GSDI REGIONAL NEWSLETTER
for the Global Geospatial Community
covering

Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, North America, and the Middle East & North Africa

February 2015 – Vol. 2, No. 2

The **GSDI Regional Newsletter** is a free, electronic newsletter for people interested in all aspects of implementing national and regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) around the globe. The newsletter continues the tradition of the GSDI Association's former separate regional newsletters that covered Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, from 2002 onwards. The purpose of the newsletter is to raise awareness of SDI issues and provide useful information to strengthen SDI implementation efforts and support synchronization of regional activities. The archive of all past copies of the previous regional newsletters can be accessed from the GSDI website by following the link to Newsletter Archive at gsdi.org.

You can subscribe or unsubscribe to the regional newsletter or change your email address online at http://gsdi.org/newslist/gsdisubscribe.

Announce your news or information!

Feel free to submit any news related to spatial data infrastructure implementation that you would like to highlight, including new tools, policies, application stories, studies or reports from your area, profession, organization, country or region. Send your contributions to the News Editor, Kate Lance, at newseditor@gsdi.org and we will try to include these in our next newsletter. Share this newsletter with anyone who may find the information useful and suggest they subscribe themselves.

Support and Contributions to this Issue

Thanks to the GSDI Association for supporting the News Editor and GSDI listserv moderator Kate Lance; GSDI Communications & Operations Manager, Roger Longhorn; and Karen Levoleger, (Kadaster, Netherlands) for their contributions in creating, producing and disseminating the GSDI Regional Newsletter.

Table of Contents

Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

South Africa: Base Data Set Custodianship Policy & Pricing Policy approved

According to the South African Government Gazette, dated 16 February 2015, in line with section11 (2) of the Spatial Data Infrastructure Act, 2003 (Act No. 54 Of 2003), Gugile Ernest Nkwinti (MP), Minister of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, approved

the Base Data Set Custodianship Policy and the Policy on Pricing of Spatial Information Products and Services, as prepared by the Committee for Spatial Information under section 6 of the Act. The custodianship and pricing policies will come into operation one month from the date of publication of the approval in the Gazette.

The purpose of the Base Data Set Custodianship Policy is to:
a) Outline the criteria for the identification and appointment of base data set custodians to promote data sharing.
b) Promote cooperative relationships among base data set custodians and other entities/organisations to ensure access to, and availability of relevant base data sets.
c) Specify the right(s) of a base data set custodian, in terms of the SDI Act and other legislation and policies.
d) Specify the responsibilities of a data user in relation to a base data set custodian.

The purpose of the Policy on Pricing of Spatial Information Products and Services is to ensure that informed decisions can be made regarding the pricing of spatial information in the public sector and that there is consistency in the application of the pricing policy. The inability to pay for data must not be used as a barrier to deny access to services to a user or user group. In essence, the pricing policy of the public sector must provide for equitable, universal access.

See Base Data Set Custodianship Policy & Policy on Pricing of Spatial Information Products and Services (PDF): http://www.gov.za/sites/www.gov.za/files/38474_gon96_.pdf

South Africa: SANSA-JICA International Cooperation

The South African National Space Agency (SANSA) on 3rd June 2014 signed a formal agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to champion cooperation in peaceful use of remote sensing and Earth Observation technologies. The formal agreement advances knowledge of Japanese Earth observation skills in South Africa, to promote utilization and improve knowledge about JAXA's (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) ALOS/PALSAR satellite data.

The SANSA-JICA framework agreement includes the secondment of Mr. Kentaro Yoshikawa from JICA as a Senior Advisor at SANSA Earth Observation directorate from September, 2014. JICA has availed an amount of Japanese Yen 10 000 000.00 (approximately South African R965 780.00) to support Mr. Yoshikawa's human capital development (HCD) activities at SANSA during the 2014/2015 financial year and the following acquisitions are being made:

- ALOS image mosaics and DEM data over selected sites in South Africa are being purchased by JICA in Japan from the Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan (RESTEC);
- 30 units of High Spec PC will be delivered at SANSA. The PCs will be used for hands-on, basic ALOS data training course scheduled for 9-12 March 2015; and
- 200 copies of remote sensing textbook have been delivered to SANSA Earth Observation Offices in Pretoria.

Source: http://www.sansa.org.za/earthobservation/resource-centre/news/864-sansa-jica-international-cooperation

South Africa: Accessible GIS data, the game-changer for the country

This article outlines how 1Map (http://1map.co.za/) has democratised GIS data by championing the open online availability of spatial data to South Africa. The 1Map portal hosts data from all the major data custodians in South Africa, including SG, NGI, StatsSA, various municipalities, and others. This means that whatever spatial data users are looking for, they only need to remember the web address of one data portal, and only need to be proficient in the use of one portal and its tools. There are also step-by-step video tutorials and detailed documentation to guide users in how to gain the full benefit from the application. This removes many of the barriers to freely accessing data.

Much has been said about open spatial data, the importance thereof, the requirements to implement it, and the complexity of making the dream a reality. 1Map has taken the vision, and has started to run with it. We are already at a stage where we can start making the claim that open spatial data has become a reality for South Africa. That does not mean there isn't still much that can be done to refine and improve, but every day brings with it more people and organisations who are willing to participate and to cooperate.

Source: http://www.ee.co.za/article/accessible-gis-data-game-changer-sa.html

Tanzania: Workshop on open-source geospatial solutions in land and forest mapping and management
24 February 2015, 9 am to 15.00 pm, Dar es Salaam

Public access to open data and open-source ICT and geospatial solutions are promising field of development in the current society. Wider access to geospatial information and development of sophisticated ICT/GIS services is necessity for strategically sound and efficiently implemented land and natural resources management. Over the years, Finnish-Tanzanian collaboration has created several solutions in this field. There is a need to revisit the solutions and share the best practices in the light of current application developments in ICT/GIS.

This free workshop, at BUNI Community Centre (an open space at Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), http://buni.or.tz/, Sayansi-building, Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam) supported by the TANZICT programme (http://tanzict.or.tz/), includes presenters who are experts from the key government sectors, universities and ICT/software companies in Tanzania and in Finland. The workshop enhances actors' collaboration through knowledge sharing and aims to establish living linkages between geospatial experts and customers coming from the government and private sectors and academia. The workshop is promoting development of novel and sustainable open-based geospatial solutions especially for land and forest management, but applicable to other fields of society as well.

Workshop themes:
- Introduction to open access geospatial data and open-source ICT/GIS solutions in the society
- Practical examples of successful SDI's (Spatial Data Infrastructures) and geospatial solutions in Tanzania and in Finland
- Geospatial solutions in participatory land use planning: mapping tools and mobile applications
- Competence building and training in geospatial methods and application

Contact: Basil Malaki, Tel +254 716 377 099, Email: abarzil at gmail.com.

Source: http://buni.or.tz/event/open-source-geospatial-solutions-in-land-forest-mapping-and-management/

Tanzania: Mapping movement (accessibility) in Dar es Salaam
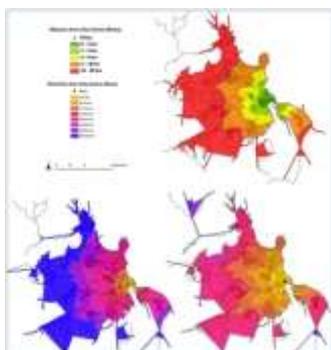
Rapid spatial growth and population growth in Dar es Salaam, coupled with a rise in car ownership, is putting strain on Dar es Salaam's insufficient road network. City residents have to grapple with heavy traffic delays and the inner city areas are practically inaccessible during rush hours.

Collecting network data from the users of OpenStreetMap, a free and open-access online map service, a team of researchers employed twenty-first century technology to investigate Dar es Salaam's twentieth century road network. Aside from painting a fascinating picture of how long it takes citizens to get from one point in the city to another, the results of the study, published in *Habitat International*, highlight that Dar es Salaam's infrastructure has become sorely inadequate for its transportation needs.

Urbanafrica.net spoke to Lasse Møller-Jensen, head of the Section for Geography at the University of Copenhagen, about his research and about what the findings mean for Dar es Salaam's next steps, and for transportation networks around the continent.

See also: Melbye, D.C., Møller-Jensen, L., Andreasen, M.J., Kiduanga, J., and A. Gravsholt Busck, 2015. Accessibility, congestion and travel delays in Dar es Salaam: A time–distance perspective. *Habitat International* 46: 178-186. http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197397514002094

Source: http://www.urbanafrica.net/urban-voices/congestion-accessibility-painting-maps-movement-dar-es-salaam/

Tanzania: Geological Survey of Tanzania, Geological and Mineral Information System

The Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) (http://www.gmis-tanzania.com) has developed a digital geological and mineral information system.

Source: Tanzania GIS Users Group Discussion

4

Kenya: Online portal to enhance transparency in Kenya's mining industry

The Kenya Ministry of Mining recently launched their official Online Transactional Mining Cadastre Portal (OTMCP) to enable government to regulate and obtain value from mining operations. The Mining Cadastre Portal is a web-based e-Government system through which participants in the Kenyan mining industry will be able to interact with the Ministry to: view licenses or permit details and application status in real time, submit and manage electronically the application for granting renewals and other business processes, submit digital documents to meet reporting requirements and also to submit fee payments via credit card or mobile money. During the launch Patrick Omutia, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Mining (who represented the Cabinet Secretary for Mining Najib Balala) said that the portal will increase transparency, efficiency and equitable sharing of minerals which will in turn help in cleaning up hoarded grounds and renewing spaces and transferring them.

Source: http://www.spatialdimension.com/News/News/ArticleID/264/Online-portal-to-enhance-transparency-in-Kenyas-mining-industry

Benin: Launch of National Water Information System

On 4 February 2015, the water sector in Benin launched a National Water Information System (SNIEAU). The system was officially launched during a workshop for decision makers at the 'Direction Générale de l'Eau du Benin' in Cotonou. Representatives from different ministries as well as experts from the National Water Institute (Institut National de l'Eau, INE) and international experts from COWI/IGIP and UNESCO-IHE participated in the workshop.

SNIEAU (Systeme National d'Information sur l'Eau) is a Spatial Data Infrastructure that has been developed with the expertise of Dr. Hans van der Kwast, Lecturer in Ecohydrological modeling at UNESCO-IHE and Claire Lelong of COWI/IGIP.

The online platform is accessible through http://www.snieau.bj.

SNIEAU envisions that by 2016, Benin has a unifying data system and reliable and accessible information for better integrated water resources management through an exchange network between participating institutions in order to improve intersectoral communication for a synergy of actions towards a harmonious and sustainable development.

Data exchange through SNIEAU will play a key role in the development of a Delta Plan for the Oueme Delta and Lake Nokoue region, that is currently being developed in the framework of the Multi-Annual Strategic Plan (MASP) 2014-2017 funded by the Dutch Embassy in Benin. The platform has been implemented by Upande (http://www.upande.com/), a Kenyan SME specialised in GIS and WebGIS solutions.

Source: https://www.unesco-ihe.org/news/launch-national-water-information-system-benin

Ghana: Plenary session on 'SDI: The Road Ahead' at Ghana Geospatial Forum 2015

One of the plenary sessions of the upcoming Ghana Geospatial Forum, to be held in Accra, March 3-4, 2015, will focus on "Spatial Data Infrastructure: The Road Ahead."
Abstract: We live in an age of information and geographic information is one of the most important components for better and more informed decision making. Many of the country's objectives including better governance can only be achieved if good, consistent geographic information is easily available. However, the production and use of spatial data can sometimes be an extremely expensive and time consuming affair. However, SDIs or Spatial Data Infrastructures can play a crucial role as they help to save a lot of valuable time and money while at the same time offer access to reliable spatial data. Ghana has taken several initiatives in this direction, starting way back in the 1980s, but none of those initiatives was able to create a successful SDI. The session titled Spatial Data Infrastructure: The Road Ahead will try to explore how Ghana can implement its SDI and the kind of benefits and challenges involved in doing that.
Speakers:
- Prof. Bruce Banoeng-Yakubo, Chief Director, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
- Dr. Wilfred Anim Odame, Chief Executive Officer, Lands Commission
- Stephen Djaba, Director/Licensed Surveyor GEO-TECH Systems Ltd., Ghana
- William Tevie, Director General, National Information Technology Agency, Ghana

Source: http://ghgeospatialforum.org/2015/ple_session1.html

Promoting use of climate information to achieve long-term development objectives in sub-Saharan Africa

We know little about how climate information is used in Africa to make decisions with long-term consequences, or how effective it is. We know even less about the barriers to – and opportunities for – using climate information in decision-making. How, then, should governments, businesses and donors strive for climate information to achieve Africa's long-term development objectives?

The Future Climate For Africa (FCFA) programme explores these questions and seeks to challenge many of the assumptions that underlie them. To guide the programme, six case studies investigated how climate information was being used in decision-making in sub-Saharan Africa. These comprised four country case studies: Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and a combined study of Accra, Ghana and Maputo, Mozambique; and two desk-based studies focused on long-lived infrastructure in the ports sector and the large hydropower sector. This report presents the results of the scoping phase.

Source: https://weadapt.org/knowledge-base/usving-climate-information/synthesis-report-fcfa-pilot-phase

Data Revolution in Africa - UNECA high-level conference
Setting the scene for a sustainable development agenda powered by Data Revolution in Africa
27-29 March 2015, UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Data are the lifeblood of decision-making and the raw material for accountability. Without high-quality data providing the right information on the right things at the right time to the right people; designing, monitoring and evaluating effective policies becomes almost impossible.

'Data Revolution in Africa' is the process of bringing together diverse data communities to embrace a diverse range of data sources, tools, and innovative technologies, to provide disaggregated data for decision- making, service delivery and citizen engagement; and information for Africa to own its narrative.

A data community is a group of people who share a social, economic or professional interest in data production, management, dissemination and/or use. Please support Africa in identifying its data communities by taking part in a 5-minute survey; the results will help set the scene for the UNECA high-level conference: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_x8fqsgOX3kliEeRh9-kUqFM1nlbRAKKuX98LzcATh4/viewform?c=0&w=1

Source: http://www.uneca.org/datarevolution

Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) 2015 Conference, 28 September – 3 October, 2015, Nairobi, Kenya

Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) will hold its 2015 annual conference 28 September to 3 October 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. This is TDWG's first conference in Africa. The theme of the conference is Applications, Standards and Capacity Building for Sustaining Global Biodiversity. Subprograms will include: Digitization, Semantic Technologies, Phyloinformatics, Outreach and Collaboration, ePublications, Trait Data, and Conservation informatics.

TDWG has issued a call for symposia or workshop proposals for the conference. They are also recruiting trainers and facilitators for a 5-day capacity building workshop for African participants at the conference, focused primarily on biodiversity collection digitization, biodiversity databases, data cleaning, and georeferencing. The workshop dates are 21-25 September 2015 (the week before the TDWG conference). Anyone interested in participating in the training workshop should contact tdwg2015@tdwg.org. Symposium/workshop proposals should be sent to the Program Chair, Hank Bart and TDWG General Secretary by **28 February 2015** at tdwg2015@tdwg.org.

Source: http://www.tdwg.org/homepage-news-item/article/call-for-symposia-and-workshops-is-open-deadline-to-submit-proposals-is-15-february-2015/

Vacancy: Director of Remote Sensing, Geo-information Systems and Mapping, RCMRD, Nairobi

Under the guidance and supervision of the Director General of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), the incumbent will carry out the following functions:

- Preparing budgets and initiating work plans;
- Identifying projects and Writing project proposals;
- Managing projects in collaboration with the Project Co-ordination Section;
- Conducting applied and fundamental research;
- Preparing and revising training curriculum and training materials in collaboration with the Training Co-ordination Section;
- Ensuring quality control and assurance of production work;
- Assessing the capacity-building needs of member States in the fields of Remote
- Sensing, Photogrammetry, GIS and Cartography;
- Participating in workshops, seminars and regional meetings; and
- Reporting the activities of the Department to the management of the Centre.

The ideal candidate must have PhD degree in Geo-information, Earth Science, Space Science and Computer Science with at least 10 years of experience in the field; or MSc in Remote Sensing, Photogrammetry and Environmental Science with at least 14 years of work experience in the field of Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry. Contract duration: Three (3) years renewable. Applicants for these positions must be nationals of the RCMRD's member States only. Applications should be addressed to: Director General, RCMRD, rcmrd@rcmrd.org, no later than **30 June 2015**.

Source: http://rnra.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/job_advert/Vacancy_Announcment.pdf

1st YES Sudan Chapter Forum, 23-24 May 2015, Khartoum, Sudan

1st YES Sudan Chapter Forum will be held in Khartoum, between 23 and 24 May 2015 under the theme "Pathway, Practice and Platform into Global Earth Science Integration". The YES Network (http://www.networkyes.org/) is an international association of early-career geoscientists who are primarily under the age of 35 years and are from universities, geoscience organizations and companies from across the world.

The event will be organized by the Sudan YES National Chapter in cooperation with Nile Cat Canter, GeoPetra Group, Nile Geosciences Center and Al Neelain University. YES Sudan forum provides excellent opportunities for sharing ideas, experiences and best practices in different areas of geosciences. It is an exciting, stimulating and rewarding annual event for young geoscientist's professionals in all sectors. Deadline: **April 15, 2015**.

Announcement: http://www.giraf-network.org/GIRAF2009/EN/Downloads/YES_SudanNationalChapterForum.pdf

Source: http://www.yesnetworksudan.blogspot.com/

Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

Azerbaijan: First ever National Atlas presented in Baku, to be base for national SDI

The Azerbaijan National Atlas and Map of the South Caucasus of 1903 recently have been presented in Baku. The National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan (AMEA) informs that the Atlas includes 70 maps on the history of Azerbaijan, which show the presence of ancient traditions of statehood in this land.

In turn, AMEA president Akif Alizadeh pointed out that national atlases plays a basic role for spatial data infrastructures. "The development of geographic information system of the National Atlas will serve in the creation of national spatial data infrastructure," academician Alizadeh said.

In turn, Garib Mammadov, chairman of the State Land & Cartography Committee points out that the National Atlas has been made for the first time in the history of Azerbaijan. He also told the participants about the current definitions of notion "geographic atlas", the history of creation of atlases and methods of atlas cartography, the main functions of the National Atlas. "The National Atlas can be used during the analysis, forecasting and development of programs of socio-economic complex of the country. The National Atlas was created on the basis of the ideology of geospatial data management," he said. He added that the Atlas will take an important place in the development of such concepts as "e-agriculture" and "precision agriculture".

"A digital version of the Atlas is being developed, and important steps were taken in connection with the establishment of national spatial data infrastructure," Mammadov said.

Source: http://abc.az/eng/news_02_02_2015_86431.html

The Philippines: Wind Resource Assessment and Geospatial Analysis

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with the Philippine Department of Energy (DoE) launched the 2014 Wind Energy Atlas for the Philippines.

DoE Undersecretary Zenaida Y. Monsada said the atlas -- which will be available online for free -- contains updated wind resource maps and related data that can be used in prospective project developments.

USAID tapped the US Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory to come up with the atlas, which Ms. Monsada said, will support not only government planning but also encourage industry investment in the wind energy sector.

The data sets contained in the guidebook also have a geospatial toolkit, which is designed to facilitate energy policy development, investment and education.

Source: http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Economy&title=iwind-energy-atlasi-to-guide-investment-in-renewable-energy&id=102978

India: Web GIS based land information system for Bhopal City using open source software and libraries
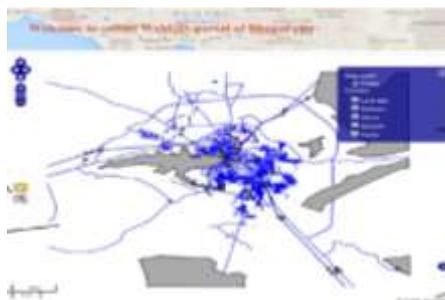
Author(s): Amit Kumar and Pankaj Singh Diwakar
International Journal of Science, Engineering and Technology Research (IJSETR), Volume 4, Issue 1, January 2015

Abstract: The goal of this work is to create a web GIS prototype for geospatial information of Bhopal city and providing some functionality which is present in interactive web GIS application like pan, zoom, and basic query evaluation. Further the basic functionality also extended with the help of POSTGIS database and OpenLayers libraries. Geoserver was customized to set up and enhance the website functions. In this work a mechanism for restricting access to the website was implemented and examined, various advanced queries using PostgreSQL were developed and tested. Furthermore, a methodology, using combined vector analysis, was developed to deal efficiently with multi-layer overlay analysis. The facility to generate detailed information report about the queried features using the interactive interface has also been implemented.

Keywords: WebGIS, Land Information System, PostGIS, Geoserver

Source: http://ijsetr.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/IJSETR-VOL-4-ISSUE-1-154-160.pdf

Exploring the determinants of cross-boundary information sharing in the public sector: An e-Government case study in Taiwan

Author(s): Yang, Tung-Mou, and Yi-Jung Wu
Journal of Information Science 40(5): 649-668 October 2014 [not an open access journal]

Abstract: This paper explores the complexity of cross-boundary information sharing in the public sector. In particular, determinants influencing interagency information sharing are investigated and discussed, and a case study of Taiwan e-Government is employed. Four perspectives, including technology, organization, legislation and policy, and environment, are used to conduct this exploratory inquiry. Legislation and policy is found to be the most influential factor among government agencies participating in information-sharing initiatives. Organizational factors are also found to be significant, but less so than legislation and policy. Technological factors are considered relatively more easily addressed when compared with legislation and policy and organizational factors. Finally, situational factors are also found to have respective impacts on interagency information sharing. In addition to factors that are discussed in the current literature, newly identified factors are illustrated to provide insights. Moreover, in order to better

conceptualize how identified factors determine agencies' intentions towards cross-boundary information sharing, theory of planned behaviour is used to form a theoretical discussion by integrating the identified factors of the study. Practical implications are also provided to address how cross-boundary information sharing among government agencies can be better achieved. Lastly, the conclusion outlines the contributions and limitations of this research and suggests future studies related to the current work.

See also: The boundaries of information sharing and integration: A case study of Taiwan e-Government, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265599482_The_boundaries_of_information_sharing_and_integration_A_case_study_of_Taiwan_e-Government

Source: http://jis.sagepub.com/content/40/5/649

Mongolia: GIS Data
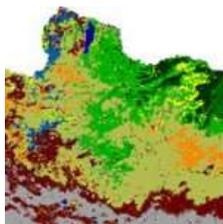
A graduate student in the Department of Marine & Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, Christopher M. Free, has set up a web page to share the data he has found or created for his research in Mongolia on illegal fishing and its potential impact on endangered fish species. He found he was constantly searching for spatial data on the web and was often disappointed by the lack of centralized repositories of GIS data. For this reason, he took steps to make a contribution. He provides the following spatial data for download: administrative boundaries, cities and towns, rivers, lakes, land cover, ecoregions, soils, permafrost, and more.

Source: http://marine.rutgers.edu/~cfree/gis-data/mongolia-gis-data/

New Zealand: LINZ secures historic imagery for New Zealanders

A new contract between Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and Opus International Consultants will safeguard New Zealanders' ability to use historic aerial imagery.

As highlighted by LINZ Senior Technical Leader Bjorn Johns in a LINZ press release on January 26, 2015, "Historic aerial imagery has many uses – such as showing changes in land use, identifying where dangerous chemicals were used, showing coastline changes, and archaeology and cultural research."

"The government's aerial imagery archive – consisting of around 500,000 images taken from 1936 to 2005 – was previously managed and stored by New Zealand Aerial Mapping (NZAM).

"When NZAM went into liquidation in September, LINZ started to look for another company that could safely store historic aerial imagery and make it available to the public.

"I am pleased to announce that company is Opus International Consultants. At the same time, LINZ has also taken ownership of additional historic imagery – a total of 145,000 negatives – previously owned by NZAM.

"These additional NZAM images are complementary to those in the Crown archive. They are mostly at higher levels of detail and with a greater focus on urban areas – meaning they can show the growth of our towns and cities."

Archival images are now available for use through Opus International Consultants. Scanning costs will apply to each image and an index of the areas covered is available through the LINZ Data Service (https://data.linz.govt.nz/layers/category/topographic/imagery/?q=orthophotos). LINZ is also investigating the potential to scan and digitise the aerial imagery archive for long term preservation, easier access, and better use of this valuable national resource.

Source: http://www.linz.govt.nz/news/2015-01/linz-secures-historic-imagery-for-new-zealanders

Western Australian Whole of Government Open Data Policy - released for consultation

The Western Australian Government is one of the largest collectors of data in the State as a result of conducting its business. This data remains a relatively untapped resource that could be used by other agencies or sectors to develop new or better products or services that meet citizens' needs. It can also lead to better policy decisions and business practices in government and improve public sector accountability and transparency.

The Western Australian Whole of Government Open Data Policy (the Policy) aims to facilitate greater release of government data to the public in appropriate and useful ways to generate value and productivity.

A draft of the Policy, which ultimately will be implemented and maintained by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate) with progress reports to the Minister for Lands, has been released for consultation:
HTML: http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Consultation/Pages/WAWholeofGovernmentOpenDataPolicy-Draft.aspx
PDF (164 KB): http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Consultation/Documents/DraftOpenDataPolicy.pdf
DOC (42 KB): http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Consultation/Documents/DraftOpenDataPolicy.docx

As currently written, the Policy would require the "proactive" release of datasets under creative commons licensing, while still reserving the ability of some agencies to charge for "higher value datasets or information that comes with a cost of publication." The Policy is aiming to make the policy reform budget neutral, stating that "there should be no or minimal cost to agencies in making data open and/or for people to access the data".

The draft policy will target all new data sets for release, and will ask that all new systems and system updates are designed with proactive data release in mind. It intends that all real-time information should be made available as a live feed where practical. Submissions will be accepted until 5:00 pm, Friday, **6 March 2015** and should be sent to: coag-wa@dpc.wa.gov.au.

See also: The west catches up with information transparency bandwagon, http://www.itnews.com.au/News/400625,wa-unveils-open-data-policy.aspx

Source: http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Consultation/Pages/WAWholeofGovernmentOpenDataPolicy.aspx

Australian Ocean Data Network Portal

This portal is the primary access point for search, discovery, access and download of data collected by the Australian marine community. Primary datasets are contributed by the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) an Australian Government Research Infrastructure project, and the six Commonwealth Agencies with responsibilities in the Australian marine jurisdiction (Australian Antarctic Division, Australian Institute for Marine Science, Bureau of Meteorology, Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation, Geoscience Australia and the Royal Australian Navy). You can obtain full information about the AODN via the AODN webpage, http://www.imos.org.au/aodn.html.

Source: http://portal.aodn.org.au/aodn/

Singapore: Senior GeoSpatial Executive, GeoSpatial Policy & Planning

The Singapore Land Authority lists at its website a number of career opportunities. For instance, there is an opening for a Senior GeoSpatial Executive, GeoSpatial Policy & Planning. Scope:

- Review and formulate geospatial data policies and initiatives to proliferate the use of geospatial information for national level decision making and building location awareness among private, public and people sectors
- Plan and implement SG-SPACE's (Singapore Geospatial Collaborative Environment) policy and programs in areas relating to geospatial data, horizon scanning, capacity development and outreach

Requirements:
Degree in any discipline, and those in the areas of public policy/business administration will be an added advantage
Preferably 2 to 3 years of working experience in planning and policy formulation
Inclination and ability to work across a diverse spectrum of areas and challenges
Resourceful, innovative and analytical
Strong communication and presentation skills

You may refer to www.SLA.gov.sg under the career opportunity webpage if you wish to view the other job openings at SLA. To apply, please email your detailed resume and supporting documents to sla_recruit@sla.gov.sg.

Source: http://www.sla.gov.sg/Careers/CareerOpportunities.aspx

### *Greater Mekong Subregion Environment Operations Center – GIS Data*

A poverty-free ecologically rich Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). That's the vision of the Core Environment Program (CEP) – a platform for multi-country and multi-sector engagement on key environmental issues. Facilitated by the Asian Development Bank as an integral part of the GMS

Economic Cooperation Program, CEP seeks to create a region where economic growth and environmental protection are approached in parallel, and in a way that benefits all who live there. It brings together the six countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion – Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam – to work towards this ambitious goal through the mainstreaming of environmental and biodiversity protection.

The Environment Operations Center (EOC) provides the GMS Working Group on Environment with coordination and technical support to implement the Core Environment Program. Based in Bangkok and administered by the Asian Development Bank, the EOC team consists of GMS and international professionals with expertise including strategic environmental planning and monitoring, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, capacity building and communications. GMS fixed and interactive maps, and GIS data provide development practitioners and decision-makers with the latest GMS socio-economic and environmental baseline information.

Source: http://www.gms-eoc.org/gis-data

Pacific Climate Change Data Portal
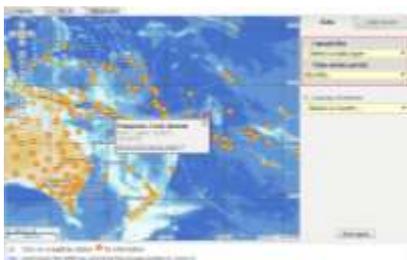
The Pacific Climate Change Data Portal is a user-friendly tool that allows the user to visualise historical climate data in the form of trends, running and long term averages. As the largest web based data source for the Pacific region, this tool currently provides users access to more than 100 individual observation sites across the Pacific Islands and East Timor. This web tool is being updated to include trends in rainfall and temperature extremes. It is freely available for anyone to explore climate trends. The portal has been developed through the Pacific Climate Change Science Program (PCCSP) and Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning (PACCSAP) Program.

CliDE (Climate Data for the Environment, http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/pacific/about-clide.shtml) is a climate database management system installed in National Meteorological Services in 15 countries to support day to day operations including the archival and basic analysis of historical and recent meteorological data. CliDE provides a platform for countries to rescue and secure hard copy data, which in some countries date back more than 100 years. Accurate climate records are critical for building an understanding of how the climate is changing and for verifying climate projections, monitoring and comparing droughts and other extreme events. CliDE will improve the availability of data for National Meteorological Services, other government agencies and researchers.

Source: http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/pccsp/ ; http://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/

Europe Region SDI News

Romania: mapping agency's new geoportal drives collaboration

The Romanian government's Topographic Military Directorate (DTM) recently implemented a portal for geospatial data based on Esri technology. The DTM Geoportal is compliant with the established standards of Romania's spatial data infrastructure (SDI) and joins the country's other geospatial data portals including the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) Geoportal (http://inspire-geoportal.ec.europa.eu/) and the Romanian National Infrastructure for Spatial Information (INIS) Geoportal (http://geoportal.ancpi.ro/geoportal/).

The new geoportal provides quicker access to critical geospatial data and greater collaboration among the agencies the DTM serves, such as the Romanian Ministry of Defense (MoD).

"The DTM Geoportal represents a big step forward for DTM and for the geospatial community in Romania," says Colonel Marin Alnitei, chief of the Topographic Military Directorate. "Though it required many years of effort by our staff, the geoportal will provide greater access to our work both inside our Ministry of Defense and to other interested government organizations, universities, and companies."

The geoportal will have two levels of access: Restricted access will only be available to the MoD, while public access will allow civilian organizations, universities, and private companies access to declassified spatial databases developed by the DTM. Components of the DTM Geoportal include ArcGIS for Server with ArcGIS Image Extension for Server, Portal for ArcGIS, Esri GeoPortal Server, and ArcGIS for INSPIRE.

Source: http://www.esri.com/esri-news/releases/15-1qtr/romanian-mapping-agencys-new-geoportal-drives-collaboration

UK: Ordnance Survey helps to drive economic growth and digital innovation through open data

To coincide with International Open Data Day, when countries across the globe will show their support for open data policies, Ordnance Survey (OS) announces plans to launch a world-leading digital map as open data and the creation of an engagement hub in London.

OS OpenMap, which will be released at the end of March, has been designed to work with the latest mobile and web platforms and will allow developers to build new products incorporating some of the most sophisticated mapping data in the world. It will also enhance the wide range of existing apps that use geospatial data. Targeted at both public sector and commercial users, the map provides an enhanced level of building detail, extended naming of roads and identifies sites such as hospitals and schools – all in a customisable and easy to style format.

The Geospatial Innovation Hub will provide a space for OS to meet face-to-face with developers and to support the creation of new products and services. The Hub builds on OS's experience of working with start-ups through their successful GeoVation programme, allowing developers to benefit from expert OS advice.

The announcements from OS are underpinned by a more liberalised approach to licensing designed to maximise the benefits of the UK's most valuable data.

Source: http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/about/news/2015/os-drives-economic-growth-and-digital-innovation-through-open-data.html

ELF & SDI Regional workshop in Ukraine, 11-12 March 2015, Kiev, Ukraine
Spatial Data Infrastructure - contributing to economic and social development in Ukraine: Implementing INSPIRE, Delivering the European Location Framework
11-12 March 2015, Kiev, Ukraine

EuroGeographics in cooperation with The State Agency for Land Resources of Ukraine (SALR, http://land.gov.ua/en/) is organizing a regional workshop on 11-12 March 2015 in Kiev, in the premises of SALR. The workshop: 'EuroGeographics: from INSPIRE Directive towards the European Location Framework' will focus on important topics supporting the activities of our members in this region, bringing information about EuroGeographics activities and membership benefits, Cadastral information and Geodata Infrastructure, European Location Framework and INSPIRE Directive. Top level speakers from our community, INSPIRE team, ELF experts and KEN members will give presentations. Targeted audience are the managers, technical experts and students for relevant sessions. The workshop will be run in English with full translation to Russian language.

Agenda: http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/Agenda%20Workshop%20UKRAINE%20v1-1.pdf
Practicalities: http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/Practical%20information%20new.pdf
Venue website & Registration: http://dzk.gov.ua/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=354:workshop-registration&catid=36:i

Source: http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/elf-sdi-regional-workshop-ukraine

Joint UN-GGIM: Europe - ESS meeting, 3 March 2015, EuroStat Offices, Luxembourg
Deadline for registration: **20 February 2015**

This event will provide participants with an overview of the objectives and workings of UN-GGIM: Europe. Agenda details will be uploaded when available. This event is being organised to follow the GISCO Working Group meeting.
The host contact for help or further information is Atanas.TRIFONOV@ec.europa.eu.
Further information is available from carol.agius@eurogeographics.org.

Source: http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/meeting-un-ggim-europe

Book provides progress report on creating SDIs in Europe

The third edition of Building European Spatial Data Infrastructures presents an update on the efforts of the European Union (EU) to create a system for spatial data sharing among the 28 EU member nations. Building a spatial data infrastructure (SDI)—a common framework or language for sharing geographic information—will make providing geographic information and developing geographic information system (GIS)-based applications easier within the EU.
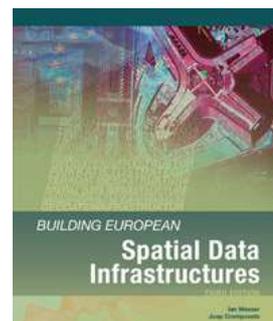
This nontechnical book, published by Esri, covers several topics of interest to government agencies, businesses, and other organizations that want to improve the ability to share environmental, public health, or other types of spatial data throughout the EU. An SDI also creates a more transparent government and improves services to citizens.

Early chapters focus on the many uses of GIS technology, how GIS works, and why SDIs are needed. Later chapters are devoted to how member nations are complying with the plan to create a European SDI, called the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) by the deadline of 2020. Authors Ian Masser and Joep Crompvoets also describe what milestones have been reached and where more work needs to be done.

Source: http://www.esri.com/esri-news/releases/15-1qtr/book-provides-progress-report-on-creating-spatial-data-infrastructures-in-europe

NASA World Wind Europa Challenge 2015

The Europa Challenge provides the opportunity for Europe's *best and brightest* to deliver sustainable solutions to the European community. And do this in ways that serve local, regional, national or international interests, while also advancing the career opportunities for those who accept the challenge. This is an international challenge open to all on our home planet. The Third Edition of NASA World Wind Europa Challenge (2015) has the theme 'Solutions for a Sustainable World'.

There are two ways to win. One is as a University Project, and the other is as a Professional Project. Winners will be part of the plenary awards session at the FOSS4G Conference in lovely Como Italy! Lodging, travel support, complementary passes and scheduled presentations will be 'awarded' to the top University teams. Plus, the top two teams in each category, University and Professional, will receive the crystal 'Europa Bull' award! And a few hundred Euros for the University teams! And of course NASA T-shirts. The deadline for submissions is **June 30, 2015**.

Source: http://eurochallenge.como.polimi.it/

2nd Edition of the FOSS4G (Free and Open Source For Geospatial) Europe Conference
14-17 July 2015, Como, Italy

The second edition of the FOSS4G-Europe Conference will be held at Politecnico di Milano (http://www.polo-como.polimi.it/en/) in Como, Italy, from July 14th to 17th, 2015. A day of workshops will precede the conference on 13th July, and a code sprint will close the event on 18th July.

The Conference aims to bring together FOSS4G users and developers worldwide and foster closer interactions with and amongst European communities in order to share ideas for improving geodata, software and applications openness, and availability.

Besides the traditional Academic Track (one day track), three special Tracks on FOSS4G for water resources (one day track), OpenGeodata (half day track) and FOSS4G for Libraries (half day track) will be organized. A meeting of the Labs involved in the GeoForAll (http://www.geoforall.org/) initiative also will take place. Plus, a mapping party for celebrating the International Map Year (http://internationalmapyear.org/) will be organized together with ICA and other Associations. Last but not least, the winners of the NASA Worldwind Europe Challenge 2015 (http://eurochallenge.como.polimi.it/) will present their innovative apps to the public.

Source: http://europe.foss4g.org/2015/ ; http://www.osgeo.org/node/1470

52°North Workshops @ FOSSGIS 2015: Introduction to the Sensor Web & The 52°North WPS
FOSSGIS 2015 takes place from March 11 -13, 2015 in Münster, Germany, http://www.fossgis.de/konferenz/2015/

How can sensor web technology be used to provide, as well as, collect measured data? What exactly is SWE? How can I use the 52°North WPS to create, provide and use processes? These and other questions will be answered during 52°North's hands-on workshops:

In his workshop "Introduction to the Sensor Web" (Einführung in das Sensor Web)*, Simon Jirka gives a short introduction to the OGC Sensor Web Enablement architecture and existing open source components. Participants interact with the OGC SOS interface, insert new sensors and data and visualize the data with the SOS client.

Benjamin Proß provides an overview of the 52°North WPS functionality in his workshop "The 52°North WPS"*. Participants learn how to administer the WPS, create and publish processes and how those processes are used. Basic knowledge of Java and R are helpful, but not a requirement.

*Please note that the conference and the workshops will be held in German.

Source: http://52north.org/news/52-north-workshops-fossgis-2015

Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

Argentina: Jornadas de Capacitación en Sistemas de Información Geográfica (SIG) e Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales (IDE)
12 y 13 de marzo 2015, Santa Fe, Argentina

Los días 12 y 13 de Marzo de 2015, en el Hotel Colonia de Vacaciones UNL - Asociactión Trabajadores del Estado (ATE), se realizarán las "Jornadas de Capacitación en Sistemas de Información Geográfica (SIG) e Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales (IDE)".

Objetivos:
Crear conciencia técnica y política sobre cómo deben publicarse los datos del Estado, además de facilitar herramientas para la planificación y gestión de políticas públicas.
Estas tecnologías SIG + IDE brindan la posibilidad de generar y acceder a la información geográfica en todo el contexto de la Provincia de Santa Fe, permitiendo una mejor gestión del territorio por parte del Estado.

Destinatarios: Agentes de la administración del Estado Provincial, Municipal y Comunal, tanto para autoridades políticas como especialmente para los niveles medios de conducción, con la responsabilidad de planificación y toma de decisiones.

Inscripción:
- Cupos Limitados.
- Se requiere inscripción previa hasta el día **26 de febrero de 2015**.
- Para más información e inscripción, dirigirse al geoportal IDESF: www.santafe.gov.ar/idesf

Costo: La participación es libre y gratuita.

Certificados: Se entregarán certificados, los cuales se enviarán a la dirección de correo electrónico de cada asistente.

Fuente: http://www.idera.gob.ar/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=301:prueba3&catid=89:00-noticias&Itemid=108 ; http://www.ate.org.ar/not_capacitacion/id/826/jornadas-de-capacitacion-en-sistemas-de-informacion-geografica-%28sig%29-e-infraestructura-de-datos-espaciales-%28ide%29.html

Argentina: X Jornadas IDERA - Mendoza 2015
14 y 15 de mayo de 2015, Mendoza, Argentina

IDERA (http://www.idera.gob.ar) es una comunidad de información geoespacial que tiene como objetivo propiciar la publicación de datos, productos y servicios geoespaciales, de manera eficiente y oportuna como un aporte fundamental a la democratización del acceso de la información producida por el Estado y diversos actores, y al apoyo en la toma de decisiones en las diferentes actividades de los ámbitos público, privado, académico, no gubernamental y sociedad civil. La participación de todas las jurisdicciones es fundamental para garantizar el carácter nacional y federal de la IDERA.

Las X Jornadas de IDERA se llevarán a cabo los días 14 y 15 de mayo de 2015 en la ciudad de Mendoza, provincia de Mendoza, República Argentina. En estas Jornadas se fomentará el conocimiento y la difusión de las Infraestructuras de Datos Espaciales y de los beneficios que la interoperabilidad de la información geoespacial puede aportar a la sociedad. También será una oportunidad para continuar fortaleciendo IDERA, a través de la cuarta reunión de la Asamblea. Envío de Resumen hasta **10 de marzo**.

Fuente: http://190.220.8.214//index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=275&Itemid=208

Empiezan a trazarse las primeras "pinceladas" para el mapa entre Colombia, Ecuador, Perú, Bolivia y Panamá

Entre el 9 y el viernes 13 de febrero, representantes de los institutos geográficos de estos países y expertos en el tema cartográfico participarán en el 1er taller para construir el mapa de los países Andinos del Norte de América Latina a escala 1:250.000. La cita es en la sede central del Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (IGAC) en Bogotá.

El taller instalado por Juan Antonio Nieto Escalante, Director General del IGAC, está liderado por expertos delegados del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia (IPGH), la Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF), la Iniciativa para la Conservación de la Amazonia Andina (ICAA), el Departamento del Interior de los Estados Unidos (DOI), el Centro Nacional de Información Geográfica de España (CNIG) y GeoSUR.

Durante la semana, se definirán temas como el estado de la cartografía y los datos geoespaciales de cada país; fronteras internacionales, simbología, fuente de imágenes y formatos; integración de la capa hidrográfica; y datos sobre vías de comunicación, topónimos y localidades.

Igualmente, se abordarán las principales inconsistencias sobre la carencia de datos en cada país y la experiencia del Mapa Integrado de Mesoamérica, y se definirá la sede y la fecha del segundo taller.

El mapa integrado Andino del Norte estará certificado por los productores oficiales de información geográfica de cada país y contará con los mecanismos de acceso en el portal GeoSUR para facilitar la aplicación de la información espacial, útil para la planificación de infraestructura, el ordenamiento territorial y la adaptación al cambio climático.

English summary: **Painting the first "strokes" for mapping between Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Panama**

The week of February 9-13th, representatives of geographic institutes in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Panama and experts in mapping are participating in the 1st workshop to construct the map of the Andean countries of the North of Latin America at a scale of 1:250:000. The event is at the headquarters of the Instituto Geográfico Agustin Codazzi (IGAC) in Bogota. During the week, topics being discussed include: the status of mapping and geospatial data of each country; international borders, symbology, source of images and formats; integration of the hydrographic layer; and data on communication channels, place names and locations. Also, the participants will address the main inconsistencies of the data in each country and the experience of the Seamless Map of Mesoamerica, as well as identify the venue and the date for the second workshop. The integrated map of the Northern Andean countries will be certified by the official producers of geographic information in each country, and the GeoSUR portal will be used as the mechanism of access to the spatial information.

Fuente:
http://www.igac.gov.co/wps/wcm/connect/5ea51800473d51cfb910f935d370a7a6/pdf+de+mapa+andino+.pdf?MOD=AJPERES ;
http://www.ign.gob.pe/?PG=Noticia&titulo=PRIMER_TALLER_DEL_MAPA_INTEGRADO_ANDINO_DEL_NORTE_%28MIAN%29&ID=223

Las 7as Jornadas gvSIG de Latinoamérica y Caribe se celebrarán en México

Del 26 al 28 de agosto de 2015 se celebrarán las 7as Jornadas de gvSIG Latinoamérica y Caribe en la Facultad de Geografía de la Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, bajo el lema "Desarrollo en software libre como motor de cambio".

Las Jornadas gvSIG de Latinoamérica y Caribe tienen como objetivo proporcionar un lugar de encuentro donde técnicos, investigadores, desarrolladores, expertos, y la comunidad latinoamericana en general, se reúna en un entorno con debates, ponencias y talleres alrededor de gvSIG y geomática libre.

Ya está abierto el periodo para el envío de propuestas para comunicaciones para las Jornadas. Desde hoy pueden enviarse las propuestas de comunicación a la dirección de correo electrónico jornadas.latinoamericanas@gvsig.org, que serán valoradas por el Comité Científico de cara a su inclusión en el programa de las Jornadas. Toda la información sobre las normas para la presentación de comunicaciones puede consultarse en el apartado comunicaciones. El periodo

de recepción de resúmenes finalizará el próximo **22 de mayo**.

Fuente: http://www.gvsig.com/es/eventos/jornadas-lac/2015/

ABRELATAM y la Conferencia de Datos Abiertos para América Latina y el Caribe (ConDatos), 9-10 septiembre 2015, Santiago, Chile

Del 7 al 10 de septiembre 2015 en Santiago de Chile, se llevará a cabo la des-conferencia ABRELATAM y la Conferencia de Datos Abiertos para América Latina (ConDatos). Para recibir esta información de primera fuente y directamente en tu correo electrónico, registre su información de contacto en este Formulario: https://docs.google.com/a/votainteligente.cl/forms/d/1zyHKzLfII1Y6D-LIasFO07rEMUe3KeYpY5EoeuNwjDk/viewform. Inscribete para recibir más información de Con Datos 2015: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-eHX7wTUB8AEnZbsaMja1agSTua6ixjUZjz3B7y4GxY/viewform?c=0&w=1

English summary: Billed as the regional conference on "datos abiertos"—open data—the conference covers policy, technology, and the use of open data for innovation. The meeting highlights new ventures that are using open data for social as well as economic impact.

Fuente: http://condatos.org/ ; http://abrelatam.org/

MundoGEO # Connect 2015, Conference and Trade Fair for Geomatics and Geospatial Solutions, 5-7 May 2015, Frei Caneca Convention Center, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Companies, cities, states, countries and even continents today are implementing today, their SDIs, which leads to geotechnology to a new level and shows how it can be as important – or more important – as energy, sanitation and telecommunications. After all, a country needs a solid and updated basis of geospatial data in order to govern effectively and optimize the mapping resources, planning and execution of works.

On 5 May, at MundoGEO # Connect 2015 (http://mundogeoconnect.com/2015/en/) experts and users and managers of the geospatial industry will have the opportunity to discuss the main challenges related to the definition of a Public Policy for the geospatial sector and the implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (Inde). Also, there will be two panels on experiences and good practice in the use of geospatial solutions in the management of large cities and states in Brazil, with emphasis on the experience and state of the projector and the city of São Paulo. Contact: connect@mundogeo.com.

Source: http://mundogeo.com/en/blog/2015/02/02/sao-paulo-hosts-the-new-dimensions-geospatial-forum/

North America Region SDI News

Canada: GeoAlliance Canada webinars
English: February 17, 12:00-1:30pm EST; French: February 18, 12:00-1:30pm EST

Your support and contributions to the development of our governance model and the future plans for the Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table (CGCRT) have been most welcome and instrumental in adopting the priorities set out in the June meeting in Ottawa. Following that meeting, a Leadership and Governance group was established; under the direction of the Steering Committee, with the purpose of creating a proposal for an umbrella structure for the 'geo' community. This umbrella has been named GeoAlliance Canada and a summary is available explaining how this not-for-profit organization will be structured, some key points as to its purpose, role and actions and how it will be governed (http://cgcrt.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/GeoAlliance-Canada-ENGLISH.pdf).

GeoAlliance Canada will be rolled out to the greater community through two webinars; in English and French, to be hosted on February 17th and 18th respectively. The agenda will reflect the need for action in the 'geo'-community. These actions are in keeping with the suggestions of the entire community, and the specific input of CGCRT Working Groups.

This is a change and a transition from the CGCRT to a more sustainable effort that will define our Team Canada vision. This work has been completed based upon the core value that we are stronger together and that we need to showcase the value of our sector to the country and world, as a Team!

To register: http://cgcrt.ca/en/geoalliance-canada/

Canadian Open Data Experience {CODE} Hackathon, February 20-22, 2015

The GeoConnections Program at Natural Resources Canada would like to bring to your attention the second annual Canadian Open Data Experience (CODE, http://open.canada.ca/en/canadian-open-data-experience-code) hackathon which will take place from February 20-22, 2015. The Canadian Geomatics community, in particular those involved in the development of geospatial applications, are encouraged to consider taking up this challenge!

CODE is an intense 48-hour hackathon, inviting developers, graphic designers, students, and anyone interested at trying their hand at coding to use Government of Canada Open Data found on the Open Data Portal (http://open.canada.ca/en). You are encouraged to mash-up federal datasets, as well as include provincial, territorial, and municipal data when building your apps. To encourage the meaningful and productive use of federal datasets, CODE aims to inspire innovation in three categories: Youth, Commerce and Quality of Life. All eligible submissions must conform to a category specific theme, which will be announced minutes before the hackathon begins.

Participation is FREE. Winners will share $40,000 in prizes. Sign-up Now at:
https://www.canadianopendataexperience.ca/register/

USA: Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)

GRADE REPORT OF: National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) **SEMESTER:** Fall 2014

Subject	Dept.	Grade	Subject	Dept.	Grade
CADASTRAL DATA	DOI	D+	CAPACITY	FGDC	C
GEODETIC CONTROL	DOC	B+	CONDITION	FGDC	D
ELEVATION DATA	DOI	C+	FUNDING	Various	D
HYDROGRAPHY DATA	DOI	C	FUTURE NEED	FGDC	D
ORTHOIMAGERY DATA	DOI & USDA	C+	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	FGDC	C
GOVERNMENT UNITS DATA	DOC	C	PUBLIC USE	FGDC	C
TRANSPORTATION DATA	DOT	D	RESILIENCE	FGDC	C
OVERALL DATA GRADE		C	COMPREHENSIVE GRADE		C -

TO: Federal Geographic Data Committee
590 National Center
Reston, Virginia 20192

FROM: Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO)
http://www.cogo.pro
See the full report for an explanation of each grade.

The Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) announced the release of its Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) that depicts the condition and performance of the nation's geospatial "infrastructure" which includes surveyed, mapped and remotely-sensed information. The NSDI Report Card is in the familiar form of a school report card—assigning letter grades that are based on physical condition and needed investments for improvement.

Michael Vanhook, COGO Chairman, stated "Federal agencies have worked for many years to improve their geospatial programs, but the COGO member organizations believe that the national data sets and delivery systems (the NSDI) generally need improvement. It is time for the Federal government to more effectively engage the entire stakeholder community to ensure that America has the highest quality geospatial infrastructure. Doing so will allow us to more efficiently and effectively deal with society's needs, and to reduce duplication of effort."

See: Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), http://www.cogo.pro/uploads/COGO-Report_Card_on_NSDI17.pdf

Source: http://gisuser.com/2015/02/report-card-on-the-u-s-national-spatial-data-infrastructure-nsdi/

USA: NASA Earth Science Data Centers implement user registration

In order to improve user experience and understanding of user demographics and needs, the NASA Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) is introducing "single sign-on" access to all EOSDIS elements. The new User Registration System (URS) facilitates streamlined user registration and profile management, allowing users to take advantage of the wide array of EOSDIS data and services using a common username and profile. User profile

information is not shared outside of EOSDIS, and users are able to control which EOSDIS site or service can access the profile.

See: URS Registration Information, https://urs.earthdata.nasa.gov/documentation

USA: Next National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) meeting

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC, http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac) will meet on March 17-18, 2015 at the South Interior Building Auditorium, 1951 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20240. The meeting will be held in the first floor Auditorium. The NGAC, which is composed of representatives from governmental, private sector, non-profit, and academic organizations, was established to advise the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) on management of Federal geospatial programs, the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and the implementation of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16.

Topics to be addressed at the meeting include:
- Leadership Dialogue
- FGDC Report (NSDI Strategic Plan Implementation, National Geospatial Data Asset Management Plan, Geospatial Platform)
- Crowd-Sourced Geospatial Data
- Geospatial Privacy
- 3D Elevation Program
- Landsat
- Subcommittee Activities

The meeting will include an opportunity for public comment on March 18. Comments may also be submitted to the NGAC in writing. Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting must register in advance. Please register by contacting Lucia Foulkes at the U.S. Geological Survey (703-648-4142, lfoulkes@usgs.gov). Registrations are due by **March 13, 2015**. While the meeting will be open to the public, registration is required for entrance to the South Interior Building, and seating may be limited due to room capacity.

Date/time: The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on March 17 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on March 18.

Source: http://regulations.justia.com/regulations/fedreg/2015/02/23/2015-03592.html ; http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/march-2015/index_html

USA: Western States GIS Users Conference (formerly known as SWUG)
May 11-15, 2015, Snowbird, Utah

The Utah Geographic Information Council (UGIC) and the Geospatial Conference of the West (GeCo West) are joining forces to bring a single Western States Users Conference (formerly known as SWUG). The combined conference is for every GIS practitioner in the Mountain West (UT, CO, WY, NM, AZ). From seasoned GIS professionals to new and upcoming students, this conference will provide an opportunity to grow your GIS knowledge base and expand your networking reach. Geospatial experts will hold workshops and presentations that are guaranteed to elevate individual GIS cognition in our rapidly changing field. The event is packed full of great presentations, workshops, vendors and opportunities to advance your GIS skills and learn from other GIS Professionals. Abstract deadline has been extended to **February 22nd, 2015**. See http://www.ugic.info/call-for-papers

Source: http://www.ugic.info/ugic2015

Vespucci Institutes 2015, Bar Harbor, Maine, USA

The Vespucci Initiative for the Advancement of Geographic Information in Science announces the Vespucci Institutes 2015, to be held in Bar Harbor, Maine, USA.

Week 1: June 21 to 27, 2015 - Spatial Ontologies for e-Science
Facilitators:

Peter Fox (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Michael Grueninger (University of Toronto), Werner Kuhn (UCSB)
Program: http://www.vespucci.org/programme
Deadline for full paper or extended abstract: **15 March 2015**

Week 2: June 29 to July 3, 2015 - Advancing Geographic Information Science: The Past and Next Twenty Years
Twenty-Year Anniversary of the International Early Career Scholars Institutes in GIScience
All Information about this week, including on grants, can be found at http://giscienceconferences.org/vespucci2015week2/
Deadline for full paper or extended abstract: **15 March 2015**

Facilitators:
Max Egenhofer, Kate Beard, Harlan Onsrud (NCGIA Maine)
David Mark, Ling Bian (NCGIA Buffalo)
Helen Couclelis, Mike Goodchild, Keith Clarke (NCGIA Santa Barbara)
Werner Kuhn, Max Craglia, Michael Gould (Vespucci Initiative)

Acceptance into the Institute is based on merit, and on space limitations. Contact e-mail for application questions: info@vespucci.org.

State of the Map US 2015, New York, 6-8 June 2015, New York

Whether you're a map enthusiast, use OpenStreetMap in your business or organization, or just curious to learn more about the free and editable map of the world, this is your event. The main conference will be two days packed with three tracks of talks and lightning talks. Expect to hear the latest developments from across the OpenStreetMap community, and ideas for improving the project. Audience and speakers will be as diverse as OpenStreetMap with mappers, geo professionals, non profits, governments, and businesses in attendance and on stage.

Propose a talk: Share your vision for OpenStreetMap or present your OpenStreetMap based project. No matter whether you're a mapper, a programmer creating OpenStreetMap software, a non profit, a government employee or a business building an OpenStreetMap based product - we would like to hear from you. SotM has three tracks for 20 minute and 5 minute talks reserved for you. Deadline: **March 22, 2015**.

Apply for a Scholarship to State of the Map US 2015: http://openstreetmap.us/2015/01/scholarships/ Scholarship applications are due **March 15, 2015**.

Source: http://stateofthemap.us/

USA (Maryland): GIS open data bill set to advance in state legislature

Despite opposition from the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) which argued that county governments should be able to recoup overhead costs for maintaining software and hardware for the mapping data, a bill that would free up state GIS data is poised to advance in the Maryland legislature this week.

Senate Bill 94, which was recommended by the newly-created Maryland Council on Open Data, would amend state law to guarantee that GIS mapping data is available largely for free. It was designed in the spirit of the Open Data Act, which was passed last year and encourages data to be made available to the public for free.

The last regulations around public access to the mapping data were passed in 1992, when the technology was still new and more expensive to operate. Some GIS mapping data is already available for free, but the law still states that entities can charge for it.

See: Senate Bill 94, http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0094f.pdf

Source: http://technical.ly/baltimore/2015/02/18/gis-open-data-bill-sb94-bill-ferguson/

Research Data Alliance/US Call for Fellows

The Research Data Alliance (RDA) invites applications for its newly redesigned fellowship program. The program's goal is to engage early career researchers in the US in Research Data Alliance (RDA), a dynamic and young global organization that seeks to eliminate the technical and social barriers to research data sharing.

The successful Fellow will engage in the RDA through a 12-18 month project under the guidance of a mentor from the RDA community. The project is carried out within the context of an RDA Working Group (WG), Interest Group (IG), or Coordination Group (i.e., Technical Advisory Board), and is expected to have mutual benefit to both Fellow and the group's goals. Fellows receive a stipend and travel support and must be currently employed or appointed at a US institution.

Fellows have a chance to work on real-world challenges of high importance to RDA, for instance:
- Engage with social sciences experts to study the human and organizational barriers to technology sharing
- Apply a WG product to a need in the Fellow's discipline
- Develop plan and disseminate RDA research data sharing practices
- Develop and test adoption strategies
- Study and recommend strategies to facilitate adoption of outputs from WGs into the broader RDA membership and other organizations
- Engage with potential adopting organizations and study their practices and needs
- Develop outreach materials to disseminate information about RDA and its products
- Adapt and transfer outputs from WGs into the broader RDA membership and other organizations

The program involves one or two summer internships and travel to RDA plenaries during the duration of the fellowship (international and domestic travel). Fellows will receive a $5000 stipend for each summer of the fellowship. Fellows will be paired with a mentor from the RDA community. Through the RDA Data Share program, fellows will participate in a cohort building orientation workshop offering training in RDA and data sciences. This workshop is held at the beginning of the fellowship. RDA Data Share program coordinators will work with Fellows and mentors to clarify roles and responsibilities at the start of the fellowship.

Criteria for selection: The Fellows engaging in the RDA Data Share program are sought from a variety of backgrounds: communications, social, natural and physical sciences, business, informatics, and computer science. The RDA Data Share program will look for a T-shaped skill set, where early signs of cross discipline competency are combined with evidence of teamwork and communication skills, and a deep competency in one discipline. Additional criteria include: interest in and commitment to data sharing and open access; demonstrated ability to work in teams and within a limited time framework; and benefit to the applicant's career trajectory.

Eligibility: Graduate students and postdoctoral researchers at institutions of higher education in the United States, and early career researchers at U.S.-based research institutions who graduated with a relevant master's or PhD and are no more than three years beyond receipt of their degree. Applications from traditionally underserved populations are strongly encouraged to apply.

To apply: Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume/curriculum vitae and a 300-500 word statement that briefly describes their education, interests in data issues, and career goals to datashare-inquiry-l@list.indiana.edu. Candidates are encouraged to browse the RDA website https://rd-alliance.org/ and pages of interest and working groups to identify relevant topics and mutual interests.

Important dates:
April 16, 2015 - Fellowship applications are due
May 1, 2015 - Award notifications
June 18-19, 2015 - Fellowship begins with the orientation workshop in Bloomington, IN

Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

UAE: Ministry of Interior achieves best international standards in Geospatial Information Security


The GIS Center for Security (GIS CS) in Abu Dhabi has achieved a new accomplishment for the Ministry of Interior, MoI, through receiving accreditation from the Open Geospatial Consortium, OGC, for the ministry's model in structuring geospatial information for the purposes of law enforcement, public safety, and internal security.

The OGC has accredited the Ministry's model as the leading global practice and the principal contributor for police and other public safety-related authorities for their development of smart applications, software, and institutional practices.

The practices utilised by the GIS facilitate the exchange of geographical information and all related metadata on both local and international levels. Representing necessary international requirements, the accreditation supports the efforts made to identify international standards in this field, according to a statement posted on the official website.

Major-General Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, Acting Director-General of Electronics and Telecommunications Services, explained that the MoI represented by the GIS has undergone key developmental stages in order to emerge and establish the UAE as leader in setting the standards for open geospatial systems.
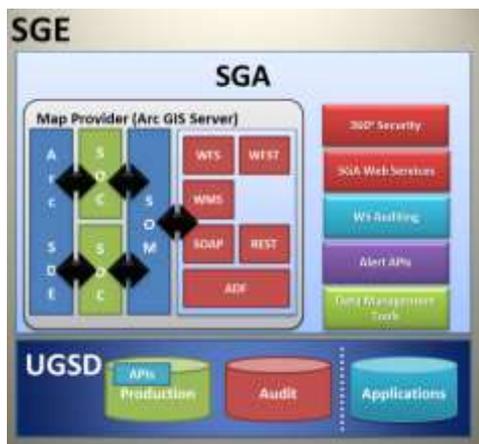
He also noted that the Centre is the first Arab entity to join the Consortium and international coalition adding that in 2013, the centre hosted strategic and technical meetings for the Open Geospatial Consortium for the first time in the MENA region.

See also: Unified Geo-data Reference Model for Law Enforcement and Public Safety, http://docs.opengeospatial.org/bp/14-106/14-106.html
The Unified Model was originally developed by the GIS Center for Security (GIS CS), Abu Dhabi Police. The GIS CS was initiated based on a UAE Ministry of Interior issued decree to establish GIS CS with the core mission: "To geo-enable police services and applications using International standards and best practices." In 2010, the GIS SC initiated a program to develop a Standardized GIS Environment (SGA). Part of this effort was to define and implement a standard data model for sharing Law Enforcement and Public Safety data.

Source: http://www.me-newswire.net/news/moi-achieves-best-international-standard-in-geospatial-information-security/en

Oman: National Spatial Strategy gets under way

Oman has launched its National Spatial Strategy, a major initiative which aims to develop the sultanate's future planning system, a report said. The Supreme Council for Planning (http://www.scp.gov.om/) is overseeing the preparation of the Oman National Spatial Strategy (ONSS), with Consatt Oman as main consulting engineer. Consatt's partners in the project are The Central European Institute of Technology, Freiland CE ltd, IBV Fallast Transport Planning Consultancy, and PRISMA solutions.

The project aims to arrive at a land use framework for development at the national and regional levels. It will incorporate regional strategies for all governorates and policies for the implementation of the ONSS based on the goals and objectives of Oman Vision 2020. The ONSS project includes: the preparation of highly significant plans and reports; the design and implementation of a national GIS (geographic information system)-based planning information system; the progressive introduction of new land use planning rules and processes; and the design and initiation of capacity building programmes. This alone makes the ONSS project one of Oman's largest, most complex and most significant spatial planning projects.

The project is being undertaken in four distinct phases, all of which — save for one — are the responsibility of Consatt Oman. The exception is a component that requires the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies covering all 11 governorates of the sultanate. The governorates are distributed under four contracts currently under tender. Each regional spatial strategy will focus on matters of significance to the region, matters requiring decisions to be made about policies, programmes and investments — their priority, timing, scale, location and so on — either at the regional level or on the initiative of, or with the input of, the region, according to the report.

See also: Development of a Planning Information System to Support Environmental Planning in the Sultanate of Oman in the Frame of the Oman National Spatial Strategy (2012), http://www.isocarp.net/Data/case_studies/2165.pdf

Source: http://www.gulfbase.com/news/oman-s-national-spatial-strategy-gets-under-way/274821

Jordan: iMMAP recruiting National GIS Officer / National Web Developer / National Infographics / National Database Developer

iMMAP (http://immap.org/) is a pioneering humanitarian organisation that is leading the way forward in the effective use of information management practices and principles in the service of humanitarian relief and development. The aim of this project based in Amman, Jordan is to provide Information Management support to the Regional Food Security Analysis Network (RFSAN, http://rfsan.info/) which is being established alongside the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN-FAO) who are the project lead of the network. The RFSAN aims to build: 1) the capacity of emergency food security and early warning units in the countries affected by the Syria crisis; 2) technical consensus through a regular and thematic situational analysis of relevant food security drivers across countries in the sub-region; 3) dissemination of well-analysed, high-quality information and use of best practices and lessons learned. The hired National Officers will work with the RFSAN team, and will be responsible for the spatial data, spatial analysis, websites, databases, maps and infographic products created for the RFSAN. These roles will assist in the development of the overall iMMAP strategy in collection, analysing and publishing information products under the project. This work will entail establishing templates, ensuring agreed-upon standards and branding, and ensure the accuracy of all spatial and non-spatial products, and subsequent analysis, is of the highest standard. Closing date: **10 February 2015**.

Source: http://reliefweb.int/job/823331/multiple-positions-national-gis-officer-national-web-developer-national-infographics

1st International Congress 'I SEE GEOMATICS': Mapping and Spatial Analysis of Socio-Economic and Environmental Indicators (ISEE) for local and regional sustainable development
25-26 March 2015, Tataouine, Tunisia

The Socio-Economic and Environmental Indicators (ISEE) allow to observe, to analyze the economic data and to measure their impact on the immediate environment and their contributions to the social networks. Example ISEE include:

- Exploitation rate of natural resources (water, oil, useful materials, etc),
- Intensity of the energy consumption by sector (agriculture, industry and transport),
- Net Migratory flows per governorate and per reason
- Quality checking of the air in urban areas
- Strengthening the adaptation to the climate change
- Vulnerability of the coastal domain to the risk of marine submersion due to the sea-level rise,
- Etc.

Within this framework, a case study of local and regional sustainable development in Tunisia and particularly the region of Tataouine will be undertaken. A current state-of-the art of the ISEE is necessary to help guiding the investors in their actions on the basis of the geomatics approach and particularly the digital mapping as well as the spatial and temporal analysis of the ISEE.

The International Congress will provide a venue to discuss the results of the undertaken researches in the digital mapping and its thematic and fundamental applications. It will also offer an opportunity to hold a national and international debate of experts on the study and analysis of indicators; to emphasize the Public, Private and NGO Partnership; to develop new perspectives in the quality, the automation and broadcasting of the spatial information for the spatial analysis in a Web environment for a wide public (i.e., "open data").

Co-organizers: Governorate of Tataouine, Local authorities, South Office of Development (ODS), National Institute of Research of Arid zone (INRA), Tunisian Environmental Observatory and Sustainable development (OTEDD), Ministry of Equipment, Urbanization and Sustainable Development, Ministry of High Education Research and TIC, Sciences City of Tunis, High Institute of Technology study (ISET) and Academic home of Tataouine, International Center of Environmental Technology of Tunis (CITET), Tunisian Association of Applied Geology (ATGA), National Office of Mines (ONM), Cadastral and Topography Office (OTC), National Center of Cartography and Remote Sensing (CNCT), Agency of Protection and Management of Littoral (APAL), National Agency of Environmental Protection (ANPE). Scientific Association of Water Information Systems (SAWIS), Ministry of culture, Ministry of Tourism.

SESSIONS
I- Mapping and spatial analysis of the ISEE
1. ISEE and LRSD, study of cases
2. Indicators of the global climate change
3. Spatial Modeling of the ISEE

II- Open data
1. Spatial Data Infrastructure
2. Land and 3D cadastral information systems for LRSD
3. International experiences of OD

III-Digital maps technology: Standards, quality and update
1- Mapping Standard, Quality
2- Automation of maps updating
3- Thematic Maps for LRSD (Water, Agriculture, Energy, Urban Development, Tourism, Environment, Health, Heritage, natural resources, natural hazards, etc)

Official languages: Arabic, French and English without simultaneous translation. Contact: atg.geomatique@gmail.com.

Source: http://physio-geo.revues.org/4306?file=1; http://www.cst.rnu.tn/ISEE-2015-FR.pdf; http://isee.atg-tn.org/

Eye on Earth Summit 2015: Informed Decision-Making for Sustainable Development
6-8 October 2015 Abu Dhabi, UAE

Following the success of the inaugural Summit 2011, the Eye on Earth Summit will take the centre stage once again in 2015. Eye on Earth Summit 2015 "Informed Decision-Making for Sustainable Development" is committed to identifying solutions for greater access to and sharing of environmental, societal and economic data.

Featuring an array of prominent speakers from across the globe, and convening 650 delegates and a global following, EoE Summit 2015 will cast the spotlight on the role governments, technology, the scientific community and citizen participation play in closing the "data gap" and enhancing access to quality data. The Summit will address:

- Data supply – including the availability of and access to environmental, societal and economic data; innovations in knowledge sharing and open access data; and the importance of crowd sourcing and citizen science for information gathering.
- Data demand – including data acquisition and management; how data can be communicated and visualised for optimal use; and current data requirements, challenges and solutions.
- Data enabling conditions – including the necessary legal, financial and technological infrastructures; and capabilities required to facilitate better availability of, access to and sharing of data.

Source: http://www.eoesummit.org/summit-2015/

Joint EOGC-GiT4NDM 2015 Conference, 8-10 December 2015, Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates

A joint 5th International Conference on Earth Observation for Global Changes and 7th Geo-information Technologies for Natural Disaster Management Conference (GiT4NDM 2015) (http://www.igrdg.com/Joint_Event.php) will be held in United Arab Emirates University (UAEU, CHSS-Geography and Urban Planning Department) in Al-Ain, 8-10 December 2015, co-organized by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Geography and Urban Planning Department, and WIDM Canada, University of Waterloo. The joint conference will provide a forum to present ongoing research and ideas related to earth observations and global change, natural hazards and disaster management studies with respect to geospatial information technology, remote sensing, and global navigation satellite systems. The conference will hold pre-conference workshops, keynotes, panel discussions and technical sessions. Authors are invited to submit an abstract and if accepted, to submit a full paper via the conference website.

- All full papers will be published in the conference proceedings. Selected papers will be peer-reviewed and published with SCI and ISI indexing journals.
- An Open Source Hands-on GIS workshop for Disaster management using QGIS and GRASS will be delivered by Prof. Scott Madry from USA.

Submission of abstracts: **1 August 2015**

Source: http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/events/5th-international-conference-earth-observation-global-changes-and-7th-geo

Global SDI News

Call for papers: Geography Journal - SDI: Techniques, Applications, and Underpinning Technologies

The development of SDI has a complex and multifaceted nature ranging from social, institutional, and financial challenges to technical and technological issues. To cope with these complexities, varieties of researches have been conducted in different disciplines including geographic information sciences, information and communication technology, computer sciences, social science, organizational behaviour, business management, and economical sciences just named as a few. The Geography Journal invites investigators to contribute original research articles as well as review articles that will stimulate the continuation effort to understand the complexities of SDIs, applications of SDI, and techniques for planning, development, and evaluation of SDIs. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:
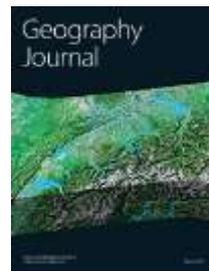
- Applications of underpinning technologies, such as geographic information system (GIS), remote sensing, and spatial web services to facilitate and support the development of SDI
- Applications of SDI frameworks in collaborative activities such as disaster management, urban planning, and environmental management and monitoring
- Automatic matching and integration of heterogeneous geographic datasets, especially matching crowd sourced data with high quality governmental data
- Good practices of implementing spatial data sharing and/or usage mechanisms
- Efforts on developing spatially enabled society and spatially enabled e-government

Authors can submit their manuscripts via the Manuscript Tracking System at
http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/geography/taut/. Manuscript deadline: **5 June 2015**.

Source: http://www.hindawi.com/journals/geography/si/595386/cfp/

CFP: Special Issue "20 Years of OGC: Open Geo-Data, Software, and Standards"
ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information. Deadline for manuscript submissions: **30 April 2015**

The year 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC). After two decades, OGC standards have become a key enabler of geospatial interoperability, delivering significant societal, economic and scientific benefits by integrating digital location resources into commercial and institutional processes worldwide. Emerging technologies such as cloud computing, smartphones, UAVs, sensor networks and the Internet of Things offer new ways of collecting, accessing, and analyzing geospatial information, generating an ever increasing interest in the diffusion, usage, and processing of geo-referenced data. This rapidly expanding technology domain brings exciting new challenges and opportunities to many scientific disciplines and to the geospatial interoperability research community.

You are invited to contribute to this Special Issue of ISPRS International Journal for Geo-Information, which will focus on research in the development and application of geospatial interoperability standards. This special issue will present the progress and future directions of geospatial interoperability as it applies to computer science and to sciences in which geoprocessing has become an essential tool.

Source: http://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijgi/special_issues/OGC

Inter-organizational transactions cost management with public key registers: Findings from the Netherlands

Author(s): Walter T. de Vries (Faculty Geo-information Science and Earth Observation, University of Twente, Enschede, Netherlands) and Hanneke Ester (Fontys University of Applied Sciences, Eindhoven, Netherlands)
International Journal of Public Administration in the Digital Age (IJPADA), Volume 2, Issue 2, pages 22-32 (2015) [not an open access journal]

Abstract: Cross-organizational e-Government projects must comply with separate and alternative accounting systems. The compliance brings about two types of problems: the emergence of transaction costs because of having to create additional and often more complex, accounting systems and a reduction of financial autonomy and accountability of individual public agencies. Conceptually transaction cost theory, in particular through using the construction 'asset specificity' and 'uncertainty' can qualify these problems. Empirically, a case study approach helps to

contextualize these problem in a given (inter-)organizational, economical and institutional environment. The present research employs these choices to explore how the Netherlands e-Government case of establishing national key registers affects the inter-organizational accounting practices and the financial autonomy of a single organization, the Dutch Kadaster. This domain study reveals that while cross-organizational e-Government projects indeed reach cost efficiency in back-office operations they also incur transaction costs in accounting. This increases the institutional uncertainty, while decreasing the asset specificity. Both effects imply a loss in autonomy and accountability of individual public organization, such as the Kadaster. Hence, while e-Government project may operate efficiently and effectively across organizations, it reduces that of individual organizations.

Source: http://www.igi-global.com/article/inter-organizational-transactions-cost-management-with-public-key-registers/121534

A geospatial search engine for discovering multi-format geospatial data across the web

Author(s): Christopher Bone, Alan Ager, Ken Bunzel, and Lauren Tierney
International Journal of Digital Earth, published online 24 October 2014 (not an open access journal)

Abstract: The volume of publically available geospatial data on the web is rapidly increasing due to advances in server-based technologies and the ease at which data can now be created. However, challenges remain with connecting individuals searching for geospatial data with servers and websites where such data exist. The objective of this paper is to present a publically available Geospatial Search Engine (GSE) that utilizes a web crawler built on top of the Google search engine in order to search the web for geospatial data. The crawler seeding mechanism combines search terms entered by users with predefined keywords that identify geospatial data services. A procedure runs daily to update map server layers and metadata, and to eliminate servers that go offline. The GSE supports Web Map Services, ArcGIS services, and websites that have geospatial data for download. We applied the GSE to search for all available geospatial services under these formats and provide search results including the spatial distribution of all obtained services. While enhancements to our GSE and to web crawler technology in general lie ahead, our work represents an important step toward realizing the potential of a publically accessible tool for discovering the global availability of geospatial data.

Keywords: geospatial data, web crawler, search engine, Web Map Service, data access

Source: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17538947.2014.966164

Interlinking Opensource Geo-Spatial Datasets for Optimal Utility in Ranking
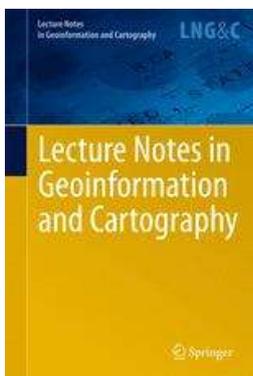
Author(s): D. Bhattacharya, P. Pasquali, J. Komarkova, P. Sedlak, A. Saha, P. Boccardo
Modern Trends in Cartography, Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography 2015, pp 159-172 [not an open access eBook], selected Papers of CARTOCON 2014

Abstract: The joining of geospatial datasets is required to utilize the complete set of information available in each of them. There are many open source geospatial datasets available such as GeoNames, Open Street Map, Natural Earth and to get a comprehensive dataset with the union of all available information it is important that such datasets are linked optimally without redundancy or loss of information. Many of the geolocations on digital maps are not classified for importance because of the lack of additional information such as population or administrative level. A way to give an importance scale to the names is by linking the GeoNames to other datasets (OSM, natural earth). OpenStreetMap data provides a limited number of place classifications (such as city, town, village). For the best cartographic results we need classes that are a little more comprehensive about how they rank cities. The challenges faced include geometry searching, matching, buffer determination, local regional naming text inclusion and accuracy. This has been achieved by the current research work where presently GeoNames, Natural Earth and Open Street Map data tables have been merged with the union of all their attribute columns resulting in a complete geospatial dataset with place accuracy of at least 95 % for any given country dataset. The data tables at global level consist of hundreds of thousands of rows with each row depicting a geolocation. The geometry, name and geo-id complete and fuzzy searching and matching around a buffer of 50 km took a minimum of 30 s to maximum 1 min in a commodity computer with 2 GHz, 2 GB memory, according to size and complexity of the query run for a country which could have a list of points ranging from a dozen to several hundreds. The future aim is to ultimately do this for global datasets to create an all-encompassing geodata bank having such information as administrative, political, ecological details from important databases as GAUL, SALB, GADM etc.

Keywords: Data tables, Fuzzy matching, Geometry, GeoNames, Geospatial, Interlinking, Label ranking, Mapping, Metadata, Natural Earth, Open Street Map, Open-source data sets, Scale ranking
Source: http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-07926-4_13

Intellectual Property Law and Geospatial Information: Some Challenges

Author(s): Teresa Scassa, D.R. Fraser Taylor
The WIPO Journal, Volume 6, Issue 1 (2014): 79-88

Abstract: This article examines the role of intellectual property (IP) law in shaping SDIs—those digital repositories of data that define and structure our understanding of physical space. We argue that IP law has played a role in determining how digital geospatial data are shared and used, and that it has become, of necessity, an element to be managed within SDIs. This is more than just a matter of the drafting of licensing agreements. IP law in this context is linked to notions of authority and authenticity. It plays an important role in defining the ever-shifting relationships between producers and users of geospatial data.

Keywords: Data processing; Databases; Geography; Intellectual property; Licensing; Traditional knowledge

Source: http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_journal_wpj6n1.pdf

GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR

GSDI's calendar of upcoming international events at http://www.gsdi.org/upcnf is a unique summary of global and regional conferences, symposiums, workshops, and other related gatherings that pertain to spatial data infrastructure, such as spatial data handling, data visualization, open data policy, research cyberinfrastructure, and RS/GIS applications. GSDI is always on the lookout to include appropriate events, so if you know about one which is not already included, feel free to submit it.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS

To see the latest news from the e-mail Forums maintained by the GSDI Committees and the regional SDI news, visit the website at http://www.gsdi.org/discussionlists, choose the Forum of interest and select the 'Archives' option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above. You do not have to be a member of the GSDI Association in order to join a Forum.

The GSDI Association

Our Vision … is of a world where everyone can readily discover, access and apply geographic information to improve their daily lives.

Our Purpose … is to encourage international cooperation that stimulates the implementation and development of national, regional and local spatial data infrastructures.

Our Mission … is to advance geo-information best practices, knowledge sharing and capacity building for the improved sharing and application of geographic information.

For more information, visit the GSDI Association website at http://www.gsdi.org

The GSDI Regional Newsletter is edited by Kate Lance, GSDI News Editor, and published by the GSDI Association. The Editor may be contacted at newseditor@gsdi.org. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to SDI initiatives at any level, or send e-mail announcement to news@gsdi.org.

"Advancing a Location Enabled World"