Facilitating Access to Geospatial Research and Education

UN-GGIM Academic Network

Mission, Organization and Contribution to IGIF

http://unggim.academicnetwork.org

Prof Abbas Rajabifard
The University of Melbourne
UN-GGIM Academic Network

• Academic Network is a **Strategic Knowledge, Research and Training Arm of UN-GGIM**.

• The Network is a coalition of recognized universities, research and education centers or equivalent involved in the research, development and training on geospatial and land information and related matters.
The Network

- 66 members & 2 associate members from 38 countries
Our Objectives

• Promote and foster collaboration between universities and research entities/groups to support the operation of UNGGIM-IGIF
• Encouraging members to undertake work that is able to contribute to the UN-GGIM mission and UN-SDGs.
• Forum of geospatial academics and researchers to advance competencies and qualifications needed for the UN-GGIM and supporting Member States;
• Communication platform for member countries to bring to the attention of the Network key problems, needs, and areas of research;
• Capacity Building and developing an inventory of international education programs open to and recommended for UN-GGIM actors.
Current organization (2023-2024)
Strategic Activities

• Strategic alignment with UN-GGIM Agenda and **UN-IGIF implementation and advancement**
  - Academic Network Contributes across all *IGIF Strategic Priorities and Components*
Strategic Activities

• Collaboration and joint Activities with other Functional and Thematic Groups

• Annual UN-GGIM Side-events and Regional events, eg:
  • 13th UN-GGIM Session 2023, “GeoAI- Opportunities and Challenges”, jointly with PSN-Private Sector Network,
  • 12th UN-GGIM Session 2022 “Trustful and Ethical Use of Geospatial Data: the Role of Academics”
  • 2nd WGGIC in Hyderabad, India 2022, “Bridging Academia and Industry in Geospatial Research, Education and Training” (jointly with PSN-GGIM Private Sector Network)
  • GeoAI for Good Series

• GeoAI for Good Series, Webinar on GeoAI Education, 14th June 2023

• Publications:
  • Book on ‘SDGs Connectivity Dilemma’, (Open Access), Launched at UN-GGIM 2019
  • Book on ‘Mapping for a Sustainable World’ is applicable to IGIF
  • Special Issue: IJGI Trustful and Ethical Use of Geospatial Data
  • Special issue of ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information; deadline for manuscript submissions: 31 July 2023

• Mapathon (with UN Geospatial Network)
The UN GGIM Academic Network and the UN Geospatial Network invite you to participate in a UN Mappers mapathon. A mapathon (literally “map marathon”) is a collaborative effort to improve OpenStreetMap data, very often for humanitarian purposes, in places where OpenStreetMap data is scarce or non-existent. During the mapathon, volunteers from various backgrounds get together to remotely map a specific area using satellite imagery or aerial photographs. Anyone can participate in a mapathon, no prerequisite geography or geomatics knowledge is required.

The aim of this mapathon is to raise awareness of UN missions and how they use open data sources for them, and to inspire students to contribute to these efforts. In this UN Mappers activation we are going to map building footprints, supporting UNSMIL to ensure peace in Libya. The data will be used to deliver a 3D digital replica of the city of Tripoli to allow peacekeepers to remotely visualize and analyze inaccessible locations on the ground, experience different kind of scenarios beforehand, and perform operational planning around a shared simulated sandbox. Apart from learning how to contribute to data for UN missions, participating in the UN-GGIM Academic Network Mapathon will also give you insight into OpenStreetMap data and for which purposes it could be useful.
Strategic Activities

• Facilitate access to education via curated collection of resource contributed by UN-GGIM AN’s members:

http://unggim.academicnetwork.org/educational-material/
Strategic Activities

• Facilitate discussion on *Ethical use of Geo-AI* via:
  • Series of side-events organized at 11th, 12th and 13th UN-GGIM Session
  • **Series of webinars on GeoAI for Good** organized in conjunction with ITU - three examples:
    • Workshop on ‘[Building a foundation for geospatial AI: defining a syllabus and body of knowledge](#)’
    • Members participating in ‘[GeoAI Challenge](#)’.
    • A webinar with panel discussion on [GeoAI Education](#)
Thank You!