

# Report on C-SIGMA VI

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### Summary:

C-SIGMA stands for Collaboration in Space for International Global Maritime Awareness. The name encapsulates the organization and its activities - exchanging ocean surveillance data acquired by satellites and initiating collaboration regarding the utilization of such data by various countries. Mr. Guy Thomas, a former Navy signals intelligence officer and Science and Technology Advisor for the U.S. Coast Guard, leads the initiative. The C-SIGMA Center has been set up at the National Space Center in Ireland.

C-SIGMA has held annual workshops encompassing ocean surveillance since 2011. This most-recent 6th workshop event was held in London, England from December 7th to 9th, 2015.

Approximately 120 people, mostly Europe-based, registered to attend this workshop. Around 100 people gathered daily at the site. Some Japanese participants took part: 2 representatives from organizations related to the JGC (Japan Coast Guard), 1 participant from JAXA, and four people representing private Japanese companies. We did not see any attendees from China or other emerging countries in space activity fields.

### Our Impressions:

Ocean surveillance activities, especially the surveillance of suspicious ships, are accomplished using AIS (Automatic Identification System) and SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) data. Established by the United States and Europe, this methodology is common and widely-used. Since

2013, we've seen a number of comments raised at workshops about difficulties related to cultural and management aspects of the activities, but not technological aspects.

These days ocean surveillance using satellites is common. What we've seen at this year's workshop implies that C-SIGMA activities are on the verge of a turning point. The following are impressions of note:

(1) There are limitations regarding the sharing of information between various organizations.

(2) Value-added information is being extracted from AIS data.

(3) Private companies that develop ocean surveillance technology are being supported in various countries.

## **Presentations & Lectures :**

### **Other Miscellaneous Comments**

On the third day of the event, one of the host organizations held a tour, allowing us to visit the British Marine Museum, located in Greenwich, England. The museum provided all that one would expect about the illustrious maritime empire, with histories of ships from the distant past and today, and a comprehensive history of the empire's worldwide maritime expansion. Regarding the history of activities in Asia, we saw references at exhibits to the "East India Company" and the "Anglo-Chinese War", with an explanation that trade barriers set by China around 1838 were a major cause of the war. This included a small mention that the major British export at the time was opium. We do know that the term "Opium War" to refer to this period is not used in the UK.



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