

Making the SDI Concept Relevant to Asia-Pacific Countries – the PCGIAP Experience

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SUMMARY

Development of regional spatial data infrastructures (SDI) is one of the distinctive features of the last decade. This is mainly due to the need for seamless consistent spatial data beyond national boundaries to support decision-making at a multi-national level. The development of these regional initiatives began with the creation of regional SDI coordination groups such as the Permanent Committee for GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP), formed in 1995 under the auspices of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP).

The aims of the PCGIAP are to maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits of geographic information in accordance with Agenda 21 by providing a forum for nations from the Asia and Pacific region (the largest region in the world) to:

- Share experiences and cooperate in the development of a regional SDI;
- Contribute to the development of the global SDI; and,
- Participate in any other form of activity such as education, training, and technology transfer at different jurisdictional levels.

Over the past ten years, the PCGIAP has confronted a number of issues associated with building a regional SDI. The group has also assisted member nations in their national SDI initiatives.

This paper describes some of the experiences of the PCGIAP, in particular:

- The establishment of a new geodetic datum for the region;
- The benchmarking of cadastral systems;
- The conceptualization of a framework for marine zone administration in the future; and,
- The strategic issues confronting the PCGIAP at the start of its 2nd decade of operation.