



UK Hydrographic
Office

Introduction to Multiagency MSDI Governance

Governance Presentation for the IHO 34th NSHC
27-28 April 2021 (video teleconference)

Author: **Dr Gerald J Wong**

Reference: **MSDI Governance**

Version: **3.1 (Releasable)**

Date: **1 March 2021**

OFFICIAL

This document is the property of the UK Hydrographic Office. It must not be copied or transmitted to any third parties without the written permission of the Owner. © Crown Copyright 2020

I. Executive Summary of Key Points

When implemented (in detail, outside this paper’s scope) and sustained, this MSDI Governance model developed at UKHO is the first step for multiagency MSDI delivery, balancing technology exploitation with Governance, using traditional controls (known as hard Governance) and behavioural techniques (known as soft Governance).

Key benefits

- › The IGIF concept (Integrated Geospatial Information Framework), advocated by the UN-GGIM and the World Bank, describes how the MSDI (Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure) model can unlock socioeconomic growth and development through future maritime information delivery.
- › An MSDI is more than just technology, it’s an ecosystem of policy topics and socioeconomic aspects, making the best use of the technology exploitable for a nation – irrespective of economic size.
- › Nations with multiple long-independent maritime agencies would benefit from umbrella MSDI Governance to enable MSDI delivery, which not one or even two agencies could deliver alone.
- › This Governance model being developed at UKHO would mitigate the strategic risks of ceding initiative and influence in the MSDI field to underregulated global technology companies or nation states challenging the rules-based international order.

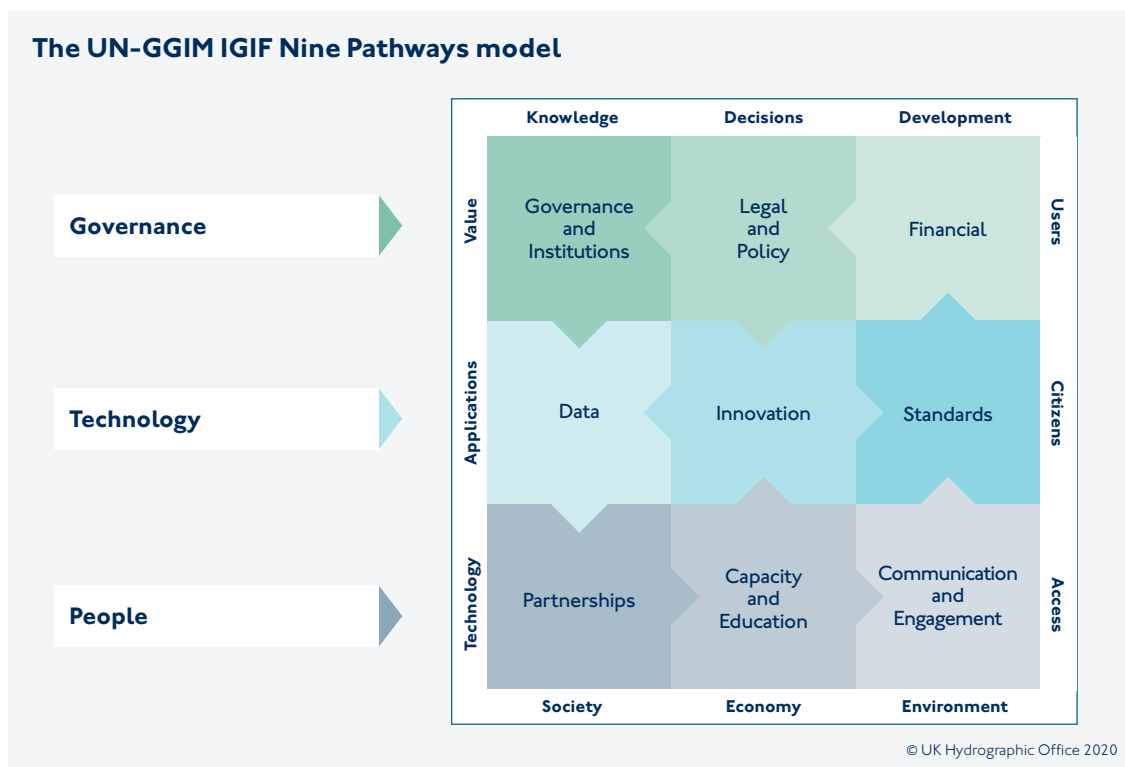


Figure I: The IGIF advocated by the UN-GGIM and the World Bank is anchored by the nine strategic pathways covering three main areas of influence – Governance, technology and People.

OFFICIAL

This document is the property of the UK Hydrographic Office. It must not be copied or transmitted to any third parties without the written permission of the Owner. © Crown Copyright 2020

Achieving a balance

- › Umbrella MSDI Governance includes emerging (behavioural) techniques alongside traditional (compliance) measures, with the UKHO drawing inspiration from the pioneering work in behavioural Governance carried out by the Behavioural Insights Team established by HM Cabinet Office.
- › The crucial trait of MSDI Governance advocated by UKHO is ensuring a balance between driving technology exploitation and being driven by technology. The UKHO’s MSDI Development Pathway is a generalised concept that takes into account a given nation’s economic resources.
- › Traditional only MSDI Governance could lead to suboptimal technological solutions, while a technology-only focus could lead to complex (and expensive) partial solutions.

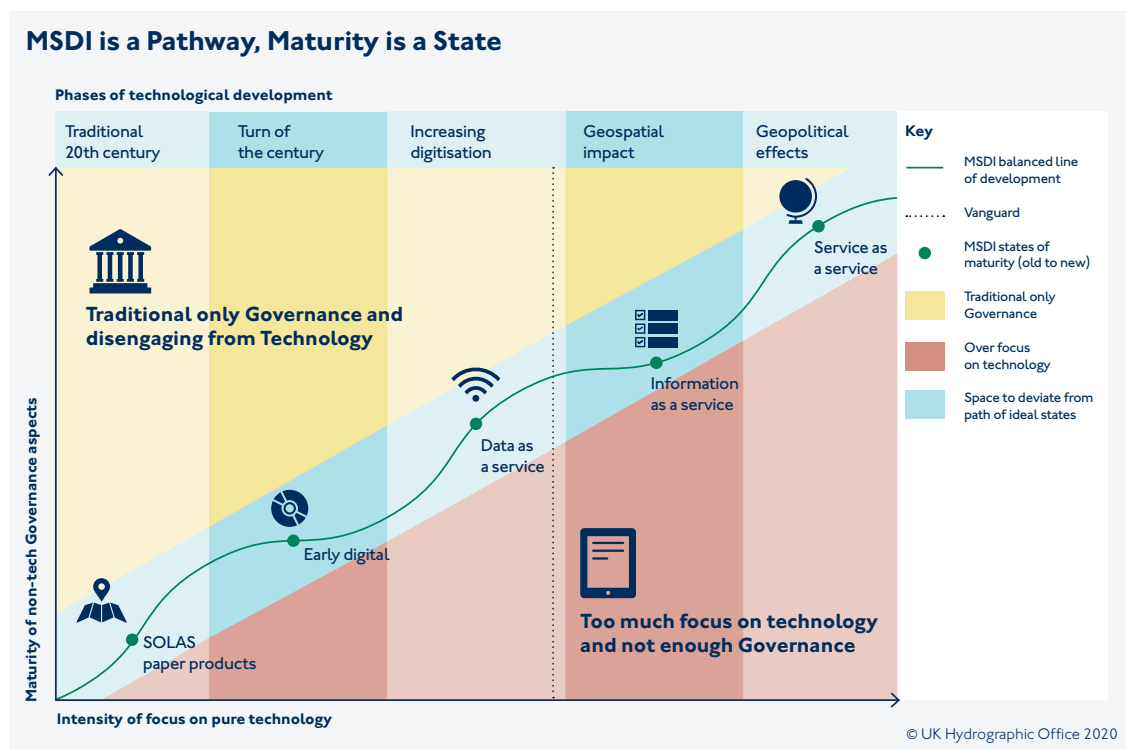


Figure 2: The MSDI Development Pathway from the UKHO, highlighting the ideal pathway between the pitfalls of traditional only Governance and excessive focus upon technology. This pathway advocates balanced MSDI development between driving technology exploitation and being driven by technology for its own ends.

OFFICIAL

This document is the property of the UK Hydrographic Office. It must not be copied or transmitted to any third parties without the written permission of the Owner. © Crown Copyright 2020

How to get there

- › The umbrella MSDI Governance model leaves participating agencies fully independent in their internal affairs, as it creates a multiagency MSDI delivery space where representatives from agencies and MSDI decision-making groups operate, to ensure fairer agency representation and to promote progress.
- › The first key step is for each agency to select representatives or ambassadors with a balance of responsibility, accountability and expertise to represent the agency’s interests at MSDI decision-making groups.
- › The second step is to create effective decision-making groups to become virtual MSDI bodies, standing in the place of a real-world legislated Department or Ministry of Geospatial.
- › The third step is creating accountability between MSDI agencies with respect to agreed national geospatial goals, which is challenging but yields great benefits. This joint accountability needs a step-change in leadership thinking across MSDI agencies and is likely to be the biggest obstacle to success.

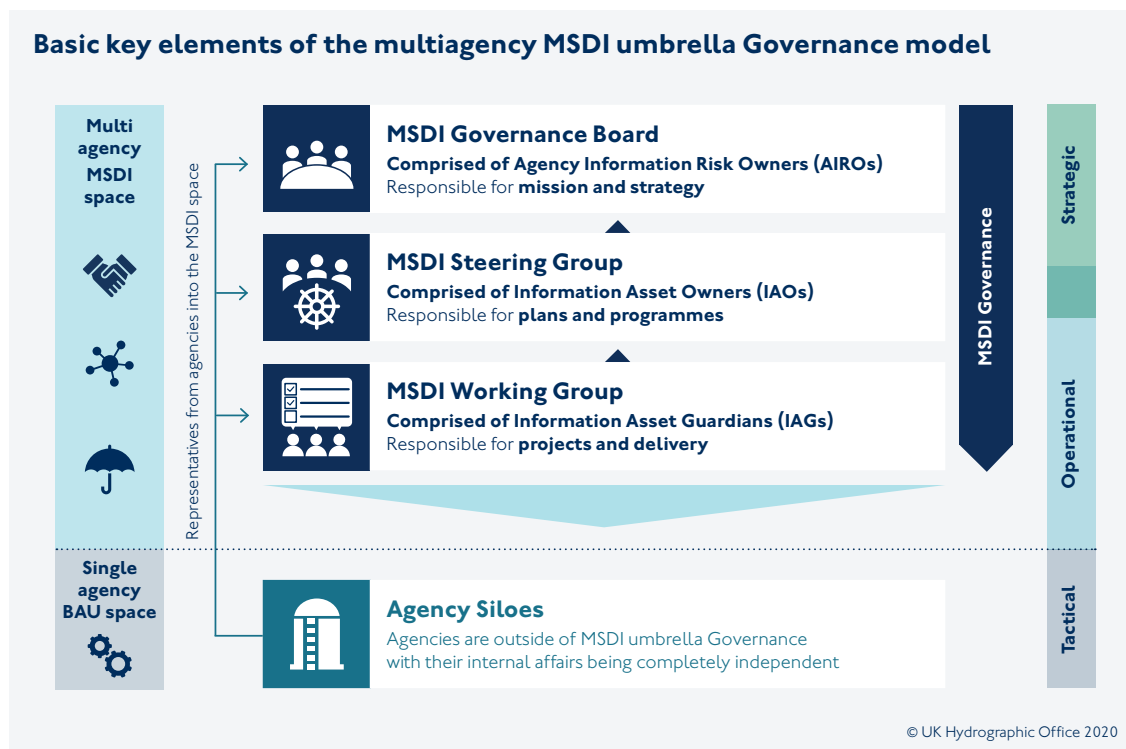


Figure 3: The umbrella MSDI Governance model being developed at UKHO leaves participating agencies fully independent in their internal affairs. This model advocates standardised MSDI titles and decision-making groups to create fairer agency representation and promote MSDI progress.

OFFICIAL

This document is the property of the UK Hydrographic Office. It must not be copied or transmitted to any third parties without the written permission of the Owner. © Crown Copyright 2020