Concept Note

SuZeeYar Myanmar Spatial Data Platform Conference

Organised by: Myanmar Information Management Unit / MIMU
Dates: 16-18 May 2016
Location: Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 / MICC2 Nay Pyi Taw
Web: http://themimu.info/suzeeyar-conference

Myanmar's period of transition brings new demands on government to improve information and greater transparency and access to data, as well as new opportunities to integrate the use of spatial data in systems that underpin planning of service delivery and infrastructure development across the country.

Alongside new technologies for generating, managing and integrating spatial data, several new initiatives are underway in Myanmar such as the OneMap Myanmar Project (CDE) and NSDI Project (CICC Japan) which, in partnership with the Myanmar Government, seek to support the exchange and sharing of spatial data, and the necessary standards and legal framework to enable efficient use of such information by government as well as the academic, private and development sectors. Other initiatives and areas of expertise exist across the academic, private and development sectors which will strengthen Myanmar's spatial data capacity.

This context makes it a good time to reflect on activities and expertise within Myanmar, while also looking to international best practices and their relevance to Myanmar.

> *SuZeeYar,* in Myanmar, is a "*Place for coming together*" or "*Hub*".
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> For this Spatial Data Platform Conference it refers to the exchange of data and integration of systems in spatial data platforms – and also importantly it captures the spirit of sharing information and coordination between different organizations and across departments of government necessary to support good spatial data infrastructure.

The MIMU is a unit of the United Nations that provides information management services to strengthen analysis and decision-making around humanitarian and development issues in Myanmar. It maintains a common data and information repository with a strong focus on geospatial information. You can find out more about us here: http://themimu.info/

The SuZeeYar conference will bring together policy-makers with technical experts from Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Switzerland and Canada to:

- Share information about ongoing spatial data platforms initiatives in Myanmar,
- Learn from the experiences of national spatial data platforms in other countries,
- Promote and exchange among key stakeholders (Government departments, NGOs/CSOs, academic and private sectors).

This conference has been planned in consultation with the Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern in Switzerland (CDE) which is leading implementation of the OneMap Myanmar project in partnership with the Land Core Group.

The conference agenda will be divided into a number of thematic sessions - each session will include presentations by a number of panelists followed by discussion with the opportunity to further explore the themes discussed and draw on the panelists' expertise.

The sessions will include:

- Experience of successful institutional frameworks for national spatial data platforms from other countries including Canada, Switzerland, Thailand and Laos.
- Policy, legislation and standards: International examples and lessons.
- Ongoing projects in Myanmar and future spatial data platforms.
- The role of the private sector and the role of the academic sector.
- Community and NGOs' role in spatial data verification and validation

The third day of the conference will consist of targeted discussions in smaller working groups. These sessions will be for Myanmar government technical staff and experts, focusing on specific technical priorities identified during the conference, seeking to clarify next steps for future work and potential recommendations.

Contact

To RSVP, or for any questions regarding the MIMU SuZeeYar conference, please contact us:

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