

# The World of Maps

*The World in your hand.* Contribution to Barbara Petchenik Competition 2014 by **Anissa Avila (13)** Owen Middle School Swannanoa NC (United States). Downloaded from: <http://www.explokart.eu/petchenik/>



**International Cartographic Association**  
Association Cartographique Internationale

The Working Group of the  
International Map Year

Editors: F. Ormeling and B. Rystedt  
© ICA and the authors



## PREFACE

### Georg Gartner, Austria

Never before so many maps have been produced per day. Maps, especially topographic maps, are used for navigation with the help of satellite systems. Base maps can be used on computers and mobile phones. Indoor navigation, especially in shopping centres, is of increasing interest for the mobile phone industry. More and more decisions are also dependent on maps and the knowledge of geography. The preservation of the environment in a time of climate change is also dependent on maps and geographic information.

Based on a motion from the Swedish Cartographic Society, the General Assembly of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) decided at its Paris conference in 2011 to establish the International Map Year (IMY). The conference of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference in Bangkok (Nov 1 2012) asked the ICA in a resolution to organize IMY during the year 2015. In 2014 the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) body formally endorsed ICA to organize the IMY in 2015 and 2016.

The ICA decided to assign the task of organizing IMY to a working group with Bengt Rystedt as Chairperson and Ferjan Ormeling as Vice Chairperson. Although retired, they are both still involved in shaping the future of cartography. The working group has then been enlarged successively with Aileen Buckley from Esri, Redlands, USA; Ayako Kagawa, UN, New York; Serena Coetzee, University of Pretoria, South Africa; Vit Vozenilek, University of Olomouc, Czech Republic and David Fairbairn, Newcastle, UK.

The objective of IMY is to broaden the knowledge of cartography and geographic information among the general public and especially among schoolchildren. To support this objective, this book has been produced. At schools, the competition between different teaching programs is now heavy, and we hope that the IMY effort will lead to more cartography students in the future.

The book has a broad perspective and covers both production and use of maps and geographic data. Cartography, geographic information, and their adjacent subjects form a broad opportunity for further education and different applications. Cartography and geographic information are to be combined with other disciplines, forming the main subjects of teaching programs. In related fields, we find physical sciences like geoscience including physical geography, geodesy, remote sensing, and photogrammetry. Social sciences like human and economic geography, archaeology and ecology are of interest as well. Knowledge of cartography and geographic information provides many possibilities for interesting jobs. We hope that this book might be useful for many students.

This book has been written by many persons connected to ICA. They did so because of their love of the subject and their interest in cartography. The book is stored as PDF files, chapter by chapter, on the ICA home page. It can be downloaded for free. The copyright of the book belongs to the authors and the ICA. Please respect that.

The book has also been translated to French and Spanish. The translation to French has been handled by the French Society of Cartography (CFC) with the help of numerous volunteers co-ordinated by Francois Lecordix. The translation to Spanish has been done in a similar way by a professional translator of the Spanish Society of Cartography (SECFT) co-ordinated by Pilar Sánchez-Ortiz Rodriguez, in collaboration with Antonio F. Rodriguez

and Laura Carrasco, all employee of the National Geographic Institute of Spain.

I would like to congratulate the working group and all the authors for their important initiative and work and thank the Swedish Cartographic Society for the initiative.

Vienna, October, 2014.

*Georg Gartner  
President of the ICA*



*Georg Gartner, professor of Cartography at the Vienna University of Technology, President of the ICA and the ICA board liaison with the IMY working group.*