What is the International Map Year (IMY)?

IMY is a worldwide celebration of maps and their unique role in our world. It is organized by the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and supported by the United Nations.

Aims of IMY

- celebrating maps in our lives, their place in society, their role in history and their importance to our future
- showcasing the technical development in mapping
- demonstrating the necessity of sustainable development of geographic information infrastructures

International Map Year is officially opened in August 2015 and will be continued until December 2016.

How to participate

All nations are invited to set up national committees to coordinate IMY events. Also companies, organisations, libraries or education facilities are invited to organize IMY activities, such as:

- organizing a map day
- offering lecture programmes
- holding map competitions
- organizing map exhibitions

For a list of existing national committees and more ideas for IMY activities visit mapyear.org

More information on mapyear.org

Make sure your organisation joins the IMY celebrations!
Why are maps relevant?

Maps help us understand reality
Maps help us decide
Maps help us plan
Maps help us dream
Maps help us find our way
Maps help us envisage the past

And how do maps enrich your life?
Share your ideas @mapyear #welovemaps

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5 easy ways to join IMY celebrations

1. Share your love for maps on social networks #welovemaps
2. Add the IMY logo to your website
3. Check out and share IMY material, especially the book *The World of Maps* – an open publication about cartography available in English, Spanish and French on mapyear.org
4. Check mapyear.org for information about IMY activities in your country
   - Your nation is not listed yet? Contact your ICA representative
5. Is your country organizing a National Map Day? Look for ideas how to support your local activities (see Map Day poster)

You are a journal editor? Consider special issues on cartography

For more ideas and to find out what is planned in your country, visit mapyear.org

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How to contribute to National Map Days?

✔ offer map-related lectures or courses, e.g.:
  > on the history of cartography
  > on map reading and map making

✔ organize a treasure hunt: find the cache!

✔ organize map competitions

✔ organize a map exhibitions, e.g. at your local library

✔ set up map fairs

✔ host an open day at your mapping company or institution

✔ organize visits to map producing companies or state mapping agencies (national cadastral office, national mapping agency, national hydrographic agency)

✔ distribute maps and atlases to the public

Don’t forget to announce your activities on your national IMY website!

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How do maps contribute to a sustainable Earth?

Maps help us solving the problems of our time. Do you agree? Tell us @mapyear #welovemaps

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IMY Working Group: Terms of Reference

Create a textbook on Cartography and Geographic Information for the general public

Elaborate plans for national activities and establish more national contacts

Involve the ICA commissions in the work

Find sponsors among ICA affiliate members

Establish contacts with the UN and sister organizations (through ICA Executive Committee and JBGIS)

Produce information that can be used at national Map Days

Follow up and update the working plan at ICC in Rio 2015

The textbook "The World of Maps" was written in English and translated to French and Spanish. It will also be available in Chinese and Arabic soon. Download on mapyear.org

IMY was endorsed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in August 2014.

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