

Geospatial Information for the Global Development Agenda

--- National Perspective: Japan's View ---

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Summary:

Year 2015 has become very significant for the future of the UN member States and also of the geospatial information community. In March, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) was adopted in the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and subsequently adopted at the UN General Assembly in June. In August, the post-2015 development agenda, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable," was agreed by consensus by the member States, waiting for the formal adoption at the United Nations Summit in September. These documents identify the priority issues for the international community to work on for the next 15 years, and also acknowledge the important roles that geospatial information can play in their implementation. Consequently, there is high expectation for the geospatial information community including national geospatial information authorities (NGIAs) to contribute to making progress in disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

NGIAs have been a sole provider of official or authoritative geospatial information in their countries. However, recent new geospatial technologies have enabled the industry and even individuals to provide high quality and timely geospatial information in an easy-to-use manner for the general public. And this has made the line between the roles of the government and those of the industry or individuals/volunteers increasingly blurred in many countries. While the role of NGIAs in providing official/authoritative geospatial information should stay for the future as one of the most fundamental functions of the government of an independent nation, NGIAs should make an effort to show the fundamental need and usefulness of such information in solving outstanding issues in the countries. In this connection, the aforementioned UN documents will provide NGIAs an unprecedented opportunity of demonstrating the important roles NGIAs can play for the government.

This presentation will share the experience of Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) in improving the understanding of the government and the general public on the importance of its mission by actively contributing to the disaster risk reduction in the government through the applications of geospatial information technologies and the cooperation with relevant disaster management offices in the government. The SFDRR adopted at the UN General Assembly will further support GSI as it pursues this endeavor.

