

Session 5A

Transforming NMO's – how to get from here to where

The session was chaired by **Amitabha Pande** (Department of Science and Technology, India)

5A.1

Prithvish Nag (Survey of India) presented the paper Transformation of National Mapping Agencies: The case of India.

Summary:

The National Mapping Agency of India has a very long history of some 237 years, currently having substantially reduced its staff to the current number of 15,000. During this period technology has advanced greatly and the paper covers this, and the planned migration from manual methods, to modern technologically driven solutions.

5A.2

Irwin Itzkovitch (National Resources Canada) presented the paper Leadership of Geomatics in Canada : reworking the concept

Summary:

This paper covered the need to be customer driven, to ensure that the correct products are produced. Irwin said that they had found the best way to get government attention was to align their goals to government, which when compared over a number of parliamentary terms did not radically change in detailed content. The paper also looks into the value of shared risk, partnership projects.

5A.3

Rui Pedro Juliao (Portuguese Geographical Institute) presented the paper “Restructuring the Geographical information production and dissemination at national level – the experience of Portugal”

Summary

The paper covered the historical use of geographical information in Portugal dating back to 1755. The structure of the Portuguese Geographical Institute and the modernisation of geographical information procedures. The data management procedures for web mapping and metadata management were also covered, ensuring that the value of the data is maximised going forward.

5A.4

Dietmar Gruenreich (Federal Agency of Cartography and Geodesy, Germany)

Presented the paper The decentralised approach to mapping of the Federal Republic of Germany – a model for establishing the European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI)

Summary

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The Chair asked the question are NMO's still required or have we outlived our usefulness? If we struggle to justify and transform are we really needed, would not the market forces provide the required services.

John Spittal (Land Information, New Zealand) said that in New Zealand we found money or technology were not issues but NMO credibility and our value to the nation and leadership across the industry were more important. Land registration is a government responsibility. Private companies would never maintain a cadastre. Planning requires a government lead.

Knut Flathen (Norwegian mapping authority) ?? said that all mobiles will have position and location based services which will drive map location use. I think GIS users will shape our organisations requiring the latest version of quality data. Our task is to meet their requirements.

Dietmar Gruenreich (Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy) said that he agreed and is involved in partnership programs in Europe, and we are looking to translate open standards formats for the new location based services.

Rui Pedro Juliao (Portuguese Geographical Institute) said that NMA's in their traditional format are not required. Focus on the users and what they need is important. We are to purist and most users do not understand cartographic requirements. We need to change the way we work to support the market requirements.

Irwin Itzkovitch (National Resources Canada) The question is is mapping a public good? If not then NMA's are not required. NMA's define a unifying view for a country. Will the private sector define the way forward for a country? I think not!

Our problem is that we are all technicians, who want to build products, we need to lead the strategic future, not our standard set of products. We are at the trailing edge rather than leading the market. The Internet is a way to communicate it has taken 40 years to become established but forms an essential part of the future.

Prithvish Nag (Survey of India) said that NMO's are required but needed to look to change. It is important to build a new role/ services. We need a fresh loo based on the countries requirements.

The Chair asked who needs NMA's? and who uses our products?

Chris Roper (Landmark Information Group) said I want things to go on as they are, but we still need to change. Industrial activity by the NMA's must not chase niche markets as you will miss the market, by the time you have mobilised. Lead time to build new services is not short.

Frazer Taylor (International Steering Committee for Global Mapping) agreed but asked how do we do that? How do we maintain geoconnexion as a leading institute? How do we keep NMA's as leaders in these changing

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times? NMA's are not always leaders, but in order to do so we need to demonstrate credibility.

Irwin Itzkovitch (National Resources Canada) said that there was a lack of understanding regarding the term of leadership. Leadership is not management, we need to guide partnerships. We need to understand the end result and ensure this is not missed.

Best practice is key and the delivery of products and credibility. Best practice is country specific, and while it is a guide one size does not fit all.

Dietmar Gruenreich (Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy) said leadership is a clear leadership, as we are responsible and we have trust and partnership. BKG – Geodesy Scientists and Research. International Collaboration gives us national authority goal oriented forming a platform of leadership with wider potential in Europe.

Rui Pedro Juliao (Portuguese Geographical Institute) Research departments look at the new sectors for the future, and then use this understanding to shape our future products.

The Chair redefine NMA's, but can the NMA's perform the new roles required of them? If we now must become more of leaders and define standards for others to use should we be retained?

John Spittal (Land Information, New Zealand) In these changing times we need a new type of surveyor, with the ability to translate this into motivational, strategic communication, writing and risk management skills. Our people are in high demand from government and our role is growing with our staff.

Peter Jakobsen (Kort & Matrikelstyrelsen) We do not produce mass market products, but we do need to change and adapt with the times. We must face reality and find out what the market wants us to be. We need to continually change and understand what our customers need and not assume the customers requirements will not change.

Irwin Itzkovitch (Natural Resources Canada) said we do not have to own all the data products. Own what you must and influence the rest. This is the NMA's role.

Preetha Pulusani (Intergraph Mapping & Geospatial Solutions – IMGS) said the importance should be placed on industry trends that we see with the commercial companies. Commercial mapping companies will not proved for security or defence requirements or provide for sustainable development. NMA's must work in collaboration with the private sector in Public/Private partnerships.

Kemueli Masikerei (Department of Lands & Surveys, Fiji) said that our situation in Fiji is very small only 18,000 sq km. We have responsibility for the production of maps and we can't see how this can be passed to the private

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sector due to funding & manpower and technology issues. We have to maintain the data and provide access to it at marginal cost.

The Chair Governments and NMA's are not synonymous, the NMA's are only an arm of the government. Can NSDI's make NMA's redundant as NSDI's do not need to be run by NMA's?

Vagn Laursen (GeoForum Denmark) said that he was impressed by Canada's political goal driven plan.

Irwin Itzkovitch (Natural Resources Canada) said you should work with ministers to advise them on their questions, to help them understand the needs of the NMA's. We now have ministers who have geomatics on their agenda following education and consultation. We have technical groups that question our role, in both public & public/private partnerships. We can not do all we would like to do but we must focus on those we need to do.

Robin McLaren (Know Edge Ltd) said that we need clarity in public/private partnerships. We need to be open and have trust in the partnership to look after the private sector as the NMA's change.

Frazer Taylor (International Steering Committee for Global Mapping) said why should NMA's do this. NMA's have the required skills and therefore must lead and accurately capture data for society. The question is will the NMA's be able to change?

The Chair thanked the speakers for an open debate covering a wide number of issues, through transformation and change.