

The Seventh UN-GGIM-AP Plenary Meeting

Agenda item 5:  
Discussion on UN-GGIM-AP  
Secretariat's Transfer to UN ESCAP  
- Introduction -

Deqing, China  
22 November, 2018

Mr. Taro Ubukawa



UN-GGIM-AP

Regional Committee of United Nations  
Global Geospatial Information Management  
for Asia and the Pacific

[www.un-ggim-ap.org/](http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/)

## Why Transfer?

**ECOSOC resolution** “Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management”  
at its 48th plenary meeting on 27 July 2016.

*The resolution requests, the regional commissions shall provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional bodies of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management and the outcomes and benefits of the activities of those bodies shall be equally disseminated to all Member States in each region.*



**Dr. Murakami, the president of UN-GGIM-AP at that time, explored the possibility.**



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## Progress

- 3 letters between UN-GGIM-AP and ESCAP
- 2 rounds consultation among UN-GGIM-AP

- January 2018  
The letter from UN-GGIM-AP President to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP
- February 2018  
The letter from the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to UN-GGIM-AP President
- 25 September 2018  
First Consultation among UN-GGIM-AP member states (E-mail)
- 31 October 2018  
The letter from ESCAP to UN-GGIM-AP President
- 1 November 2018  
Second Consultation among UN-GGIM-AP member states (E-mail)



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## Progress: First letter

- Date: 24 January 2018
- From: Dr. Murakami, UN-GGIM-AP President
- To: Ms. Shamshahd Akhtar, ES of UNESCAP
- The president of UN-GGIM-AP asked for consideration of UNESCAP in further exploring means to strengthen the support of ESCAP to UN-GGIM activities, including undertaking the work of UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat.



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(FYI) The First letter also explained the situations of other regions.

- To implement this resolution, the five UN regional commissions are looking at means as to how they can better support the regional UN-GGIM committees.
  - The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is hosting the Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Africa.
  - The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has created a regional advisor position in geospatial information management to support relevant activities of ECLAC and UN-GGIM: Americas.
  - The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is looking at ways towards a geospatial activity stream including supporting UN-GGIM: Europe, and creating a position for geospatial information.
  - The Economic and Social Commissions for Western Asia (ESCWA) and for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) are providing support by participating in the activities of UN-GGIM: Arab States and UN-GGIM-AP.



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## Progress: Second letter

- Date: 13 February 2018
- From: Ms. Shamshahd Akhtar, ES of UNESCAP
- To: Dr. Murakami, UN-GGIM-AP president
- UNESCAP ES informed that ESCAP is fully committed to this common objective and that let her colleague to contact regarding the specific arrangements on supporting the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat.



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## Progress: Third letter

- Date: 31 October 2018
- From UNESCAP to UN-GGIM-AP
- ESCAP informed that it is ready to host the Secretariat of UN-GGIM-AP after the 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary in Deqing, China in November, if the member states agree at the 7<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting.
- **The letter was attached to the second round of UN-GGIM-AP consultation.**



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## Progress: Consultations among UN-GGIM-AP

- **On September 28**, the Secretariat circulated a consultation letter from the President country Japan regarding the cooperation with ESCAP, which received no objections from member countries. Based on the consultation results, further discussions have been made about the transferring of UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat.
- **On November 1**, the Secretariat circulated a letter from ESCAP expressing its willingness and preparedness to take the responsibility of the Secretariat. In addition, to respond to this proposed organizational change of the Committee, draft amendments to the Committee's Statutes were also circulated, which received no objection.



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## Expected Benefits

Why the president started this initiative? Because he thought:

- UN-GGIM-AP and ECOSOC will make significant progress in implementing the ECOSOC resolution of 2016 by enhancing the cooperation.
- UN-GGIM-AP will be able to reach out to all Member States in the region through the established channel of communication of ESCAP in disseminating the outcomes and benefits of its activities.
- ESCAP will enhance its activities of capacity development on geospatial information in the Member States in the region, and assist them in their efforts for sustainable development.



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## Discussion

- Do you support the proposal of Secretariat's transfer?

***End of my introduction.  
Thank you for your kind attention!***



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