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

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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.

Message from the Editor

In updating the calendar of events at the GSDI Association's website, I noticed an overlap of conferences that seem quite similar in terms of theme/content and intended audience. The ESRI Health GIS Conference is being held November 3rd and 4th in Colorado Springs, Colorado (http://www.esri.com/events/health/agenda), while the 3rd International ACM SIGSPATIAL Workshop on HealthGIS (HealthGIS'14) is scheduled on November 4th a stone's throw away in Dallas, Texas (http://healthgis.tamu.edu/), and just prior, from October 31st to November 2nd, the 8th International Symposium on Geospatial Health (GnosisGIS 2014) was underway in New Orleans, Louisiana, (http://www.gnosisgis.org/index.php/meetings/). That makes three international events focusing on GIS in the health sector taking place in a span of a week.

Similarly, it caught my eye that next year, the Eye on Earth (EoE) Summit 2015 is scheduled for October 6 to 8 in 2015 in Abu Dhabi, UAE (http://www.eoesummit.org/), while the 9th Symposium of the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) will be taking place October 6th to 10th in 2015 in Halifax, Canada (http://digitalearth2015.ca/initial/index.php). Some people no doubt will wish they could participate in both events.

I suppose it is a good thing that geospatial community now is large enough to support multiple, overlapping events, but perhaps such overlaps point to an opportunity for greater synergy and synchronization. GSDI's calendar of events at http://www.gsdi.org/upcnf is a fairly comprehensive summary of global and regional conferences, symposiums, and workshops pertaining to aspects of spatial data infrastructure, such as spatial data handling, data visualization, open data policy, research cyberinfrastructure, and RS/GIS applications. The calendar is one way GSDI supports coordination and information flow between organizations. If you have not already taken a gander, please check it out. And if you know of an event which has not yet been included, please pass along the details.

Kate Lance, News Editor

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Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

Botswana: Mapping Botswana website launched in September 2014

Mapping Botswana is a project that aims to map Botswana so its citizens, organizations and companies can easily see maps, routes, amenities and more in Botswana. This of course extends to the rest of the world, for example tourists visiting Botswana.

It is the official goal of the Mapping Botswana project that upon the 50th anniversary of independence of Botswana on 30th September 2016, in accordance with the Vision 2016 goals of entering the information age on equal footing, that the map of Botswana will be exemplary and usable by all, with every settlement mapped.

This lofty goal requires not only the helping hands of both the citizens of Botswana and of other countries who take part in it - but also co-operation from official sources. Many government agencies have compiled geographic data for their stated purposes but they do not share it amongst each other and not with the public either. These are the exact conditions that led to the foundation of OpenStreetMap in Britain in 2004.

The project uses OpenStreetMap as the data source tool, and enjoys all the benefits that come with it. For example the numerous apps available for smartphones and tablets, usually usable offline to save data charges or where Internet connections are slow (a problem in many places in Botswana).

OpenStreetMap is open data: you are free to use it for any purpose as long as you credit OpenStreetMap and its contributors. The hope is that enough Batswana take part for a local chapter to be formed in Botswana which makes sure the project stays on tracks and takes ownership of the openstreetmap.org.bw domain.

See also: Mapping Botswana's diary, http://www.openstreetmap.org/user/Mapping%20Botswana/diary/
Mapping Botswana on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/MappingBotswana

Source: http://www.openstreetmap.org.bw/about.php

Developing a water resources information system for the Lake Victoria Basin

Working with the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), DHI developed a Water Resources Information System (WRIS), enabling stakeholders to access, share and evaluate available basin data.

Several East African countries depend on Lake Victoria – the world's second largest freshwater body – for transportation, hydropower generation, food and water. Well-documented environmental changes have occurred in Lake Victoria's and the basin's ecosystems over the past several decades. Concerns about these changes led to the creation of the large-scale Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP).

As part of the LVEMP, DHI is developing and operationalising a Water Resources Information System (WRIS) for use by multiple stakeholders, including technical and managerial personnel. The WRIS is an innovative solution based on DHI's MIKE CUSTOMISED IMS platform. With easy and robust data exchange, the system helps to: facilitate shared use of information and provide a sustainable and expandable knowledge repository with information from past and future projects. The WRIS contains relevant national and regional data, supporting assessments with a regional perspective. By fostering efficient data and information management at the LVBC, the WRIS will improve and facilitate data collection, transfer, storing, analysis and knowledge sharing.
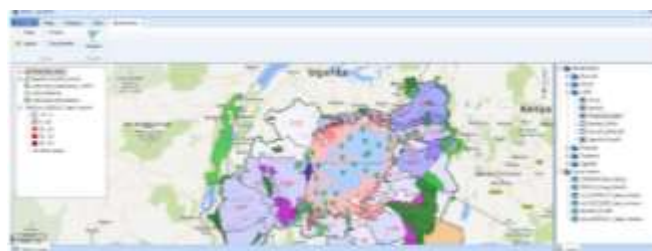
It will provide a platform through which the LVB countries can make data and information available (via agreed protocols) while allowing them to also use the WRIS for their own purposes. This will enable stakeholders to make better use of data and utilise study findings – encouraging the creation and sharing of knowledge while leading to improved management and planning.
See: MIKE Customised case study:
http://www.dhigroup.com/-/media/shared%20content/global/references/emea/case%20stories/lake%20victoria%20case%20story%20v1.3%20-%20dhi%20case%20story.pdf

Source: http://www.dhigroup.com/global/news/2014/09/29/developing-a-water-resources-information-system-for-the-lake-victoria-basin

Ethiopia: Implementation of Urban Land Information System getting underway

The Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Construction (MUDHCo) is about to launch the implementation of Urban Land Information System project. One of the objectives of the Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Construction (MUDHCo) is to curb the problems of mismanagement and increase the real pension in urban areas through the establishment of the Cadastre and Real Property Registration System.

The assessment of the existing situation clearly shows that the data formats used to store the cadastral and real property records as well as the data models are not consistent enough to make integration of the data at regional and federal level and that there is no clear definition of when and which data format is applicable.

Moreover, the lack of well trained personnel to carry out cadastral and real property registration activities is another characteristic of the existing system.

In July 2014, the international Consortium led by IGN France International was awarded a 2-year contract for monitoring the implementation of the Cadastral and Real Property Information System. IGN France and GeoMark Plc are also involved in the consortium.

The main objective of the project is to assist and support the MUDHCo in successfully accomplishing the design, development and deployment of the Cadastral and Real Property Information System through this supervision project. The activities taken in charge by the consortium include the following tasks:
- Achievement of the system development specifications,
- Elaboration of the standards,
- Gathering and formalisation of user requirements,
- Elaboration of general system architecture,
- Supervision of system development and deployment, and
- Training and capacity building activities implementation.

The system will be deployed in six pilot regions (Addis Ababa, Harar, Oromia, SNNP, Amhara, and Tigray). In the perspective of land and real estate property management with up-to-date technologies, the MUDHCo will ensure the implemented system is reliable, effective, secure and easy for use.

Source: http://www.ignfi.fr/en/content/ethiopia-prepares-implementation-urban-land-information-system

Rwanda: One Stop Centre coordinators trained on GIS

From 11th up to 12th September 2014, Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) organized a two day training session for District and City of Kigali one stop center Coordinators on GIS/ applied land management and valuation. The training was held at Nobleza Hotel in Kicukiro District.

The main objective of the training was to enhance the participants' capacity to exploit GIS technology so that they can deliver quality services in the area of land management and land valuation. This training was planned in line with RALGA core responsibility of members' capacity building in the area of local economic development through the "Local Government Capacity Program 2012-2016 (LGCP) " financed by VNG International, thanks to the Netherland Government support. This program focuses mainly on supporting Local Government entities in the area of land - management and Public Private Partnership and aims at enabling the beneficiaries to ultimately achieve food security.

Source: http://ralgarwanda.org/news-center/latest-news/article/one-stop-centre-coordinators

Institute for African Development Launches Project on Building Research Capacity for Development

The Institute for African Development (IAD) is pleased to announce the launch of the project Building Spatial Data Collection and Research Capacity for Sustainable Development. This project is made possible by the Andy Paul Africa Initiative Fund. The purpose of the project is to pilot a Geographical Information (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) training session in Moshi, Tanzania, and in Lusaka, Zambia with the goal of producing the training workshops in other sub-Saharan African countries.

The long term purpose of the training is to improve the capability of partner institutions to gather data, conduct spatial analysis, monitor and evaluate programs and projects, and ultimately improve decision making in three fields, i.e., public health research and planning, wild life conservation, and land tenure formalization.

The project partners will include City and Regional Planning, Cornell Global Health Program, the HoneyGuide Foundation (HGF), a grassroots, NGO based in Tanzania that focuses on communities and the conservation of wildlife and natural resources; The Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College in Tanzania; and the Sustainable Moshi program. Other partners include the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR) and the University of Zambia School of Medicine. The project will commence in the summer of 2015 and will be directed by Stephan Schmidt, City and Regional Planning (Cornell).

Oversight members of the project are Professors Muna Ndulo (Law); Rebecca Stolzfus, (Nutrition) Edwin MacIlellan (IAD) and, Jeanne Mosley (Global Health) will also participate in the implementation of the project. For more information contact Muna Ndulo, Director, Institute for African Development and Professor of Law, Cornell Law School.

Source: http://einaudi.cornell.edu/node/9460

Nigeria: Nigerian Geospatial Awareness Forum

Networking with over 1,120 Nigerian GIS professionals and experts on Facebook to learn new GIS tricks.
The Nigerian Geospatial Awareness Forum was formed on Facebook two years ago as a platform for professionals, experts, stakeholders, students, etc to freely and consistently share ideas, tricks, GIS data of Nigeria, and other resources about where GIS can take us in Nigeria. This forum also provides a good opportunity to network with others and feel the GIS buzz in Nigeria.

There are currently over 1,120 active members who are sharing GIS tricks and tips, best practices, GI Standards, GI news, FREE GIS trainings, FREE GIS data, webinars, tutorials etc. Some companies are beginning to use this platform to post GIS job vacancies to recruit Nigerian GIS experts.

This group was set up to openly discuss what is happening or should be happening within Nigerian geospatial industry and proffering practical suggestions on how to correct certain anomalies that are affecting the uptake of Geospatial technologies in both Private and public sectors in Nigeria. Members share a common passion for GIS and are interested in actively contributing to the body of knowledge of GIS as it affects Nigeria. To join this group, simply search for "Nigerian Geospatial Awareness Forum" on Facebook or click on this link:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/189311854533740/

Sénégal: Premier atelier du Réseau Africain de formation et de recherche en géographie et santé urbaine

L'Université Cheikh Anta DIOP de Dakar abrite le premier atelier du Réseau Africain de formation et de recherche en géographie et santé urbaine du 13 au 15 octobre 2014. Organisé par le Laboratoire Dynamiques territoriales et Santé du Département de Géographie de l'UCAD, cette rencontre doit permettre de :

- faire l'état des lieux sur l'offre actuelle de formation en géographie de la santé et en santé urbaine dans l'ensemble des pays membres ;
- identifier les programmes de recherche prioritaires et les modes de coopération ;
- favoriser la transmission des connaissances entre chercheurs et acteurs des systèmes de santé pour une meilleure réponse à la demande sociale et une aide à la décision.

Le réseau regroupe les géographes de la santé et les spécialistes de santé urbaine de dix neuf universités africaines pour développer la formation et la recherche sur les dynamiques territoriales et sanitaires.
Il répond ainsi aux objectifs de la réforme Licence-Master-Doctorat (LMD) qui préconise la création d'espaces de partage des enseignements et de la recherche entre les universités africaines et de partenariat avec le monde professionnel.
Télécharger le programme prévisionnel:
http://www.ucad.sn/files/Programme%20pr%C3%A9visionnel%20octobre%202014.pdf

English summary: **First Workshop of the African Network for Training and Research in Geography and Urban Health**
The Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar is home to the first workshop of the African Network for Training and Research in Geography and Urban Health, held from 13 to 15 October 2014. Organized by the Territorial dynamics and Health, Department of Geography, UCAD Laboratory, the meeting intended to:
• make an inventory of the current training offerings in health geography and urban health in all member countries;
• identify priority research programs and modes of cooperation;
• promote knowledge transfer between researchers and actors in health systems for improved response to social demands and decision support.

The network includes health geographers and specialists in urban health nineteen African universities to develop training and research Land and health dynamics. The meeting responds to the objectives of the Licence-Master-Doctorate (LMD) program, which advocates for the creation of areas of shared learning and research among African universities and partnerships with the business world.

Source: http://www.ucad.sn/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1113:2014-10-07-09-12-08&catid=136:communiques&Itemid=315

Launch of Regional Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in Central Africa

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA, http://www.biopama.org), has launched a regional Observatory for biodiversity and protected areas in Central Africa, with OFAC (Observatory for Central African Forests) as the host organisation, based in Yaounde, Cameroon. The EU-ACP funded BIOPAMA initiative aims to provide a better understanding of the trends and threats to protected areas in Central Africa in order to support better decision-making to improve the management of protected areas. It is jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), in collaboration with the Observatory for Central African Forests (OFAC). The Regional Observatory will contribute to the collation and sharing of relevant data and information on protected areas in Central Africa and provide support on decision-making processes to governments across the region.

Source: http://www.biopama.org/learn_more/?18461/Launch-of-Regional-Observatory-for-Biodiversity-and-Protected-Areas-in-Central-Africa

Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

China: NASG co-sponsors High Level Forum on United Nations Global Information Management

The National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG) co-sponsored the High Level Forum on United Nations Global Information Management (UN-GGIM), held 22-24 October 2014 in Beijing. Authorities from nearly 20 countries gathered to discuss geo-information's role in promoting sustainable development. The three-day forum addressed geospatial information in the post-2015 development agenda. Discussions centered around critical development issues such as mitigating climate change, disasters, sustainable cities, human settlement and cross-border cooperation.
(see http://ggim.un.org/3rd%20HLF.html)

During the forum, the NASG signed documents with geo-info authorities from countries including Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Israel, Mongolia, and Sweden in a bid to strengthen cooperation in China's Beidou navigation system development, monitoring of geographical conditions, building a geo-info database and digital cities.

Source: http://www.ecns.cn/2014/10-23/139631.shtml

China: 30-meter resolution global land cover (GlobeLand30) dataset donated to UN

The world's first 30-meter resolution global land cover (GLC) dataset, GlobeLand30, has been donated by China to the United Nations. UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon praised this timely donation during the donation Ceremony on the 22nd September 2014. He said "The World needs solid, science-based information for making wise decisions for sustainable development. This donation is very timely and precious. Tomorrow, global leaders will gather at the United Nations to participate in the Climate Change Summit and to confirm their commitments to action. These detailed data sets will help us to better understand, monitor and manage changes in land cover and land use all over our planet. I commend you for this laudable example of information sharing". This global dataset will be freely available to Member States and the international community to assist in their scientific decision-making, and to measure and monitor critical environmental components of the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda, as reported by UN Statistics Division.

For the past four years, China's National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG) has developed and prepared GlobeLand30, the world's first global land cover datasets at a 30m resolution, for the years 2000 and 2010. The datasets are organized by ten major land cover classes and provide essential high resolution land cover and change information for climate change studies, environment monitoring, resource management, sustainable development, and many other societal benefit areas. These global datasets will be freely available to Member States and the international community to assist in their scientific decision-making, and to measure and monitor critical environmental components of the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda.
See: GlobeLand30, http://www.globallandcover.com/GLC30Download/index.aspx

Source: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/GlobeLand30.htm

China: Building comprehensive EO system

China plans to build an earth observation (EO) system that integrates use of air-, space-, and ground-based technology, including UAVs, satellites, and GNSS systems, within the next ten years, a top official said this week. China has already built a network of satellites and other facilities for earth observation in pursuing its space programs including manned space navigation, a lunar probe and its Beidou navigation system, but officials said much remains to be done in the actual application of the technology.

According to Xu Dazhe, head of the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence, remote sensing via satellites and other technology has played an important role in the national economic and social development. Mr Dazhe added that the administration will promote the construction of a high-definition earth observation system and the spatial data infrastructure.

Source: http://earsc.org/news/china-to-build-comprehensive-eo-system

Chinese translation available of GSDI's October SDI Regional Newsletter

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Jeremy Shen, vice-Chair, Capacity Building of the GSDI Association's Societal Impacts Committee, Chinese translations of the monthly Asia-Pacific section of the SDI Regional Newsletters are available. The October SDI Regional Newsletter translated into Chinese can be access at this link: http://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1614. For past and future Chinese translations of A-P news, please visit the GSDI Newsletter archive at: http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#AP

India: Land resource information system for Thrissur launched

Minister for Rural Development, Planning and Dairy Development K.C. Joseph launched on October 27th the Land Resource Information System for Thrissur district, a web-based Geographic Information System developed by the Kerala State Land Use Board (KSLUB). The LRIS, a comprehensive database of land and water resources, is intended to demonstrate and promote the use of spatial data technologies for local level planning and to provide software support for data management, modelling and operation research. (for LRIS, see http://14.139.189.169/LRIS/Kerala/index.php)

The database will include details of land use, geomorphology, lithology, geological structures, drainage lines, canal network, micro watershed, boundaries of local self-government institutions, forests, wells, settlements, road and rail networks, ground water, wetland and wasteland. State-of-the-art web technology tools and systems conforming to services-oriented architecture are used. The web GIS application has been developed using open source tools and standards. The application may be accessed through any standard web browser with user-friendly navigational approach. The information may thus be transmitted to the grassroots for supporting decision making and development planning.

Source: http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-kerala/land-resource-information-system-for-thrissur-to-be-launched/article6502500.ece

India: GIS based decision support system launched by Environment ministry

The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), in coordination with Forest Survey of India (FSI) – Dehradun, is developing a GIS based decision support system (DSS) which will be fully operational by the end of October. Currently in its initial stages, the DSS will support decision-makers with quick access to high resolution satellite imagery and ground details of forest cover, eco-sensitive zones, geo-referenced boundaries of protected areas and net present value (NVP) of region and state-wise forest cover. The initiative is part of the ongoing process to streamline green clearance process for industrial, infrastructure, mining and power projects by the Indian government.

The DSS will be used for daily patrolling, surveillance and monitoring of wildlife and forest cover and will have specific components for wildlife management like information on notified tiger corridors, migratory corridors and endangered flora and fauna habitat. The system will also provide information on location of forest infrastructure like watch towers and Very High Frequency (VHF) towers.

The DSS will be the third high-tech platform to smoothen green clearance processes. Already functional platforms include an online environment clearance (EC) system and an online forest clearance (FC) system, launched in June and July respectively. Traditionally industries first had to get an environment clearance followed by a forest clearance. But now, together, these systems aim at giving industries both environmental and forest clearance simultaneously in a day. This results in a fast track process which is also transparent in nature.

All proposals for forest clearance are being accepted only through the online portal with effect from August 15. The ministry claims that Online Submission and Monitoring of Forest Clearance Proposal (OSMFCP) has drastically reduced the need for human interface between the green ministry officials and clearance applicants at all level, cutting the time involved in the process. "These measures were intended to bring in more transparency, efficiency and accountability in grant of regulatory clearances," Indian Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar said after launch of the portal.

Source: http://geospatialworld.net/News/View.aspx?id=30033_Article

Nepal: Nepalese Journal on Geoinformatics, No. 13 (May-June 2014)

The Nepalese Journal of Geoinformatics, an annual publication of Survey Department, Ministry of Land Reform and Management, Government of Nepal, aims to include research and informative articles in the field of geo-informatics and regular features concerning annual activities of Survey Department. See archive at: http://dos.gov.np/new/index5d77.html?page=publication Archive

In the latest issue, the forward by Nagendra Jha, previous Director General of the Survey Department, states that "Currently, Survey Department's activities are directed towards '2nd Generation Reform', which mainly includes technological transformation, enhancement of accuracy and completeness of its products, modernization of the methods of service delivery, and overall capacity building of the Department. In absence of required resources and capacity, the mission is moving with snail's pace though. I believe, the Department will be able to draw due attention of the Government in this line."
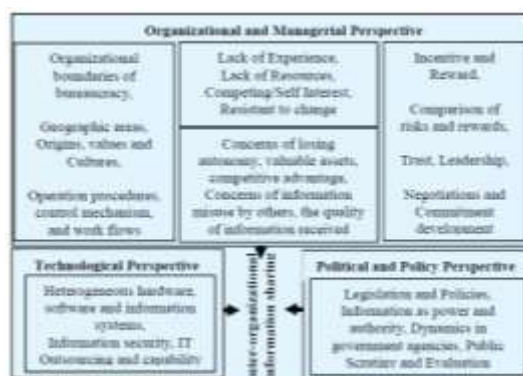
Note: ***Influential Factors of Geo-Information Sharing*** (pages 7-13); Looking back 2013-2014 (pages 14-15); Call for papers (page 32) - The Editorial Board requests papers or articles related to geoinformatics for publication in the next issue of the Nepalese Journal on Geoinformatics. Deadline for submission of articles is **March 31, 2015**.

Source: http://dos.gov.np/upload/publication/13_nepalesejournal13.pdf (21 MB)

Sri Lanka: Creation of Digital Elevation Model enabling disaster resilience

On 11th September 2014, the Survey Department at the Ministry of Land and Land Development and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed an agreement for a capacity development project named "Creation of Digital Elevation Model enabling Disaster Resilience." JICA will provide Technical Cooperation to further develop the capacity of the Survey Department by implementing the project aimed at creating a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) to enhance the disaster resiliency of Sri Lanka.

This project will conduct Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) survey which uses a laser beam from an airplane to scan the ground surface to capture the data needed to create a DEM. The project goal is to acquire the data for 7,800km^2 including Colombo and Gampaha areas, as well as the mountainous regions of Nuwara Eliya, Kegalle and Kandy. Sri Lanka has conducted a few LiDAR surveys, but this will be the first project to develop the institutional capacity of the Survey Department to conduct such surveys.

Source: http://www.jica.go.jp/srilanka/english/office/topics/c8h0vm000001u5nz-att/140909.pdf

Japan: Statistical and Geospatial Information

Author(s): Naoki Makita (Mr.), National Statistics Centre, Japan; Tomoo Asakawa (Mr.), Statistical Bureau of Japan IAOS 2014 Conference on Official Statistics Program - Meeting the demands of a changing world, 8-10 October 2014, Da Nang, Viet Nam. Theme 3 Topic: Towards a global statistical-geospatial framework.

This presentation summarizes two key geospatial frameworks of Japan:
1) Census Mapping System Data (CMS data), coordinated by the Statistics Bureau of Japan (SBJ). A framework for presenting small area statistics of Population Census result which has been freely disseminated since 2004
2) Fundamental Geospatial Data (FGD), coordinated by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI). A legal framework as the national spatial data infrastructure which was developed progressively from 2008 and

became available nationwide by March 2012.

Source: https://iaos2014.gso.gov.vn/document/maki1.s1.v1.pdf

Japan: GeoSpatial Expo, 13-15 November 2014, Tokyo

The Expo is an annual event where government, industry and academia congregate, collaborate, and promote the utilization and application of geospatial information and satellite positioning to ultimately create a geographic information-oriented society.

Source: http://www.g-expo.jp/

Bhutan: National Committee for GIS Coordination launches geospatial portal

Almost 14 years after it was initiated, the Bhutan Geospatial Portal (www.geo.gov.bt), which stores and presents all types of spatial or geographical data, is now in place. On October 13th, in commemoration of the third royal wedding anniversary, Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen launched the geospatial portal at the National Land Commission's (NLC) headquarters in Thimphu. The portal has been developed by the Committee for GIS Coordination. At the launch, NLC secretary Pema Chewang explained that spatial data infrastructure is considered as important as any other infrastructure, like roads and bridges. However, efforts to set up a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in the country did not attract donors in the past. "Without it, mapping of the population and housing census, 2005, had to be carried out from scratch with huge cost implication," he said. "Mapping for elections in 2008 also took more than two years." Standardisation, coordination, partnership and data sharing, he said, justified the importance and significance of NSDI in Bhutan. NLC developed the portal with technical support from International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). Bhutan's National agency for GIS Coordination (NAGISC) was established in 2000 for promoting the use of GIS in various government sectors.

See also: Center for GIS Coordination, http://www.nlcs.gov.bt/nlc/public/division/display/id/7

Source: http://www.kuenselonline.com/a-one-stop-shop-for-geo-information/

Viet Nam: UN-SPIDER Workshop and Exercises, 10-15 November 2014

As a follow up of the Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) conducted by UN-SPIDER to Viet Nam in March 2013 (http://www.un-spider.org/advisory-support/advisory-missions/technical-advisory-missions/vietnam-technical-advisory-mission), UN-SPIDER has planned a workshop and exercises in Viet Nam from 10 to 15 November 2014. These activities support the implementation of the recommendations made during the 2013 mission, which included capacity building.

The event will be jointly conducted by UN-SPIDER and Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA). It is based on the "Geospatially Enabling Community Collaboration" framework, which was developed and refined over a 10-year period and successfully implemented in the United States, Japan, and Australia. (GECCo, https://sites.google.com/site/gitagecco/home)

The workshop and exercise is proposed with two objectives: First, to empower the government to use space-based and geospatial information at the local and regional level during a crisis. Second, to foster personal relationships and knowledge exchange required at the local and regional level for successful collaboration during a Disaster.

The event is co-sponsored by GITA and other partner organisations including the Pacific Disaster Centre, UNDP Viet Nam, OCHA, DigitalGlobe, and ESRI, which are offering support of various kinds to conduct the event.

Source: http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/news/viet-nam-un-spider-workshop-and-exercises-scheduled-november

Conference abstracts& workshops for GIS-IDEAS 2014, 6-9 December 2014, Danang, Vietnam

The International Conference on GeoInformatics for Spatial-Infrastructure Development in Earth & Allied Sciences (GIS-IDEAS) is scheduled to take place in University of Science and Education - The University of Danang (DUEd), Vietnam, 6-9 December 2014. GIS-IDEAS 2014 is seventh in the series of very successful Conferences. The main theme of the GIS-

IDEAS 2014 "Geoinformatics Education and Capacity Building for Urban Management and Smart Cities". The language of the conference will be English. The conference program will be finalized soon. Abstracts are available online at: http://gisws.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/gisideas14/papers.php?first_letter=all

Four training workshops will be conducted on 6 December 2014.
See: http://gisws.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/gisideas14/training.pdf
- Workshop 1: Environmental Mapping Using Open Source GIS and Open Data
- Workshop 2: Introduction to Quantum GIS
- Workshop 3: WebGIS application development using MapMint
- Workshop 4: Hands-on intro to LiDAR processing with LAStools

Seats for workshops are limited and will be allotted on first-come-first-serve basis. So register early to avoid disappointments. http://gisws.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/gisideas14/registration.php

The conference fee is kept very low for host country participants and students. The organizers are not in a position to provide any assistance/support for travel or stay to attend the conference.

Source: http://gisws.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/gisideas14/index.php

Lao PDR: Continuation of Technical Assistance for Strengthening National Geographic Services

FINNMAP together with SKM GISAir Oy continue the "Strengthening National Geographic Services in Lao PDR"–project (SNGS) by a project extension for the period 10/2014 – 12/2015. The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) of the extension period is Sami Jänne, who worked as the GIS Advisor for the previous phase of the project.

The Finnish government funded project was initiated in August 2008 to provide support for the National Geographic Department (NGD, http://www.ngdlaos.la/) to create, maintain, manage, provide and distribute reliable geographic data services in Lao PDR. Amongst other activities within this project, aerial photographs for 161'000km2 were collected and processed updated into orthophotos and topographic maps. The digital photo map files, DSM data, printed photo map sheets and raw photos are available for government and private companies and projects from NGD in Vientiane.

Source: *http://www.finnmap.com/2014/continuation-technical-assistance-laos/*

Free & Open Solutions for Geoinformatics-Asia Conference, 2-5 December 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

FOSS4G-Asia 2014 aims to bring together FOSS4G users and developers worldwide and foster closer interactions with and amongst Asian communities in order to share ideas for improving software and applications. The Bangkok conference will cover all aspects of FOSS4G, Open Data and Open Standards, with a particular focus on exchanging experiences between FOSS4G users and developers and providing first-hand information on FOSS4G for developing national/local spatial data infrastructures in Asian countries. FOSS4G-Asia 2014 also commemorates ten years since the FOSS-GRASS User Conference was held at Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand in September 2004.

Source: *http://www.foss4g-asia.org/2014/*

Lower Mekong: USAID and NASA using technology for development

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced in October 2014 a five-year project that will promote the use of satellite imagery to help Asia's Lower Mekong region better predict and cope with floods and other natural disasters and increase resilience to the negative effects of climate change. SERVIR Mekong, funded by USAID and NASA and implemented by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC, http://www.adpc.net/igo/) and its partners, will help governments and other key decision-makers in Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam take advantage of publicly available satellite imagery, geospatial data and maps to make more informed decisions on issues such as water management, land use planning, disaster risk reduction, infrastructure development and natural resource management.

Operating as a regional hub, SERVIR Mekong will promote collaboration between technical institutions in the region and develop analytical tools, services and products that are tailored to the needs of the Lower Mekong region's decision-makers such as government officials and disaster management professionals and regional institutions such as planning agencies and development partners.

Source: *http://www.adpc.net/igo/contents/Media/media-news.asp?pid=709*

South Asia: Stakeholders learn new features of yield forecasting toolkit

An upgraded version of the CCAFS Regional Agricultural Forecasting Toolbox was demonstrated at a workshop organised by CCAFS South Asia in July 2014. The toolkit can be used by policymakers and researchers to monitor in-season crop yields and help with food security planning. (CRAFT, http://www.slideshare.net/FAONoticias/3-craft-james-hansen)

For policymakers to make informed decisions on food policy planning- from production, trade, weather impacts to overall food security in the country- it is critical that they have access to in-season crop yield forecasts.

The CCAFS Regional Agricultural Forecasting Toolbox (CRAFT), developed together with the Asia Risk Centre, for South Asia uses seasonal weather forecasts, historical databases, and current weather to estimate yields of various crops in advance. It can provide policymakers and stakeholders precise information on the likely volume of crop production in specific areas at different times of the year. The tool also supports risk analysis and climate change impact studies for policymakers and help anticipate the impacts of climate variations on crop production and in agricultural and food security management decisions.

Source: http://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/stakeholders-learn-new-features-yield-forecasting-toolkit

New Zealand: Open Data Day, 20 November 2014, Christchurch

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ, http://www.linz.govt.nz/geospatial-office) is sponsoring Open Data Day as part of its Canterbury Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) Programme - which includes a focus on open data and its use in support of the Canterbury rebuild on the future of open data in New Zealand, explore opportunities and areas for improvement, build relationships and learn new things. Interested attendees can visit http://www.opendataday2014.com/ for a full programme and to register for the Open Data Day.
See also: LINZ Data Service update (October 2014), http://www.linz.govt.nz/about-linz/linz-data-service/news-and-events/lds-update-october-2014

Australia & New Zealand: FSDF dataset development plans to be confirmed by ANZLIC

On 6-7 November 2014, ANZLIC will confirm improvements to be applied to the Foundation Spatial Data Framework (FSDF) datasets in 2015. The FSDF provides a common reference for the assembly and maintenance of Australian and New Zealand foundation level spatial data in order to serve the widest possible variety of users. It will deliver a national coverage of the best available, most current, authoritative source of foundation spatial data which is standardised and quality controlled. ANZLIC, the Spatial Information Council, is the peak intergovernmental organisation providing leadership in the collection, management and use of spatial information in Australia and New Zealand.

Roadmaps for FSDF dataset improvements have been developed for consideration at the ANZLIC meeting. The review at the meeting will analyse the health of the nation's authoritative spatial data resources and confirm future investment needs and strategies.

Note: New Zealand actively participates in the initiatives arising from the ANZLIC Strategic Plan, including the FSDF. New Zealand is committed to the conceptual and logical model of the FSDF, but has its own program for implementing the themes at the dataset level.

Source: http://www.anzlic.gov.au/news/events/fsdf_dataset_development_plans_to_be_confirmed_by_anzlic

Australia: Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) Spatial Portal user outreach

Over 50 delegates from the Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) conference now have a better understanding of the data and tools provided by the Atlas of Living Australia thanks to a ½ day workshop run in Alice Springs. The workshop aimed to familiarize delegates with the key tools, data and access options available through the Atlas, with particular focus on the Spatial Portal (http://spatial.ala.org.au/).

The workshop also provided an ideal opportunity to identify and discuss gaps in the Atlas, and for the Atlas team to gain useful feedback from the research community.

The popularity of the optional workshop was very encouraging for the Atlas team, as it showed the keen interest in the site by the ecological research community. Anyone interested in learning how to use the advanced features of the Atlas Spatial Portal is very welcome to contact the team: http://www.ala.org.au/about-the-atlas/contact-us/

Since its inception in 2006, the Atlas of Living Australia has become the most comprehensive public access point for information about all living things on land and in water in the Australian region. While there are areas that may be lacking data, the Atlas team is constantly working with data providers to obtain more data.

Source: http://www.ala.org.au/uncategorized/esa-delegates-learn-about-the-ala-spatial-portal/

Pacific Island GIS&RS User Conference update, 24-28 November 2014, Suva, Fiji
Theme: Empowering Pacific Communities through Improved Geospatial Data

Since the inception of Pacific GIS/RS User Conference in 1999, this annual event has attracted participants from around the world. Each year, the range of GIS/RS technologies presented covers an array of applications including the management of resources of the small island Pacific nations. Shallow water bathymetry derived from satellite imagery, forest function maps to identify areas for to be protected, areas identified for developments in flood zones are some of the applications where the development of GIS/RS in the region have been applied in various sectors.

As with previous conferences, there are no fees levied for those wishing to attend. Donations however are graciously accepted. A preliminary agenda and list of workshops has been added to the conference website. The agenda will change slightly over the next weeks, so visit the site again for further updates.

Preliminary program: http://picgisrs.appspot.com/blog/time-slots-of-presentation
Workshops: http://picgisrs.appspot.com/blog/picgisrs.appspot.com.workshops

Source: http://picgisrs.appspot.com/

Europe Region SDI News

Spain: Nuevo validador de metadatos en el Geoportal IDEE

El pasado mes de abril se publicó en el Geoportal IDEE una nueva versión de los documentos técnicos correspondientes a los Núcleos Españoles de datos (NEM v 1.2) y servicios (NEM-S v 1.0), elaborados por el «Grupo Técnico de Trabajo de Metadatos y Catálogo» del Consejo Directivo de la Infraestructura de Información Geográfica en España (CODIIGE).

Siguiendo estas recomendaciones, se ha elaborado una herramienta de validación en línea de ficheros de metadatos que permite comprobar su cumplimiento con los citados Núcleos así como con el Reglamento sobre Metadatos de Inspire, a través del acceso directo con el validador existente en el Geoportal Inspire.

Como resultado de la validación, se informa sí el fichero de metadatos es conforme con el esquema XML del Documento Técnico de metadatos ISO/TS 19139:2007 y contiene los elementos definidos en NEM o NEM-S. Os invitamos a

utilizarla: http://www.idee.es/validator/metadataValidation/create

English summary: ***New metadata validator for IDEE Geoportal***
Last April, the Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de España (IDEE) Geoportal (http://www.idee.es/) published a new version of the data for the Spanish-core data (technical documents NEM v 1.2) and services (NEM-S v 1.0), developed by the Technical Working Group for Metadata and Catalogue of the Board of Geographic Information Infrastructure in Spain (CODIIGE).

Following recommendations, IDEE has developed a tool for online validation of metadata files for ascertaining compliance with said core and with the INSPIRE Metadata Regulation, through direct access to the existing validator INSPIRE Geoportal. As a result of the validation, IDEE self-reports that its metadata files conform to the XML schema metadata Technical Document ISO / TS 19139: 2007 and contains the elements defined in NEM or NEM-S. You are invited to use: http://www.idee.es/validator/metadataValidation/create

Source: http://blog-idee.blogspot.com/2014/09/nuevo-validador-de-metadatos-en-el.html

Spain: Nace IDECádiz

Desde el 22 de octubre, la Diputación Provincial de Cádiz tiene su propia Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales: IDECádiz, http://www.dipucadiz.es/idecadiz/ . IDECádiz pone a disposición de los ciudadanos, empresas y administraciones la información geográfica producida por la Diputación de Cádiz.

IDECádiz forma parte de una red de infraestructuras de datos espaciales con nodos a nivel autonómico, estatal y europeo, que integran un conjunto de recursos que permiten el acceso y la gestión de datos y servicios geográficos, cumpliendo una serie de normas, estándares y especificaciones internacionales, implantados en desarrollo de la Directiva Europea INSPIRE.

English summary: ***IDECádiz is born***
Since October 22, the Provincial Government of Cadiz has its own Spatial Data Infrastructure: IDECádiz, http://www.dipucadiz.es/idecadiz/. IDECádiz makes available to citizens, businesses and administrations geographic information produced by the Province of Cadiz. IDECádiz is part of a network spatial data infrastructure with nodes at regional, national and European level, comprising a set of resources that allow access and management of geographic data and services conform to a set of norms, standards and specifications, implemented in developing European Directive INSPIRE.

Fuente: http://blog-idee.blogspot.com/2014/10/nace-idecadiz.html ; http://www.dipucadiz.es/prensa/actualidad/IDECadiz-el-sistema-de-informacion-geografica-de-la-provincia-carreteras-medio-ambiente-deportes/

V Iberian Conference of Spatial Data Infrastructures, 5-7 November 2014, Lisbon, Portugal

The Iberian Conference of Spatial Data Infrastructures (JIIDE), whose first edition took place in Portugal in 2010, is an opportunity to exchange experiences among organizations and experts from the Iberian Peninsula, fostering the convergence of foreign direct investment and improving their synergies. The V Iberian Conference of Spatial Data Infrastructures are intended to contribute to highlight the latest developments in the Iberian Peninsula, particularly those resulting from collaborative efforts, sharing experiences and explore synergies between the two countries.

The program of this V Conference takes place over three days, from November 5 to 7, 2014, and features workshops and presentations. The technical sessions will include presentations of proposals, giving preference to the following topics: Spatial Data Infrastructure; INSPIRE Directive; and Practical application and related SDI projects.

Source: http://www.jiide.org/

France: Online Conference: INSPIRE Directive: Where is France in 2014?
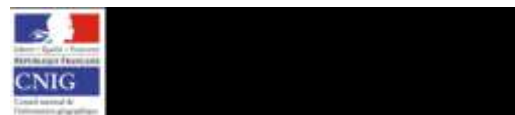
An online conference "INSPIRE Directive: Where is France in 2014?" was conducted on July 1st with 220 participants. Francis Merien, Marc and Pascal Leobet Lory successively presented the following three topics:

- Reminder of the main obligations of the European INSPIRE Directive
- Background and reporting 2014
- 2014 National Survey INSPIRE deployment in France

The three parts of this conference are included in a single file (PDF, in French): INSPIRE Directive: Where is France in 2014? At http://cnig.gouv.fr/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/WEBINSP-presentation-1.pdf
FAQs and answers to questions also are available (PDF, in French):
http://cnig.gouv.fr/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/2014_07_01_FAQ_Webinaire_INSPIRE_VF.pdf

Source: http://cnig.gouv.fr/?p=7930

Finnish GIS Expo 2014, 4-5 November 2014, Helsinki

As the biggest Finnish conference in the geospatial sector Paikkatietomarkkinat brings together professionals to discuss about research and business: What is the role of research in the field of geospatial information? Is it creating new innovations? Where are the geospatial business opportunities? The conference will take place on November 4-5, 2014 at the conference center of the Helsinki Messukeskus.

Source: http://www.finnmap.com/2014/invitation-finnish-gis-expo/

Norway: GIS Collaboration - The public map data & new geoportal, 17 November 2014

The Norwegian Mapping Authority seeks to create a meeting place for coordinators of land-use planning, geodata personnel, and private consultants in the three counties. A gathering is being organized for November 17th with the title 'GIS Collaboration - The public map data & new geoportal'. The geoportal (http://www.geonorge.no), Geonorge version 1.4, now is fully developed, but the official launch will be merged with version 1.5.

Note also: **GeoKlar 2014 - Emergency Planning and spatial data, 10 December 2014** GeoForum and Mapping Authority are organizing the national preparedness conference GeoKlar, which is devoted to preparedness and geodata. http://www.kartverket.no/en/Geonorge/Arrangementer/GeoKlar-2014-Nasjonal-beredskapskonferanse/

Source: http://www.kartverket.no/Geonorge/Nyheter/Geonorge-versjon-14-er-ferdig/;
http://www.kartverket.no/Geonorge/Arrangementer/GIS-samarbeid---Det-offentlige-kartgrunnlaget/

Netherlands: Policy proposal in consultation for metadata quality in National Georegistry

More and more data providers offer their data sets and services through a portal. It is even so that portals increasingly are the only gateway to this data. Sending back and forth DVDs clearly had its day. However, the digital exchange of data requires some discipline with regard to the descriptions of data, the metadata. And it is thus made less, according to the monitoring of the quality of metadata in the National Georegistry (http://www.nationaalgeoregister.nl/).

Since October 2012, Geonovum monitors every six months the quality of metadata in the National Georegistry. Geonovum considers the quality of eleven metadata elements that are essential for the use of data. And findability. The monitoring from both December 2013 and of June 2014 shows that half of the organizations scored less than 65 of the 100 points on the metadata elements. Their data and services are available online, but in practice are poorly discoverable or - at worst - not useful, for example, by incorporating an internal link to a dataset.

For users, metadata is essential to be able to find data and to be able to use them over a portal. And also for the operation of portal itself, good metadata is of great importance. A machine can be a mistake in a code does not interpret. Geonovum, in order to improve the quality of metadata, has written a policy proposal. Before Geonovum submits this policy proposal to the GI Council (in November), they invited comments up until October 24, 2014. After processing the responses, Geonovum will submit the proposal for adoption before the GI Council. See draft policy proposal (in Dutch): http://www.geonovum.nl/sites/default/files/Memo%20kwaliteitsbeleid%20metadata%20v3.1.pdf

Source: http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/metadata/nieuws/beleidsvoorstel-kwaliteit-metadata-nationaal-georegister-consultatie

Netherlands: Linked Data Platform Netherlands, 26 November 2014

On November 26, a new meeting of the Linked Data Platform Netherlands will be held at Ordina -. Nieuwegein. The meeting starts with an introduction to Linked Data, so that everyone has a starting point to the various speakers follow the rest of the day. Participants can count on an interesting combination of international speakers (as Professor Sören Auer) and speakers from the Dutch community as Arjen Santema (Cadastre) over semantics, Linda van den Brink (Geonovum) on the BGT as linked data, and Dimitri van Hees (Freshheads) about his experiences with SPARQL. This meeting of the Platform is also a NAF Insight event. Registration is at: http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/linked-en-open-data/nieuws/26-november-bijeenkomst-platform-linked-data-nederland

Source: http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/linked-en-open-data/nieuws/26-november-bijeenkomst-platform-linked-data-nederland

Netherlands: GeoBuzz, 25-26 November 2014, 's-Hertogenbosch

GeoBuzz is an initiative of GeoBusiness Netherlands and Geo-Information Netherlands (GIN). The first GeoBuzz is being organized with Sense Organisation & Coaching BV (Sense) and CMedia on 25-26 November 2014. Furthermore, the four partners have determined that the entire Dutch geo-sector benefits from one large annual independent conference. Therefore, they have decided to jointly organize GeoEvent and GeoBuzz in 2015 under the name GeoBuzz 2015. This will be an annual, versatile and independent congress with purview over geo-information.

Note: GSDI members Boundless and GeoCat are organizing a workshop on OpenGeo Suite at GeoBuzz on 25 November. Registration for the workshop is at this link - https://www.geocat.net/opengeo-suite-workshop-at-geobuzz/

Source: http://geobuzz.nl/

Germany: Current GDI-DE newsletter is available for download (October 2014, No. 5)

The spatial data infrastructure in Germany (GDI-DE) is a joint project of the federal government, states and municipalities. With the construction of the GDI-DE is a cross-border and interdisciplinary networking of spatial data in Germany is to be achieved, so that geo strengthened in the future and can be used easily in decision-making processes within the administration, the economy and politics. Topics in the current GDI-DE newsletter include:

- Event notes
- Released version 3.0 | All documents of the architectural concept GDI-DE
- INTERGEO 2014 - Unlock the GDI-DE Registry
- 3. National INSPIRE Conference 2014: "geospatial information as a key to the social challenges of the 21st century"
- A colorful Forum, a prominent Congress and a new website
- Information sessions for spatial data infrastructure Baden-Württemberg for political and technical decision makers in local authorities
- Spatial data management: Chance INSPIRE
- Spatial Planning in the EU marine regions and INSPIRE data exchange
- Monitor the settlement and open space development - a Germany-wide small-scale range of information on land use
- Cooperate DDGI and GEOkomm - IT Summit 2014
- European Commission encourages the re-use of public sector information

Access the newsletter (in German): http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/GDI-DE-Aktuelles/2014/GDI-DE_News_Oktober_2014.html

Switzerland: map.geo.admin.ch now with offline function for usage in areas without network coverage

Accessing maps in areas without network coverage is now possible with the map viewer of the federal geoportal, http://map.geo.admin.ch. A new function allows the download and local storage of a predefined map extent for offline usage. This new offline feature (http://help.geo.admin.ch/?id=55&lang=en) will meet the needs of individual users and provide opportunities to extend application possibilities.

With the ability to store map data locally on mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets, maps can now also be used without internet connection. Positioning via GPS in real time is enabled. The use of an additional app is not necessary.

Maps including thematic overlays of a selected screen section can be stored locally depending on the available free space on the device and are thus accessible offline. The availability of the functionality itself and the amount of storable thematic maps is OS and web browser-dependent. The new function allows initially the local storage of an area of 10x10 km.

New web standards allow the use and management of spatial data in the browser cache: no plug-ins are required but existing web standards are used. This recent version of the offline function includes various improvements based on user feedback of the BETA - version.

As a priorized project of eGovernment Switzerland, usage and exchange of geodata is fostered by geo.admin.ch in a significant way. The Federal geoportal is operated by the Federal Office of Topography, swisstopo, on behalf of the coordinating body for Federal geographical information with the aim to implement the Geoinformation Act. The purpose of this Act is to ensure that geodata relating to the territory of the Swiss Confederation is made available to the Federal, Cantonal and municipal authorities, to industry and commerce, to academic and scientific institutions and to society at large, for the broadest possible use, in a sustainable, up-to-date, rapid and easy way, with the required quality and at reasonable cost.

Source: https://www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=en&msg-id=54922

SDI4Apps project meeting successfully implemented in Jelgava, Latvia
SDI 4 APPS – Uptake of open geopgraphic information through innovative services based on linked data

Organizations participating in the SDI4Apps project gathered in Jelgava, Latvia 17-18 September to review the progress of the project and further coordinate their future steps. The meeting was hosted by the project partner Zemgale Planning Region at the Latvia University of Agriculture. Discussions focused on the Community Building activities intended to provide social validation to the six pilot applications that are being developed as part of the project: 1) easy access to data, 2) tourism, 3) sensor networks, 4) land use mapping, 5) education, 6) ecosystem services evaluation.

Engagement with specific stakeholder groups will be a crucial step towards the efficiency of SDI4Apps. Technical issues connected with the architecture and functionality of the six pilots and the platform were addressed in detail by technical partners. Partners reaffirmed their intention to align the platform with the Open Data policy and committed to development of an effective business plan which will address the specifics of each pilot.

SDI4Apps participants had the opportunity to attend the international Conference on Information Systems for Agriculture and Forestry (ISAF) which took place at the same location. In the frame of ISAF, SDI4Apps co-organised the Open Data Hackathon. The report from this event can be accessed at http://www.slideshare.net/CzechCentre/opendata-hackathon-jelgava-report.

SDI4Apps is an EU-funded project managed by the University of West Bohemia from the Czech Republic. The project is being implemented with the concerted effort of 18 organizations across Europe. SDI4Apps seeks to build a cloud-based framework with open API for data integration focusing on the development of six pilot applications. The project draws along the lines of INSPIRE, Copernicus and GEOSS and aspires to build a win-win strategy for building a successful business for hundreds of SMEs on the basis of European spatial data infrastructures. For more information visit: http://sdi4apps.eu/ ; http://www.linkedin.com/groups/SDI4Apps-3516067

Source: http://erfc.gr/images/files/SDI4APPS/2014_10_sdi4apps_press-release.pdf

UK: 23rd GIS Research UK (GISRUK) Conference, 15-17 April 2015, Leeds
Deadline of call for papers: **7 November 2014**

Established in 1993, the GISRUK conference series is the UK's national GIS research conference and is primarily aimed at the academic community. Each annual conference attracts delegates from all parts of the world from disciplines including geography, computer science, planning, archaeology, geology, geomatics and engineering. The GISRUK conferences aim to act as a focus for GIS research in the UK and provide a mechanism for the announcement and publication of GIS research. They also provide a forum for the discussion of research ideas, promote collaboration amongst researchers from diverse disciplines and offer postgraduate students the opportunity to showcase their work in an international context. So if you supervise research by PhD students or researchers please

persuade them to contribute; if you are a postgraduate in a field relating to GIS you are most welcome to present at GISRUK 2015.

In recognition of the recently funded £6M+ ESRC Consumer Data Research Centre, the conference organizers are especially interested in abstracts on our main conference theme: Big Data and the future of GIS. They also welcome submissions on all aspects of methodological, applied or theoretical GIS and, in particular, the other conference topics. To submit a paper, see Call for papers. http://leeds.gisruk.org/submit.html

Source: http://leeds.gisruk.org/

UK: GeoDATA 2014 free one-day seminar series

GeoDATA 2014 provides an international series of one day seminars encompassing a range of current data and technology topics and application ideas. These seminars are free*. Cutting edge presentations, real life case studies and examples of best practice will give you the opportunity to gain knowledge as well as network during the complementary exhibition.

- GeoDATA 2014 Glasgow, 4 November 2014, http://www.geoinformationgroup.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/agenda_Glasgow_V5.pdf
- GeoDATA 2014 Belfast, 20 November 2014, http://www.geoinformationgroup.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/agenda_Glasgow_V5.pdf
- GeoDATA 2014 London, 4 December 2014, http://www.geoinformationgroup.co.uk/training/geodata-2014-showcase-london

** GeoDATA 2014 is FREE to attend but a delegate fee may apply to GIS software vendors/suppliers/resellers, data suppliers/resellers and mapping organisations.

Source: http://www.geoinformationgroup.co.uk/training/geodata

EuroGeographics General Assembly in 2014 and UN GGIM Europe meeting

EuroGeographics' Fourteenth General Assembly and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management in Europe (UN GGIM Europe) meeting were held in the period from 29 September to October 01, 2014 in Moldova in the capital Chisinau.

The Moldovan Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre (State Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre) hosted this year's Assembly and the plenary meeting of the UN GGIM Europe, with the support of management EuroGeographics. The Moldavian Agency had been selected as this year's host, because it is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its founding.

More than 150 representatives from more than 50 national mapping and cadastral organizations took part in this year's Assembly. During the Assembly, experts from Europe and invited speakers shared experiences and discussed current topics and issues and plans for further development. Specifically, discussions focused on the future directions of development of the cadastre and the method of adjustment of national institutions to the needs of users and the wider community.

During the Plenary Meeting of the UN GGIM Europe, representatives of the working group for the preparation of the meeting presented the work plan that focuses on two main objectives:
1) Increase interoperability and harmonization of data by defining the basic (core) of spatial data that meet the most important users
2) The integration of core data with other thematic and sectoral data to support the further use.

The aim of the UN GGIM is to ensure support at the global and regional level for national mapping and cadastral organizations for the implementation of the development goals of the United Nations, as well as ensure cooperation with statistical institutions, contributing to the efficient management of geoinformation in Europe in line with user requirements.

Source: http://www.geosrbija.rs/template1.aspx?pageID=284 ; http://www.eurogeographics.org/news/eurogeographics-general-assembly-2014

Results of the GI-N2K (Geographic Information: Need to Know) surveys

A short summary of the results of two surveys launched earlier this year now is available at http://www.gi-n2k.eu/surveys-results/. The first survey was the GI-N2K Survey on 'Workforce demand in Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIS&T). The aim of the GI-N2K Survey was to evaluate current workforce demands in GIS&T and identify presumed future directions.

Result of note: The gap analysis pointed to topics that are not fully covered in the current GIS&T Body of Knowledge (BoK), http://www.gi-n2k.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/UCGIS_GISandT_BoK_DigReIssue2012.pdf, including programme development, WebGIS, SDI, data acquisition and other 'hot' topics such as big data and augmented reality.

The second survey was the GI-N2K Survey on 'GIS&T Teaching supply'. The objectives of the survey were to collect information about which GI-subjects courses and programmes are available, to characterize the teaching supply in terms of international references, to assess the degree of awareness and the use of the BoK, to discover parts of the GI-domain that are present in today's teaching but not covered by the BoK and to reveal existing intentions to each about GI-subjects in the near future.

Result of note: Web services, data acquisition technologies, point cloud analysis, programming in Python, UML, XML, Qualitative GIS, and Open source software were mentioned as subjects that are relevant for existing and intended teaching offers, although they are not covered by the GIS&T Body of Knowledge.

GI - N2K stands for "Geographic Information: Need to Know -Towards a more demand-driven geospatial workforce education/training". The project is an ERASMUS Network combining 31 partners and a number of associated partners. Project duration is three years until 30.09.2016. The overall goal of this project is to update the Geographical Information Science and Technology (GI S&T) Body of Knowledge according to European requirements and to use it to make the geospatial workforce training system more demand-driven and flexible. The original GI S&T Body of Knowledge had been developed in the US as a reference document for the domain of Geographical Information Science and Technology by the consortium of US-universities (UCGIS).

Source: http://www.gi-n2k.eu/results-of-the-gi-n2k-surveys/

Eurisy Conference: Blue Economy and Geoinformation services, 20-21 November 2014, Bari, Italy

This conference will bring together Local and Regional authorities in Europe, interested in maritime issues and blue economy. Operational cases of satellite applications in coastal regions will be showcased.

The European Union's blue economy represents 5.4 million jobs and a gross added value of just under €500 billion per year. Coastal regions and cities are indeed drivers of European growth. However, conflicts between sea uses and demands for sea space are increasing, in particular due to emerging offshore activities. There is thus a need for tools that enable growth by facilitating the coexistence of multiple activities, and organise coastal management.

Access to better and more accurate data, and sharing it, can therefore help coastal authorities to maximise the sustainable development of activities, both at sea and on coasts. Furthermore, the European flagship programmes Copernicus and Galileo are expected to benefit regional authorities by making available more geo-information than ever before. In this context, this conference will focus on how innovative geoinformation services can help in key policy areas and operational responsibilities of regional administrations.
Source: http://www.eurisy.org/event-Bari2014/About

Safe Cities 2014, 10-11 December 2014, Madrid, Spain

Combining digital, intelligent, smart and sustainable initiatives to deploy technologies to efficiently enhance security and information flow.
Safe Cities 2014 will provide an opportunity for city leaders investing in safe cities to share best practice in enabling inter-agency collaboration, effective communication, and better use of intelligence. The event will cover integrated communications and technology, multi-agency collaboration, shared command and control, and intelligence and data management.

Source: http://safecitiesevent.com/

Workshop on spatial planning and geoinformation services for regional development
11 December 2014, Debrecen, Hungary

This workshop is organised in the framework of the INTERREG IVC Project "Regions4GreenGrowth", and hosted by the Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency in Debrecen.

It will offer an opportunity to discuss how innovative geoinformation services (based on Earth Observation data and/or satellite navigation and location) can help regional administrators improve public services and make better informed decisions about stimulating economic development and environmental sustainability.

The workshop will be based on the challenges and opportunities identified in Észak-Alföld to build a case study and identify opportunities for new projects and collaboration among innovation actors in the region and beyond to implement innovative solutions.

Source: http://www.eurisy.org/event-spatial-planning-and-geospatial-services-for-regional-development_26/about

Workshop: Open Data and Spatial Data Infrastructures in Central and Eastern Europe
3-5 November 2014, Belgrade, Serbia

This workshop addresses the topics of spatial data infrastructures and open governmental data within central and eastern Europe. The workshop will cover:
- Danube Reference Data and Services Infrastructure in support of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (day 1);
- a workshop on spatial data infrastructures and open data in central and eastern Europe (day 2); and
- training on legal, organisational and technological foundations of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) (day 3).

The workshop is being organized by the JRC Institute Institute for Environment and Sustainability.
https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/sites/default/files/eia-training-2014-ies-a-15.pdf

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/workshop/open-data-spatial-data-infrastructures-central-eastern-europe

Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

Chile: Descarga directa de capas de información geoespacial del Ministerio de Obras Públicas

El Ministerio de Obras Públicas siempre se ha destacado por ir a la vanguardia en el desarrollo de su Infraestructura de Datos Geoespaciales (IDE). En esta oportunidad, ha dado un paso importante y ha liberado a toda la comunidad de la IDE Chile y los usuarios en general, las principales capas de información geoespacial de este Ministerio. La información que está disponible en formato Shape y KMZ es la siguiente:
- Red Hidrométrica - Dirección General de Aguas
- Edificación Pública - Dirección de Arquitectura
- Infraestructura Pública Concesionada - Coordinación de Concesiones de Obras Públicas
- Red Aeroportuaria Nacional - Dirección de Aeropuertos
- Infraestructura Portuaria - Dirección de Obras Portuarias
- Infraestructura de Obras Hidráulicas y Agua Potable Rural - Dirección de Obras Hidráulicas
- Red Vial - Dirección de Vialidad

Para acceder a estos archivos visitar el siguiente sitio web: http://sit.mop.gov.cl/observatorio/Mapa

English summary: ***Direct download geospatial information layers of the Ministry of Public Works***
The Ministry of Public Works has always stood out by going to the forefront in the development of its Geospatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). This time, it has taken an important step and has released to the entire community of Chile IDE and users in general the main layers of geospatial information in this Ministry. The information that is available in Shape and KMZ format is:
- Hydrometric Network - General Water
- Public Buildings - Department of Architecture
- Public Infrastructure Concession - Coordination of Public Works Concessions
- National Airport Network - Airports Division

- Port Infrastructure - Port Works
- Hydraulic Works and Infrastructure Rural Drinking Water - Hydraulic Works
- Red Vial - Directorate of Road

To access these files visit the following website: http://sit.mop.gov.cl/observatorio/Mapa

Fuente: http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/item/descarga-directa-de-capas-de-informacion-geoespacial-del-ministerio-de-obras-publicas.html

Peru: *Avances de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales Regional (IDER) de Loreto*

Con el objetivo de informar los avances de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales Regional (IDER) de Loreto y coordinar la asistencia técnica para el trabajo conjunto en la implementación de la IDER Loreto con la Dirección General de Ordenamiento Territorial del Ministerio del Ambiente (MINAM), el pasado 30 septiembre, se llevó a cabo una reunión de trabajo con los integrantes del Comité de Gestión de la IDER Loreto, presidida por el Gerente General del GOREL Sr. Aldo Reyes Viviano.

El representante de la Gerencia Regional de Planeamiento, Presupuesto y Acondicionamiento Territorial, Ecol. Manuel Burga Ríos, dio a conocer los logros de la IDER Loreto, como:

1) "Catálogo de Objetos Geográficos de Datos Fundamentales del Departamento de Loreto".
2) Diseño y estructura de la Geodatabase de los Datos Fundamentales del Gobierno Regional de Loreto.
3) Diseño de la Plataforma Web Cartográfica.
4) Documento técnico: "Definición de Estándares a utilizarse en la IDE Loreto".
5) Documento técnico: "Guía Técnica para el Uso de la Geodatabase de los Datos Fundamentales del Departamento de Loreto".
6) Catálogo de Objetos Geográficos del Programa Regional de Manejo de Recursos Forestales y de Fauna Silvestre. (documento técnico q inicia el proceso de ordenar y actualizar la información del Programa Regional de Manejo de Recursos Forestales y de Fauna Silvestre, siendo un diccionario de datos)

Se concluyó que en el de la implementación de la IDER Loreto se debe implementar el Nodo de Información Territorial, para lo cual el GOREL solicitará el apoyo y asistencia técnica del MINAM-DGOT, para la implementación y articulación del Nodo Región Loreto y el Nodo del MINAM. Para ello se establecerá los costos que implicará esta implementación sobre la base de la experiencia en otros IDE, y hacer gestiones para financiarlo y llevar a cabo una reunión de lanzamiento de esta iniciativa conjunta.

English summary: **Progress on Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure of Loreto**

In order to report on the progress being made on the Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDER) of Loreto and to coordinate technical assistance for joint work on the implementation of the IDER Loreto with the Directorate General of Land Management of the Ministry of Environment (MINAM), a workshop was conducted on 30 September with members of the Management Committee of the IDER Loreto, chaired by the General Manager Mr. Aldo Reyes GOREL Viviano. Representative of the Regional Office of Planning, Budget and Conditioning Territorial, Ecol. Manuel Burga Rios unveiled the achievements of IDER Loreto, such as:

1) "Catalogue of Fundamental Geographic Data Objects of Loreto"
2) Design and structure of Fundamental Data Geodatabase the Regional Government of Loreto.
3) Cartographic Design Web Platform.
4) Paper: "Setting Standards for use in the IDE Loreto".
5) Technical Document: "Technical Guide to Geodatabase Using Fundamental Data from the Department of Loreto".
6) Catalog Geographic Object Management Program of Regional Forest Resources and Wildlife (a technical paper - a data dictionary- that initiates the process of ordering and update information for the Regional Programme of Forest Resources and Wildlife).

It was concluded that the implementation of Loreto IDER should implement the Node Territorial information, for which the GOREL request the support and technical assistance MINAM-DGOT for the implementation and coordination of the Loreto Region Node and Node MINAM. This will involve costs that based on experience in other IDE and efforts to fund and conduct a meeting to launch this joint venture will be established.

Fuente: http://www.regionloreto.gob.pe/Pag/NotiDetalle.aspx?Id=88449

Argentina: *Actulizarán la base de datos geográficos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires*

La ministra de Gobierno bonaerense, Cristina Alvarez Rodríguez y la Procuradora General de la Suprema Corte de Justicia provincial, María del Carmen Falbo, firmaron este lunes un acta acuerdo que tiene por objetivo establecer compromisos tendientes a desarrollar un plan de trabajo

conjunto con el fin de ejecutar actividades destinadas a optimizar la gestión en la generación de cartografía base para los trabajos que se realizan en cada organismo.

Mediante este acuerdo se dispuso brindar -desde el Ejecutivo Provincial- asistencia técnica en relación a la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de la Provincia de Buenos Aires (IDEBA,) en el marco de sus incumbencias, garantizando la correcta articulación e instrumentación de un Sistema de Información Geográfica para la Procuración General.

Por su parte, Alvarez Rodríguez destacó la importancia de la oficina IDEBA, dependiente del ministerio de Gobierno al resaltar que "esta herramienta está en construcción permanente porque se van actualizando los datos mes a mes con el trabajo fundamental que hacen todos los ministerios y municipios de la Provincia, generado bases de datos espaciales confiables para la toma de decisiones territoriales" y agregó que "este sistema también nos permite aportarle a la nación datos actualizados de la provincia en términos geográficos".

El objetivo principal de la oficina IDEBA, consiste en establecer vínculos entre técnicos y funcionarios de diversas áreas provinciales y municipales para desarrollar una estrategia de trabajo conjunta tendiente a la conformación de una Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales para la Provincia de Buenos Aires (IDEBA).

Ambos organismos se comprometieron a democratizar la información, sosteniendo el resguardo de los datos considerados sensibles, y realizar acuerdos de transferencia de los saberes generados en los equipos técnicos.

De esta manera, se acordó integrar la Procuración General a la IDEBA; orientar a este organismo en los procedimientos de actualización de las bases de datos geográficos, como así también el asesoramiento en el desarrollo de métodos y técnicas acerca de la conformación de un Sistema de Información Geográfica propio.

Participaron el subsecretario de Gobierno, Daniel Guastavino; la secretaria de Estrategia Institucional y Gestión, Susana Deferrari; de Política Criminal, Homero Alonso; el Secretario General, Carlos Petorutti; y de Policía Judicial, Esteban Lombardo.

English summary: **Updating the geographic database of the Province of Buenos Aires**
The Minister of Government of Buenos Aires, Cristina Alvarez Rodriguez and Attorney General of the provincial Supreme Court of Justice, María del Carmen Falbo, signed an agreement to establish commitments towards developing a joint work plan in order to implement activities for the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Province of Buenos Aires (IDEBA) that optimize the management of work performed in each agency for generating and regularly updating base maps. This agreement provides the provincial Executive support for technical assistance related to IDEBA as part of their incumbencies.

Ver visualizador de mapa de IDEBA: http://sig.gobierno.gba.gov.ar/sig/ideba/

Fuente: http://www.aninoticias.com/noticia.php?id=17083 , http://www.prensa.gba.gov.ar/nota.php?idnoticia=17304&i=true

Chile y Colombia: Profesionales de IDE MINAGRI se capacitan en IGAC de Colombia

Reforzarán conocimiento en estándares de información geográfica. Desde el lunes 20 y hasta el viernes 24 de octubre, los geógrafos Juan González y Carlos Rodríguez, participan de la capacitación "Estándares de Información Geográfica", en el reconocido Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (IGAC) de Colombia.

Ambos profesionales son parte del proyecto Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales (IDE- Minagri, http://www.ide.cl/ides-en-chile/ministeriales/28-ide-minagri.html), iniciativa que surge del anhelo de contar con un sistema unificado que permita acceder a toda la información geoespacial del Ministerio de Agricultura de Chile, con el fin de contribuir a optimizar la toma de decisiones a todo nivel y en todos los servicios e instituciones relacionadas a esta cartera.

La capacitación de los profesionales nace del convenio de transferencia entre la Subsecretaria de Agricultura y el Centro de Información de Recursos Naturales, CIREN.

Esta es la segunda etapa de este perfeccionamiento. Durante septiembre participaron del curso "Fundamentos de Gestión de Información geográfica", la geógrafa María Graciela Barrera y el cartógrafo Cristián Navarrete.

"La capacitación a la que asistimos pone énfasis en las necesidades de gestión de la información geográfica y cómo los organismos públicos encuentran en una IDE una forma efectiva de trabajo para llevarla a cabo", explicó la profesional de CIREN María Graciela Barrera.

"El Instituto Agustín Codazzi ha sido líder a nivel mundial en estas iniciativas, dictando directrices, prestando apoyo y

asesorías técnicas a nivel nacional e internacional. Por lo que son un claro ejemplo de los pasos a seguir en cuanto a IDE", agregó el cartógrafo Cristián Navarrete.

El Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi, IGAC, es la entidad encargada de producir el mapa oficial y la cartografía básica de Colombia; elaborar el catastro nacional de la propiedad inmueble; realizar el inventario de las características de los suelos; adelantar investigaciones geográficas como apoyo al desarrollo territorial; capacitar y formar profesionales en tecnologías de información geográfica y coordinar la Infraestructura Colombiana de Datos Espaciales (ICDE).

English summary: **Professionals from IDE MINAGRI are trained at Institute Agustin Codazzi, Colombia**
From 20-24 October 2014, geographers Juan Gonzalez and Carlos Rodriguez, participated in training in "Geographic Information Standards" offered by ICAG in Colombia. Both professionals are part of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI Minagri, http://www.ide.cl/ides-en-chile/ministeriales/28-ide-minagri.html) project, an initiative arising from the desire to have a unified system that allows access to all spatial information of the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile, in order to help optimize decision making at all levels and in all departments and institutions related to this portfolio. The training of professionals came from an agreement between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Center for Natural Resource Information, CIREN.

Fuente: http://www.ciren.cl/web/news.php?n=628

Brazil: DataGEO platform launched in São Paulo state

São Paulo Minister for the Environment secretary Rubens Naman Rizek Junior has launched DataGEO to members of the Paulista Environmental System (Justice Ministry, Geological Institute, Forestry Department, Enviromental Planning Institute).

The World Bank funded program – developed by Coffey – provides the Department with access to and management of a wide range of environmental spatial datasets. This includes monitoring, reporting, planning and enforcement throughout the state of São Paulo.

The geospatial data system delivers time and cost savings when compared to corporate systems, offering integration and access to all environmental spatial information of the São Paulo state.

The team who designed and built the DataGEO platform used a broad range of capabilities from geoscience to GIS, system development and project management. Coffey's information team is currently 18 months into the project's 24 month build phase. The system can be accessed at the following URL: http://datageo.ambiente.sp.gov.br

See also: Projeto DATAGEO: Apresentação do Projeto DATAGEO sobre a Implantação da Infraestrutura de Dados Espaciais (IDE), http://www.ambiente.sp.gov.br/cpla/files/2011/05/DataGeo_Gerencial_v3.pdf
The Government of the State of São Paulo received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the São Paulo State Feeder Roads Project and applied part of the proceeds for consultant services for the Technical Assistance Component for Institutional Strengthening "Project Support to the Environment Management Modernization of The State of São Paulo; Sub-project Integrated Management System – DATAGEO (http://www.worldbank.org/projects/procurement/noticeoverview?id=OP00002636)."

Source: http://www.coffey.com/en/about-us/latest-news/new-spatial-data-infrastructure-sdi-solution-launched-in-brazil/

Brazil: Agreement with BNDES will improve satellite monitoring of the Amazon
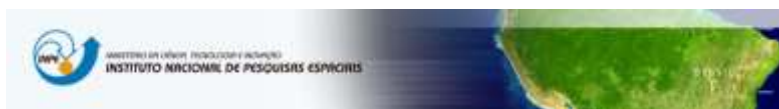
The Amazon Fund, managed by the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) will finance actions to expand and improve the environmental satellite monitoring conducted by the National Institute for Space Research (INPE). The contract worth US $ 67 million was signed on the 29th of October 2014. The actions are related to "Environmental Monitoring Satellite Project Biome Amazon" and will enable advances in studies on the mapping of land cover and land use in the region and improving the software used in systems to monitor deforestation and forest degradation, as well as improvements in reception and distribution of remote sensing images and estimation methods biomass and emissions, among other actions.

Source: http://www.inpe.br/noticias/noticia.php?Cod_Noticia=3747

17th Brazilian Remote Sensing Symposium 2015

The Brazilian Remote Sensing Symposium (SBSR) is going to be held in the Congress Center of João Pessoa, State of Paraíba, in the period of April 25th to 29th 2015. The event seeks to bring together the technical-scientific community and the business users in the areas of remote sensing, geo-technologies and its applications for discussions on research, technological development and other initiatives carried out in the country and globally over the past two years. The deadline for submission of papers is **November 10, 2014** and the official languages of the event are Portuguese and English.

Source: http://www.dsr.inpe.br/sbsr2015/index.html

Mexico (Aguascalientes): Municipio es Modelo Nacional con la Creación del Visor de Infraestructura

El de Aguascalientes es el primer Municipio del país en contar con una plataforma en internet que despliega información geográfica básica que será útil para saber en qué áreas está permitido construir o establecer una industria o negocio. El Visor de Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales (VISOR IDEAgs), que es el nombre de esta herramienta, fue presentado por el alcalde Juan Antonio Martín del Campo.

Su creación corrió a cargo del Instituto Municipal de Planeación (IMPLAN), y el propósito es ofrecer información geográfica básica de programas municipales de ordenamiento del territorio urbano y rural como colonias, calles, predios, límites administrativos; así como en equipamiento urbano por lo que toca a educación, salud, cultura, recreación, deporte, templos y servicios urbanos.

Los datos podrán ser consultados desde cualquier equipo de cómputo o dispositivo móvil con acceso a internet a través del sitio visorideags.gob.mx, así como en la página del Municipio www.ags.gob.mx y del IMPLAN www.implanags.gob.mx.

English summary: **Municipality is national model with the creation of spatial data viewer**
The Aguascalientes is the first municipality in the country to have an internet platform that displays basic geographical information that will be useful to know in which areas it is allowed to build or establish a business or industry. The display of Spatial Data Infrastructure (VISOR IDEAgs), which is the name of this tool, was presented by Mayor Juan Antonio Martín del Campo.

Its creation was carried out by the Municipal Institute of Planning (IMPLAN), and the aim is to provide basic geographical information of municipal programs for management of the urban and rural territory as colonies, streets, farms, administrative boundaries; as well as in urban equipment with regard to education, health, culture, recreation, sport, temples and urban services.

The data can be accessed from any computer or mobile device with internet access through the site http://visorideags.gob.mx, as well as in the page of the Municipality www.ags.gob.mx and IMPLAN http://www.implanags.gob.mx.

Fuente: http://pagina24.com.mx/local/2014/10/22/municipio-es-modelo-nacional-con-la-creacion-del-visor-de-infraestructura/ ;
http://www.desdelared.com.mx/noticias/2014/04-gobierno/1021-mpo-datos-georeferenciados-02039585793.html

Mexico: First detailed map of aboveground forest carbon stocks unveiled
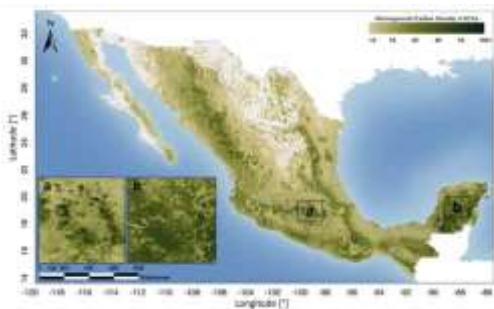
The Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC) and Allianza MREDD+ released the first detailed map of aboveground forest carbon stocks of Mexico available for download. This carbon stock inventory is very valuable for Mexico, as one of the first tropical nations to voluntarily pledge to mitigation actions within the context of the United Nation's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) program.

The hectare-scale map is the result of a collaboration led by WHRC scientists Josef Kellndorfer and Oliver Cartus with Mexico's National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) and the Mexican Norway Project (MNP) to provide a tool for the national government to enhance a robust Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for national carbon emissions.

The map integrates Mexico's National Forest Inventory (INFyS), which provides field measurements for 26,000 plots across Mexico with spatial image data from the Japanese ALOS PALSAR radar and U.S. Landsat satellite sensors, which contain complementary information on forest density and structure. The fusion of these three datasets allows for continuous estimates of carbon stocks where field data are missing even for those classes not very well represented in the national forest inventory. The team is currently testing airborne lidar data in a range of Mexico's ecosystems as an option to augment field observations with airborne and satellite data to improve carbon mapping for countries without detailed forest inventories.

This work was made possible by USAID within the framework of Mexico's REDD+ project, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Google.org, and the David and Lucille Packard Foundation. Partners include CONAFOR, MNP, NASA, the University of Maryland, the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CANABIO), the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Rainforest Alliance, and Natural Areas and Sustainable Development (ENDESU). The maps and findings were published as "A National, Detailed Map of Forest Aboveground Carbon Stocks in Mexico" in the journal *Remote Sensing*. http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/6/6/5559

For more information and to obtain data access: http://whrc.org/mapping/pantropical/mexcarbon/mex_dataset.html; for further information on Allianza MREDD+ work in Mexico: http://www.alianza-mredd.org/

Source: http://whrc.org/news/pressroom/PR-2014-Oct-16-KellndorferCartus-MexCarbon.html

Seminario Web Mapeo de Inundaciones

En octubre, el Programa GeoSUR, MundoGeo y la Universidad de Colorado realizaron un seminario Web sobre el proyecto de mapeo de inundaciones y estimación de caudales en forma remota para América Latina que viene financiando la CAF desde hace un año. El Prof. Brakenridge de la Universidad de Colorado presentó el sistema global que ellos operan y las líneas de trabajo que venimos adelantando en América Latina. Un gran parte de la información generada está disponible en el Visor Regional de GeoSUR en: http://www.geosur.info/map-viewer

Pueden ver la grabación del seminario Web en: http://mundogeo.com/webinar/flood-mapping/downloads.html (disponible únicamente en inglés); pueden consultar un seminario anterior realizado el año pasado sobre el mismo tema y disponible en Español en: http://www.geosur.info/geosur/index.php/es/biblioteca-geosur

English summary: *Webinar on Flood Mapping*
In October 2014, MundoGEO, GeoSUR and the Darmouth Flood Observatory (DFO) held a Webinar on a joint Latin American and Caribbean Project on Flood Mapping and Remote River Flow Estimations funded by CAF. Prof. Brakenridge of DFO conducted the presentation. Most of the information generated by this joint cooperation is available in the GeoSUR Map Viewer: http://www.geosur.info/map-viewer
The Webinar is available for viewing at: http://mundogeo.com/webinar/flood-mapping/downloads.html

Source: http://www.geosur.info/geosur/index.php/en/news/251-webinar-on-flood-mapping-and-river-flow-measurements-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean

Publication of the 3rd edition of the GeoSUR newsletter

El número 3 del Boletín GeoSUR esta disponible. El boletín tiene noticias de interés para la comunidad geoespacial de las Américas en español / inglés / portugués.

English summary: PAIGH and CAF have partnered to produce the third edition of a digital newsletter on geospatial topics of interest to the Latin American community. This edition contains an interesting interview with Dave Lovell (Executive Director of Eurogeographics) on the EuroRegionalMap and the European Location Framework (ELF) project, reflections by Eric van Praag (GeoSUR´s Coordinator) on recent geospatial events in Mexico and El Salvador, comments by Rodrigo Barriga (PAIGH´s Secretary General) on the modernization of the PAIGH, and updates on recent datasets added to the GeoSUR Viewer (http://www.geosur.info/map-viewer) and general news items of interest.
Spanish: http://www.ipgh.org/GeoSUR/boletin/GeoSURv1n3_esp.pdf
English: http://www.ipgh.org/GeoSUR/newsletter/GeoSURv1n3_eng.pdf
Portuguese: http://www.ipgh.org/GeoSUR/boletim/GeoSURv1n3_por.pdf

International Interdisciplinary Conference on Environmental and Geo-Information (CEGeoIC2015)
4-6 March 2015, Bogota, Colombia

How are Environmental Information and Communication generated, handled, managed, distributed and made accessible at present? This is the main concern to be evidenced, analysed and discussed in the International Interdisciplinary Conference on Environmental and GeoInformation and Communication, CEGeoIC, to be held in Bogota, D.C. March 4-6, 2015. The conference language is English; technical workshops, however, will be in Spanish. Submit abstracts by **November 30, 2014**.

Source: http://CEGeoIC2015.net

Caribbean Handbook for Risk Information Management (CHaRIM) Workshop
2-3 October 2014, Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

The CHaRIM Workshop, as part of the Caribbean Risk Information Program, seeks to build capacity on natural hazard risk and risk assessment methodologies, provide training on several components of the handbook and obtain feedback from participants on the handbook's content and applications. Participants of the workshop included Chief Planners and GeoNode managers / key coordinators of geospatial data from each of the five countries targeted through the Caribbean Risk Information Program, namely Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The project aims to support the mainstreaming of natural hazard and disaster risk information into decision-making in physical planning and infrastructure sectors in targeted Caribbean countries mentioned above.

The University of Twente, Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), Netherlands, with its associate partner, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) was selected by the World Bank to develop the handbook for the Caribbean Risk Information Programme (CRIP) to support the integration of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Strategies in critical sectors.

The Caribbean Handbook on Risk Information Management Workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Housing, Informal Human Settlements, Land and Surveys, and Physical Planning, the World Bank, the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program, and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). See agenda:
https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/gfdrr/files/Final_Agenda_OECS%20Regional%20Engineering%20Workshop_092014.pdf

Source: https://www.gfdrr.org/OECSengineering

USVI: Lieutenant Governor's Office Launches Geospatial Information Platform

The Virgin Islands has launched a Geospatial Information Platform, a tool that will enable greater access to the territory's growing resource of geospatial data, according to a press release issued on October 14, 2014 by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. The platform, which is a major component of the Geospatial Strategic Planning Project and the Governor's Legacy Implementation Plan, establishes an infrastructure to store Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) and maintain geospatial data collected by local and federal partners.

(see http://www.fgdc.gov/grants/2008CAP/Reports/011-08-3-VI-StrategicPlan_v8final.pdf)

Chris George, coordinator of the GIS division calls the completion of the platform a significant milestone for the Lieutenant Governor's Office and Virgin Islands data infrastructure. "Our goal has always been to be a foundation for geospatial data collected throughout the territory," he said. "More agencies are realizing a greater need for data that contains location value, which is the core of geospatial information. Access to this data has already begun to support the functionality of local entities including DPNR, VITEMA, V.I. Waste Management, WAPA and Innovative, all of which collect and utilize geospatial information to perform their daily operations."

The platform (http://www.mapgeo.com/usvi/) includes information such as estates, parcel names and identification numbers, cadastral maps, street names and property zoning. It uses industry standard ESRI Arc GIS hardware and software to facilitate access to the geospatial data. Users can see their data in geospatial terms, which supports greater asset management as well as information needed to guide the deployment of resources. The platform also enables users to add and share their geospatial data.

The Lieutenant Governor's Office is available to visit agencies that are interested in GIS data to discuss platform access,

utilization and training.

Source: http://ltg.gov.vi/press-releases/lt.-governors-office-has-launched-geospatial-information-pla.html

North America Region SDI News

Canada: Ottawa announces second action plan on open data

The Harper government will issue a new order exhorting federal bureaucrats to maximize their efforts to release eligible government data to the public for creating apps if proposals issued in October 2014 are approved. The idea is one of a raft of suggestions put out by the government after consulting with the public on the next wave of its open government initiative. The proposals — what the government calls action plan 2.0 of its open data initiative — say federal departments would have to release plans detailing how they will copy with the directive, issue an inventory on their data and information holdings and only publish data in accessible and open formats under an open and unrestrictive licence.

Over the next two years the government would also create an open data institute — what it now calls CODEX (Canadian Open Data Exchange) — a national marketplace that would includes an online community for those wanting to commercialize federal open data.

See: Canada's Draft Action Plan on Open Government 2.0, http://data.gc.ca/eng/canadas-draft-action-plan-open-government-20

Source: http://www.itworldcanada.com/article/ottawa-announces-second-action-plan-on-open-data/98104

Canada: URISA Ontario and MISA Ontario joint event - Data Standards & Interoperability
20 November 2014, Kingston

Like many of us within the industry, our GIS datasets have grown, and are now being integrated with external systems and open data initiatives which have forced us to revisit our GIS datasets. One of the fundamental parts to this revisit is the development of a proper data model. During this event, throughout the course of the day, URISA-Ontario and Municipal Information Systems Association (MISA) will explore best practices for data modeling, metadata management, data migration, resources and tools. Presentations include Data Interoperability in Emergency Management, Implementing Open Data, and Data Sharing for an Extreme Weather Application, Enterprise Level Data Validation and Workflow Optimization, The Canadian Municipal Data Model and Interoperability and Data Standards for Infrastructure Asset Management. See event agenda: https://misaontario.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/Ontario_Regional_Events/Data_Standards_&_Interopera.docx

Source: http://urisaontario.ca/datastandards.asp

Call for papers: Spatial Knowledge and Information (SKI) Canada 2015
27 February - 1 March 2015, Banff, Canada
Extended paper abstract deadline: **15 November 2014**

Spatial Knowledge and Information – Canada is excited to announce its 5th conference to be held in Banff, Alberta in February 2015. SKI is the pre-eminent Canadian geospatial research symposium. This conference convenes Canadian leaders in GIScience research with a focus on celebrating the research of current and bourgeoning GIScience scholars. Faculty, professionals, students, researchers, and post-docs are invited to submit extended abstracts that will be reviewed by the conference program committee (a short form abstract is available to first year students). Accepted extended abstracts will be published on the Spatial Knowledge and Information – Canada website as well as in a permanent electronic proceedings volume. Accepted submissions will be presented in front of all conference attendees (no concurrent sessions). Presentations will follow a "rapid communication" format with presentations of 10 minutes with a 2-minute period for questions. All areas of GIScience, applied GIS, geomatics, Geoweb, mobile applications, remote sensing, spatial and geo-statistics, cartography, visualization and spatial analytics are encouraged.

Source: http://rose.geog.mcgill.ca/ski/

Geospatial Advancement Canada 2015, March 3-5, 2015, Ottawa, Canada

Utilizing Geomatics to Bolster Canada's National Interests, Security, and Economy. The Geospatial Advancement Canada conference and training course brings together Canada's leaders in Geomatics to continue the discussion on developing a National Geospatial Strategy. Participants will network and learn from industry experts who will detail, through case study presentations, how they can develop your own program or improve what they've already achieved.

Day 1: Exploring the Latest Technology and Innovation to Overcome Interoperability Challenges
Day 2: Developing a National Geo Strategy through Collaboration by All Levels of Government and Private Industry
Day 3: Challenges and Opportunities Associated with GIS Governance; Policy Development, Senior-Level Buy In, Workforce

Call for papers/talks: FOSS4G-North America 2015
9-13 March 2015, Burlingame, California, USA

FOSS4G (Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial) is inviting proposals for presentations for the 2015 North America regional conference to be held in Burlingame, California, USA, March 9th – 13th. This event is an annual gathering for those currently or potentially working with open source geospatial software. It brings together a mix of developers, users, decision makers, and observers from a broad spectrum of organisations and fields of operation for one day of workshops and three days of presentations and discussions. This conference is a chance for the geospatial open source community to showcase what progress we have made and discover the future. The discourse at this conference will catalyze progress for open source geospatial software. Such a significant gathering of minds affects the direction of our ecosystem for years to come. Invitation is open to any and all participants.

To be included in the Early Bird Selection, please submit by **November 3rd**. Even if you don't make the cut for the early bird, you can respond to feedback and have a chance of making the final cut. The final deadline is **November 17th**.

Source: https://2015.foss4g-na.org/cfp

USA: Webinar - How to Get Your Agency's Data onto Data.gov
November 5, 2014 @ 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Data.gov is the United States' central clearinghouse to search and discover over 150,000 open government datasets. Learn how to set up a pipeline between your agency's data assets and Data.gov for greater discoverability and impact. Lesson objectives are to:
- Learn step-by-step how data is funnelled on to Data.gov
- Learn about the data requirements for getting your government data on to Data.gov
- Learn about tools and resources to assist data stewards, IT personnel, and all agency staff

The target audience is all department and agency data managers, IT personnel, all agency staff, and open data advocates. Register at https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/203584234

Source: http://www.digitalgov.gov/event/how-to-get-your-agencys-data-onto-data-gov/

USA: FGDC endorses the Real Property Asset Data Standard (RPADS), FGDC-STD-019-2014

The FGDC Standards Working Group voted at its September 24, 2013 meeting to recommend FGDC endorsement of the Real Property Asset Data Standard (RPADS). The FGDC Coordination Group (CG) subsequently approved RPADS for FGDC endorsement by letter ballot. The FGDC Steering Committee endorsed RPADS through a ballot that closed on February 7, 2014.

The Real Property Asset Data Standard (RPADS) is established within the context of the National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Real Property theme. It defines the essential data needed to identify Real Property Assets (RPAs), including buildings, land parcels, linear structures, and structures. It establishes fundamental definitions for RPAs and provides a minimum set of attributes needed to locate RPAs on a map and identify what the RPA is, with standardized attribute values where appropriate. The data will provide support for federal real property management, homeland security, emergency response, high-performance green buildings management, and other federal government initiatives.

Select Real Property Data Asset Standard, FGDC-STD-019-2014 to download the standard:

http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/FGDC-standards-projects/RPADS/RPADS_final

For more information about RPADS, go to the Real Property Asset Data Standard page:
http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/FGDC-standards-projects/RPADS/index

The NGDA Real Property theme focuses on spatial representation of real property assets only and does not seek to describe special purpose functions of real property such as those found in the Cultural Resources, Transportation, or Utilities themes. Real property entities typically consist of one or more of the following: unimproved land, a building, a structure, site improvements and the underlying land. Complex real property entities (aka "facilities") are used for a broad spectrum of functions or missions.

Source: http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/FGDC-standards-projects/RPADS/RPADSnewsItem

USA: USAID releases first Open Data Policy

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is taking open data to the next level with the release of a new policy that governs how agency data is collected, stored and shared with the public. The policy, Automated Directives System 579 (http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/579.pdf), "paves the way for USAID and its partners to draw from an increasingly robust, data-rich environment to create these breakthrough insights and solutions in support of our mission," according to a joint blog post by USAID's chief data officer and assistant administrator for its Bureau for Management (http://blog.usaid.gov/2014/10/announcing-usaids-open-data-policy/).

In their post, the officials highlight key tenets of ADS 579. The new policy:
- Establishes the Development Data Library (DDL, http://www.usaid.gov/data) as the agency's repository of USAID-funded, machine-readable data created or collected by the agency and its implementing partners
- Requires USAID staff and implementing partners (via associated changes to procurement instruments) to submit data sets generated with USAID funding to the DDL in machine-readable, non-proprietary formats
- Implements a data tagging protocol in keeping with the president's executive order and Office of Management and Budget policy on open data
- Defines a data clearance process to ensure that USAID makes as much data publicly available as possible, while still affording all protections for individual privacy, operational and national security, and other considerations allowable by law.

The new policy aligns with a May 2013 executive order that requires new and modernized government information resources be open and machine-readable and that data be easy to find and access by the public. The Bureau for Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Information Assurance Division/Compliance and Risk Management Branch are charged with protecting data that contains personally identifiable information, according to the USAID policy. For example, data that include research on human subjects may require additional clearance before being released. (See http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/05/09/executive-order-making-open-and-machine-readable-new-default-government-)

USAID is using GitHub (https://github.com/USAID/Feedback/issues) to field the public's data inquiries and error reports. Groups across the world are already using USAID data to better serve their communities.

"USAID is committed to treating its data not simply as an output of agency efforts, but as precious development capital that can best serve the global good when widely shared," the blog post noted.

Source: http://www.fedtechmagazine.com/article/2014/10/usaid-releases-first-open-data-policy

USA: NOAA, NASA and BOEM work on prototype system to gauge marine biodiversity

NOAA, NASA and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) have joined together to work on three demonstration projects that will lay the foundation for the first national network to monitor marine biodiversity. The projects, which would require approximately $17 million over the next five years, would serve as a marine resource management tool to conserve existing biodiversity and enhance US biosecurity against threats such as invasive species and infectious agents. The networks will integrate data on large-scale sea surface conditions observed by NASA, NOAA, and US Geological Survey satellites with observations made in the ocean and the laboratory.

The three demonstration marine biological observation networks will be established in four locations: the Florida Keys; Monterey Bay and the Santa Barbara Channel in California; and on the continental shelf in the Chukchi Sea in Alaska. The three projects, selected from 19 proposals, will be established in different marine environments in US waters to

integrate existing observations ranging from satellite observations to DNA sampling and fill data gaps with new observations.

Source: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20141006_boem.html

Research Assistant Professor, Remote Sensing/GIS, George Mason University
Deadline for applications: **November 12, 2014**.

The George Mason University, Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS) invites applications for a full-time Research Assistant Professor position to work on a multi-year research project funded by a US federal agency and focused on post-disaster assessment with applications of remote sensing and geographic information systems. The appointment term will initially be one year with possibility of annual renewal subject to performance and funding availability. The duties for the selected scientist, experienced and highly motivated, include modeling disasters in agricultural domains; designing, developing and programming a decision support system to support the processing and analysis of remotely sensed images and decision support through intelligent geospatial Web services and workflows; and preparing and publishing the research results in scientific journals and conferences.

Source: http://www.higheredjobs.com/details.cfm?JobCode=175965103

Web Application Developer (7300U) #18802, University of California, Berkeley
First review date for this job: **November 11, 2014**.

Under the direction of the Executive Director of the GIF, this position will be responsible for developing the software applications for GIF research projects funded through external contracts and grants. In this role, the incumbent designs, programs, modifies tests, evaluates and maintains computer programs, contributing to all aspects of the software development, from high-level design decisions to implementation details. The incumbent:

- Designs, develops, modifies, debugs and evaluates complex programs for the visualization, distribution, and analysis of geospatial data.
- Analyzes existing web applications or works to formulate logic for new systems, devises logic procedures according to application requirements, prepares flowcharting, performs coding, data analysis, and tests/debugs programs through the application of professional programming concepts.
- Provides analysis for the design and use complex relational databases.
- Develop and execute moderately complex test plans.
- Develops conversion and system implementation plans.
- Gathers, analyzes, prepares and summarizes recommendations for approval of system and programming documentation.
- Recommends and implements changes in development, maintenance and system standards.
- Trains staff in conversion and implementation of system.
- Understands industry practices and department policies and procedures relating to work assignments.
- Performs complex data modeling, performance and integration testing and builds screens for a variety of internal and external constituents.

Source: http://www.higheredjobs.com/region/details.cfm?Jobcode=175970071&aID=11160

Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

Bahrain International eGovernment Forum, 9-12 March 2015, Manama

Under the Patronage of H.H. Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology, Kingdom of Bahrain, the Bahrain International eGovernment Forum will be held 9-12 March 2015. Since its launch in 2008, the Bahrain International eGovernment Forum has become a continuous success story which aims to bring in the latest international practices and tactics in information and communication technology to the Kingdom of Bahrain through. The Central Informatics Organisation, which maintains a key e-government service, Bahrain Locator (www.bahrainlocator.gov.bh), through its GIS Directorate (http://www.cio.gov.bh/cio_eng/Default_GIS.aspx), is one of the premier sponsors of the event.

The Forum provides an integrated technical program, featuring a number of internationally renowned keynote speakers to discuss and assess the

sector's recent issues, make timely strategic course corrections, and plan a road map for the future. In addition to a wide variety of interactive workshops and poster sessions, all carefully selected to better shape government strategies and implementations across the GCC and international market.

The forum is keen on providing an educative and informative meeting ground for local, regional and international experts; guided by top notch speakers and professionals. Not only does the Bahrain International eGovernment Forum cater to the needs of individuals in the relative field, but it also aims to give the younger generation a competitive advantage in the market by providing them with a firm knowledge base as well as a proper induction about current and future practices.

Source: http://www.egovforum.bh/index.php

Gulf region: GCC-Stat hosts second GIS Statistics Team meeting

The Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat) conducted on September 22nd in Muscat the second meeting for the team in charge of GCC geographic information system (GIS) statistics. The meeting comes within the framework of the collaborative efforts between GCC member states to promote and further enhance the geographic information system that was previously approved during earlier meetings held in Bahrain and Qatar. The meeting discussed the roadmap for the GIS statistics department at GCC-Stat.

Based in the Omani capital, Muscat, GCC- Stat is the official source for statistical data, information and comparative statistics representing GCC member states as a unified body. The Centre provides various statistical figures and data and makes it available for each GCC statistical department and other regional and international organisations. The statistical outcomes of the Centre are used by researchers, economy experts and policy makers. The Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council handed over the responsibility of pan-GCC statistical database and framework for committees in charge of statistics to GCC- Stat which is tasked with transforming the statistical system in the GCC countries. The Centre is the official source for pan-GCC statistical information, and it works closely with various organisations and official departments to develop the statics and data collection in the six GCC member states.

See also: Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning Meets with GCC-Stat Chairman
https://www.zawya.com/story/Secretary_General_of_the_Supreme_Council_for_Planning_Meets_with_GCCStat_Chairman-ZAWYA20140917130836/

Source: https://www.zawya.com/story/GCCStat_Hosts_2nd_Meeting_for_GIS_Statistics_Team-ZAWYA20140922121840/ ,
http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/634001

Arab space programs slowly coming of age

Space programs (technology and exploration) have much to offer to the Arab world at this juncture of its scientific, technical, economic, educational and cultural development. Space programs now play essential roles in urban planning (through imaging and remote sensing), land (desert and forest) observations and uses, military surveillance, etc. More intangibly, space programs give a nation geo-political prestige, and perhaps most importantly inspiration and education avenues for its youth. The Arab world needs to set a clear, multi-faceted, and future-looking space strategy.

Source: http://muslim-science.com/arab-space-programs-slowly-coming-age/

4th Geospatial Conference in Tunis (GCT), 12-14 May 2015

The GCT conferences and geospatial technology exhibitions in the North African region focus on geospatial technology solutions, showcasing how this essential information technology can help to master the challenges of the 21st century. The focus of the GCT2015 will be on the update of spatial data infrastructures (SDI) to enable the cost-effective modernization of transport and telecommunication infrastructures, but also aid in the development of urban and rural areas.

Source: http://gct-tunisia.com/

10th National GIS Symposium in Saudi Arabia, 27-30 April 2015

Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness; Governor of the Eastern Province, The High Committee of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the Eastern Province will host "The 10th National GIS Symposium in Saudi Arabia". Featuring a state-of-the-art exhibit, plenary, keynote, and technical sessions, it would bring all stakeholders in the geospatial domain - academia, researchers, students, and the industry - onto one platform for interaction, sharing and discussion on various topics such as collaboration on technologies and experiences gained. The symposium is intended to encourage the exchange of knowledge and experience in geospatial sciences among researchers, practitioners, and professionals within the country and abroad.

Source: http://www.saudigis.org/

Workshop: New soil databases for North Africa and the Sahara
2-4 December 2014, Brussels, Tunisia or Algeria (exact place still to be defined)

Detailed information on soil resources is important to support policies dealing with issues such as agricultural development, climate change mitigation and the sustainable use of natural resources. As part of the JRC's support to partner countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy, a workshop is planned to drive forwards collaborative initiatives for two new soil databases for Northern Africa.
The workshop will establish a harmonised set of soil parameters that are valid for agro-meteorological and environmental modelling at regional, national, and/or continental levels. In addition, the workshop will establish the baseline requirements for the development of a Soil Atlas of the Mediterranean.

Reference & description: New soil databases for North Africa and the Sahara - workshop file [85 KB] (Last update: 22/05/2014): https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/sites/default/files/eia-training-2014-ies-a-14.pdf

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/workshop/new-soil-databases-north-africa-and-sahara

Global SDI News

Draft report of Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development

A draft, consultation version is available online of the report of the Independent Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. Comments were invited (albeit for a brief period) until October 27th. A final version of the report will be published on November 6th (to feed into the Post2015 synthesis report). The IEAG was established at the end of August 2014 and tasked by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon with writing a report that makes concrete recommendations. In the run-up, the IEAG invited input on different areas including the data landscape, promoting open and accessible data, measuring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and harnessing big data and new technologies.

Source: http://www.undatarevolution.org/report/

Geodata for Agriculture and Water (G4AW) – 2nd call for applications

G4AW will enable partnerships of private and government organisations, NGOs and research institutes to set up service chains that improve food security with satellite data. The submission deadline for applications is **February 27, 2015**.

Source: http://g4aw.netrex.nl/en/

Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) 2015 cycle
Pre-proposals for the 2015 PEER cycle are now being accepted. Deadline: **January 9, 2015**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined with several U.S. Government (USG) supported agencies to support Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER). Administered by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS), PEER is a competitive grants

program that invites scientists in developing countries, partnered with USG-supported collaborators, to apply for funds to support research and capacity-building activities on topics with strong potential development impacts. This innovative program is designed to leverage the investments other USG-supported agencies have made in scientific research and training while supporting the initiatives of developing country scientists.

PEER applicants who submit pre-proposals to PEER must be based at an academic institution, non-profit organization, or government-managed research laboratory, center, or institute in a PEER-eligible country. Applicants should be working in the country from which they are applying and should be nationals of a PEER-eligible country. Applicants in government ministries who conduct research are also eligible, but will be screened for compliance with bilateral agreements on a case-by-case basis. Applicants are encouraged government ministries to consult with PEER program staff at peer@nas.edu prior to submitting their pre-proposal.

Source: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/PEER/index.htm

GIS Day Discovering the World through GIS, 19 November 2014

On November 19th, join in the worldwide celebration of GIS Day, the annual salute to geospatial technology and its power to transform and better our lives. Be a part of the festivities by hosting, supporting, or attending a GIS Day event. See events around the Globe: http://www.gisday.com/gis-day-events-map.html

Source: http://www.gisday.com/

UN Experts Meeting on Humanitarian UAVs

The Humanitarian UAV Network (UAViators, http://uaviators.org/) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) are co-organizing the first ever "Experts Meeting on Humanitarian UAVs" on November 6th, 2014 at UN Headquarters in New York. This full-day strategy meeting, which is co-sponsored by the ICT for Peace Foundation (ICT4Peace) and QCRI, will bring together leading UAV experts (including several members of the UAV Network's Advisory Board, such as DJI) with seasoned humanitarian professionals from OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDAC, IOM, American Red Cross, European Commission and several other groups that are also starting to use civilian UAVs or have a strong interest in leveraging this technology.

The strategy session will provide an important opportunity for information sharing between UAV experts and humanitarian professionals with the explicit goal of catalyzing direct collaboration on the operational use of UAVs in humanitarian settings. UAV experts seek to better understand humanitarian information needs (e.g. UNDAC needs) while humanitarians seek to better understand the challenges and opportunities regarding the rapid deployment of UAVs. In sum, this workshop will bring together 25 experts from different disciplines to pave the way forward for the safe and effective use of humanitarian UAVs.

See: Policy Brief on Humanitarian UAVs, http://irevolution.net/2014/08/26/official-un-brief-on-humanitarian-uavs/

Source: http://irevolution.net/2014/10/

Call for papers: Special Issue of JMGL on Geospatial Data Management, Curation, and Preservation

The peer-reviewed Journal of Map & Geography Libraries (JMGL, http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wmgl20) is inviting submissions for a special issue on the management, curation, and preservation of digital geospatial information. In particular, articles are encouraged that report on current research and development efforts in this area, and that build on previous work. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Policies, strategies, frameworks, or approaches for fostering current and future use of geospatial data.
- Rights and confidentiality issues for geospatial data dissemination.
- Provenance, persistent identifiers, versioning, interfaces, or workflow for geospatial data stewardship.
- Issues in active archiving and long-term archiving of geospatial data.
- Geospatial data stewardship roles of stakeholder organizations, partners, or collaborators.
- Developing and deploying standards, infrastructure, tools, or services for geospatial data management.

Detailed submission guidelines are available online and interested authors should send an initial abstract of less than 500 words to the Guest Editor, Dr. Robert R. Downs (rdowns@ciesin.columbia.edu), by **15 November 2014**. Deadline for manuscript submissions: **January 28, 2015**.

Source: http://explore.tandfonline.com/cfp/bes/jmgl-geospatial-data-cfp

Call for papers: GeoInformatica Special Issue on Crowdsourcing Geospatial Information
Paper submission deadline: **8 December 2014**

The Internet in connection with smartphones and the sensor revolution continue to generate new data and data types, new uses of data, as well as new applications. At the same time, the equations of the data economy are being redefined as authorities continue to open up further their data repositories, whilst at the same time individuals and online communities are generating valuable data and are increasingly making them publicly available. Much of the generated data has a prominent geographic footprint and this explosion of such volunteered geographic information (VGI) amounts to a massive expansion in our ability to digitize the world. The domain that we aim to address with this special issue has been characterized by terms such as "geographic information retrieval," "crowdsourcing," "geospatial (semantic) Web," "linked geospatial data," and "GeoWeb 2.0."

Papers submitted to this call could address the following research questions:
- How do we combine geospatial and Web data models and languages to model the geospatial data available in the Web today? How do we express queries?
- How can linked data, semantics, ontologies, rules and associated reasoning techniques help?
- What data structures, algorithms and implemented systems are appropriate for the management of VGI? What are appropriate benchmarks for the measuring the performance and comparing existing systems?
- How can we develop user interfaces for VGI? What are appropriate high-level APIs that ease the rapid development of such user interfaces? Can we build on already deployed platforms such as GoogleMaps, BingMaps or OpenStreetMap?
- How can we take advantage of user-generated geospatial content? How can we crowdsource high-quality geospatial datasets? What are candidate data fusion techniques?

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit original papers addressing topics including but not limited to: data models and ontologies, uncertainty and user-generated geospatial content, quality control and assurance, geospatial data fusion techniques, feature typing and tagging schemas, privacy and confidentiality, provenance, synthesis of multi-source data (broader than conflation), analysis of multi-source data, data management and VGI incl. data stream management and mobile computing, spatial reasoning and analysis, data extraction techniques including NLP, VGI authoring techniques and tool support, web applications for the collection and provision of VGI, computing/algorithms and geospatial uncertainty, crowdsourcing computing resources, and non-traditional visualization techniques.

Source: http://static.springer.com/sgw/documents/1468005/application/pdf/GEIN_CFP_Geocrowdsourcing.pdf

Call for papers: International Conference on Location-based Social Media
13-14 March 2015, Athens, Georgia, USA
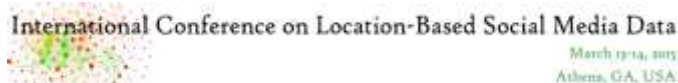
Special session proposals due: **15 November 2014**
Full papers due: **20 December 2014**
Extended abstracts due: **15 January 2015**

Many social media datasets are made available at the finest spatial and temporal scales. The availability of such data creates unprecedented opportunities for researchers to uncover what were previously hidden in the era of small data. What kind of new research questions may be addressed with the available social media data? What are the social, ethical, and political implications of the wide use of social media platforms and the availability of such data? Particularly, what can geographers, GIScientists, and social scientists in general, contribute in response to the unique research opportunities and challenges with social media data?

This conference is designed to bring together researchers from various fields and perspectives to share ideas and findings of their research related to social media data. The aim is to provide a forum for participants to reflect upon what has been accomplished and to discuss what can be pursued in the future.

You are invited to submit full papers (5000 words) or extended abstracts (1200-1500 words) at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=iclsm2015. Example topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Theories and Data Models for Social Media Data:
- GIS representation and data structure for social media data
- Theoretical models of social media data in geographical, temporal, and social dimensions
- Open GIS in the big data era
- Scalability issues with social media data
- Data quality and representativeness of social media data

Analysis and Applications:
- Applications of social media data and analysis in any field of study
- Social media data mining
- Social or complex network analysis
- Fractal or scaling analysis of big data
- Big data analytics and place sentiments
- Human mobility and spatial interaction

Geovisualization for Social Media Data:
- Geovisualization of social media data in space, time, and social dimensions.
- Visual analytics tools for social media data
- Exploratory and visual data mining of social media data
- Agent-based simulations of human patterns in social media

All submissions will be peer-reviewed. Authors of accepted submissions are expected to give oral or poster presentations at the conference. Following the peer-review process, highest quality research papers will be considered for publication in a special issue of Computers, Environment and Urban Systems and possibly an edited book. See also: http://www.journals.elsevier.com/computers-environment-and-urban-systems/call-for-papers/international-conference-on-location-based-social-media-data/

Source: http://research.franklin.uga.edu/iclsm/

CFP: 13th International Conference on Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries
20-22 May 2015, Negombo, Sri Lanka
Submissions deadline: **15 November 2014**

Various discourses around "openness" are present in the domain of ICT and development studies. An initial discourse in this area related to open source software and open standards, and how these can strengthen public information systems in developing countries. In recent times, we read about "open data" which involve governments placing relevant data in the public domain, and which may or may not require to be supported by open software. Open development is a more overarching theme being positioned as a theory of development, focusing on understanding how information-networked activities are carried out, in what circumstances and to what benefit. This openness discourse continues to unfold in a political-technical environment of increasingly centralized computing (cloud), cyber-crime, cyber-terrorism and increasingly comprehensive surveillance.

The conference theme of "Openness in ICT4D: Critical reflections on future directions" will seek to critically discuss different facets of open and openness, whether they represent hype or reality or both, what promises they hold for creating a better world, and what are the challenges and approaches we face in achieving the promised potential. To do this, the organizers welcome contributions from a wide range of perspectives, discussing for example potential tensions between open source and open data, the role of actors like the open society initiative in promoting openness as a value, and positive and negative freedoms. Those interested in participating are invited to submit to one of the following tracks:
- Themes, Insights and Agendas for ICT4D Research and Practice
- Graduate Student Track (please note optional early submission deadline)
- Open Innovation: Governance Models, Implementation Tools, Strategies and Outcomes
- Designing Open and Sustainable Technologies for Development
- Disasters and Climate Change, Role of ICTs, Challenges and Opportunities for Developing Regions
- Open Science for Development
- Development and ICT-enabled Well-Being
- Critical Reflections on Information Systems for Community Development
- Health Information System Architectures
- A Critical Understanding of ICT4D
- Open Government for Public Service Delivery: Critical Issues, Emerging Possibilities
- The Data Revolution in International Development
- ICT4D in Sri Lanka - Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions

Source: http://www.ifipwg94.org/call-for-papers-2015

FAO launches Open Foris to improve forest monitoring systems

FAO has launched an online resource tool Open Foris that it hopes will improve the way many developing nations monitor the state of their forests to tackle deforestation and climate change.

Open Foris's Geospatial Toolkit includes a collection of command-line utilities for processing of geographical data. It aims to simplify the complex process of transforming raw satellite imagery for automatic image processing to produce valuable information. It is particularly useful for processing big amounts of raster data, and provides a wide range of functionalities including image manipulation, statistics, segmentation and classification. The tools have been tested mainly in Ubuntu Linux environment although can be used with other Linux distributions, Mac OS, and MS Windows (Cygwin) as well. Most of the stand-alone programs use GDAL libraries and many of the scripts rely heavily on GDAL command-line utilities.

Open Foris tools are being built to support the entire inventory lifecycle, from needs assessment, design, planning, field data collection and management, estimation analysis, and dissemination. Remote sensing image processing tools are included, as well as tools for international reporting such as for REDD+ MRV and FAO FRA.

The initiative was created under the FAO-Finland Forestry Programme in collaboration with FAO's support to National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA) and the UN-REDD Programme to address the growing need for accurate and timely information on the state of forest resources and their use and users.

Released at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations' World Congress in Salt Lake City, Open Foris tools are already being tested in more than ten countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The governments of Finland and Germany have extended their supported to the initiative.

Source: http://geospatialworld.net/News/View.aspx?id=30021_Article; http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/254098/icode/

Satellite Data Enable Global Mapping of Mangrove Forests

The NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center has released a new data set on the extent of mangrove forest cover, which is among the most productive and biologically important ecosystems in the world. Global Mangrove Forests Distribution, version one, indicates that mangrove forests around the year 2000 covered an estimated 137,760 square kilometres across 118 countries and territories worldwide.

The Global Mangrove Forests Distribution data set was derived from one thousand Landsat scenes acquired between 1997 and 2000. Mangrove areas were identified using digital image processing methods and labeled with the help of reference field data and high-resolution commercial satellite imagery. The data are provided at a spatial resolution of about 30 meters, and are organized for downloading as tiles covering 10 degrees latitude by 10 degrees longitude. The data are useful in ecosystem modeling, biodiversity research, land cover change analysis, global carbon accounting studies, coastal hazard assessments, and decision-making regarding human-environment interactions and future adaptive strategies.

The data set was developed by an international team led by Chandra Giri of the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) Earth Resources Observation Science Center (EROS). Giri has previously worked at CIESIN and recently completed a 3-year term as a member of the SEDAC User Working Group.

Source: http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/set/lulc-global-mangrove-forests-distribution-2000

New forest land classification data set launched

British satellite imaging company DMC International Imaging Ltd (DMCii) has announced the completion of its Flagship project to develop a global system using Earth Observation (EO) satellite data to measure land carbon storage and how it changes over time. The project, supported by Innovate UK (formerly known as the Technology Strategy Board) was developed with consortium partners Rezatec Ltd Landscape Intelligence data services provider and University College London (UCL), world-renowned remote sensing and carbon sequestration researchers. The consortium was able to develop and deliver a unique approach to assimilating and transforming EO data from different sources and resolutions to calculate tropical forest carbon stock worldwide and provide a platform for carbon fluctuation modelling.

The project developed an online model representation of the tropical forestland class on a global scale. The model uses Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI) and Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) outputs, from the NASA MODIS

(Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) instrument, combined with ground data to emulate contemporary forestland classification distribution across the tropical portions of the globe. The model was designed to form the baseline for monitoring trends in forest cover and associated carbon stock quantification over time. The model software environment has been developed to assimilate ground data from multiple sources so that carbon stock calculations for a given area of interest can be further trained for enhanced local accuracy using minimal ground plots.

Source: http://earsc.org/news/new-forest-land-classification-data-set-launched

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"