

Director of the Economic Cooperation Organization committees, distinguished delegates and participants, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning everyone.

I am Ali Javidaneh, director general of the National Cartographic Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is my great privilege to welcome you all to the sixth training course of NCC to the ECO members, which focuses on “**the Current Technologies and Trends in Various Levels of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)**”. Previously, National Cartographic Center of Iran has been able to successfully hold 5 training courses since 2016 on the following topic; “unification of the height datums”, “Unification of Height Datums (Gravity Potential Approach)”, “GNSS & data processing”, “Synthetic Aperture Radar, Remote Sensing” and “The role of Cartography on optimal presentation of spatial and statistical Information”.

Today, we gather here virtually, through this webinar, to embark on a journey of knowledge and exploration that transcends geographical boundaries and connects us as members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

First and foremost, let me express my heartfelt gratitude to the Secretariat of ECO for their strong support in making this training course a reality. Their commitment to promoting cooperation and development among member states has been instrumental in facilitating events such as this one, allowing us to come together and exchange valuable insights.

To all the esteemed delegates and online participants, your presence and engagement bear testament to the significance of our shared mission. Your dedication to enhancing SDI and new related technologies practices and harnessing the power of spatial and statistical information is an inspiration to us all. Together, we have the opportunity to shape the future of SDI and its role in optimizing the presentation of spatial data.

Before we delve into the rich content of this training course, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and appreciate my colleagues at the National Cartographic Center of Iran, especially the GIS and SDI Department as well as the International Cooperation Office. Their tireless efforts and dedication have laid the foundation for this enlightening program. They have strived to ensure that we gather here today armed with the necessary tools and knowledge to meet the challenges of the ever-evolving SDI landscape.

Throughout the next two days, we will be fortunate to learn from learned experts in the field of SDI and geoscience technologies. We will explore techniques and emerging trends that enable us to present spatial and Geostatistical information optimally. From interactive online maps and data visualization to effective communication strategies, these sessions promise to enhance our understanding and sharpen our skills.

However, beyond the acquisition of knowledge lies a greater purpose. The true measure of the success of this training course will be our ability to apply what we learn, transforming theory into action. It is my hope that each and every one of us will leave here equipped with newfound expertise and inspiration, ready to make tangible contributions in our respective roles.

As we forge ahead on this journey together, let us embrace diversity and foster a spirit of collaboration. Let us seize this opportunity to build networks, exchange ideas, working experience, and forge lasting partnerships. Together, we can overcome challenges, break new ground, and propel the field of SDI towards greater heights.

Once again, I extend my sincerest gratitude to the Secretariat of ECO for their support, and to all the delegates and participants joining us today. May our time together be filled with fruitful discussions, valuable insights, and a renewed commitment to the power of SDI and new geoscience technologies in presenting SDI and Geoportals optimally.

Thank you and I wish you all a successful training course.

God bless you all.