Strengthening UN-GGIM Agenda- Industry's Role and Its Perspectives

28th November – 09.30 to 11:00 am
L1 Meeting Room 19, Bharat Mandapam, IECC
New Delhi, India

Abstract

At the 13th UN-GGIM-AP Plenary Meeting and Seminars to be held in New Delhi from 26th – 29th November 2024, the UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network will organize a panel discussion on Strengthening UN-GGIM Agenda – Industry's Role and Its Perspectives with participation from UN-GGIM: Academic Network and UN-GGIM: Geospatial Societies.

The UN-GGIM (United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management) provides a platform for countries and international organizations to collaborate on global geospatial information. The Committee created the Academic Network and Private Sector Network in 2016. These networks help acknowledge the contributions of academia, international organizations, and the private sector to the Committee's work. They are further supported by the Geospatial Societies and UN System Network, fostering collaboration and information sharing within geospatial and UN communities.

These networks enable structured engagement between the public and private sectors, promoting the exchange of expertise to leverage new data sources and technologies for global progress.

Acting as observers, the thematic networks facilitate communication between the private sector, academia, geospatial societies, and UN communities, with UN Member States, to enhance global geospatial capacity. Its members volunteer their expertise to support the UN process to address key agenda items of the UN-GGIM, thereby strengthening the global geospatial ecosystem. This collaboration goes beyond governments, embracing contributions from all sectors to address challenges of global importance.

This panel discussion will bring together the Academic and Professional Geospatial Societies Networks under the leadership of the Private Sector Network to dialogue on how these thematic networks can support the delivery of the UN-GGIM agenda. It will explore how, moving forward, a collective ecosystem where both public and private sectors collaborate will be vital for achieving the UN-GGIM objectives and ensuring sustainable development through geospatial solutions.

Questions for the Q&A:
- **For Nikhil Kumar:** Given your extensive experience in the geospatial industry, how can the private sector more effectively contribute to advancing the UN-GGIM agenda, particularly in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through geospatial

technologies? What are some key challenges and opportunities you foresee for the private sector in engaging with Member States on geospatial initiatives?

- **For Ananyaa Narain:** In your experience as a thought leader in socio-economic impact evaluations, how do you see the private sector shaping policy development within the UN-GGIM framework? How can the private sector foster cross-industry collaboration to drive the use of geospatial technology in addressing global challenges like climate change and resource management?

- **For Prof. Dr. R. Vidhya Mathivanan**: From an academic perspective, how can universities and research institutions better collaborate with the private sector to strengthen geospatial capacity-building in line with the UN-GGIM agenda?
- As a member of the UN-GGIM Academic Network, how do you see academic research influencing policy decisions, and what role can the private sector play in supporting this?

- **For Prof. Dr. Thatiparthi Vijaya Lakshmi**: With your expertise in environmental science and geospatial technology, how can the geospatial societies support environmental impact assessments and resource management initiatives to meet the UN-GGIM goals?
- What role do you envision for geospatial societies and networks like ISDE in facilitating stronger ties between academia, industry, and government to accelerate the implementation of the UN-IGIF?

- **For Chris Fowler:** Given your experience in geospatial database management and national security applications, how can the private sector strengthen public safety initiatives across Asia-Pacific, particularly through collaboration with national governments under the UN-GGIM framework?

- **For Ady Ruchiatan:** As a leader in advancing geospatial solutions within ASEAN and Indonesia, what strategies can the private sector employ to ensure that regional and global geospatial initiatives align effectively with national development priorities, especially in rapidly developing areas?

General Questions for the Panel:
1. The private sector's participation in high-level strategy formation has been limited. How can industry stakeholders ensure their contributions are aligned with national and international geospatial development goals?
2. In what ways can the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network foster a more inclusive and impactful collaboration ecosystem, especially to address the challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries?
3. What are the most pressing gaps in the current collaboration between the public and private sectors, and how can they be addressed to create a more cohesive approach towards achieving the UN-GGIM objectives?

Session Choreography

Theme: Strengthening UN-GGIM Agenda – Industry's Role and Its Perspectives

Format:	**Panel Discussion** | Length: **90 mins** 09:30 to 11:00 (am)
Session Chair:	**Prof Dr. Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse**, Chair UN-GGIM PSN & Vice President and Director Advisory and Innovations, Woolpert
Session Rapporteur:	**Ms. Megha Datta**, Senior Consultant, Woolpert - Member of UN-GGIM PSN

The Moderator and six speakers will take their seats at the podium. The Moderator will sit on the leftmost chair.

- 09:30   Opening Remarks: Session Chair
- 09:45   Panel Discussion
- 10:30   Q& A Audience with Panel Member
- 10.55   Session Summary by Rapporteur

Biographies

Prof Dr. Zaffar Mohamed-Ghouse - Chair UN-GGIM PSN & Vice President and Director Advisory and Innovations, Woolpert

Prof. Dr. Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse is a renowned global leader in the spatial and space sectors with over 25 years of experience. Dr. Zaffar has held executive roles in Government, Private Sector and Academia. His expertise spans strategic advisory to National Governments in Spatial and Space, Water, Natural Resources Management, Development and Execution of Country-level Geospatial Master Plans, Financing and Business Case for Geospatial and Space Investments. His work has made a significant impact across industries in Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and India.

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Mr. Nikhil Kumar – President, AGI – Member of UN-GGIM PSN

Nikhil Kumar is a seasoned business leader with over 25 years of experience in the geospatial industry. His expertise includes Sales & Marketing Management, Business Development, Strategic Planning, and Partnerships & Alliances. Nikhil has held leadership roles at well-known organizations such as Esri, HERE Technologies, and Trimble, where he was responsible for business growth and market expansion. Currently, he serves as the President of Geospatial at MapmyIndia. Additionally, he holds the position of President at the Association of GIS Industries in India (AGI) and Vice President of the Survey & Mapping Association in India (SAMA). Nikhil's educational background includes a post-graduation in Electronics from Kurukshetra University.

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Ms. Ananyaa Narain – VP, Geospatial World, Member of UN-GGIM PSN

Ms. Ananyaa Narain is Vice President - Consulting at Geospatial World and a thought leader in socio-economic and market research for geospatial, BIM, and frontier technologies. She has worked as a Consultant with organizations like the European Commission, UNGGIM, and WFEO. Recognized as a 40U40 geospatial professional (2020) and a Geospatial Rising Star (2022), Ananyaa has seven years of experience in geospatial technology, specializing in socio-economic impact evaluation, policy development, and global technology dialogues across various sectors.

Prof. Dr. R. Vidhya Mathivanan – Director, Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Member of UN-GGIM Academic Network
Prof. Dr. R. Vidhya Mathivanan is the Director of the Institute of Remote Sensing at Anna University and a former scientist at the National Remote Sensing Center, ISRO. Specializing in water resources management and remote sensing, her expertise includes large-scale mapping using photogrammetry and UAVs, GIS data organization, and coastal regulation zone (CRZ) planning. With over 28 years of experience, she supervises 12 Ph.D. scholars and teaches image processing, photogrammetry, and water resources management, contributing significantly to academic research and consultancy projects.
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Prof. Dr Thatiparthi Vijaya Lakshmi – Professor Geospatial at JNTU, Hyderabad, ISDE – Member of UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies
Dr. Thatiparthi Vijaya Lakshmi is an Associate Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad, with over 18 years of experience in environmental science and geomatics. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Technology and specializes in environmental impact assessments, water quality mapping, and land use analysis. She has served in key leadership roles, including NSS Program Officer and TEQIP Coordinator. Her academic background includes an M.Sc. in Environmental Chemistry and a B.Sc. in Microbiology, Zoology, and Chemistry.
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Christopher Fowler – Esri Singapore, and UN-GGIM Asia Pacific PSN Member
Christopher Fowler is an experienced geospatial leader and UN-GGIM Asia Pacific PSN Member, currently serving as National Government & Public Safety Lead at Esri Singapore. With over nine years at Esri, he has held various roles, including Business Development and National Security Lead, focused on driving growth and implementing GIS strategies across the APAC region. He previously worked in navigation technology at Nautisk and the UK Hydrographic Office, leveraging expertise in hydrography, cartography, and geospatial database management.
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Ady Ruchiatan, UN-GGIM Asia Pacific PSN Board Member
Ady Ruchiatan is a leader in the geospatial sector, serving as a board member for UN-GGIM Asia Pacific, a council member of ASEAN's Federation of Land Surveying and Geomatics (AFLAG), and chairing international relations for Indonesia's Association of Surveying and Mapping Geospatial Information Companies (APSPIG). With a background in Computer Science, Telecommunications, and Technology Management from the University of Denver, and two decades as Managing Director at PT. NARCON, Ady brings extensive expertise in advancing geospatial solutions regionally and globally.
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