are summarised below.

Metadata Standards. The Commission worked on the completion of a global study of existing metadata standards, at national, regional and international level. After a set of characteristics, enabling the assessment of these standards, had been developed by the Commission, an assessment of all known metadata standards in use worldwide was carried out, against the agreed characteristics. This included that developed by the International Organisation for Standards (ISO/TC211). The result of this work will soon be published in an ICA Metadata Book, structured as follows:

- Part I - Introduction to World Spatial Metadata Standards;
- Part II - Regional Metadata Summaries (Europe, N. America, Latin America, Asia & Pacific, Africa & Middle East, and ISO/TC211);
- Part III - Scientific and Technical Metadata Characteristics;
- Part IV - Assessments and Full Descriptions of Metadata Standards (Australia & New Zealand, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, USA, CEN/TC287 and ISO/TC211); and
- Part V – Crosstable (between Metadata Standards and a selection of the major characteristics).

The meeting made a final review of all available regional sections of Part II. It was agreed that a section on Latin America would be added, to be prepared under the coordination of Cuba. Part V will be finalised when all other chapters are finished. Description / assessment of metadata standards in Part IV will take 10-15 pages per standard. It is hoped that the ICA Metadata Book can be published before the end of 2001.

Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). Besides its work on metadata standards, the Commission was requested:

> *To plan a new task on the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), working in the areas of science, technology and standards, at the Global, Regional and National levels, and to participate at the scientific level in several organisations active in that area.*

Being aware of developments on this issue by other organisations, in particular the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI), the Commission has decided to do something distinctive, scientific, and that is not duplicated elsewhere. In support of the Commission work, the following presentations were given:

- Spatial Data Infrastructure (Henri J. G. L. Aalders, Netherlands).
- Principles for defining the characteristics and concepts of appropriate data sets for SDI applications (Antony Cooper, South Africa).
- Global issues and cartography (Milan Konecny, Czech Rep.)

After discussion, it was agreed that priorities of work on SDI for the Commission would be as follows:

1. Publish a summary of the current status of SDIs around the world, at the global, national, and regional levels, giving for each: a brief history, their scope, the status, description of the content, funding mechanisms, and contact details.
2. Define a preliminary list of technical characteristics for assessing SDIs, e.g. truth in labelling, fitness for use in applications, verification / validation / certification of data sets, and quality for SDI data sets.
3. Identify the gaps and relevance of ISO/TC211 and OGC standards to SDI, i.e. what are the standards needed for SDI? What are the existing or planned de-facto and de-jure standards? What are their gaps?

Work on these issues will start in the intersessional period. It was agreed that other subjects should be dealt with by the Commission, as follows:

- How to define steps for the development of SDIs?
- Which quality mechanism should be included in SDIs to prevent the misuse of datasets obtained through SDIs?
- Which cartographic safeguards should be associated with SDI display services?

It was also agreed that a clear definition for SDI was needed, e.g. should a SDI include the data, in addition to the infrastructure? This definition will be devised by correspondence.

The next meeting of the Commission has been planned at the beginning of July 2002 in Brno, Czech Republic.