

*International Cartographic
Association*



Association Cartographique Internationale

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7 January 2015

To ICA National Delegates, ICA Commission Chairs, and ICA Affiliate Members

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Cartographic Association (ICA), I am pleased to announce that 2015 marks the start of International Map Year (IMY), an initiative of the ICA to celebrate maps in our lives, their place in society, their role in history, and their importance to our future. This celebration will begin in January 2015 and end in December 2016, with the official inauguration at the International Cartographic Conference (ICC) in Rio de Janeiro on August 23.

All ICA National Delegates are expected to initiate organization of IMY activities and events in their own countries. As a starting point, it is recommended that a national IMY committee be created to organize national events, such as Map Days, to engage the populace in this celebration of maps. On the IMY web site, <http://internationalmapyear.org>, you can find information about IMY, guidelines on how to set up a national committee, and suggestions for how to organize events and activities in your country. On the IMY web site, there is also a page announcing all nations that have declared their participation in IMY as well as the e-mail address of the primary contact person listed. The e-mail addresses may be used for contacting others and sharing ideas. National IMY organizers can send information about their nation's activities and events to Bengt Rystedt, bengt@rystedt.se (copy to ICA Secretary-General sg@icaci.org), who will add the information to the IMY web site.

ICA is very engaged in getting out information on IMY. In August 2014 information was shared with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. At the ISO/TC 211 Geographic information/Geomatics meeting in China in November 2014, Antony Cooper from South Africa presented a report from the ICA that contained information about IMY. IMY will also be highlighted during the ICA day at the International Federation of Surveyors Working Week in May 2015.

At the ICC in Rio, IMY will officially be inaugurated and an overview of the activities of each of the nations will be given by the IMY Working Group. Information submitted to the IMY web site will form the basis for this report, and ICA National Delegates will be asked to share their most recent news prior to the meeting. ICA National Delegates are requested to

include as part of their national report to the ICA information about IMY events and activities in their nation.

For further information on IMY, please, contact the chairperson of the IMY working group, Bengt Rystedt via his e-mail bengt@rystedt.se.

On behalf of the ICA, I wish you a prosperous New Year.

With kind regards from Vienna,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Georg Gartner". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Prof. Georg Gartner,
President of the International Cartographic Association