

International workshop on integrated use of geo-spatial information to ensure safety
and security: Asian perspective for Geo-Intelligence
in Pacifico Yokohama, Japan
on September 20th through 21st, 2010

Chair's summary (draft)

Innovation in ICT and remote sensing combined with explosive spread of ICT tools such as mobile phones and car navigation is leading to drastic change in the technological and social context under which geo-spatial information technology is developed and used. Next generation geo-spatial technologies developed under such context will help achieving breakthrough in many sectors, particularly those relating to safety and security such as disaster response, defense, transportation, maritime security, environmental protection and pandemic containment. With successful launch of Satellite "Michibiki", the first QZSS satellite, a new horizon of technical breakthrough is in radar screen in Asia.

Experts from governments, academia, and private sector gathered in Yokohama, Japan on September 20th and 21st, 2010 to discuss policies and strategies to advance geo-spatial technology and its use. Information on current status of geo-spatial technologies and their use were shared through presentation by national and international experts. Important issues, critical information, expectation to geo-spatial information and required R & D areas were identified in breakout sessions of four key sectors, namely disaster mitigation, environmental protection and health, ITS and transportation, and maritime security. Benefits of having geospatial information is shown in every key sector. Summary of the break-out sessions is attached in Annex. Ensuring transparency, sharing knowledge, and creating "win-win-situation" by visualizing challenges and solutions are among tangible benefits of using geo-spatial information.

It is shared understanding that standardizing geo-spatial data and system interface under commonly accepted architecture is critical issue to further develop geo-spatial technology. A good platform for delivering the result using geo-spatial information needs to be set. Protecting privacy while at the same time utilizing private information for the benefit of the public is a challenge but a must particularly in the area of safety and security.

Concerted actions should be urgently taken to address the following items:

- ✓ Standardization of geo-spatial information technology and shared use of GI tools should be promoted so that geo-spatial information make fast progress without duplication and overlapping;
- ✓ Common road map to develop geo-spatial information technology combined with social reform should be created at regional and national levels so that ; and
- ✓ Dialogue process, networking, and agreement with politicians, academia, and private sector should be developed so that use of geo-spatial information advances with support and input by the people and groups off the loop of geo-spatial information can be collaborated.

Participants noted that a newly proposed concept of “Geo Intelligence” is useful in advocating necessity of advancing geo-spatial technology. Geo Intelligence is defined as integrated use of a group of advanced technologies based on geo-spatial information such as satellite imagery, satellite positioning, and geographical information system to facilitate timely decision making and coordinated actions by organizations or individuals.