

Challenges to the National Mapping Organization in the Context of Nepal, Leading the Formation of National Geographic Information Infrastructure

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SUMMARY

Survey Department, Nepal is the country's only National mapping organization, which undertakes the responsibility of production as well as maintenance of Framework Data, particularly Geodetic, topographic and Cadastral data to be used by other geo-data users. With the advent of scientific as well as industrial evolution, it had been formed to fulfill the need of the day of its formation, though with different name. From the stage where it was limited to the official mapping of the entirety of the nation and controlling the distribution of the products in the analogue format, it has now jumped to the digital forum and is advancing toward the information super highways as is witnessed by the recent developments made by launching National Geographic Information Infrastructure Programme (NGIIP). In the present context, accessibility of information to the public and capability of individuals making products has also tailored the Survey Department to form a sustainable foundation in the world of competition of mapping technology rather than only clinging to the production of paper maps.

The motto "Democratization of Cartography" seems enough to whirl the mentality of the National Mapping Organization around the globe, which could not remain untouched in Nepal too. On the other hand, Veterans of information technology are pursuing the up-to-date developments and apparently, at present, seem to have bigger step even in the field of data acquisition and spatial data manipulation. This has caused to bring the organizational change to outset the digital performances not only with in the organization but integrating the other organizations involving in the preparation of other geo-spatial data and relevant attributes. Obviously, it is not foreseen what will be the future form of the National Mapping Organization by virtue of the rapid progress of information technology. To maintain the professional identity as well as restrict redundancy still it has to play a bigger role in the geo-information environments. Moreover, creation of NGII may serve as a powerful agent to carry the monitoring of the data that Survey Department currently possess through the integrated network of the scientific, legal policy issues.

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