UNGIWG Task Group 4
UNGIWG Map production Guidelines

November 2007 Progress Report

Background 2006:

1. The work of the Map production Guidelines task team in 2006 could be characterized as a year of stock taking and pulling out existing agency resources on map production standards.
2. The result was a mixed set of resources; varied in scope and technical guidance and comprehensiveness. These technical guidelines and templates were often compiled at a single point in time, as a snapshot.
3. From this research/review the TT questioned how it could work toward creating "a living document", that both captured new information and delivered existing maps standard info - a living dynamic service rather than a set of reference documents.

Work plan and Achievements 2007;

4. The 2007 Task team 4 work plan was developed with a goal of creating a common map production resource, build on existing work from cartographic practitioners. Additionally the team felt a strong need to broaden the community. This update summarized 2007 activities:

   "**Building on the existing resources toward common cartographic tools and symbol libraries. Advocate for map production standards across agencies and inter-agency projects/applications**
   - Inter-agency inventory updated as of November, new additions include JLC symbol library and OCHA Reference guide and style symbols, UNHCR and WHO are in the midst of an update.
   - Inventory of documents now available on the UNGIWG public web site www.ungiwg.org/maps
   - Inventory will be updated quarterly
   - Draft concept note, conduct preliminary meetings, solicit inter-agency support and draft agenda for *Maps for Humanitarian Response Meeting/training (note to follow)* proposed for 2008.
   - Ongoing advocacy through individual agency headquarters and field initiatives, such as the East Africa SDI, UNSDI-T, Regional IMT Working Group
   - Symbols to be used on the *Humanitarian Layer* of the Google Earth project and other show cases applications – see reference to the TT Operability

   "**Work with Operability Task Team on Style Layer Descriptor (SLD) testing on web services**
   - Installation and training on web services and geo-server on-going

- SLD infrastructure being laid with Interoperability TT

"**Extend inter-agency representation for the Task Team work:**
- A census was conducted to revitalize member interest and observers for 2008 activities in line with the UNSDI
- Wider partnerships established through consultations with leading info-graphics and professional cartographers
- Existing members keen on advancing the TT work, see 2008 activities

Proposed Priorities for 2008

- Design, plan and conduct *Maps for Humanitarian Response Meeting/training*: meant to target practitioners and build cartographic skills, share experiences and good practices and improve the quality of maps produced during an emergency. We propose to hold the regional meeting in Nairobi in Q1 2008. Draft agenda and note follow. Meeting would bring together and further refine cartographic practices, standards and tools
- Continue to collect and post Map Production and cartographic standards, templates, styles and reference documentation from the UN system (and partners?)
- Continue to work with Interoperability TT to explore implementation of SLD within web applications
- Support upcoming Map Production initiatives in the evolving UNSDI environment through local and global partnerships.

For updates and details on Task Team activities contact:

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