



Global cooperation on Geodesy – Challenges in terms of organization and infrastructure

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The work on global geodetic reference frames has since ancient time formed the necessary basis for evolution of a modern and well-functioning society. Today geolocation is about to become a megatrend and in such a context precise position determination turns to play a key role.

Trends point in the direction of a global geodetic reference frame that covers all purposes for the entire globe. A global reference frame with an accuracy of 1 mm and a stability of 0.1 mm/year is a necessary tool for satellite provided precise positioning, studies of the changing world and an efficient development of the developing countries. A key goal of the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS) of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) is to fulfill these requirements.

Global cooperation on Geodesy in science and administration has successfully been going on for decades. Nevertheless, the situation today is still not secure since the success has always been dependent on voluntary contributions from agencies in committed countries. As the coordinating body to link the IAG services GGOS can serve as a key to ensure a sustainable infrastructure and thus to advance the global reference frame. After more than 10 years of GGOS and looking at the intergovernmental efforts in the frame of the United Nations initiative GGIM it is time to evaluate the situation from a strategic perspective.