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## REPORT:

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# INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON STANDARDS AND TECHNIQUES OF SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE AT WUHAN, CHINA & THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION CONGRESS AT DEQING, CHINA

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Prepared by

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## Acknowledgement

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all the organizations that provided me the possibility to attend these two events; The International Seminar on Standards and Techniques of Spatial Data Infrastructure (Wuhan, China) and the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (Deqing, China).

To the South Pacific Community (SPC, Fiji); Miss Molly Powers and Mr Adrick Lal, The Chair of FIG Young Surveyors Network Ms Eva Maria Unger; thank you for the financial support and giving me the opportunity to present on the Young Professional's Parallel session, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (Tonga) and to whom ever that has lend a helping hand one way or another, thank you for your continuous support. If it wasn't for you all, this trip to China wouldn't be possible.

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## Introduction

The International Seminar on Standards and Techniques of Spatial Data Infrastructure was held in Wuhan, China on the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 2018. This seminar was supported by the UN-GGIM- AP WG on Regional SDI and was the first part of the two events, mainly being focussed on lectures and technical visits in Wuhan. The United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress on the other hand was held in Deqing (Zhejiang, China) from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2018, followed by other summits, including the Subcommittee on Geodesy in which I also attended on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2018, after the Congress.

The UNWGIC was initiated by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN- GGIM), whom was mandated to convene or organize global forums in order to promote a comprehensive dialogue on global geospatial information management with all governments, non government organizations, academic and research institutions, and not forgetting private sectors and was organised by the United Nations through the Statistic Division as the UN- GGIM Secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of China through the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Government of Zhejiang Province of China. During the Congress, I was fortunate enough to be invited to take part in presenting at the Young Geospatial Professionals session which was hosted by the Chair of FIG Young Surveyors Network.

Sessions and meetings attended;

- i. International Seminar on Standards and Techniques of Spatial Data Infrastructure.
- ii. United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress
  - Young Geospatial Professionals Summit
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary of the UNGGIM Asia Pacific
  - Summit of Subcommittee on Geodesy

In this report I will be sharing the desired outcomes of the trip, my experience and what I as a young geospatial professional have learned from attending these events.

## International Seminar on Standards and Techniques of Spatial Data Infrastructure

The seminar as mentioned was mainly being focussed on lectures and technical visits in Wuhan in which we started off with presentations from geospatial professionals across China, presenting what they are doing, the type of softwares they are using and the importance of Geospatial data and how they are using it to manipulate and address land management, planning, climate change and other issues in China.

The last two days were of technical visits to;

- i. State Key Laboratory of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (LIESMARS, Wuhan University), China's top University in Surveying and Mapping.
- ii. GeoStar Company, which is the only high tech company in China that can provide services covering the entire life cycle of Geospatial Information.

These technical visits were made up of very interesting presentations covering;

- Aerial and Space Photography
- Remote Sensing Information Processing
- Geospatial Information Systems and Services
- 3S Integration and Network Communication
- Navigation and Location based services

The presentations were very educational as the Professors were presenting new ideas along with their findings and research within the University and how they are using it in reality as problem solving tools to analyse and manipulate geographical data not only that but how they are promoting innovations and trying to extend geospatial technology into industries and new fields in order to empower users in achieving their goals through geospatial intelligence.

❖ Photos



## United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress

As a Global event, the congress was made up of participants, including Ministers and senior officials from all over the world. The congress aimed to provide a convening, participatory and inclusive environment to enhance leadership, knowledge and understanding of the significance and the usefulness of geospatial information management to address national, regional and global challenges, and in service of social, environmental and economic development.

The programme contained a;

- i. High level Opening Ceremony
- ii. Ministerial Dialogue entitled “Towards a more sustainable World for All”
- iii. Four Plenary Sessions
- iv. Parallel sessions and special sessions and a
- v. Closing session

The Ministerial Dialogue involved a lot of discussions on societal, environmental and economic benefits of reliable, timely and quality geospatial information, considering its role in creating a more sustainable and a better world for all.

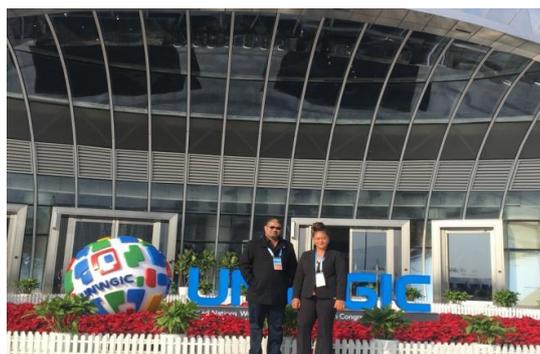
The Four Plenary Sessions were dedicated to; Sharing the Digital Economy, Attaining Sustainable Development, Building Smart Societies and Growing International Cooperation.

As for the Parallel sessions, it was made of thirty five parallel sessions and all these sessions were developed in five series in order to examine the seven themes;

1. Measuring and Monitoring the SDGs
2. Digital Economy, Location Analytics and Big Data
3. Smart, Resilient and Sustainable Societies
4. Growing Global Geospatial Capability and Capacity
5. Geospatial Innovation, Science and Technology
6. Digital Silk Road and International Partnership
7. Sustainable Development in Action

Towards the ending of the UNWGIC, the organizers hosted other several UN- GGIM meetings, including the Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Management for Asia Pacific (UN- GGIM- AP) and other summits such as the Subcommittee on Geodesy that took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of November respectively, after the main programme of the UNWGIC.

• Photos



## Desired Outcomes

The aims of attending these two events were to gain knowledge and understanding and work towards implementing the skills learned in order to be able to address the following with reference to our Tonga Strategic Development Framework II;

- ***National Outcome F-***
  - A more inclusive, sustainable and effective land and environmental management and resilience to climate and risk.
- ***Organisational Outcome 5.1***
  - Improve Land use planning and management for private and public.
- ***Organisational Outcome 5.2***
  - Improve resilience to natural disaster and impacts of climate change.

## Outcomes

As we are still developing and building up our knowledge with Geospatial Information Management, such events (seminars, training and conference) are big opportunities for us to learn, pick up new things and become experts through professional development which enables us to gain more in- depth expertise in the geospatial field and also develop problem solving ideas to improve ourselves and the job that we carry out.

Attending these two events were a great experience for myself and my colleagues because it renewed our motivation and confidence in doing what we do. There were so many very inspiring presentations that motivated us and has helped us point out where we are in terms of our geospatial capability and capacity, how we are measuring and monitoring sustainable development goals (in which we have not really looked at), how we are going to improve ourselves in carrying out our duties and promoting geospatial agency innovation, inventions etc.,

These two major events also helped us brightened our minds in understanding the importance of national coordination and cooperation by working together to build a much more reliable and accurate geographical data for the betterment of the society and making sure that we are not only addressing our own issues locally, but we are part of a global movement in addressing global challenges as one, making the world a better place and not feeling as if we are being left behind.

## Recommendation

In order to improve geospatial data management we need to first address these focal points;

- Promote communication, cooperation and coordination locally and internationally.
- Introduce global initiatives such as digital economy, smart resilient and sustainable societies, sustainable development in action and so forth.
- Promote innovation, invention and identifying new ways of doing things.
- Enable easy up- to- date data sharing
- Invest in young professionals for the future
- Develop a Network for young geospatial professionals through PGSC.