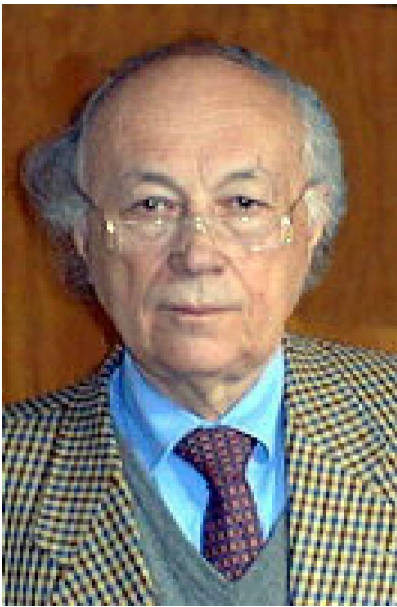


INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP OF ISPRS WG IV-2: **“GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION”**



We meet at the 80th Anniversary of the Siberian State Academy of Geodesy and the Interexpo Geo Siberia 2013 for the first meeting of our Working Group. The Working Group was initiated by the Activities of the United Nations Secretariat in New York since the 1960's. It has put the topic of “Status of Mapping of the World” onto the agenda of the UN Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas since the 1970's and it has passed resolutions to continue efforts to determine the status.

Since that time ISPRS has actively cooperated with the UN Secretariat on that topic, when Arthur Brandenberger of Laval University, Quebec has compiled a joint UN publication.

When the UN Secretariat has transformed its globalized efforts influenced by the rapid IT development into UNGGIM, created in 2009, it became clear that ISPRS with its long term concerns for mapping would relaunch a joint initiative with UNGGIM on the topic. There are of course other NGO's joined together in JB-GIS with an interest in the topic, which ISPRS wants to carry forward, but not to monopolize. Therefore it welcomes contributions by JB-GIS members and by members of the industrial community, such as the global activities of “Geospatial”. Basic Mapping has always been the concern of governmental activities. The United Nations have a direct link to the governments of the globe, even though it can pass only recommendations and not directives and laws to them, which are the task of governments.

Like the NGO's also the United Nations depend upon cooperation between its members. In this sense it makes sense to join efforts. ISPRS has identified the necessity to make the issue of the status of mapping and map updating a sustainable one. Therefore it has established a working Group to make this a task to be sustained in future years by the networks established by NGO's.

In this sense we hope that this first working group meeting can lay a foundation for cooperation on the topic of geospatial information.

Em. Prof. Gottfried Konecny
Co-Chair of the Working Group