

REPORT  
2012-10-17

**International Map Year – Working Group Meeting 2012-09-16**

During AutoCarto 2012 in Columbus, Ohio an ICA working group for the International Map Year conducted a two hour meeting. Bengt Rystedt, the chairperson of the working group, gave a short description of the initiative. The idea is to improve the knowledge about cartography and geographic information among the general public and school children.

The map year should take place during the year of 2015. Assistance are needed from the ICA National Members, ICA Commissions, affiliate members and the sister societies. The working group will provide materials and give guidelines to the national members for the organization of national map days. The working group will produce a textbook describing how maps and geographic information can be used in the society and giving information on how to produce maps by computers. The outline of the textbook was discussed and a first version should be presented at the ICC in Dresden 2013. The textbook will not be printed but available on the Internet.

Another discussion concerned how to get the UN involved. It is difficult to organize an official UN year. However, the UN organizes regional cartographic conferences. The next one will be held for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok in the end of October 2012 and there will be one for the Americas in New York next year. ICA is always invited to these conferences for presentations and proposals. There should be possible to ask the conference to accept a resolution asking ICA to organize an international map year with assistance from the sister organizations. Such a resolution gives enough support from the UN.

The working group will have its next meeting before the ICC in Dresden for further discussions and to prepare a session for national delegates during the conference. Further information is given at the homepage [www.bengtrystedt.se](http://www.bengtrystedt.se).