



Report of the Secretary
Third meeting of the ECO Geomatics Committee
18 Oct 2021
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Following the second meeting of the ECO Geomatics committee in Aug 2018, the committee tried to implement the approvals and proposals presented in the second meeting as much as possible. In this regard, the committee considered coordinating training courses under the title of capacity building programs as one of the goals in order to improve the knowledge and exchange experiences of member countries in the fields of Geomatics.

The resolutions of the first meeting of the Committee, including ECO Economic Atlas Headlines; appointment of the Editorial Board for the ECO Geomatics Journal and establishment of 3 relevant Working Groups on (i) ECO Economic Atlas; (ii) ECO Geomatics Publication and (iii) Capacity Building are followed by the ECO Secretariat and member states are asked to play a more active role in this regard. Due to the good activity of member countries in the field of Geomatics and its undeniable role in the economic growth and development of the ECO region, Member States are highly requested to send their valuable technical reports and scientific articles to be published in ECO geomatics journal.

Regarding the capacity building program, the ‘Reference Frames and GNSS data Processing’ training course was successfully held by IR Iran in 2021. Nowadays GNSS is widely used to expand precise coordinate networks by mapping authorities around the world. These networks are used to provide a uniform basis for positioning as well as monitoring changes in the Earth's crust. Establishing a joint platform for positioning in the ECO region has always been one of the goals of the ECO Geomatics Committee, and the training courses already have emphasized the integration and unification of coordinate systems. Participants learned the process of GNSS data in order to determine the precise position using scientific softwares.

Later in September 2021, next training course on ‘Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)’ successfully held by IR Pakistan. The importance of spatial data information is not hidden to anyone today. Participants in this training course learned about SDI, its importance and progress in the countries of the ECO region. Obviously, the first step in the development of each country and the region is to recognize the capacities and in this respect, spatial information play a key role by providing the necessary information and making an infrastructure for the development of the region in different fields. Many data in today's world have spatial components that cannot be used correctly if the spatial component ignored. Without spatial data, it is not possible to plan properly for the use of land and its resources. Regardless of spatial data, we will always be exposed to natural and unnatural hazards and damages and so the crisis management will not be possible. Without spatial data, the necessary knowledge of land geometry is not provided

and therefore sustainable development in various fields such as agriculture, industry, trade, etc. will not be achieved.

Secretary of the Committee, while thanking Iran and Pakistan for holding training courses, believes that implementation of such training courses are very useful considering the scientific and executive potential of the countries in the region and so, member states are encouraged to continue working in this area.

In line with decisions made during the second ECO geomatics committee meeting regarding the Caspian sea level measurement, “Combination of Leveling Lines” between the interested neighboring ECO Countries concerning unification of Height Datums, this issue was also raised by secretary at the recent RPC meeting and 24th meeting of Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) in 2019 where connection of levelling networks between neighboring countries were recommended. This project was planned as a joint goal of ECO Geomatics Committee and CASPCOM for the spring of 2020, but unfortunately it was not implemented due to the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak.

Finally, I would like to thank all member states for their cooperation and express my deep gratitude to the ECO Secretariat for supporting the Committee.

Ali Soltanpour

Secretary of ECO Geomatics Committee

18 Oct 2021