

**Commission on Mapping from Satellite Imagery
International Cartographic Association**

**Commission Meeting Report
Prepared by Xiaojun Yang**

Location: Hotel Cosmos, Moscow, Russia
Time: 10:30 -11:30 am, 6 August 2007

Attendants:

- Dr. Barry Bitters (National Programs Division, MTCT Technologies, Springfield, VA22150, USA; Barry.Bitters@mtctechnologies.com)
- Dr. Bin Jiang (Department of Technology and Built Environment, University of Gävle, Sweden; bin.jiang@hig.se)
- Dr. Valentina I. Kravtsova¹ (Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Leninskie Gory, Moscow GSP-2 119992, Russia; VIK@lakm.geogr.msu.su)
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Nghonda (Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines, Département de Géographie, Université de Yaoundé, BP 755 Yaounde, Cameroun; enpcam@yahoo.com)
- Dr. Sandra Torrusio (Instituto para Aplicaciones, de la Teleobservacion, Nicolas Copernico, Argentina; storrusio@copernico.ucalp.edu.ar)
- Dr. Xiaojun Yang (Department of Geography, Florida State University, U.S.A.; xyang@fsu.edu)

Moderator: Dr. Xiaojun Yang² (Vice-Chair of the Commission, 2007-2011)

The meeting lasted for about one hour. It began with self introduction and exchange of business cards. Then, Yang briefly reported recent activities of the Commission including the creation of a dedicated website for the Commission, the construction of an online database to host papers presented under the theme of satellite mapping at the 21st and 22nd International Cartographic Conferences (ICC), the organization of several Commission-sponsored workshops, and the planning for dedicated journal theme issues and books.

Several issues were raised in the Q/A session. First, the name of the Commission may need to change to reflect the actual research themes for the Commission given the facts that the concept of mapping is an old paradigm and most papers presented at ICC are related to

¹She did not attend the Commission Meeting but we had some discussions about the Commission activities.

²Since Chair and Vice-Chair were not present at the ICC 2007, Yang as the forthcoming Vice-Chair moderated the meeting.

environmental and natural resources management based on a variety of data acquired by both air-borne and space-borne sensors. Nevertheless, the Commission is part of International Cartographical Association (ICA), and the Commission's new name should be relevant to ICA's core missions. A proposed new name of the Commission is 'Commission on Mapping from Aerospace Imagery'. By replacing 'satellite' with 'aerospace', we could accommodate applications using data from air-borne sensors as well. Another version is "Commission on Cartography and Aerospace Imagery for Environmental Resources Management". This version largely represents the actual themes we used in organizing papers submitted to the Commission at ICC 2007.

Second, our Commission should make every effort to build active relationship with other Commissions or Working Groups within ICA (e.g., Commission on Geospatial Analysis and Modeling, Commission on Marine Cartography, Commission on Mountain Cartography, Working Group on Cartography in Early Warning and Crisis Management and Working Group on GIS and Sustainable Development), some professional organizations (e.g., International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing-ISPRS and several working groups with International Geographical Union-IGU), national space agencies, and some relevant commercial remote sensing companies (SPOT, GeoEyes, DigitalGlobe,..). Specifically, we could organize or sponsor workshops/conferences jointly with other Commissions/Working Groups or Societies. For example, the CoastGIS Conference series have been jointly organized by IGU Commission on Coastal Systems and ICA Commission on Marine Cartography. This series has been highly successful over the past years. We could try to be a co-sponsor for this conference series as cartography and remote sensing are critical for coastal GIS applications.

By building a linkage with some relevant commercial remote sensing companies, we could explore the opportunity of establishing a merit-based award program within the Commission. ICA does have a need-based travel award program, and the possible award program for our Commission should be merit-based and could be used for Commission-sponsored workshops or conferences. We could make the awards of best papers and best posters with certificates and small monetary prizes. The possible benefits of establishing a merit-based award program include building reputation of our Commission, attracting high-quality paper or poster submissions, fostering the academic growth of young scholars, and helping the Commission achieve its goals.

We need to recruit active professionals serving as commission members. We could classify our commission memberships into several categories:

- National representative: One for each country. This category of membership should be based on the nomination or recommendation from a national committee of International Cartographic Association (ICA);
- Corresponding members: As many as possible but anyone within this category must

be active professionals. We could ask national committees or national representatives to recommend qualified professionals. We need to develop necessary criteria to ensure members within this category are active, and anyone who is deemed to be inactive over a period should be removed from commission membership; and

- Student members: Students who are in the field of remote sensing, cartography and GIS. This group of membership could be recruited through national representatives or corresponding members or ICC participants.

At this stage, we should give the top priority to recruit national representatives. By the time when I write this report, Professor Metternicht has already contacted ICA to obtain a list of national committee chairs. Our next step is to contact these chairs to seek their help in recruiting commission memberships.

Several publication plans have already been discussed in the report of the commission activities prepared by Professor Metternicht in July 2007. A digital copy of this report can be accessed from ICA website (http://www.icaci.org/en/commissions/reports%202007/MappingFromSatellitelma_07.pdf). One recent email from Dr. Metternicht outlined a recent version of the publication plan. Basically, we could consider to publish focus journal issues or dedicated books with selected papers present at ICC 2009 or 2011. If we choose to develop a book project, we could consider several perspective publishers. ICA has a tentative publication agreement with the Elsevier subject to several conditions (F.J. Ormeling should know the details as he takes charge of ICA publication commission). However, from my own experience with the Elsevier, it does not seem to be a very efficient publisher. The Elsevier does not publish many books when comparing to other competitors. We could consider some other more efficient publishers, such as Springer, Taylor and Francis, and Wiley. Also I agree with Professor Metternicht that we should choose a remote sensing journal when developing a theme issue. The existing cartographic journals seem to be reluctant in publishing articles of remote sensing applications. Most of the leading remote sensing journals (such as Photogrammetrical Engineering and Remote Sensing, Remote Sensing of Environment, International Journal of Remote Sensing, IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing...) are SCI-indexed, and have higher impact indexes.

Since the creation of the dedicated website for our Commission last summer, we have accepted several thousands of unique visitors (based on a tracking system I installed at the website). I plan to make a major update to the website soon.