

Global activities

Through popularizing the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) which was adopted by the UN General Assembly to show the precise shape and associated changes of the Earth, and promoting the utilization of geospatial information through international partnerships, GSI has contributed to cooperative efforts by countries around the world to support UN activities such as achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, GSI is involved with a wide array of other activities on the world stage, such as Antarctic observations, and technological cooperation with developing countries using surveying techniques developed in Japan.



Contributions in the UN and other frameworks

GSI continuously participates in the United Nations Committee of Experts for Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), which was established in 2011 under the United Nations Economic and Social Council. GSI contributes to discussions on the maintenance and utilization of geospatial information required to find solutions to global policy issues.

GSI plays a leading role in UN-GGIM as Co-Chair of the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and as a member of the Subcommittee on Geodesy, as well as Vice-President of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP).



Technology transfer of UN vector tile toolkits



Closing ceremony on the Internet for JICA program



JICA long-term dispatch of experts



Plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM-AP

Antarctic Research Expedition

GSI has been establishing position references in the Antarctic and contributing to the compilation of fundamental and scientific data. Since the first expedition in 1956, GSI has been dispatching its personnel to Antarctic Research Expeditions to conduct geodetic surveys and create maps. Furthermore, as part of the work of the International GNSS Service (IGS), GSI has been carrying out continuous GNSS observations on East Ongul Island where the Showa Station is located.



Taking relative gravity measurements on an outcrop (photo taken during the 62nd mission)

Technical cooperation for developing countries

GSI has been involved in technical cooperation, such as GNSS CORSs which serves as a foundation for the "high-precision positioning society", to improve surveying and mapping skills in developing countries with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Since 1959, GSI has accommodated trainees from around the world, and as of FY2020 over 1,000 persons had received training. Furthermore, from 1964 to the present, GSI has dispatched more than 850 experts to foreign countries to provide training in survey techniques.



Lecture on GNSS CORSs during a JICA program

Technology and partnership—Contributing to UN activities (Expert dispatched to the United Nations Geospatial Information Section; Mr. UBUKAWA Taro)

Various technologies are needed in order to achieve common goals of the UN and individual countries such as sustainable development and international peace and security. The United Nations Secretariat is studying technologies and experiences from Member States that cannot be obtained just from markets. In order to further develop these technologies, the Secretariat utilizes partnerships with Member States. I have been dispatched by GSI to the UN to support the implementation of the "United Nations Vector Tile Toolkit" which was developed as a collaborative effort between the UN and GSI. By developing the toolkit as open source, the UN and GSI are attracting participation from industry and academia for further development of this technology.

The United Nations Geospatial Information Section provides geospatial information and related services to support activities of the UN, including those of the Security Council, the United Nations Secretariat, and the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. In addition, the United Nations Geospatial Information Section participates in the UN-GGIM Secretariat to support the operations of WG-Disasters, and looks forward to forming further partnerships in the field of geospatial information with GSI.



Working at UN Secretariat

The Science Museum of Map and Survey



Providing spaces to make learning fun

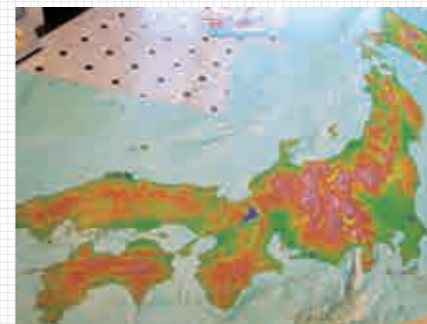
The Science Museum of Map and Survey exhibits a wide variety of documents and materials concerning mapping and land surveying, including their histories, principles, processes, and new technologies. It is a facility that provides a fun learning environment for both children and adults. Covid countermeasures have been put in place, so please come and visit the museum.

Opening Hours : 9:30-16:00
Closed : Mondays (Tuesday if a holiday falls on a Monday)
Year end and new year holidays
Admission free
Parking available
https://www.gsi.go.jp/ENGLISH/page_e30226.html



Introduction of the Museum

Japanese Archipelago Skywalk Map (1st Floor)



The entire Japanese archipelago is drawn on the floor at a scale of 1:100,000. When seen with 3D glasses, the archipelago looks three-dimensional, which makes you feel like it is the actual topography of land and sea.

Permanent Exhibition Room (2nd Floor)



The Permanent Exhibition Room features old maps which reflect the view of the world at the time they were made and precious surveying equipment that was used at various places in Japan. Here you can have a fun time learning about the fascinating histories and roles of maps and surveys.

Earth Plaza



When you climb up on the 22m-diameter Earth Plaza you can see a 1:200,000 scale model of the world around the Japanese Archipelago. Please enjoy the experience of viewing the expanse of Japan and the roundness of the Earth. The decommissioned survey aircraft Kunikaze (first model), which was in service from 1960 to 1983, is also on display.

Planned exhibits

With themes related to mapping and surveying, various planned exhibits are held as occasion demands in the Special Exhibition Room on the 2nd Floor.



'Inozu'—the Starting Point of Modern Cartography Marking the 200th anniversary of the completion of maps showing the entire coastline of Japan (Held from October to December 2021)

Exhibition of All Japan School Children's Excellent Mapping Work

The Exhibition of All Japan School Children's Excellent Mapping Work, which is organized by GSI, is a collection in one setting of mapping works created by school children that were brought to the attention of their local communities and recommended by member organizations. Particularly excellent works receive prizes such as the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award.



The Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award

Special events on Survey Day

Every year on the first Sunday in June, special planned events are held to commemorate "Survey Day", which is June 3rd. There are hands-on events as well such as the "Fun School of Mapping and Surveying."



Special events on Survey Day (Held on 2 June 2019)