

Report of ISPRS/GEO Workshop on High Resolution Global Land Cover (GLC) Mapping, held in Beijing China on 27-28 April 2013

The National Geomatics Center of China (NGCC), under the leadership of ISPRS President Professor Chen Jun, is undertaking a global land cover (GLC) mapping project for the years 2000 and 2010. This 2-day workshop discussed the progress of the project and in particular considered methods of evaluating the accuracy of the mapping as well as other land cover projects currently being undertaken. The prototype data for global water areas was on display.

Professor Chen Jun introduced the objectives of the project and described its current status. The aim is for a GLC data service at 30 m resolution. Approximately 10,000 scenes from Landsat and other sources have been processed by manual and automatic methods to obtain worldwide coverage for the years 2000 and 2010. Due to the time taken to acquire the scenes, the data covers different seasons around the world and there are still areas obscured by cloud. It was impossible to obtain a consistent set of images for the whole of the globe. The plan is to launch the GLC data by the end of 2013.

The workshop discussed a number of aspects of the development of the GLC, including methods of processing to develop the GLC, the validation of the data, the use of other GLC products for validation, procedures for validation, and the development of the web portal for the distribution of the data. The workshop proved to be an interesting experience and one can only marvel at the China's commitment to produce such a large project. It demonstrates China's increasing involvement in earth observation and global monitoring. A more complete report of the workshop will appear in the ISPRS Bulletin.

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