

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on
Contemporary Practices in Census Mapping and
Use of Geographical Information Systems
29 May – 1 June 2007
United Nations, New York

Organization of work (Draft)

Tuesday, 29 May 2007

Registration of participants (9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)

Morning session (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

1. Opening

Introductory remarks by Director of UNSD

Purpose of the meeting, Branch Chief

Selection of Chair and Rapporteur for the meeting

2. General Introduction

Overview Paper:

UNSD: *Digital Census Mapping Process: conceptual framework and different approaches* - a substantive presentation on different approaches to the integration of geospatial technologies (GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing, Internet Mapping, etc) with census mapping operations, highlighting possible institutional, organizational and technological challenges.

- Presentation of three GIS-based Census Mapping approaches:

A. South Africa experience

B. Australia experience

C. Brazil experience

- General discussion

Lunch break (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

3. Geo-coding: Concepts and Approaches to Data Collection

Geocoding can be broadly defined as the assignment of a code to a geographic location. Usually however, Geocoding refers to a more specific assignment of geographic coordinates (latitude, Longitude) to an individual address. The purpose of this section is to introduce geocoding concepts relevant for census mapping and the different approaches to related data collection.

Overview Paper:

UNSD: *Geocoding Concepts and Approaches to Data Collection*

A. Namibia

Geocoding and Census Mapping with GIS in Namibia: Current Status and Future Developments

B. Philippines

Geocoding and Census Mapping with GIS in Philippines: Current Status and Future Developments ()*

Discussion

C. Portugal

Development and Use of Geocoding: Portugal Approach

D. Ms Lisa Jordan (Florida State University, USA)

Geocoding and Census Mapping: Conceptual Framework and different approaches

Discussion

Reception (6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, 30 May 2007

Morning session (10:00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.)

4. Use of GPS and geospatial technologies for data collection, and digital delineation of enumeration areas

This session focuses on national experiences in the 2000 round of censuses in the use of GPS and other geospatial technologies for data collection, with a focus on the design of digital delineation of census enumeration areas. The papers will outline the procedures, software, devices and applications used, and address their advantages and disadvantages in conducting the census. Currently, a number of countries are exploring different approaches for the 2010 round of censuses and will be invited to share their findings with the Expert Group.

Overview Paper:

USA: *Use of Geospatial Technologies for Census Data Collection: Highlighting issues and influencing factors*

A. Russian Federation

Russian Experience in Geospatial Technologies-based Data Collection and Design of Digital Enumeration Areas

B. Sierra Leone

Use of GPS to Design Enumeration Areas: a Convenient solution for developing national sampling frames

Discussion

C. Ukraine

Digital Mapping for the 2001 Population Census in Ukraine: Lessons learned

D. China

China Approach to Digital Census Mapping

Discussion

Lunch break (1.00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

5. Geographic Databases, Spatial Analysis, and Data Dissemination

While not strictly limited to the preparatory phases of the population and housing censuses, the importance of developing geographic databases on population and housing represents a critical area of interest vital for the overall success of the census. Countries will be invited to present their experiences in the use of geographic databases and spatial analysis tools and techniques for the gathering of census data, with emphasis on obstacles and complexities in their development.

Overview Paper:

UNFPA: *Development of an Enumeration Area Database: Highlighting Issues and Influencing Factors*

A. Morocco

Development of a Geographic Database and Spatial Analysis: Morocco approach to the treatment of the 2004 census results)

B. India

Development of Census-based Geographic Database Applications: India experience

Discussion

C. Trinidad and Tobago

GIS-Based Dissemination of Census Data in Trinidad and Tobago: A Caribbean experience

D. Canada

Web-based Dissemination of Census Data: Canada Experience

Discussion

Dinner, voluntary participation (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

Thursday, 31 May 2007

Morning session (10:00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.)

6. Organizational and institutional issues

While mastering new technology by itself represents a significant challenge, it is necessary to focus on issues such as organizational settings necessary to be put in place in order to take full advantage of these new approaches; what are the needs in terms of capacity building, such as education, training, skill development, and so forth; finally, costs and

financial issues need to be addressed as well. These support issues are of great importance for the success of the census and its outputs.

Overview Paper:

Mexico: *Census Mapping with GIS: Institutional, Organizational and Financial Aspects*

A. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Mapping Census Infrastructure in the Pacific Islands: Institutional and Capacity Building Issues

B. Latvia

Supporting Institutional Development in Census Cartography: Lessons Learned from 2000 Census Discussion

C. Australia

Capacity Building for Census Mapping Development: Highlighting Issues and Influencing Factors Discussion

Lunch break (1.00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Afternoon session (3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

7. Presentation by commercial developers of GIS

Currently there is a number of commercial companies that provide different services in the field of GIS and geo-coding. The Expert Group Meeting will invite the most commonly used technologies and software suites, such as ESRI, Intergraph, MapInfo, GeoSpace to present their experiences in the use of their products for census mapping, with a focus on evaluation of different software packages. The presentations followed by a question and answer session.

-ESRI

-INTERGRAPH (not confirmed)

-MAPINFO (not confirmed)

-GEOSPACE

Discussion

Friday, 1 June 2007

Morning session (10:00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.)

8. Discussion and adoption of conclusions and recommendations

This Session focuses on the critical success factors for a GIS-based census mapping project, summarizes the findings of the Meeting and adopt conclusions and recommendations.