

Session 4: Workshop 4A
Gaining Political Support and Funding for National Mapping

The Chair of the workshop (Bryson Morebodi, Botswana) welcomed delegates and presenters and encouraged discussion and the exchange of ideas.

4A.1 Rob Mahoney and Robin Waters (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, UK) presented the paper “Sustainable Geomatics?”

Rob Mahoney introduced delegates to the research paper entitled “Getting it together – the geography jigsaw”, commissioned by the RICS, which looked at improving our understanding of the processes and procedures available for the support of mapping infrastructure in developing and transitional countries.

Robin Waters outlined the problems experienced by the Caribbean during his research visit in 2003 and the recommendations put forward to address the problems.

4A.2 Mick Cory (Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland) presented the paper “Mapping and a Changing Landscape”

- Constitutional differences between NI and the UK
- The changing face of NI
- Mapping is not a priority for government
- The importance of understanding government’s changing priorities
- Understand the benefits of maps, your stakeholders, allies, opponents and networks
- Identify one project that could/can deliver (e.g. POINTER project in NI)
- Communication: avoid jargon, be prepared for opportunities to gain political support
- DELIVER!

4A.3 Gavin Adlington (Consultant to World Bank) presented the paper “Try to think like an Economist”

- World Bank Mission Statement: “Our dream is for a world free of poverty”
- Advised delegates to refer to the World Bank website www.worldbank.org to understand its plans and priorities
- NMAs have to prove the merits of mapping projects to sceptical economists. This involves:
 - Understanding donor and country priorities
 - Involving beneficiaries
 - Undertaking a pilot project to demonstrate the benefits
 - Explaining the tangible benefits of proposed projects in quantifiable ways

4A.5 David Coleman (University of New Brunswick, Canada) presented the paper “Financing Models for SDIs: Are they Applicable in Emerging Nations?”

- Variables influencing the design of SDIs e.g. government policies, availability of skilled workforce, general market environment
- Functions of an SDI Co-ordinating Body: e.g. fostering relationships, liaison with technical group, creation of donor pool, development of marketing tools
- Innovative funding models for emerging nations: not expected to replace traditional models but to augment them

Questions for delegates to consider:

- How do emerging nations move forward?
- If they can't quickly, how can they change the rules of the game or the nature of the game?

Géza Apagyi, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hungary presented the paper “The National Cadastral Programme in Hungary” (Additional paper)

Géza outlined the reasons why the National Cadastral Programme (NCP) was needed in Hungary i.e. maps in analogue form with different projections, economic demand and the development of GIS.

The NCP 2004-07 will ensure the digitisation of existing analogue maps and enable digital maps to correspond.

The following questions of clarification were asked:

Fraser Taylor, Canada commented on the importance of talking the language of the decision-maker. He asked whether NMAs require capacity-building to achieve this. Do we currently have the capabilities and, if not, how can we build capacity?

Mick Cory explained that Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI) is aware of the need to bring in new skills and is attempting to do so. Rob Mahoney agreed with Fraser re the need for staff with the appropriate background and training. David Coleman explained that, in his organisation, they are looking at recruiting people with a broader range of skills e.g. people/project management skills.

Peter Jakobsen, Denmark spoke about NMAs' developing focus on users. He commented that they are lacking knowledge about users/potential users and have to find out how users can benefit from GI.

Rob Mahoney endorsed the comment and advised that NMAs should adopt a lifelong learning approach towards users.

Session 4a

Santiago Borrero, Colombia commented on Mick Cory's presentation and compared the difference between the perception and reality of Northern Ireland to that of his own country. He asked Gavin Adlington why the World Bank doesn't fund projects to acquire spatial information.

Gavin replied that he knows of no reason why the World Bank wouldn't support such projects. He explained that the Bank doesn't fund government to use its own staff (i.e. pay salaries) and that sometimes the approval of projects depends on who within the Bank you are speaking to. However, he cited the Ukraine mapping project which has just been approved; this project is to provide data, mapping etc.

Irwin Itzkovitch, Canada has found that time available with politicians is limited and sees Mick Cory's suggestion about a 30-second clip as essential. He asked panel members what their 30-second clip would be. The best quotation came from Rob Mahoney who said "*Invest in spatial data and it will enable you to explain your decisions transparently to your electorate and they will want to re-elect you*".

Hadgu Medhin, Ethiopia asked for advice from the World Bank representative re emerging countries and spatial data/mapping projects. Gavin Adlington referred Mr Medhin back to the main points of his presentation; namely to adopt the correct approach by outlining why maps are required and involving beneficiaries.

Kate Lance, USA commented that the World Bank was required to ensure that projects are well designed and to be responsible when allocating funds.

Jean Dotse, Ghana asked why there are often conditions attached to securing funding from the World Bank. Gavin Adlington replied that bilateral donors may attach conditions, although he can't speak on their behalf. There are no conditions attached to the World Bank however they do specify that, if a project costs \$1m, then the organisation involved must have a turnover of \$3m to prove that they can take the financial losses.

The Chair provided the following closing remarks:

- It is difficult for NMAs to get political and financial support because politicians are especially interested in vote-winning projects
- If politicians are educated, they become more aware of the advantages of spatial data