

**Minutes of the meeting of the Committee of Secretaries (GIS/RS) held on 15-07-2017 in the Conference Room of the Addl. Chief Secretary T&D Department**

**List of participants: enclosed at Annexure-I**

1. Welcoming the members and participants the Addl. Chief Secretary T&D (Chairman of the Committee) informed that the Subcommittee constituted by the Committee of Secretaries submitted its report on the action points suggested by the Committee based on actual state of affairs in respect of GIS/RS readiness/applications and spatial data created by various departments/agencies of the state government.
2. Shri M S Manivannan IAS Secretary T&D who headed the subcommittee made a presentation on the subcommittee report on the action points with suggestions of the subcommittee as summarised below-

Action Points	Subcommittee suggestions / actions already taken
I. Action plan to suggest a way forward for storing the GIS data as available with different departments in the server /portal available with NIC, ASTEC and how it can be made accessible for all department users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIC agreed to provide their cloud service for a Central Data Repository for convergence of all spatial and non spatial data of the state government and a portal to be developed as Assam GIS will be integrated with Bharat Map under digital India initiative.</li> <li>• In the Assam GIS (A-GIS) initiative as proposed in collaboration with NIC, the logistics (hardware/software) will be the responsibility of NIC (GoI). State Government to support with necessary man power, capacity building measures, workshop/seminar/sensitization etc.</li> <li>• To facilitate sharing of available data (both Spatial &amp; Non Spatial) among the government departments, Assam Government adopted the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP 2012) in 2013 through a Government Notification. All depts. to notify Nodal Officer/ Chief Data Contributor and establish an NDSAP Cell. A workshop to be organised on NDSAP with support from NDSAP Govt. of India.</li> </ul>
II. Suggest ways to collaborate with NESAC for sharing of data as per the mechanism suggested by NESAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with NESAC (North East Space Application Centre) To develop a data sharing mechanism from NESAC Server to A-GIS server.</li> <li>• Discussion held with Director, NESAC and Scientists who attended in the previous meetings for sharing online data.</li> <li>• A MoU to be signed by T&amp;D Department with NESAC for A-GIS.</li> </ul>
III. Suggest capacity building measures for the officers/staff of line departments and necessary steps required.	<p><b>Capacity Building activities list:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Offline &amp; Online Training Module</li> <li>b. Training Content Module on e-Governance, Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring, Data creation &amp; collection, Data Retrieval, Analysis &amp; Map Preparation.</li> <li>c. GIS Software both- Open Source/ Commercial-of-the-shelf as available.</li> <li>d. Levels of Training – Decision Makers, Management &amp; Technical.</li> </ol>

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<p>IV. Suggest ways how the agencies like Unicef and UNDP can associate themselves in the plan of action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub Committee discussed with UNICEF and UNDP officials on necessary support/assistance in GIS/RS initiative of the Government from the agencies working in the state.</li> <li>• <b>UNICEF</b> agreed to fund State Government agencies viz. T&amp;D, Finance, IT/AMTRON, S&amp;T/ARSAC in organizing. workshop/seminar/awareness drives on NDSAP, GIS/RS activities and in capacity building measures in the state.</li> <li>• UNDP is organizing workshop/seminar, awareness/sensitization etc at national level in collaboration with NITI Aayog.</li> </ul>
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3. The Committee of Secretaries went through the suggestions/actions of the Subcommittee and decided as follows-

- a. To go ahead with the road map for the state GIS/RS initiative, it was decided that a registered society was to be set up for furthering the A-GIS Initiative under the acronym **SGS (Smart Governance Society)** with a singular focus on GIS initially. The proposal should be put up to the Chief Secretary for approval and concurrence thereof. Shri J V N Subramanyam IAS MD NHM who participated in the discussion observed that the GIS/RS activities under a Society would help in achieving the objectives in a better way. He also suggested that ASDMA should be a part of the core group for coordination of GIS/RS activities suggested by the subcommittee.
- b. Chairman and others present agreed that for the '**Smart Governance Society**' all procedural compliances such as Cabinet Approval etc should be elicited prior to operationalization of the decision mooted in principle.
- c. The Committee decided that the Govt. of Assam would implement the **NDSAP 2012** and subsequently with handholding of Government of India and other stakeholders, an intensive workshop for preliminary GIS significance, use and potential in all the Government Departments and hierarchies will be held.
- d. The Committee also decided that the offices of UNDP and UNICEF would be requested to undertake extensive capacity development initiative for the Government officials and all stakeholders. Under the guidance of T&D Department AMTRON will collaborate with UNICEF and UNDP in conducting such programmes.
- e. The Committee also decided that the Gauhati University, Cotton College University and other academic institutions and research centres were also to be engaged in the A-GIS initiative in capacity building and in developing training modules and research activities.
- f. The Committee decided that a Core Group headed by a team of principal stakeholder (**T&D, NIC, IT-AMTRON, S&T-ARSAC, ASDMA, NESAC, Major line departments**) should be constituted and the officials would be tasked with the central reference of putting the GIS use and especially for smart governance under the aegis of SGS.
- g. The Committee directed that the administrative and technical management mechanism in progressive states Like Karnataka, Gujarat for furthering the GIS initiative in their respective states needed to be effectively studied. Other global best practices also need to be considered, and if suitable can be replicated in Assam GIS.

4. Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS Commissioner & Secretary Finance and Director Economics & Statistics dwelt upon the importance of need assessment of the departments for a realistic


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approach to the GIS/RS solution. He suggested that NIC through NICS I should work out a Project Management Unit specific terms of reference and scope of work to examine the 'as is' situation in various Govt. Departments and to define in a time bound manner the 'to be' scenario for Assam-GIS implementation. He also suggested that DES being the store house of information /data for state's planning & monitoring process should be tasked with exploring the use of GIS to create a spatial indexed monitoring platform (integrating MIS with GIS) for the SDGs based on a quantified monitoring matrix involving SDGs centre and others. Shri K K Nath ISS, Secretary T&D mentioned the concept of 'big data' and the significance and opportunities that big data brings to us in the face of the challenges like data complexity, computational complexity, and system complexity, as well as possible solutions to address these challenges.

5. Several technical standardization issues were raised by the participants including Dr. K Haloi of NIRD and generic agreed upon aspects were as follows:
  - Revenue village being census coded with MDDS data id should be base unit of reference.
  - P&RD Department should be advised to make gaon panchayat boundaries contiguous with the revenue villages boundaries to do away with error and topo mismatch so as to evolve a standard template for GIS.
6. Shri Ajit Nath, TD NIC showed the Assam GIS portal developed in the NIC network which would be released for public viewing shortly. In addition to the available spatial data with NIC the portal provides links to all important geo portals relating to Assam, thereby enabling the users to have access to all important data from a single platform. With the advancement of Assam GIS initiative these data will be integrated with Assam GIS wherever feasible after necessary validation etc.
7. Shri P.Subhash Singh, Scientist-SF NESAC acquainted the members and participants present with the status of North East District Resource Plan (NEDRP) project implemented by NESAC and prospect of its utilisation in Assam-GIS as base map through an online demonstration. All the districts of Assam have been mapped (natural resource part) under NEDRP and already published on NESAC website.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the chair.



28/7/17  
(K V Eapen)

Addl. Chief Secretary, and  
Chairman, Committee of Secretaries (GIS/RS)

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Dated Dispur the 28th July, 2017

Copy to:

1. All members of the Committee of Secretaries
2. SO to Chief Secretary for information of Chief Secretary, Assam.
3. Secretary T&D (Statistics & Evaluation) Dispur
4. MD AMTRON, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati
5. Mission Director NHM, Guwahati
6. CEO ASDMA, Dispur

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7. Director ARSAC, Guwahati
8. Shri Ajit Kr. Nath, TD, NIC Assam State Unit, Dispur, Guwahati
9. Dr.K Haloi, Professor & Head, C-GARD NIRD, Guwahati.
10. Secretary, Science & Technology Department
11. Joint Secretary, IT Department
12. Shri P.Subhash Singh Scientist NESAC, Borapani, Meghalaya.
13. Dr.Tushar Rane Chief, UNICEF Assam, Guwahati
14. Dr. Soumen Ray Programme Officer, UNICEF Assam, Guwahati
15. Shri John Borgoyary Head UNDP NER, Guwahati
16. Prof. Santanu Sarmah, Geology Department, Cotton College University, Guwahati.
17. Head, Department of Geography, Gauhati University
18. Head, Department of Geography, Cotton College University, Guwahati.

  
(M S Manivannan)

Member-Secretary, Committee of Secretaries (GIS/RS)

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