

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

SDI-LAC

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Spatial Data Infrastructure-Latin America and the Caribbean (SDI-LAC) is a regional, monthly, and free, electronic newsletter from the [Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association](#) (GSDI). It focuses on aspects related with Spatial Data Infrastructure, and on GIS, remote sensing, and data management issues, related with SDI in Latin America and the Caribbean. It aims to raise awareness, provide useful information to strengthen national SDI initiatives, and support synchronization of regional efforts.



Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

GSDI

[GSDI Definition](#)

The [Pan-American Institute of Geography and History](#) (PAIGH), member organization of GSDI, and the [Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas](#) (PC-IDEA), promote SDI development in the region. The newsletter is prepared by PAIGH for GSDI.

[Message from the Editor](#)

[Input to this Issue](#)

[Global and Regional SDI, News, Presentations](#)

[National SDI, News, Links, Presentations](#)

[Articles and Publications of the Month](#)

[Geospatial Research, Applications, Software, Data](#)

[Training and Funding Opportunities, Awards](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Other](#)

[Americas: Conferences, SDI Events \(Year 2011\) \(Year 2012\)](#)



Message from the Editor

This SDI-LAC issue contains relevant news for 2011. The **Global and Regional SDI** section includes information on the expansion of GeoSUR Program activities to Central America from 2011; UN-SPIDER participation in the VI Space Conference of the Americas; the GEO-VII Plenary meeting in Beijing; OGC 2010 Progress Report; the Earth System Research for Global Sustainability initiative; UNSDI-NCO Website update; and some interesting conferences taking place worldwide. **IGS** section includes notes on the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas (SCA), and PC-IDEA continued progress, particularly of its Planning Working-Group. The **National SDI** section highlights activities of Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela: these include CONCAR's Committee on Standardization of Cadastral Mapping, and the integration of the National Environmental Information System to SDI in Brazil; steps towards a unified land management in Costa Rica; the new map sheets query application in Cuba; Ecuadorian metadata upload to GeoSUR; presentation of the recent SDI events in Peru and Uruguay; and activities developed on spatial information standards in Venezuela. **Articles and Publications** of the month highlights the new book "Argentina 500K: topographic mapping and imaging"; SDI application on soil-vegetation-atmosphere modeling; a systemic view across GEOSS Societal Benefit Areas; the semantics of similarity in GI retrieval; last FIG article of the

month for 2010; and the new ESRI eBook: Geomedicine. **Geospatial Research and Applications** comprise the UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory Mission to Guatemala; Standardizing administrative regions in Jamaica; Launch of the National Environmental Data System in Brazil; the Cadastral Management Web System in San Luis, Argentina; first UNEP regional Atlas on the state of the environment for the LAC region; the Caribbean Marine Atlas; launch of Google Earth Engine; and the release of deegree 3.0, among others. The **Training and Funding Opportunities** section contains calls for the Pan- American Technical Cooperation Projects 2012; OAS Academic Scholarships 2012-2013; ESRI Grant for countries listed on the SALB web site; and the IIASA Young Scientists Summer Program 2011. Finally, several **Events taking place in the Americas** are highlighted in the last section. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Back issues of the newsletter are at the GSDI website: <http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters.asp>

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Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

Input to this Issue

Thanks for their contributions to this SDI-LAC Newsletter issue to:

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[\(Back to top\)](#)

Global and Regional SDI, News, Presentations

[UN-SPIDER Participates in VI Space Conference of the Americas](#)

Source: UN-SPIDER November 2010 Updates by way of Santiago Borrero



The Sixth Space Conference of the Americas took place from 15 to 19 November in Pachuca City, in the State of Hidalgo in Mexico. Organized by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs with the support of the Office of the Governor of the State of Hidalgo, the Conference congregated official delegations from countries in North America, the Caribbean, Central and South America, as well as representatives from the space community, the academic community, regional and international agencies, non-governmental organizations, and experts from Europe, Asia, and Africa. The Conference set the stage for a wide range of discussions. Delegations deliberated on how best to join efforts to take advantage of existing opportunities for the use of space technologies in the context of peaceful uses of outer space. Experts, practitioners, and students exchanged impressions, and representatives of agencies discussed joint strategies and activities. For the host country, the Conference served as a venue for Mexican authorities and agencies to discuss the establishment of the Mexican Space Agency as a way to institutionalize the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and to take advantage of existing opportunities offered through a variety of space applications. The Office for Outer Space Affairs, represented by Mr. Juan Carlos Villagran de Leon, Programme Officer, and Mr. Werner Balogh, was recognized for its long-standing support. Representatives from UNESCO complemented the attendance on behalf of the United Nations System. Complementary to the political negotiations which culminated in the Pachuca

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

Declaration, the Conference included the Youth Space Forum, the International Fair on Space and Telecommunications, and the Space Camp, which allowed a broader audience to take part in this hemispheric event. Deliberations were conducted through four commissions: 1. Space Policy, Space Law and Youth Vision, 2. Environment, Disasters of Natural and Anthropogenic Origin and Protection of the Cultural Heritage, 3. Education and Health, and 4. Technological Development, Industry, and Scientific Research. The outcome of the working groups under these commissions found their way into the Pachuca Declaration. The declaration stresses the importance of international cooperation as a key strategy to take advantage of the opportunities that space applications for peaceful purposes offer. It also highlights the importance of institutional strengthening and capacity building. The Conference also introduced the Technical Advisory Group on Space Matters composed of representatives of Space Agencies and of governments of countries of the hemisphere, which will support the Conference in scientific and technical aspects. In addition, it requests countries to support a variety of activities on topics related to space applications, capacity building, research, and technological development. UN-SPIDER took advantage of the Conference for outreach activities, to continue its efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to plan activities to be conducted with the support of several countries. In the case of the Colombian Space Commission, meetings with its Executive Secretary and the Technical Coordinator paved the way for the establishment of a Regional Support Office in Colombia, hosted by the Commission. The Conference provided an opportunity for staff from UN-SPIDER to meet with high ranking officers of CONAE regarding a project to be conducted in Guatemala which targets food insecurity associated with drought. Discussions were also held with representatives of Ecuador regarding follow-up activities to the Technical Advisory Mission which was carried out in October 2009. The opportunity was also used by UN-SPIDER to establish links with representatives of NASA and USGS, to start planning a variety of activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in those countries where Technical Advisory Support has been provided. Recognizing the recent experience of the Chilean Space Agency during the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that impacted this country and a similar experience in Guatemala during tropical storm Agatha, it was agreed that UN-SPIDER and the Chilean Space Agency will undertake video-conferences to link the Chilean inter-institutional team that was established to assist in the processing of satellite imagery in support of ONEMI with similar teams already established in Mexico, and Guatemala. Similar efforts will promote the establishment of such inter-institutional, inter-sectoral teams in Ecuador, Dominican Republic and other countries of Latin America. Conference website: <http://conferenciaespacialdelasamericas.org/>

[GeoSUR Program to expand activities to Central America from 2011](http://www.ipgh.org/)

Source: <http://www.ipgh.org/>



Objectives of the GeoSUR Program include, among others, providing national and multinational digital maps to local, national and regional authorities that may facilitate territorial ordering, regional planning, and physical infrastructure design; and to promote permanent production and dissemination of new information layers at national and regional levels. GeoSUR currently provides more than 70 map services and over 2,000 individual maps, and contains more than 8,000 descriptions of these maps (metadata). For the period 2011-2012 GeoSUR intends to expand the Program to the Mesoamerica and the Caribbean regions, to consolidate the Program in South America with the addition of new sectors such as energy, transport, planning and health, to provide support to regional initiatives (e.g. OAS, IDB, WB, UN, Mercosur, CAN, UNASUR, CARICOM, Central America Project, etc.), and to promote the establishment of an SDI in Latin America. For more information please log on to the following GeoSUR Program web sites: <http://geosur.caf.com/> and <http://www.geosur.info/>.

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

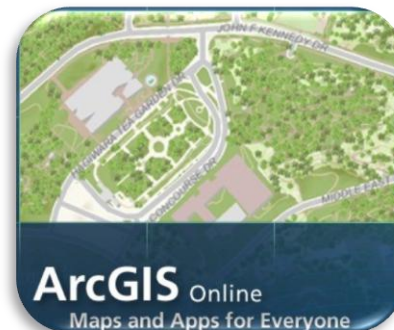
Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

SALB on ArcGIS Online

Source: SALB Newsletter December 2010, Vol. X No. 4

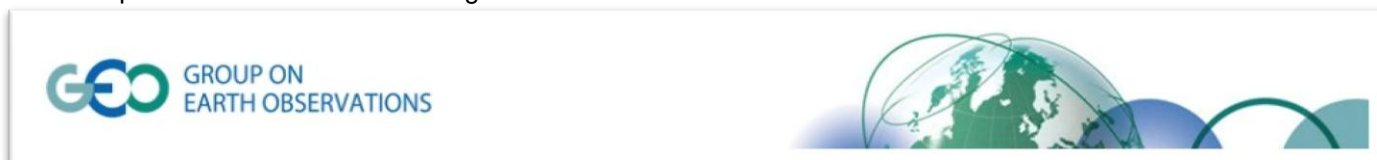
The maps validated by the National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) in the context of the Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB) project can now be accessed from ArcGIS online. Here are the steps to be followed in order for you to access them through this platform:

- 1) go to <http://www.arcgis.com/home/>
- 2) click on "groups"
- 3) type "SALB" in the search box
- 4) Click on the UN SALB group
- 5) Set the "Show" top menu to "All content" and all the SALB maps will be displayed



[The GEO-VII Plenary and Beijing Ministerial adopts Declaration](http://www.earthobservations.org/)

Source: <http://www.earthobservations.org/>



The GEO-VII Plenary and Beijing Ministerial, held on November 3-5, assessed [GEO's progress over the past five years](#), [evaluated past and future GEOSS implementation](#) (Global Earth Observation System of Systems), agreed a [Data Sharing Action Plan](#), and adopted the [Beijing Declaration](#). These documents as well as the [speeches](#) given during the Ministerial are posted on the [meetings page](#). The full-color book "[Crafting Geoinformation](#)" is also available for download.

[OGC Videos Highlight GEO's progress implementing GEOSS](http://www.opengeospatial.org/)

Source: <http://www.opengeospatial.org/>

The "GEOSS Architecture Progress" video (5 minutes) (<http://www.ogcnetwork.net/GeossArchProg>) provides an overview of the substantial progress made so far in implementing the bold plan established five years ago to build GEOSS. Five AIP-3 Demonstration Videos (each 5 minutes) (<http://www.ogcnetwork.net/geoss/aip-3/>) show some of the work that has been done in GEOSS workshop demonstrations that have involved scores of participants over the last few years. The workshop scenarios address GEOSS Societal Benefit Areas such as energy, disaster management, biodiversity, and air quality.



OGC: 2010 the Year in Review

Source: OGC® News December 2010



Below are some highlights of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)'s 16th year:

Despite difficult world economic conditions, OGC continued its year-over-year membership growth.

- Two additional OGC Interoperability Program Director staff, Nadine Alameh and Luis Bermudez, were hired to provide highly skilled expertise to IP initiatives. Both have PhDs in their chosen areas. Lance McKee, a long-time consultant to OGC, joined the staff as full-time Senior Staff Writer and Steven Ramage (previously the OGC business representative at 1Spatial) joined to head up marketing and communications.

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

- Two new membership levels, Associate GovFuture Local Membership and Associate GovFuture Subnational Membership, were added in November to increase participation by local, state and provincial organizations. The GovFuture focus is not standards development, but rather implementation, business value, "best practice" and virtual forums (teleconferences, webinars, email lists, access to the OGC Portal etc.).
- A Business Value Committee (a subcommittee of the Planning Committee) was chartered to help shape the message of value related to participation in the OGC and the value of implementing OGC standards. The new committee has a Chair from MobiLaps currently working at NASA, Marge Cole and two Vice Chairs, Emmanuel Mondon from Erdas in Europe and Kylie Armstrong from CRC-SI/Landgate in Australia.
- In 2010, the OGC Specification Program witnessed its highest level of standards activity since OGC's inception. Over 30 Standards Working Groups were active in 2010. Lifecycle maintenance of existing OGC standards has become a new priority. Many candidate standards were approved in 2010 and others are scheduled for completion in mid to late 2011.
- The Interoperability Program completed activities in 2010 on Test beds; A major Fusion Standards Study [<http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/fusionstudy>]; Pilot Initiatives including the phase 3 of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS) Architecture Implementation Pilot. [<http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/geoss/ogc>] among others; Interoperability Experiments including the OGC Hydrology Domain Working Group [http://external.opengeospatial.org/twiki_public/bin/view/HydrologyDWG/SurfacewaterInteroperabilityExperiment] among others; and several new OGC IP initiatives are being formalized.
- A new OGC Standards Fast Track process was developed and implemented in 2010. This new process is in testing through the end of 2010. The Fast Track process speeds up the overall time taken to approve a candidate standard and will allow staff to better engage in certain standards activities in areas such as lightweight standards for the Mass Market (consumer applications), to benefit Members and the IT community.
- Cooperation continued between the OGC Specification Program and other standards organizations to ensure that location content and service instances remain as consistent as possible through the standards stack as used in other domains.

For detailed information please log on to <http://www.opengeospatial.org/pressroom/newsletters/201012>

Forging a New Global Initiative: Earth System Research for Global Sustainability

Source: ICSU Insight Newsletter, December 2010, Vol 8, n°3



Recent months have seen significant new developments for the visioning process—the three-step consultative process spearheaded by ICSU, in cooperation with the International Social Science Council (ISSC), to advance global Earth system science to aid mankind's response to sustainability challenges. The first two steps of the visioning process have now been completed. The key outcome from [step 1](#), the document [Earth System Science for Global Sustainability: the Grand Challenges](#), is available online, and from [step 2](#) there was consensus that the existing structures, in their present form, do not have the capacity to deliver the integrated research needed to address the Grand Challenges. In the 12 November issue of *Science*, the Visioning Task Team made the case for an unprecedented global initiative to address the Grand Challenges and deliver the knowledge society needs to simultaneously reduce global environmental risks and meet economic development goals. The [full text of the article](#) is available via the visioning website. The process of creating and transitioning to the new initiative -[step 3](#) of the visioning process—is now underway. The Visioning Task Team, along with the global change programmes, the co-sponsors, funders, user communities and other stakeholders, will meet in Paris, 10-11 February, to discuss the proposed plans for the initiative, including the establishment of a high-level governing body. This will be followed by an intensive 18-month period to design, establish and transition to the new structure. For updates on the visioning process, including the latest information on the development of the initiative, visit the visioning website at: www.icsu-visioning.org. During the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) [7th Plenary Session](#) in Beijing, ICSU made a joint statement with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Principals of UN agencies, co-sponsors of the

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

global observing systems for climate (GCOS), oceans (GOOS) and terrestrial (GTOS). ICSU's Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) organized a side event in Beijing prior to the GEO Plenary.

[Dutch Regional Geo-information Available for All](#)

Source: <http://www.gim-international.com>

The Dutch provinces announced to publish their geo-information in the Provincial geoportal which was launched 1 December 2010. Encouraged by open data movements and more specific the European Directive on reuse of public sector information, the Dutch provinces make their geo-information freely available without restrictions in the reuse of the information. The information can now be accessed through the provincial portal. Although the portal is designed for professional use only, the provinces foresee that the convenient access for professionals together with the reuse policy will result in value-added use by commercial parties. Therefore, it is expected that in the near future, provincial geo-information may be accessed by the wider audience through products offered by the commercial sector. Website:

<http://www.provinciaalgeoregister.nl>



[Spatial Data Infrastructure project launched, New Zealand](#)

Source: Arturo Brun-Martinez

According to the Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) website, "SDI is the technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to acquire, process, store, distribute and improve the usability of geospatial data. Essentially, [it] is the full framework supporting the use of geospatial information." The SDI will be provided by Land Information New Zealand, through the New Zealand Geospatial Office. In the first half of this year, the New Zealand Geospatial Office will develop a design and implementation plan for the SDI. According to the Linz website, "The NZGO will work closely with government agencies, academia, the private sector and community groups to develop the implementation plan." Two projects already underway at Linz, an environmental and geospatial data catalogue and a web-based service for accessing Linz data, will be tied in with the SDI. In a statement announcing the SDI project, Linz chief executive Colin MacDonald says: "Cabinet has signaled that they recognize and support the need to build New Zealand's geospatial capability, and the establishment of a national SDI will be a vital step in this process." The Cabinet Paper outlining the case for a spatial data infrastructure [can be viewed here](#).

[UNSDI-NCO Website Update](#)

Source: <http://www.unsdi.nl/>



United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure
Netherlands Coordination Office

The United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure Netherlands Coordination Office (UNSDI-NCO) has a brand new design (<http://www.unsdi.nl/index.php>). The site is now cleaner, faster and better structured and better reflects the Office activities. Now under the News section (<http://www.unsdi.nl/news/index.php>) and the Links section (<http://www.unsdi.nl/links/index.html>) you may also download the GSDI Regional Newsletters. In addition, you may join the Office at Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, and YouTube.

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

[14th AGILE Conference on Geographic Information Science - Call for Short Papers and Posters](#)

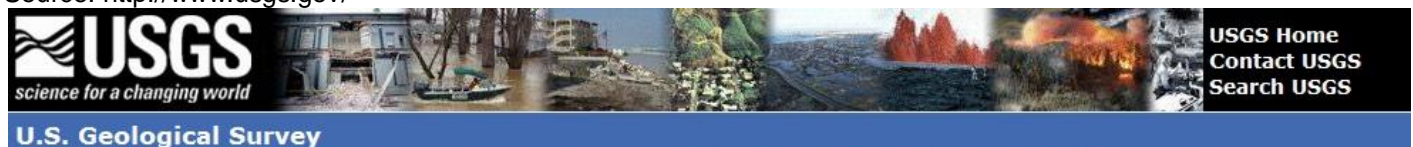
Source: Ludo Engelen by way of Santiago Borrero



The Conference will take place on April 18-21, 2011, in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Short paper and poster submissions: **January 14**, 2011. On behalf of the AGILE council, we would like to invite you to participate at the 14th AGILE International Conference on Geographic Information Science "Advancing Geoinformation Science for a Changing World". The program will offer parallel paper presentation sessions, keynote addresses, poster sessions and pre-conference workshops. It will offer opportunities to share your ideas, explore ongoing research, future developments, and state of the art applications, and to network with professionals from academia, industry, and government. As the call for long papers is closed, we now invite potential contributors to submit: 1) Short papers: 2000 to 3000 words manuscript of original and unpublished research work; and 2) Posters proposals: 500 to 1000- words manuscript of original scientific and strategic research work. All paper/poster proposals must be submitted electronically via the Online Conference Manager: <https://www.softconf.com/b/agile2011>. Authors' instructions are available at www.uu.nl/geo/agile2011. Travel Grants available: The AGILE Grant Program will allocate grants (scholarships) to AGILE 2011 attendees, with priority given to PhD students. An applicant must have submitted a paper or a poster. The estimated value of each grant is approximately 500 Euro (covering full conference registration and a maximum of 4 nights in a hotel chosen by the conference organizers).

[The USGS Announces The National Map Users Conference and the Geospatial Information Science Workshop](#)

Source: <http://www.usgs.gov/>



The U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Geospatial Program (NGP) and the Office of Enterprise Information are pleased to announce The National Map (TNM) [Users Conference](#), and the [Geographic Information Science Workshop](#) to be held May 10-13, 2011 in Lakewood, Colo. This inaugural event will assemble a wide range of participants including scientists, managers and geospatial professionals from government, industry, academia and other organizations. A goal of TNM UC is to share accomplishments and progress, acknowledge best practices, and exchange innovative ideas concerning [The National Map](#) in supporting science initiatives. The role of the GIS Workshop will be learning specific techniques for using GIS in support of science. Interactive dialog will be encouraged through panel and lightning sessions, poster presentations, workshops, and demonstrations. Currently, the Conference Agenda Committee is encouraging the submission of abstracts for presentations, demonstrations, and posters. More information and abstract submission: <http://nationalmap.gov/uc>

"Cities, Technologies and Planning" CTP 11

Source: Beniamino Murgante



"Cities, Technologies and Planning" CTP 11 http://www.unibas.it/utenti/murgante/ctp_11/descr.html will be held in conjunction with the 2011 International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (ICCSA 2011) on

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

June 20-23, 2011, at the University of Cantabria, Santander, Spain. <http://www.iccsa.org/>. 'Share' term has turned into a key issue of many successful initiatives in recent times. Following the advent of Web 2.0, such positive experiences based on mass collaboration generated "Wikinomics" have become "Socialnomics", where "Citizens are voluntary sensors". Whilst technologies (e.g. GPS, remote sensing, etc.) can be useful in producing new spatial data, volunteered activities are the only way to update and describe such data. This "Information-Explosion Era" is characterized by a large amount of information produced both by human activities and by automated systems; the capturing and the manipulation of this information leads to "urban computing" and represents a sort of bridge between computers and the real world, accounting for the social dimension of human environments. This technological evolution produced a new Paradigm of Urban Development, called "u-City". As attention is to-date dedicated to visualization and content creation, little has still been done from the spatial analytical point of view and in involving users - as citizens - in participatory geographical activities. The programme committee especially requests high quality submissions on Conference Themes including: SDI and Planning; Planning 2.0; Participation 2.0; Urban social networks, Urban sensing; E-democracy, E participation, Participatory GIS; Volunteered Geographic Information; and Ontologies for Urban planning; among others. Individuals and groups should submit complete papers (10 to 16 pages). Accepted contributions will be published in the Springer-Verlag Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) volumes. Papers should be submitted by **27 January**, 2011at: <http://ess.iccsa.org/> . For submitted paper formatting information, see the publisher's web site (<http://www.springer.com/computer/lncs?SGWID=0-164-6-793341-0>). Outstanding papers will be invited to a submission in a special issue of an international journal.

The 7th International Symposium on Digital Earth: the Knowledge Generation

Source: ISDE Secretariat



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR DIGITAL EARTH

The 7th International Symposium on Digital Earth (ISDE7) with the theme of the Knowledge Generation will be held in Perth, Australia from 23-25, August 2011 in conjunction with the Western Australian Land Information System (WALIS) Forum and the State Natural Resources Management (NRM) Conference. The International Symposium on Digital Earth is a series of symposia, which is an important academic event of the International Society for Digital Earth. The International Society for Digital Earth is a non-political, non-governmental and not-for-profit international organization. To date, the series of International Symposium on Digital Earth was successfully convened in China (1999), Canada (2001), the Czech Republic (2003), Japan (2005), USA (2007) and China (2009), respectively. WALIS Forum is one of the premier GIS conferences in Australia. WALIS will be celebrating its 30 Year anniversary with a world-class conference featuring international speakers, workshops on key issues, and a trade exhibition. Submission Deadline: **February 28**, 2011. Please submit abstracts and biography online via melissah.johnston@walis.wa.gov.au or walis@walis.wa.gov.au. Details of the submission process, including an abstract template and guidelines are available at http://www.isde7.net/call_for_papers. Abstract Please refer to the Conference website (www.isde7.net) or contact Melissah Johnston melissah.johnston@walis.wa.gov.au or via walis@walis.wa.gov.au

[\(Back to top\)](#)

IGS News, Links, Publications

Sixth Space Conference of the Americas (SCA)

Source: Lilia Patricia Arias by way of Mabel Alvarez



Pachuca, Hidalgo
15 - 19 de noviembre





Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

The Sixth Space Conference of the Americas began its activities in the meeting held in Pachuca (Hidalgo), Mexico, from 15 to 19 November 2010. In this conference participated official delegations from various countries, representatives of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the European Union and space agencies or government agencies responsible for guiding national policies and programs in this field. The Mexican government took over the pro tempore Secretariat of the VI SCA, highlighting the importance of science and space technologies for the development of America and the mechanisms for collaboration and cooperation to be established between countries to promote the advancement of these issues, the part of the implementation of applications that contribute to sustainable development. Working commissions were formed to address the following topics:

COMMISSION 1. Space Policy, Space Law and Youth Vision

- Space Policy - Space Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean at regional and international levels (national space plans; Space Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean; academia and research in the development of science and space technology; Academia/Industry/Government synergies).
- Space Law - Advancement of national legislation on outer space law (regulation of digital resources and telecommunications in the region, Law of outer space and education)
- Long-term sustainability of activities in outer space (international safety mechanisms; National Register of Objects Launched into space; administration of the electromagnetic spectrum, orbital positions and space operations)
- Strengthening youth participation in space activities

COMMISSION 2. Environment, natural disasters and protection of heritage

- Space and Environment (mitigation of Climate Change; Preserving biodiversity: towards sustainable development and food security; Study and management of water resources)
- Space and Natural Disasters (an integrated regional system of disaster management, based on satellite systems)
- Space and heritage protection (Space applications to support the protection and preservation of world natural and cultural assets in the UNESCO list)

COMMISSION 3. Education and Health

- Space and Education (ICTs, Strengthening education in science and space technology, technological innovation and competitiveness)
- Space and Health (prevention of epidemics, Telemedicine and Tele Health)

COMMISSION 4. Technological development, industry and scientific research

- Space technology development (Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); recommendations of UNISPACE III; Satellite Platforms: Design and construction; outreach programs to streamline business-university productive sectors)
- Aerospace and services (co-investment opportunities in the aviation sector; Industry/Government/Academia synergies on aerospace matters)

Heads of delegations from Canada, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Chile and Colombia made a great coordination and cooperation effort, through which it was obtained a consensus statement expressing interest in cooperating to the strengthening of the SCA, the pro tempore Secretariat, and the sustainability of activities in outer space, among other issues

CP IDEA Continued Progress in the Action Set on the 9th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (New York, 2009)

Source: Lilia Patricia Arias by way of Mabel Alvarez

Mr Luiz Paulo Souto Fortes, President of the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC IDEA), extended an important invitation to various representatives of national institutions responsible for mapping production processes and implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructure, to participate in the Executive Working Group of PC IDEA meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to guide the planning, implementation and monitoring of PC IDEA activities, in accordance with resolutions 1, 2 and 3 of the 9th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York in 2009. In this context, regional actions will take place according to the following subcomponents:

- Defining the Work Plan (2010-2013) in relation to the issues contained in Resolution 1.
- Gather and disseminate knowledge on issues relevant to SDI in the region (Resolution 2).
- Assess the current state of development of mapping and SDI in the Americas (Resolution 3).

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

- Implement technological means for discussion related to access to geospatial data and the role of governments in the management and dissemination of these data (Resolution 3).

The conclusions drawn from this meeting constitute a valuable contribution to strengthening the SDI regional committee, considering joint strategies, communication and collaboration established to promote production, access and use of geospatial data in the Americas.

The Planning Working-Group of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure in the Americas (PC-IDEA) met in Rio de Janeiro to develop Work Plan for 2010-2013

Source: Valéria Oliveira Henrique de Araújo by way of Mabel Alvarez



On December 1-3, 2010, Directors of the Geosciences Institutes and Representatives of Spatial Data Infrastructures of Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, and Mexico, as well as UN representatives, gathered at the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) in order to plan, implement, and further the activities of the Planning Working-Group of the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure in the Americas (PC-IDEA), chaired by Brazil (2009-2013). The meeting had the presence and participation of Mr. Alvaro Monett Hernandez, who belongs to the National Territorial Information System of Chile (SNIT) Executive Secretariat of Chile and is also a Coordinator of this Working Group; Mr. Carlos Guerrero Elemen, Director-General of Geography and Environment (INEGI - Mexico), Mr. Raul Gomez Moreno, Assistant Director-General for Basic Geographic Information of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico; Mr. Oscar Leonel Figueroa Cabrera, from the National Geographic Institute (IGN) of Guatemala; Ms. Tatiana Delgado Fernández, Executive Secretary of the Geospatial Data Infrastructure of Cuba (IDERC); as well as participants from Brazil: Mr. Luiz Paulo Souto Fortes, IBGE's Geosciences Director and also President of the PC-IDEA; Ms. Valéria Oliveira Henrique de Araújo, Operational Manager of the National Cartography Commission (CONCAR) of IBGE and Executive Secretary of the PC-IDEA; Ms. Moema José de Carvalho Augusto, Assistant to the Directorate of Geosciences (IBGE); and Ms. Anna Lúcia Barreto de Freitas, Manager of Institutional Strengthening and Training of the Executive Secretariat of the CONCAR (IBGE). During the three-day meeting there were also five video conferences with Ms. Lilia Patricia Arias, Head of the Center of Investigation and Development in Geographic Information (Geographic Institute Agustín Codazzi - Colombia); Ms. Paula McLeod, Representative of GeoConnections Program of the Ministry of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan); Mr. Stefan Schweinfest (United Nations Statistics Division - UNSD); and Mr. Amor Laaribi, GIS Specialist (United Nations Statistics Division - UNSD). Seven Working Groups have been established and will develop and implement the following actions in the coming years:

- Institutional strengthening, education and training
- Norms and technical specifications
- Best practices and guidelines for the development of the SDIs
- Innovations in the national cartography agencies
- Inventory of relevant issues on the SDIs to the region
- Assessment of the development of the SDIs in the Americas
- Implementation of technological means for the discussion related to geospatial data access and also to the dissemination of these data

The conclusions of the meeting will help strengthen articulation, communication and collaboration strategies, in order to promote the production, access and use of geospatial data in the Americas. Visit our site: www.cp-idea.org

[\(Back to top\)](#)

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

National SDI, News, Links, Presentations

[NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE OF BRAZIL \(INDE\)](#)

[13th meeting of CONCAR's Committee on Standardization of Cadastral Mapping](#)

Source: <http://www.inde.gov.br/>



The meeting was held between November 30 and December 2 aimed to discuss the Objects Catalog for Cadastral Mapping. The meeting took place in Rio de Janeiro, at the Centre for Documentation and Information Dissemination of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE-CDDI), and included representatives from IBGE and the Board of Geographic Service of the Army (DSG). This is the third meeting on the "Objects Catalogue" and its purpose is to list objects and their attributes that will provide for cadastral mapping (at scales from 1:10,000 to 1:500). The following are used as basic tools: an EDGV (Specification for Structuring Vector Geospatial Data), the tables of ABNT (No. 15777 of November 12, 2009), the object table of the Technical Chamber of Paraná, the object table of the Project GeoBase and the object table of the National Association of Aerial Surveys (ANEA). By the end of this meeting it was concluded the documents analysis and constructed the table of objects (with their attributes), which will be part of cadastral mapping. Later, this work will be directed to the Committee of the Digital Map Collection so that objects may be evaluated in order to include an extension of EDGV. "

[On air EDGV Public Consultation](#)

Source: <http://www.inde.gov.br/>

The National Cartography Commission of Brazil (CONCAR) launched a public consultation on the new version of the "Technical Specification for the Structure of Vector Geospatial Data (EDGV)" that is open until **January 21**. The EDGV aims to standardize the structures of geospatial data to enable sharing, interoperability and resource rationalization between data and cartographic information producers and users. This standard was prepared by the Committee on Structure of the National Digital Map Collection (CEMND), coordinated by Colonel Omar Lunardi, of the Army Geographical Service (DSG) and counted with the participation and effort of many CONCAR's partner institutions and committee members. This step aims to bring transparency to what is being prepared, including the society's comments and contributions. Public Consultation will be open to contributions on CONCAR's web page (http://www.concar.gov.br/consulta_publica/) for 54 days. After the closing, remarks will be assessed and consolidated by the Committee; the result will be a new version of CONCAR EDGV approved through a specific resolution.

[MMA system will be integrated to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(INDE\)](#)

Source: <http://www.inde.gov.br/>

The Ministry of Environment (MMA) began the integration process between the National Environmental Information System (in Portuguese SINIM) and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure of the National Cartography Committee of the Ministry of Planning. The Executive Secretary of the MMA in office, Volney Zanardi, opened the ministerial meeting highlighting the importance of land information for public policy in the environmental area. According to him, access to data on the Brazilian space is critical to guide protection and nature conservation actions, and to improving environmental quality. The territory is our business, he said. The deployment of the MMA system will also contribute to the consolidation of SINIM, a process planned since 1981, creating the National Environmental System (SISNAMA). The INDE will facilitate management, storage, access and sharing, dissemination and use of federal geospatial data, from state, municipal and district levels sources. This information is fundamental to the technical area, which since July is working on the improvement of indicators that allow an accurate assessment of the effects of environmental policies.

PROGRAM FOR REGULARIZATION OF CADASTRE AND REGISTRY, COSTA RICA– UNDER CONSTRUCTION

[New step towards a unified land management](#)

Source: <http://www.uecatastro.org/>



The recent passage of the law establishing the transfer of the National Geographic Institute (IGN) to the National Register means a great achievement for the Program for Regularization of Cadastre and Registry of the Government of Costa Rica in its promotion of institutional and legal reforms at various levels to long-term sustainability of the newly proposed cadastral-registry system. In addition to the expected improvement in the technical functions of IGN (which now belongs to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport) with this transfer the country is oriented towards a successful management

model where legal information (property rights) and graphics (cadastre) of buildings and land information are related and integrated in a single institution. In particular, Article 1 of the Act in question ascribes the IGN as a dependency of the National Register. It further states that "the IGN will be the leading scientific and technical dependence on national cartography, for the implementation of the official base map and the geographical basic description of the Republic of Costa Rica, its studies, research or development; and for drafting national policies on mapping, geography, geodesy, geophysics or similar in nature, aimed at supporting planning processes." While pending the signing of the Executive and its publication, the Law will become effective in one year. During this period, the National Register should be prepared physically and economically to meet up the IGN.

[Successfully concludes training program](#)

Source: <http://www.uecatastro.org/>

A total of 220 trained officers is the result of the Capacity Building Program on Cadastral Management and Geographic Information Systems at municipalities of the Program for Regularization of Cadastre and Registry of the Government of Costa Rica. Its primary objective was to train municipal staff in the administration of land registration and use of tools for managing Geographic Information Systems in order to generate knowledge, skills and attitudes that improve the processes of land valuation and tax collection on Real Property. The training, conducted between May and November, 2010, was attended by 170 officials from 61 municipalities in the country and over 50 employees of IFAM, the National Environmental Technical Secretariat (SETENA), the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) and shoreline area departments of certain municipalities.

[SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA \(IDERC\)](#)

[New query application for map sheets at scale of 1:25 000 in PDF format](#)

Source: <http://www.iderc.co.cu/>



A problem that occurs now globally is how difficult it becomes to locate information that meets a certain interest. This difficulty hinders the development, marketing and exchange of geospatial information. Given the need for an efficient search of files containing digital information of different classifications of maps at scale of 1:25 000 it was necessary to have an automated system that guarantees successful queries. Thus, it was developed an application for the information publication of

nomenclature MTD 1:25000 in PDF format, which does this publication using the same metadata. This application is implemented on open source platforms, using PostgreSQL as database manager; PostGIS module that adds support for geographic objects to the database; GeoServer as the mapping service; and GeoNetwork as catalog service; everything runs on Apache Tomcat 6.0 as the Internet server. Java was used as the Web programming language; and Google Web Toolkit (GWT) which is a Java development framework. You may access this application published under the services section through the URL: www.iderc.co.cu/MTD_25/

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

[ECUADORIAN GEOSPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE \(IEDG\)](#)

[Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador Completes Metadata Upload](#)

Source: <http://www.geosur.info/>

The Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador successfully completed registration of their metadata catalog -which was developed using the Geonetwork platform- into GeoSUR Portal. About 7,000 metadata produced under ISO19115 standard were uploaded to the site and are currently available to the public at www.geosur.info.



[SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE OF GUATEMALA \(IDEG\)](#)



Secretaría de
Planificación y Programación
de la Presidencia - SEGEPLAN -



[Executive recognized institutions with the highest level of access to public information](#)

Source: <http://www.segeplan.gob.gt/>

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), the Ministry of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN) and the Ministry of Public Finance (MINFIN), on December were recognized by *Acción Ciudadana* (Citizen Action), and the institutions of the executive branch with the highest rating of Access to Public Information Index 2010. This study is the first assessment by *Acción Ciudadana*, Guatemalan chapter of Transparency International, based on the Law on Access to Information regulations. According to Manager Manfredo Marroquín, in contrast to previous assessments the current one included only the executive branch (34 institutions). The implementation of the Act based on six indicators and their variables was evaluated, to identify which public institutions areas have been successful and which not. The study period encompasses July to September 2010.

[PERMANENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE OF PERU \(CCIDEP\)](#)



[National Workshop on Spatial Data Infrastructure - presentations available](#)

Source: <http://www.ccidep.gob.pe/>

The National Workshop on Spatial Data Infrastructure of Peru (in Spanish IDEP) was held on December 2-3, 2010 in Lima, Peru. The agenda included topics on electronic government and IDEP, Conceptual Design Proposal of the National Interoperability Scheme, the Cadastral Management Model, CCIDEP Metadata Policy, and IDEP Standards, among others. The presentations are available [here](#).

[SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY \(IDEUy\)](#)



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y sociedad de la información

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

[First Uruguayan Congress on Spatial Data Infrastructure - Presentations Available](#)

Source: <http://www.agesic.gub.uy/>

The First Uruguayan Congress on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) took place on October 25-26, 2010. This congress was a space for dissemination on the subject and its objective was to gain an overview of SDI development, both in Uruguay and in the region, and to develop a common working agenda for the future. The event called "Contributing to Development of a Regional Network" included presentations by various experts; in addition to contributions of the Working Group on Spatial Data Infrastructure (in Spanish GTIDE). Participant international guests provided a complete overview of the region and of the SDI situation in European countries such as Spain. The meeting was opened by the Presidency of the Republic General Director of Support Services, Diego Pastorino and Mr. José Clastornik, AGESIC Executive Director. Pastorino commented that this is an issue that is on everyone's agenda as a priority and since then, the Presidency has supported SDI development and a government scheme to drafting policies. He noted that the SDI is an issue that must be worked in a comprehensive manner and to that end the Agency of Electronic Government and Information Society (in Spanish AGESIC) is a suitable site because it is in line with their work section. Regarding SDI specific applications, he noted that this infrastructure is essential for those who are working on drafting the Law on Land Management (territorial ordering). For its part, Clastornik honored all those who started the initiative at *Pro - Catastro*. He noted, moreover, that inside AGESIC the message is commitment: "we are to death with this project," he said. He concluded that this project is aligned with the principles of the Agency: optimization, efficiency and effectiveness in the development of SDI applications. Finally, he stressed that this initiative contributes to the achievement of e-Gov and is one of the most comprehensive projects to display. The presentation on "[Building a Spatial Data Infrastructure for Uruguay in the context of electronic government by Cristina Zerpa and Yuri Resnichenko](#)" and other presentations of Congress may be accessed from [here](#).

[SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE OF VENEZUELA \(IDEVEN\)](#)

[Querying IGVSB technical standards for generation, access and sharing of spatial information](#)

Source: <http://www.igvsb.gov.ve/>

A working day called "Consultation of technical standards for generation, access and sharing of spatial information" was held on December at the Geographic Institute of Venezuela "Simón Bolívar" (in Spanish IGVSB), delivered by IGVSB technicians and specialists and inaugurated by Mr. Sergio Rodríguez Adam, President of IGVSB, and Deputy Minister of Planning and Environmental Management of the People's Power Ministry for the Environment. This working day, included working tables to tackling the lack of policies for the bulk of digital geographic information, in contrast to the number of existing standards for the production of physical maps, map sheets and cartography overall. The latter is a relevant point because there is a pertinent gap on digital mapping. IGVSB, as lead agency in this area has the responsibility to promulgate technically suitable standards. The work done during this event encompasses the first set of technical standards for spatial information production, access, and sharing, that allow using geographic and cartographic standardized information, as to ensure that all information may be shared within society through electronic platforms.



[\(Back to top\)](#)

Articles and Publications of the Month

[New book "Argentina 500K: topographic mapping and imaging. 1:500.000 scale "](#)

Source: <http://www.ign.gob.ar/>

The National Geographic Institute (IGN) launched the book "Argentina 500k", a work that shows the Argentinean territory at scale of 1:500.000, both using satellite images and topographic maps, including a DVD for its visualization. It is a work done in record time by staff of the IGN and the National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE). With Argentina 500K you may experience the vastness and diversity of the entire national



Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

territory, the extent of its fertile land, the extension of arid areas and the formation of its urban areas. The book aims to arouse curiosity in all the geographical knowledge of our country, from the specialist to the student, from the tourist to the general public. The book includes a DVD containing digital maps, a basic interactive viewer, and an advanced visualization and analysis module for those who want higher benefits.

6th gvSIG Working Days: Open Planet 4

Source: pressAtgvsig



Is now available the electronic Open Planet 4 magazine [1], the magazine was published by gvSIG project for celebrating gvSIG International Conference. In this issue it is highlighted a series of articles on the organization of the gvSIG project, with particular emphasis on the communities' section and a set of articles on use cases, representing a variety of areas where gvSIG technology is applied. [1] <http://jornadas.gvsig.org/descargas/revista>

Implementation of a metadatabase for a regional SDI for soil-vegetation-atmosphere modelling

By C. Curdt, D. Hoffmeister, G. Waldhoff, and G. Bareth. Article under Review for the *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research (IJS DIR)*, Special Issue GSDI-11

Abstract: Centralized data storage and data exchange is a key issue in many interdisciplinary research projects that focus on environmental field studies and regional modeling on various scales. Furthermore, the overall success of such projects depends on a well organized and prepared spatial data infrastructure including the storage of corresponding metadata. Therefore, the implementation of a metadatabase is essential. This paper presents the design of the metadatabase structure of an interdisciplinary research project that focuses on soil-vegetation-atmosphere modeling. Within this structure various metadata of different data types are handled according to recent standards. Therefore, a special metadata profile was developed and is described in the following [The complete article may be found at: <http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/article/view/135/145>]

Impact of Global Earth Observation – Systemic View across GEOSS Societal Benefit Areas

By Felicjan Rydzak, Michael Obersteiner and Florian Kraxner. Article of the *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research (IJS DIR)*, Vol.5 (2010), 216-243

Abstract: The work of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) is perceived as instrumental to attain sustainable development goals and to be a major driver of how the society–technology–environment system is managed. However, appropriate scientific methodologies to assess the benefits of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and validate investments in Earth observation infrastructure have been missing. This paper presents a systems approach to measure and analyze the impact of Global Earth Observation across the nine Societal Benefit Areas defined by GEO. The methodological framework presented here was developed and applied to be complete across space, time and sectors through integration and aggregation. Apart from the general assessment framework, we present some specifics of the numerical tool, which is based on System Dynamics modeling and simulation technique. Our results indicate that though the total system benefits are strongly policy dependent, improvements of GEOSS per se and data availability and interoperability, the accrued benefits are large and have a great potential shaping mankind's course to sustainability [The complete article may be found at: <http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/article/view/170/208>]

The semantics of similarity in geographic information retrieval

By Krzysztof Janowicz, Martin Raubal, Werner Kuhn. Article under review (accepted) for the *Journal of Spatial Information Science (JOSIS)*

Abstract: Similarity measures have a long tradition in fields such as information retrieval, artificial intelligence, and cognitive science. Within the last years, these measures have been extended and reused to measure semantic similarity; i.e., for comparing meanings rather than syntactic differences. Various measures for spatial applications have been developed, but a solid foundation for answering what they measure, how they are best applied in information retrieval, which role contextual information plays, and how similarity values or rankings should be interpreted is still missing. It is therefore difficult to decide which measure should be used for a particular application or to compare results from different similarity theories. Based on a review of existing similarity measures, we introduce a framework to specify the semantics of similarity. We discuss similarity-based information retrieval paradigms as well as

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

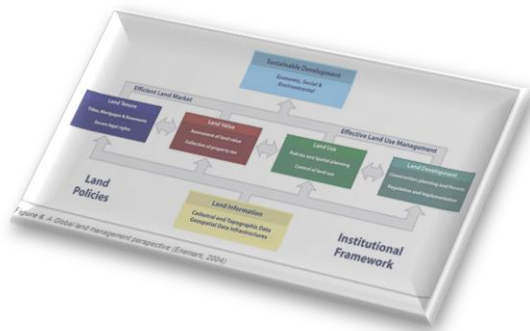
their implementation in web-based user interfaces for geographic information retrieval. Finally, we formulate open challenges for similarity research

[The complete article may be found at: <http://www.josis.org/index.php/josis/article/view/26/23>]

FIG Article of the Month - December 2010

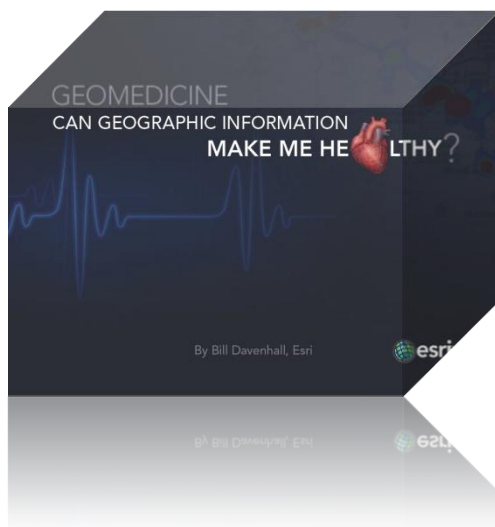
Source: <http://www.fig.net/>

In the FIG Article of the Month series high-level papers focusing on interesting topics to all surveyors are published.. The Article of the Month in December 2010 is written by Prof. Stig Enemark, FIG President 2007-2010: [*From Cadastre to Land Governance in Support of the Global Agenda - The Role of Land Professionals and FIG*](#). The paper facilitates an understanding of how the cadastral concept has evolved over time into the broader concept of Land Administration Systems in support of sound Land Governance. The role of land professionals and FIG is underlined in this regard. The paper also represents the essence of a range of papers presented by the author as President of FIG over the term of office 2007-2010.



New ESRI's eBook: Geomedicine

Source: <http://www.esri.com/>



In this e-book, Bill Davenhall sets forth the notion that the emerging field of geomedicine will produce a new type of medical intelligence that will leverage national spatial data infrastructures to benefit personal human health. Linking one's own personal health status to specific geographic factors can provide another set of powerful information tools that medical professionals can use to improve the quality of the care they deliver. Geomedicine, in the future, will mean that we will experience an increase in the number of patients who benefit from a more precise clinical understanding of the links between their health and where they live, work, and play. At the present time, very little of health-relevant geographic information is available to a clinician at the time of a medical diagnostic encounter, and it is certainly not a typical part of a comprehensive medical record. Leveraged by a geographic information system (GIS), information on a patient's potential environmental exposures can be delivered into the hands of clinicians while the patient is in the examination room. Using modern information technology in this way can go a long way to help both physicians and the patients they serve.

[\(Back to top\)](#)

Geospatial Research, Applications, Software, Data

[Technical Advisory Mission in Guatemala finds well advanced use of GIS in the country](#)

Source: UN-SPIDER November 2010 Updates by way of Santiago Borrero

UN-SPIDER carried out a Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) to Guatemala from 22 to 26 November 2010. Conducted at the request of the Presidential Secretariat for Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN), UN-SPIDER assembled a team of experts from CATHALAC-SERVIR which is a UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office, CONAE, CRECTEALC, and the Organization of American States. As in previous missions in Ecuador, Jamaica, and Dominican Republic, the TAM to Guatemala included visits to a variety of government institutions and universities, as well as a workshop with the goal of identifying strengths and weaknesses regarding access to and use of space-based information in all phases of the disaster management cycle. Through a review of existing institutional policies, strategies, and past and ongoing activities conducted by these institutions, the team of experts was able to deduce a set of recommendations that will

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

allow Guatemala to institutionalize its capacity to use space-based information to respond to disasters provoked by floods, hurricanes, droughts, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes and other hazards. The mission took note of institutional strengths regarding the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The mission also took note of examples for the use of space-based information for a variety of applications. The team of experts was also made aware of ongoing efforts conducted by SEGEPLAN to facilitate the sharing of information by government agencies through the establishment of the National Spatial Database Infrastructure (IDE-G). Efforts to establish this SDI began over a decade ago, when the National Geographic Institute (IGN) established the National Geographic Information System and a clearinghouse for such a purpose. SpaceAid and international cooperation: In response to the severe impacts provoked by tropical storm Agatha in June 2010 and the volcanic eruption of Pacaya volcano at the end of May; UN-SPIDER activated its SpaceAid Framework and was able to mobilize space agencies from China, Germany, and Argentina to support the National Emergency Operations Center (COE) in its role of coordinating disaster response. SERVIR-CATHALAC was also able to mobilize satellite imagery from Taiwan, Province of China and the United States. The imagery provided by these space agencies was used by staff from CONRED, SEGEPLAN, MAGA, and the IARNA Institute in Rafael Landivar University to map affected areas. These efforts lead to the establishment of an ad-hoc group on earth observations to support disaster response operations. The mission concluded with a briefing to the Lady Director of SEGEPLAN, the Director of Territorial Ordainment and the Director of SINIT. The opportunity was used to discuss further actions, and for the Lady Director of SEGEPLAN to become aware of the usefulness of space-based information for a variety of applications. The team of experts used the opportunity to propose recommendations regarding policies, strategies, and actions to institutionalize the use of space-based information in Guatemala.

Jamaica Standardizing Administrative Regions

Source: Arturo Brun-Martínez

Jamaican Cabinet approved the standardization of administrative regions across the public sector to commence from January 1, 2011, according to Hon. Daryl Vaz; Information, Telecommunications and Special Projects Minister. Minister Vaz informed that the methodology used to determine the standardized regions included: a review of existing documentation on administrative boundaries, technical analysis using GIS and a series of meetings with the major government stakeholders. The minister said, "The objective of standardization is to facilitate multi-task agency coordination of data to common geographic areas, both at the strategic level and at the community/neighborhood level, to inform planning and decision making". "Ministries, departments and agencies currently have different boundaries, which delineate their administrative zones across the island. The number of regions being used by each entity ranges from two to seven. The lack of standardization has serious implications for proper management, effective social intervention and efficient use of limited resources, both human and material," he added.



National Space Research Institute Launched National Environmental Data System

Source: <http://www.mundogeo.com.br/>



In order to develop its activities throughout the Brazilian territory, the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) recently launched the National Environmental Data System (SINDA), in its Northeast Regional Center (NRC) located in Natal (RN). The aim is to centralize and expand research and development of new technologies for collecting environmental data, while addressing regional demands for space monitoring of semi-arid and tropical Atlantic. The use of space technologies and innovative instrumentation enable, among other activities, monitoring of mangroves, fisheries and urban zoning.

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

[New Cadastral Management Web System in San Luis, Argentina](#)

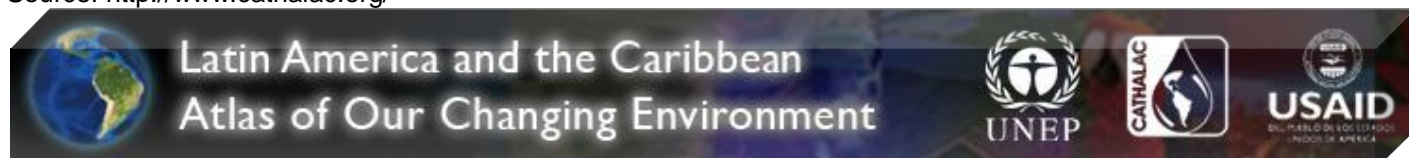
Source: <http://www.catastrolatino.org/>

The new Cadastral Management Web System that is part of the technological renovation of cadastre will allow practitioners to perform transactions from home directly to this office, browse the library resources and track applications without the need to attend to physical offices. The only requirement to access these benefits by competent professionals of this Directorate is the inscription, which is done through the web www.sistemacatastro.sanluis.gov.ar. For inquiries, please contact catastro@sanluis.gov.ar. From this site not only professionals have access but also relevant agencies may register and browse cadastral information such as surveying maps, cadastral records and a series of pertinent information. With these new technologies access to information is facilitated and a transparent and efficient administrative management is fostered.

[UNEP presents the first regional Atlas on the state of the environment.](#)

[Latin America and the Caribbean - Atlas of our changing environment brings together more than 200 images illustrating the principal environmental issues of the region.](#)

Source: <http://www.cathalac.org/>



More than merely a book of maps, Latin America and the Caribbean - Atlas of our changing environment represents the first regional effort to analyze the changes taking place in the region's environment, combining precise and striking satellite images with analysis based on rigorous data. The Atlas is an indispensable tool in formulating the future actions and public policies needed to achieve more sustainable development in the region. The images collected here highlight the region's richness and diversity of environments, ecosystems, species and landscapes. They also show, however, how this natural wealth is currently under strong pressure as a result of the prevailing economic development models – which, while leading to growth, have produced significant social and environmental changes. The Atlas is divided into three parts. The first two bring together regional information, while the third outlines relevant environmental issues in each country, analyzing 65 specific national cases. The more than 200 satellite images, maps and graphs provide a clear sense of the rapid urbanization that has taken place, without adequate planning, in places such as the Metropolitan Area of San José (Costa Rica) and San Salvador (El Salvador). The effects of climate change are evident in satellite images of glaciers in Chilean and Argentine Patagonia; deforestation can be seen in countries such as Brazil, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mexico, Guatemala and Haiti. The impact of mining is illustrated through pictures of La Guajira (Colombia) and Cerro de Pasco (Peru), while high-resolution images show the impact of the natural disasters that struck Haiti in January 2010. Other environmental problems highlighted by the Atlas include changes in land use, loss of biodiversity and degradation of coastal areas. The information detailed in this publication provides an overview of the region's environmental issues and offers a cautionary note as to the reality and magnitude of the problems involved. Viewing the satellite imagery lends a sense of urgency to the issue and serves as a reminder of the responsibilities that present generations have both to themselves and to future generations. Download [country fact sheets for the Atlas](#). This Atlas was developed by UNEP in collaboration with the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), and with additional financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

[Caribbean Marine Atlas](#)

Source: <http://caribbean-gis.blogspot.com/>

The Coastal Zone of every Caribbean country from Bermuda to Suriname and most Latin American ones is an important economic area. Many countries are of course particularly concerned about the effect of possible sea level rise due to Climate Change on their economic activity and their very survival. The [Caribbean Marine Atlas](#) (CMA) Pilot Project began as a joint initiative of 9 countries in the Caribbean region including Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands. The purpose of the CMA is to identify, collect and organize available geo-spatial datasets into an atlas of environmental themes for the Caribbean region as a support service to the sustainable development and integrated management of marine and coastal areas in the region.



Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

[SIRGAS Experimental Processing Centers become official](#)

Source: <http://www.sirgas.org/>

The SIRGAS Experimental Processing Centers of the National Geographic Institute of Argentina (IGN-Ar) and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) became Official Processing Centers according to a directive given by the SIRGAS Executive Committee. From January 1, 2011, the individual solutions generated by these Centers are combined with the solutions provided by the existing Centers (CEPGE, CIMA, CPAGS-LUZ, DGFI, IBGE, IGAC and SGM-Uy) to produce the final solutions of the SIRGAS-CON network. The participation of these new Processing Centers increases the redundancy in the network processing, improving the control quality of the SIRGAS products.

[Introducing Google Earth Engine](#)

Source: <http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/>

It was launched a new Google Labs product called [Google Earth Engine](#) at the [International Climate Change Conference](#) in sunny Cancun, Mexico. Google Earth Engine is a new technology platform that puts an unprecedented amount of satellite imagery and data -current and historical- online for the first time. It enables global-scale monitoring and measurement of changes in the earth's environment. The platform will enable scientists to use our extensive computing infrastructure -the Google "cloud"- to analyze this imagery.



[deegree now available in version 3.0](#)

Source: <http://www.osgeo.org/>



The deegree release Celsius (3.0) was published right on time for the 10th anniversary of the project celebrated at this year's deegree day. Ten years of experience with deegree - the free and open source software library for Spatial Data Infrastructures and other web based geo services - prove that consistent work with open standards in open software results in long-term stable solutions and sustains a successful position in the market. deegree 3.0 incorporates current developments of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE). It offers full implementation of the OGC protocols WMS, WFS, WPS and CS-W and is therefore the perfect match for efficient spatial data infrastructures. Serving large amounts of data with high performance was a

special focus for the development. This qualifies deegree 3 to provide scalable infrastructure nodes for e.g. INSPIRE implementations or to realize geospatial web services for public information systems (e.g. the German AFIS, ALKIS, ATKIS family of specifications) and beyond. A simplified and easy to use configuration concept hides the complexity of the underlying data model. Some preconfigured applications help users to easily find their way [1]. The deegree Utah Demo [2] contains the OGC Web Map Service and Web Feature Service. It demonstrates improved support for complex styling rules based on the OGC standard Symbology Encoding. The application is preconfigured and ready-to-run instantly. The preconfigured application inspire Node [3] is designed for operators of INSPIRE services. "deegree 3 is a major leap forward" says Markus Schneider, technical lead of the project. "Not only with regard to technical features like the support of complex application schemas and a native support for all relevant GML versions. It also applies to the development process: Tools have been integrated for automated quality assurance and for the build process of the software."

[1] <http://wiki.deegree.org/deegreeWiki/DownloadPage>

[2] <http://wiki.deegree.org/deegreeWiki/deegree3/UtahDemo>

[3] <http://wiki.deegree.org/deegreeWiki/InspireNode>

[\(Back to top\)](#)

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

Training and Funding Opportunities, Awards

[Call for Pan- American Technical Cooperation Projects 2012](#)

Source: <http://www.ipgh.org/>

Deadline for receipt of applications at the General Secretariat of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH): **April 29**, 2011. The General Secretariat and the Commissions of PAIGH, call for submissions for the Pan-American Technical Cooperation Projects for 2012. These projects must be directly related to the implementation of the "Pan American Agenda 2010-2020" and will be submitted for consideration by the 75th Meeting of Authorities to be held on June 13-14, 2011. For detailed information about this call and the application forms please visit: <http://www.ipgh.org/>. Contact: cooperaciontecnica@ipgh.org



[OAS Academic Scholarships 2012-2013 Cycle](#)

Source: <http://www.educoas.org/>

OAS Academic Scholarships are awarded to persons to undertake undergraduate or graduate studies Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree) and/or graduate research that lead to a degree at a university or higher learning institution in an [OAS Member State](#), with the exception of his/her own sponsoring country. Studies must be carried out on a full-time basis, and may be pursued by on-site or by distance education or a combination of both. The scholarship is awarded for a period of no more than 2 academic years, and the renewal for the second academic year is



subject to the availability of funds and granted only to continue the same program of study for which the scholarship was initially awarded. The total financial award from the OAS may not exceed US\$30,000.00 per academic year which includes tuition, other scholarship benefits, and administrative costs. Deadline for reception of applications at OAS Headquarters: Please contact the [National Liaison Offices](#) (ONE) in your sponsoring country. Questions about the eligibility/documents requirements and the application process may be sent to scholarships@oas.org. Please indicate in your e-mail if your question relates to the graduate or the undergraduate scholarship program.

[UNIGIS in Latin America - A 2011 opening session](#)

Source: <http://quito.unigis.net/>

From December (international students) / January 10, 2011 (Ecuadorian students) find all necessary information to register for the GIS training program under "Administración/Fechas" or directly under the UNIGIS Office (unigis.oficina@usfq.edu.ec)



ESRI Grant for countries listed on the SALB web site

Source: SALB Newsletter December 2010, Vol. X No. 4

Until now 8 countries have announced themselves to receive the ESRI grant. ESRI has extended the deadline for the grant until January 31, 2011. We hope that NMAs who are interested in receiving a software donation and online training from the countries listed on the SALB (Second Administrative Level Boundaries) web site (ESRI Grant page) will contact the SALB Team (salb@un.org) before this extended deadline.

[Scholarships for study at the Polytechnic University of Madrid \(UPM\)](#)

Source: <http://snitchile.blogspot.com/>

At the Web site of the UPM's School of Engineering in Surveying, Geodesy and Cartography is now available a website publishing scholarships for Master's and Doctorate graduate studies ([click here](#) to access the site). Currently the school offers [Master](#) programs on Geodesic Engineering and Cartography, and a [Ph.D.](#) program on Geographic Engineering. More information at: <http://www.topografia.upm.es/>



Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

Stanford University MA in Latin American Studies

Source: Angela Doria-La Mancha

Stanford University Center for Latin American Studies

Stanford's Center for Latin American Studies offers a competitive one-year MA program that allows students to develop a broader understanding of the region, while at the same time focusing on a specific theme or focus of their choosing. To gain a broader range of knowledge, students are required to take courses on the environment, politics and economics, culture, and a foreign language (including Portuguese or Quechua). Students who wish to write an MA thesis also have that option available to them, but a thesis is not required. Furthermore, our Center prides itself on its visiting scholar and visiting professor programs that provide students with the opportunity to interact with and do research for preeminent Latin American scholars. For more information on the prerequisites, application process, and the course of study for Stanford's Latin American Studies program, please visit our website: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/las/programs/ma.html>. Please remember that the deadline for applications for the 2011-12 year is **January 11**, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact the Program Coordinator, Angela Doria-La Mancha at adoriala@stanford.edu or log on to <http://las.stanford.edu>

IIASA Young Scientists, Summer Program 2011

Source: Kenneth Young

Each summer, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), located in Schloss Laxenburg near Vienna, Austria, hosts a selected group of graduate students, primarily doctoral, from around the world in its Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP). These students work closely with an IIASA senior scientist mentor on a project proposed by the student, related to his or her graduate research. Fellows selected by IIASA will receive funding to cover travel to IIASA and a modest living allowance. Applications Deadline: **17 January**, 2011. Program Areas: Energy, Transitions to New Technologies, Advanced Systems Analysis, Ecosystem Services and Management, Mitigation of Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gases, Evolution and Ecology, World Population, Risk Policy and Vulnerability. Global Problem Areas: Energy and Climate Change, Food and Water, Poverty and Equity. Detailed information about each program is on the IIASA Website. An on-line application form, along with more information, is at <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/yssp/register/>. General Questions: Sheila Poor, YSSP Coordinator poor@iiasa.ac.at. U.S. contact: Margaret Goud Collins, Program Director for the U.S. Committee for IIASA National Academy of Sciences IIASAYssp@nas.edu

Climate change post-doc in Virginia

Source: Mary Finley-Brook by way of Santiago Borrero

The University of Richmond invites applications for an environmental post-doctoral fellow to begin summer 2011. The successful candidate will join our team for two years to pursue climate change related research from an interdisciplinary perspective and to develop teaching experience in the liberal arts tradition. The position offers a teaching load of two courses per year, supported research, and mentoring from a diverse project team including a landscape ecologist, political and economic geographer, social psychologist, marine biologist, and geologist. Applicants must have received a Ph.D. in an area related to environmental studies within the last five years. Preference will be given to candidates with expertise in watershed science in urban settings. Candidates with strong quantitative training in modeling social and physical processes are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants should apply online at <http://www.urjobs.org> using the Staff (Salaried) link. Applicants will be asked to supply electronically a letter of application and curriculum vitae and should arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent electronically to Dr. Todd Lookingbill at tlooking@richmond.edu. Review of applications will commence **immediately** and continue until the position is filled. For more information on the program, resources, and teaching assignments, see <http://environmental.richmond.edu/>. The position is funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the Associated Colleges of the South.

[\(Back to top\)](#)

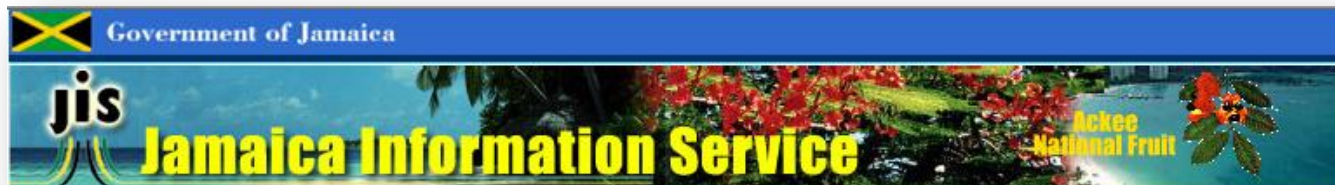
Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

Employment Opportunities

[247 job seekers placed through LMIS, Jamaica](#)

Source: <http://www.jis.gov.jm/>



A total 247 Jamaicans were placed in jobs over the three-month period April to June 2010 through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security's Labour Market Information System (LMIS). In addition, 584 job vacancies were posted and 1,031 persons were referred for proper training. The system attracted 2,177 job seekers over the period. The LMIS can be accessed through the Ministry's website at www.mlss.gov.jm, or directly at www.lmis-ele.org.jm.

[Marine GIS Analyst](#)

Source: Paul Dye by way of Dawn Wright

The Marine Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst is a limited term, full time hire to support spatial analysis needs for The Nature Conservancy's Global Marine Initiative. GIS skills in spatial analysis, cartography, and data management as applied to marine planning and associated conservation strategies are essential. The Marine GIS Analyst updates, manages and develops conservation databases and provides technical support in GIS or other relational database technologies to Marine Initiative staff to meet coastal and marine spatial planning goals.

This is a limited-term position that ends June 30, 2012, unless extended by TNC.



[\(Back to top\)](#)

Other

[EC Launches Open Access Infrastructure Project](#)

Source: Geoconnexion Magazine, Geo: International

The European Commission has launched the project "Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe" (OpenAIRE), the purpose of which is to encourage and support free online access to knowledge generated by researchers within grants from the Seventh Framework Programme and the European Research Council. With EUR 4.17 million in funding, OpenAIRE has 38 partners and is coordinated by the University of Athens in Greece. It will provide support structures for researchers and an electronic infrastructure to handle peer-reviewed articles. It also aims to establish cooperation with communities to deposit access and manage research datasets. The project remains in line with the Digital Europe objectives, which aim to strengthen the European Research Area through knowledge sharing and increasing competitiveness in Europe. For more information visit: [OpenAIRE website](http://www.openaire.eu/index.php?lang=en)

[\(Back to top\)](#)

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

Americas: Conferences, SDI Events

[XIV International Convention and Fair Informática 2011](http://www.informaticahabana.cu/)

Source: <http://www.informaticahabana.cu/>



The Convention and Computing Exhibition in its fourteenth edition will be held from 7 to 11 February 2011 at the Palacio de Convenciones in Havana, Cuba and the Pabexpo fairgrounds, with the theme "Converging technologies: integration and independence, " with the aim of promoting scientific advances, new technologies and industry developments. More information at: <http://www.informaticahabana.cu/es/inicio>

First National Congress of Geographic Information Technologies and Fourth Meeting of Members of Geographic Information Technologies of the NEA

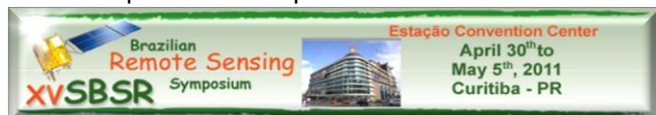
Source: <http://www.geoinstitutos.com/>



The Laboratory of Geographic Information Technologies, attached both to the Faculty of Humanities at the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste (UNNE) and the Geohistorical Research Institute - CONICET, calls for participation in the First National Congress of Geographic Information Technology and IV Meeting of Users of Geographic Information Technologies of the NEA to be held on April 14-15 2011 in Resistencia, Chaco, Argentina. More information: <http://hum.unne.edu.ar/>. Contact: labtig@hum.unne.edu.ar

[XV Brazilian Remote Sensing Symposium \(SBSR\)](http://www.dsr.inpe.br/sbsr2011/enindex.html)

Source: <http://www.dsr.inpe.br/sbsr2011/enindex.html>



The purpose of the XV Brazilian Remote Sensing Symposium (SBSR) is to promote the meeting of academic and scientific communities of remote sensing, geotechnologies, and related areas. The Symposium is a great opportunity for the presentation of technical and scientific results of remote sensing research, the exchange of experiences among professionals, the improvement of knowledge in applications using remote sensing and

geotechnologies, the advancement of institutional cooperation, and for the development of the private sector. <http://www.dsr.inpe.br/sbsr2011/enindex.html>

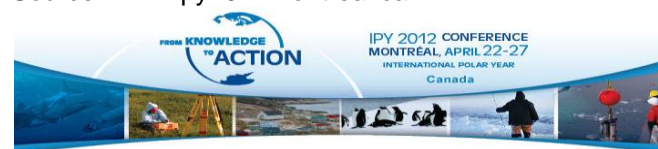
[In Panama, will be held the Second Consultative Technical Meetings of PAIGH Commissions](http://www.ipgh.org/)

Source: <http://www.ipgh.org/>

With support of the General Secretariat of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), Panama's National Section organizes the Second Consultative Technical Meetings of PAIGH Commissions, for the quadrennium 2009-2013, to take place on June 15, 16 and 17, 2011, in Panama City. The central purposes of the joint meeting will be to assess the implementation of the Pan American Agenda 2010-2020, and to recommend adjustments as necessary to fulfill its purposes.

[IPY 2012 Conference 'From Knowledge to Action'](http://www.ipy2012montreal.ca)

Source: www.ipy2012montreal.ca



The IPY 2012 will take place in Montreal, Canada, on April 22-27, 2012. The conference is the final event of the International Polar Year 2007-2008, the largest international programme of interdisciplinary polar research ever undertaken. This conference will provide an opportunity to translate new understandings into policy that will guide activities in and enhance stewardship of the polar regions. Call for Abstracts: **June 2011**. Contact: pierre.lamoureux@nrc.gc.ca

[UN Conference on Sustainable Development \(commonly called Earth Summit 2012\) or 'Rio+20'](http://www.uncsd2012.org/)

Source: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/>



A brief information booklet on Rio20, to be held on May 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, explains why the Conference is being convened, how it is organized, who the main actors are and how all citizens of the planet can take part in shaping its preparations and outcome. [Click here](#) for an on-line reading version and [here](#) for a print version of the brochure. [Blog on Rio+20](#).

[\(Back to top\)](#)

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

YEAR 2011

[Year 2011](#) [January](#) [February](#) [March](#) [April](#) [May](#) [June](#) [July](#) [August](#) [September](#) [October](#) [November](#) [December](#)
[Year 2012](#) [January](#) [February](#) [March](#) [April](#) [May](#) [June](#) [July](#) [August](#) [September](#) [October](#) [November](#) [December](#)

JANUARY 2011

6-7 *NEW*	Redlands, CA USA	GeoDesign Summit
19-21	Washington DC, USA	ESRI Federal User Conference (FedUC)
24-28 *NEW*	Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas, USA	MAPPS 2011 Winter Conference

FEBRUARY 2011

2-4	Washington DC, USA	ESRI Federal User Conference (FedUC)
3-4 *NEW*	Redlands, CA USA	Redlands GIS Week
7-9	New Orleans LA, USA	International LiDAR Mapping Forum
8-10 *NEW*	Redlands, CA USA	Redlands GIS Week
7-11	La Havana, Cuba	VII International Congress GEOMATICS 2011
23-24	Redlands CA, USA	2011 ESRI California/Hawaii/Nevada Regional User Group Conference
23-28	Gosier Guadeloupe, France	GEOProcessing 2011: The Third International Conference on Advanced Geographic Information Systems, Applications, and Services

MARCH 2011

1-2 *NEW*	Muncie, IN USA	2011 Indiana GIS Conference
6-8	Palm Springs CA, USA	2011 ESRI Worldwide Business Partner Conference (BPC)
7-10	Palm Springs CA, USA	2011 ESRI Developer Summit
21-24	Myrtle Beach SC, USA	Coastal GeoTools 2011
21-24 *NEW*	The Woodlands (Houston) TX, USA	SPAR 2011: 3D Imaging & Positioning for Engineering, Construction, Manufacturing
28-30 *NEW*	Hershey PA, USA	24th Annual GIS-T Symposium
28-31	Fresno CA, USA	17th Annual California GIS Conference - Meeting California's Challenges
30-31 *NEW*	Chicago IL, USA	Enterprise Strategies for Location Intelligence USA
Mar.31-Apr.1 *NEW*	New York, NY USA	MAPublisher training

APRIL 2011

14-15	Resistencia, Chaco, Argentina	First National Congress of Geographic Information Technologies and Fourth Meeting of Members of Geographic Information Technologies of the NEA Contact: lbtig@hum.unne.edu.ar
18-21 *NEW*	Houston TX, USA	2011 ESRI Petroleum User Group Conference
22-27 *NEW*	Montreal, Canada	IPY 2012 Conference 'From Knowledge to Action'
Apr.30 - May 5	Curitiba PR, Brazil	XV Brazilian Symposium on Remote Sensing (SBSR)

MAY 2011

1-5	Milwaukee WI, USA	ASPRS 2011 Annual Conference "Ride On The Geospatial Revolution"
2-4	Jacksonville FL, USA	2011 ESRI Southeast Regional User Group
10-13 *NEW*	Lakewood CO, USA	The National Map Users Conference and the Geospatial Information Science Workshop
11-14	Paraty, Brazil	I Brazilian Symposium of Historical Cartography
14-18	Victoria BC, Canada	International Marine Conservation Congress

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

16-20 *NEW*	St Louis MO, USA	URISA Leadership Academy
19	Botucatu SP, Brazil	II Symposium on Geostatistics Applied to Agrarian Sciences
19-24	Washington DC, USA	Second International Marine Conservation Congress - Making Marine Science Matter
23-25	Washington DC, USA	COM.Geo 2011: 2nd International Conference and Exhibition on Computing for Geospatial Research and Application
24-25 *NEW*	Grantville PA, USA	19th Annual Pennsylvania GIS Conference
25-27	Toluca, Mexico	XIII Latin American Conference on Geographic Information Systems (CONFIBSIG) E-mail: confibsigXIII@uaemex.mx

JUNE 2011

14-16 *NEW*	Sao Paulo SP, Brazil	MundoGEO#Connect
15-17 *NEW*	Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá	Second Meeting of the PAIGH Joint Technical Committees
21-24 *NEW*	University of Nottingham , USA	Third Open Source GIS Conference - OSGIS 2011
27-30	Atlanta GA, USA	2011 URISA GIS in Public Health Conference Contact: IMCCprogram@gmail.com

JULY 2011

4-8	La Havana, Cuba	VIII International Convention on Environment and Development
7-12	San Diego CA, USA	The Survey Summit arranged by ESRI and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM)
9-12 *NEW*	San Diego CA, USA	2011 ESRI Homeland Security GIS Summit
9-12 *NEW*	San Diego CA, USA	2011 ESRI International User Conference
10-11 *NEW*	San Diego CA, USA	ESRI Business GIS Summit
16-19 *NEW*	Big Bear Lake CA, USA	14th Annual Conference Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS)

SEPTEMBER 2011

17-27 *NEW*	Chantilly VA, USA	2011 GXP User Conference discover. learn. advance
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NOVEMBER 2011

1-4 *NEW*	Indianapolis IN, USA	GIS-Pro 2011: URISA's 49th Annual Conference for GIS Professionals
7-12 *NEW*	Pará - Belém (PA), Brazil	V International Symposium on Agricultural Geography and VI National Symposium on Agricultural Geography
14-18	Santiago, Chile	UGI 2011 Regional Geographic Conference

YEAR 2012

[Year 2012](#) January February March April [May](#) June [July](#) August September October November December

MAY 2012

14-17	Quebec City, Canada	GSDI-13
TO BE DETERMINATED *NEW*	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	UN Conference on Sustainable Development (commonly called Earth Summit 2012) or 'Rio+20'



Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

JULY 2012

7-12 NEW	San Diego CA, USA	The Survey Summit
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[\(Back to top\)](#)

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