

International Map Year
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FINAL REPORT

The ICA Working Group of International Map Year

1 Introduction

1.1 The Goals of IMY

The Swedish Cartographic Society proposed in a motion to the General Assembly of the ICA to establish an International Map Year. The assembly adopted the motion at the general assembly in Paris on July 8, 2011. The work on International Map Year could be handled by an ICA working group (WG) directly directed by the ICA Executive Committee (EC).

The aim of International Map Year was to broaden the knowledge of maps and geographic information among the general public by showing how these can help individuals in their daily activities and can assist in societal development. More specific goals:

For the general public, to:

- Become aware how maps and map-based products can be used in society, for example:
 - By highlighting the use of maps and map-based navigation systems for more efficient navigation and transport (including tourism, orienteering, and GPS);
 - By showing how census mapping can help in assessing whether all inhabitants of a country have equal access to its resources;
 - By understanding how agriculture and forestry maps can help us making better use of our resources;
- Gain cognizance of the nation's achievements in the field of mapping by showcasing the history and products of National Mapping Organizations;
- Understand the importance of good infrastructure for the provision of geographic information, for instance, through the standardization of geographical names;
- Increase awareness of the need for cartographic experts and of possibilities for education in cartography, as well as in the field of geographic information science, for example:
 - By showing how geographic information specialists make different information resources comparable;

- By demonstrating how geographic information collection procedures might impact the possibilities for mapping and map use;
- By showing the need for cartography and geographic information courses in higher education.

For cartographers in general and for the ICA the benefits would be:

- Increased visibility of cartography and geographic information science in society, education, and practice;
- Larger numbers of students enrolling in courses in cartography, as well as in geographic information science.

1.2 Terms of Reference

The WG was given the following tasks:

- Create a text book on Cartography and Geographic Information for the general public;
- Elaborate plans for national activities and establish national contacts;
- Involve the ICA commissions in the work and promotion of IMY;
- Find sponsors among the affiliate members;
- Establish contacts with the United Nations (UN) and sister organizations (through the ICA EC and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS));
- Produce information that can be used in national Map Days;
- Follow up and update the working plan adopted at the International Cartographic Conference (ICC) in Dresden 2013.

1.3 Working Plan

Initial tasks:

- Establish a connection to the UN for announcing International Map Year. Bengt Rystedt asked the Swedish Foreign Ministry for support;
- Publish ideas and information relating to IMY in the ICA News each year;
- Prepare a Paper on IMY to be presented to the next Regional Cartographic Conference and draft a proposal for a resolution to accept IMY as an ICA-led activity.
- Create a WG to concentrate on implementing and promoting IMY for the ICA.

A letter was sent to Amor Laaribi at the UN Statistics Division (SD). He proposed to push it further in the UN but also asked for support from UN member countries. The Swedish

Government was approached on this subject, but the answer from the ministry was that UN has other things to do and that UN target-theme years often were costly. The contacts with the UN were followed up with an ICA presentation at the Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia (in Bangkok) 2011 and for the Americas (in New York) 2012. Further contacts with the UN were more constructive, and, in 2014, IMY was incorporated in UN-GGIM.

Bengt Rystedt (Sweden) and Ferjan Ormeling (The Netherlands) took lead of the WG. Ayako Kagawa (UN Cartographic Section) and Aileen Buckley (Esri) promised to join the WG in Paris 2011. Later, Vít Voženílek, Serena Coetzee, and David Fairbairn joined the WG.

It was decided that a call for corresponding members would be inserted in the ICA News in December 2011, and some 40 countries joined with the intention of establishing a National IMY Committee. All were added to the IMY web site (<http://mapyear.org/nations-signed-up/>).

The following tasks were subsequently defined for the year 2012:

- Outline guidelines for National Members of the ICA on how to conduct national activities within the framework of International Map Year;
- Outline the content of a text book that describes cartography and geographic information to the general public and school children;
- Inform ICA commissions, WGs, and affiliate members about the ICA's intentions for IMY;
- Inform sister organizations (before the next Regional Cartographic Conference) about the ICA's intentions for IMY;
- Establish a working plan for the coming years.

The official inauguration for IMY at the opening ceremony of the ICC, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August 2015. It was conducted by then-ICA president Georg Gartner and IMY WG Chair, Bengt Rystedt. The event was commemorated by a presentation by Gregory Scott of the UN SD. IMY officially ended in December 2016, and a closing ceremony will be held during the ICC in Washington, DC, in July 2017.

2 IMY WG meetings and the IMY home page

2.1 IMY WG meetings

The first IMY WG meeting was held in Dresden during the 2013 ICC. There, it was decided that IMY should be prolonged to the end of 2016 in order to include the Barbara Petchenik

Children's World Map Drawing Competition in the IMY program of events. It was also decided that the name of the text book would be *The World of Maps*.

The second WG meeting was held in Olomouc, Czech Republic, in February 2014. Vít Voženílek received a scholarship from the European Union to invite many ICA representatives to this meeting, but the entire IMY WG could not attend. At this meeting, mock-ups for the IMY web site were drafted and preliminary web site content was compiled. These activities and the resulting web site and its content were summarized in a paper that David Fairbairn (2014) presented at a joint International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing seminar on education in Wuhan, China, and later by Ferjan Ormeling (2014) to the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UN-GEGN) at a meeting in New York. They were also presented some days later to Gregory Scott, the UN co-ordinator of UN-GGIM.

A short meeting of the WG was held in Rio de Janeiro during ICC 2015 to discuss plans to wrap up IMY, and the final meeting was held in Vienna, Austria, in November 2016 at a meeting of the ICA Commissions and WG chairs for the 2015-2019 term. During the Commission Chairs meeting, ICA President Menno-Jan Kraak proposed that posters should be produced for each of the UN sustainable goals. That initiative resulted in a set of posters displayed at the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) meeting in New York from August 3 to 5, 2016 (Figure 1).



Figure 1. In the framework of IMY, ICA and its commissions highlight the value of cartography by “mapping” the *UN sustainable development goals*. The posters as well as the catalog for the poster exhibition can be found on icaci.org/maps-and-sustainable-development-goals. Photo courtesy of Menno-Jan Kraak.

2.2 The IMY web site (www.mapyear.org)

The IMY web site was originally created in the Department of Cartography and Geoinformatics of the Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest. In order to conform to the new ICA web site style, the IMY web site was later redesigned by Manuela Schmidt at the Technical University in Vienna, Austria, who continued to manage the site for the duration of IMY. The IMY web site was launched in 2014 and was updated regularly. Although IMY has ended, the web site remains accessible to provide continued access to *The World of Maps* e-book and other resources.

The IMY web site includes the following sections: *News*, *About*, *Get Involved*, *Events*, and *The World of Maps*. The *News* section is the landing page for the web site. It contains a blog with posts from participating countries to highlight their IMY national activities and other activities that have been organized at the international level by the ICA and its members. These ICA activities include the creation of posters by the ICA commissions about how cartography can support work on the seventeen UN sustainable development goals.

In the *About* section of the web site, the purposes of the worldwide celebration of maps are stated. These include making maps visible to citizens and school children in a global context, demonstrating how maps and atlases can be used in society, and showing how technology can be used in collecting geographic information and producing maps. The *About* section also describes how one of the key reasons for organizing IMY was the ICA's desire to increase the recruitment of students to cartography and cartography-related disciplines and to boost the identity of ICA and its mission. Exhibits of maps at museums and libraries were very common (Figure 2).



Figure 2. *Lyudmila Zinchuk, head of the Department of Cartographic Publications of the Russian State Library, opens the map exhibition in Pashkov House. Photo courtesy of Irina Karachevtseva, MExLab.*

In the *Get Involved* section of the web site, guidelines for how to set up a national IMY committee are provided, its possible membership or composition are described, and its possible activities are outlined. These activities include setting up a web site, identifying national capacities in cartography and geographic information, identifying potential local organizers, and identifying industrial partners. For IMY to have a lasting influence, each national committee was encouraged to discuss the establishment of the further development of a national strategic plan for the creation and dissemination of geographic and cartographic information. In the *Get Involved* section of the web site, there is also a link to list of more than 40 countries that have already set up a national IMY committee and participated in IMY.

The *Events* section of the web site provides access to a calendar of past IMY events (figure 3).



Figure 3. IMY around the world. Photo courtesy of Igor Drecki (2017).

The final section of the web site provides access to the e-book, *The World of Maps*, which is described in greater detail below.

3 The World of Maps

The World of Maps describes what cartography and geographic information systems are all about. It includes chapters covering a wide range of cartographic topics to form a coherent introduction, reference volume, and workbook for those who are interested in learning more about the nature of mapping and geographic information in our world today. The goal of the book is to broaden the knowledge of cartography and geographic information among the public and especially among school children. The book clearly reflects its authors' desires to share their love of maps. The book has the following chapters by the authors noted:

Preface. Georg Gartner, President of ICA

Foreword. Working Group

Introduction and Summary

1. Cartography. Bengt Rystedt, Sweden

2. Use of Maps and Map Reading. Ferjan Ormeling, Netherlands

3. Geographic Information. Bengt Rystedt, Sweden

How to Make Maps

4. Map Design. Vít Voženílek, Czech Republic

5A. Topographic maps. Bengt Rystedt, Sweden

- 5B. Geological maps. Fabrizio Berra, Italy
- 6. Thematic Maps. Ferjan Ormeling, Netherlands
- 7. Atlases. Ferjan Ormeling, Netherlands
- 8. Geographical Names. Ferjan Ormeling, Netherlands
- 9. Map Projections and Reference Systems. Miljenko Lapaine, Croatia, and Lynn Usery, USA.

How to Use Maps

- 10. Map Use at the United Nations. UN Cartographic Section
- 11. Setting One's Course with a Nautical Chart. Michel Huét, Monaco
- 12. Maps for Orienteering and for Finding the Cache. Lazlo Zentai, Hungary

How to Present Maps

- 13. Printing Maps. Bengt Rystedt, Sweden
- 14. Web and Mobile Mapping. Michael Peterson, USA

Geographic Information

- 15. Geographic Information, Access, and Availability. Aileen Buckley, USA, and Bengt Rystedt, Sweden
- 16. Volunteered Geographic Information. Serena Coetzee, Republic of South Africa

Education and Further Information

- 17. Education. David Fairbairn, UK
- 18. Tactile Cartography. Edwin Hunt, Chile
- 19. Further Information.

To the delight of the ICA EC and the IMY WG, the e-book has been translated into French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Hungarian. It is currently being translated into German, Chinese, Arabic, and Indonesian as well. As a result, apart from Russia and parts of Asia and Africa, the book will be accessible to most inhabitants of the world in their own language. Up to December 2016 the e-book web page was visited by some 25,000 times.

4 IMY Costs

All work done on IMY was paid for through donations by the organizers of the activities or the donors they were able to engage. In addition, the ICA budgeted 10,000 Euro to support IMY. This covered the costs for t-shirts, buttons (Figure 4), web page registration and management, and travel costs for attendance of IMY representatives at the meeting in Vienna. The Swedish Cartographic Association has also provided scholarships to Bengt Rystedt for participation to ICC conferences in Paris, Dresden, Rio and Washington, DC.



Figure 4. IMY buttons produced at the department of cartography in Olomouc, Czech Republic. Photo courtesy of Vít Voženílek.

5 The Future of IMY

The IMY WG proposed the establishment of a yearly Map Day to be held by ICA national and affiliate members. However, that was not endorsed by the ICA EC since there was no proposed leadership for this initiative.

The ICA EC plan to make the IMY web site static. This change in the web site status will be announced in the ICA News. The *World on Maps* e-book will be moved to the ICA web site in the Publication section. The translations to other languages of the book will also be linked from this page.

6 Conclusions

The successes evidenced during IMY 2015-2016, such as the cooperation demonstrated for organizing national events and national Map Days in various countries, the increased interest by the general public and schoolchildren in the cartographic profession and in the use of maps, and the popularity of *The World of Maps* e-book, are all indicators of the need to continue the IMY initiative in some form. This and other possibilities will be discussed at the ICC in Washington, DC, in July 2017.

Acknowledgements

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teams, members of the ICA EC and ICA Commission Chairs, as well as the UN-GGIM and JBGIS.

Also, many thanks to all national IMY committees who organized many successful map events in various modes during the timespan of IMY. Most of these events have been documented on the news page of the IMY web site. The information will be there for many years to come, and will serve as many examples for future use.

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