GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 3, No. 8, 2013

"The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association - Advancing a Location Enabled World"

ASSOCIATION NEWS

GSDI 14/AfricaGIS Conference Update!

JOIN the GSDI Association or International Geospatial Society to enjoy conference fee reductions!

The organisers of the **Global Geospatial Conference 2013**, to be held at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4-8 November, are pleased to announce that industry leaders **Esri**, **Intergraph**, **Google** and **DigitalGlobe** have all signed on as lead sponsors for this joint *GSDI 14 World Conference* and *AfricaGIS 2013 Conference*.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION UPDATE!

Only 10 days remain to acquire the "Early Rate" for full registration at the Conference! The regular "Early Rate" **ends on 15 September**. Register and get your payment in now to save money! Register at:
http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/register.html.

It is shaping up to be a great conference! Over 250 presentation proposals from across the globe were accepted for the conference, several free workshops and sponsored sessions are offered throughout the week, we will witness the launch of AfriGEOSS, the exhibition hall is filling, the impressive featured plenary speaker list is growing and a special presentation will be made by the Global Citizen Award recipient, Prof Jacqueline McGlade. For details check the links at http://gsdi.org/gsdi14 and a previous news release at http://www.gsdi.org/node/630

Hosts, Sponsors, Supporters and Collaborators

Esri, Inc. is the conference Titanium Sponsor while **Intergraph Corporation** and **Google**, Inc. are Platinum Sponsors and **DigitalGlobe** is a Gold sponsor.

Conference Sponsors, Supporters and Collaborators

EIS-Africa

International Geospatial Society

GSDI Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

EiABC Environmental Planning and Geodesign Competence Center

A A R S E African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment

Ethiopian Mapping Agency

GIS Society of Ethiopia (GISSE)

RCMRD *Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources*

GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS *Group on Earth Observations (GEO/GEOSS)*

OGC® Making location count. www.opengeospatial.org

ICA ACI International Cartographic Association Association Cartographique Internationale

Open Geospatial Consortium   *ICA*

Our Media Partners

INFORMATION FOR REGISTRANTS FROM DEVELOPING NATIONS

If you reside in a developing nation and are a current member of either EIS-Africa or the International Geospatial Society (IGS), you qualify for an extra-low conference registration rate as shown at http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/fees.html. The registration system automatically detects both of these conditions. If you are not currently a member of EIS-Africa or IGS, you may join by following Option A or Option B as follows.

OPTION A
1. Create an account and register under Individual registration at the registration page at: http://www.gsdi.org/exec/eventreg/,.

2. In the registration process you can add $US 50 as a dues payment to EIS-Africa or the International Geospatial Society (IGS). If you do this, the system will automatically invoice you at the reduced registration rate.

OPTION B
You are also able to join the International Geospatial Society for free if you are a geospatial specialist from a developing nation. To join IGS for free complete the following steps:

1. Register as an individual in the Geographic Information Knowledge Network at http://giknet.org (Click login in the upper right hand corner and Register for an Account if you do not have one).

2. After establishing an account, login and under "My Submissions" submit your "Profile for an Individual." Don't forget to upload your photo. It may take a day or two for the moderator to approve your submission. After approval, view your profile at http://www.giknet.org/registry/individual.php and record the number at the end of your profile website link

3. Upon approval you will receive an email instructing you how to join the International Geospatial Society for free. Upon joining, your name and personal profile will be listed at http://www.igeoss.org/members

4. After you join, the conference registration system will automatically invoice you at the reduced registration rate. Go to the registration page at http://www.gsdi.org/exec/eventreg/, create an account and register under Individual Registration.

Either Option A or Option B will allow you to acquire the much reduced conference registration rate for participants from developing nations.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

- Jack Dangermond, President, Esri, Inc.
- Peter Gilruth, Director, Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), United Nations Environment Programme
- Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Wilbur Khasilwa Ottichilo, Member of Parliament, Emuhaya Constituency, Kenya
- Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director, Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
- Lee Schwartz, Director, Office of the Geographer and Global Issues, US Department of State
- Carrie Stokes, US AID GeoCenter
- Stanley Wood, Gates Foundation
- …and more!

Visit the conference web site for latest information on Keynote speakers and plenary sessions.

AfriGEOSS Launch!

AfriGEOSS is the GEO initiative to reinforce Earth observation in Africa and will be launched on the second day of the conference, followed by a reception that evening at the UNECA. This new initiative that will expose African experts to global collaborations and improve their access to data and open-software tools for applications development to create new benefits for society, help sustain existing capacities, encourage knowledge transfer and provide a large return on investment in EO.

Plenaries, Exhibition and Sponsors

Seven plenary sessions are scheduled and exhibition space is rapidly filling. The exhibition area will be available throughout the day from 4-7 November. For firms and organisations not yet registered for the conference, note that substantial reductions in Exhibitor and Sponsorship fees are available to companies and agencies that are members of the GSDI Association. It is not too late to join the GSDI Association to enjoy conference fee reductions, but you must be a registered member of the GSDI Association in order to benefit from the discounted fees.

Update! A special plenary panel on "Aid Programs Supporting Mapping and Geospatial Initiatives" will feature on Thursday, 7 November, with high-level speakers from a range of African and international development organisations.

Workshops

The workshop programme is listed on the Conference web site. Training workshops are offered throughout the week, beginning on Sunday, 3 November, sponsored and organized by agencies, private companies and project consortia. Note that all attendees can participate in the workshops at no additional cost. For details, visit: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/workshops.html

Register Now!

Conference registration is now open on the conference website at **www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/register.html**. The **early-bird registration period ends on 15 September**.

A substantial reduction in registration fees is available for local participants, members of EIS-Africa and members of the International Geospatial Society (IGS) who are from low income per capita nations. It is not too late to become a member of the IGS – visit: **http://www.igeoss.org/join** to join today!

About the Global Geospatial Conference 2013

This combined and fully integrated conference offers numerous opportunities for oral presentations and refereed and non-refereed publication outlets. We invite presentations covering the full range of practice, development and research experiences that advance the practice and theory of spatially enabling citizens, government, and industry. The conference theme is Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction.

AfricaGIS is the largest regularly occurring GIS conference in Africa with participants from the whole continent. The GSDI World Conference moves to sites across the globe to offer geospatial specialists from all parts of the world opportunities to better exchange ideas and learn from peers in building spatial data infrastructure. For past conferences, see: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences.

Important Conference Dates

- Deadline for Full Conference Registration Payment for All Presenters: 15 Sept 2013
- Early registration fee ends: 15 September 2013
- Conference Dates: 4-8 Nov 2013
- Workshops: Esri workshops begin on Sunday, 3 November 2013.

Important Conference Links

- Conference Website: **http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14**
- Conference Registration: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14/register.html
- Past GSDI World Conference Proceedings: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences
- Past open access Books affiliated with the conference: http://www.gsdi.org/openaccessbooks

GEO CHALLENGE GRANTS

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) has contributed $5,000 to help defray expenses of worthy applicants from economically disadvantaged nations in Africa to attend the Global Geospatial Conference 2013 and training workshops before and after the conference. GEO invites, encourages and challenges other geospatial organizations and agencies from across the globe to make additional contributions.

To qualify to receive partial travel support, an applicant must have an abstract or paper accepted for the conference and be a resident in, and citizen of, any nation in Africa. Abstract submissions have now closed and the received abstracts are under review. Representatives from contributing organizations will serve on the selection panel for participants to receive the travel support.

If your organization can make a contribution to help support deserving peer professionals from across the African continent to attend the conference, please contact Sives Govender, Director, EIS-Africa, email: SGovender@eis-africa.org, phone: +27-12-3491068. If you are willing to fund and host a workshop, let him know that as well.

Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director of GEO, is one of the keynote speakers at the conference, and will be focusing on GEO's AfriGEOSS initiative, which seeks to identify the challenges, and to put in place measures, to enhance Africa's participation in, and contribution to, GEOSS. See: http://www.earthobservations.org/art_019_002.shtml.

THE GSDI ASSOCIATION 'GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD'

The GSDI Association's **Global Citizen Award** recognizes globally an individual who has provided exemplary thought leadership and substantive worldwide contributions in (1) promoting informed and responsible use of geographic information and geospatial technologies for the benefit of society and/or (2) fostering spatial data infrastructure developments that support sustainable social, economic, and environmental systems integrated from local to global scales. The recipient receives a medallion and certificate to be presented at the global conference, and is invited to present a visionary speech.

Following appraisal of the nominations and final selection by the awards committee, the winner has been selected and is *Prof Jacqueline McGlade*, former Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA) for the past 10 years and long-time supporter of open data for environmental planning and monitoring. Since 2003, Prof McGlade has overseen a significant increase in the coverage and extent of data and information processed and analysed by the EEA/Eionet, and a doubling of the resources for the agency to support this work. Be sure to attend the conference to hear Jacquie's thoughts on the future, which are always stimulating.
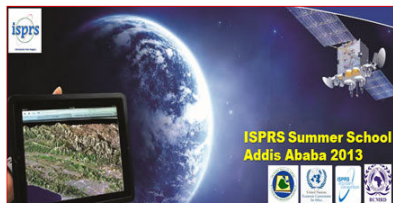
Visit the Conference website at www.gsdi.org/gsdi14/ for the latest news on the programme, workshops, meetings, sponsors and exhibitors updates.

RELATED CONFERENCE NEWS

10th ISPRS Student Consortium & WG VI/5 Summer School

The 10th ISPRS Student Consortium & WG VI/5 Summer School will be held from 29 October to 2 November 2013 at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Headquarters, Menelik II Avenue, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the week prior to the Global Geospatial Information 2013 Conference. Get full information at the link below.
http://www.rcmrd.org/index.php/10th-isprs-student-consortium/general-information

With the main theme "Geospatial Science for Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development", the event brings together researchers, policy makers, and practitioners from developed and developing countries to share insights into the challenges and opportunities of geospatial science and technology and applications in solving world problems. It will showcase cutting-edge research from around the world, focusing on themes of equity and risk, learning, capacity building, methodology, and possibly investment approaches in geospatial applications.

It will explore practical adaptation policies and approaches, and share strategies for decision making from the international to the local scale. You, your partners, and colleagues are invited to the 10th ISPRS Student Consortium and help to make the conference a success. It will further help to promote the application of Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS and other related digital mapping as well as create a very good networking environment. The topics include Change Detection, Food Security, Agriculture Monitoring, Land Cover/Use and Disaster Monitoring.

All courses, except the technical trip and social events, include class lectures and discussions. Some of the courses will also offer practical instrument operations and lab exercises. Detail program and schedules published on the web site.

Download the registration form at the link below before 10 September. Don't delay! Register today!
http://www.rcmrd.org/docs/ISPRS10SS_RegistrationForm_2013.doc

Important Dates:
- Registration Closes: 10 September 2013
- Fee Transfer/ Participation Confirmation: 30th September 2013
- Registration at Venue/ Accommodation: 28th October 2013
- Technical Visit: 1st November 2013
- Closure and Checkout: 3rd November 2013

Fees:
- All Students: 100 US Dollars
- ISPRS SC Members: 90 US Dollars
- Above 35 years: 120 US Dollars

Limited scholarships for participation at the ISPRS Summer School are available for undergraduate students from Eastern African Universities. For further information: see the RCMRD website at: http://www.rcmrd.org/index.php/10th-isprs-student-consortium/general-information.

GSDI COMMITTEE NEWS

To keep abreast of what is happening in SDI and related fields around the globe, be sure to check out the various newsletters downloadable from the GSDI website (http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters). These include the *GSDI Regional Newsletters* for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America & Caribbean; the *GSDI & IGS Global News* (covering GSDI Association and IGS Member activities), *FGDC Newsletter* (USA SDI news), EuroGeographics and *EUROGI Newsletters* (covering Europe), *EIS-Africa* (environmental news from Africa), *SALB Newsletter* (Second Administrative Level Boundaries from the UNGIWG project) and, now, the *UN-SPIDER Newsletter* (the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, published by UNOOSA – UN Office for Outer Space Affairs).

Outreach & Membership Committee

The new O&M Committee Chair, **Denise McKenzie**, of OGC, **Roger Longhorn**, vice-Chair Communications, and **Joep Crompvoets**, regional vice-Chair, Europe, have begun participation in the new working group, led by President-elect **Dave Lovell**, to develop the next 5-year *GSDI Strategic Plan*. They are joined by **Carmelle Terborgh**, Chair of the Societal Impacts Committee, **Dan Paul**, of PSMA Australia, and Kate Lance, former Chair of the Legal & Socio-economic Committee. The first brainstorming session was held on 2 September.

Further analysis of the GSDI Association Member Survey that was conducted from mid-February through April has been taken into consideration as an important part of

the development of the next 5-year Strategic Plan. Because of the low initial response rate, with only 10 members responding to the survey, we plan to once again conduct the survey, this time on a personal basis, prior to or at the GSDI Council meeting in Ethiopia, as the Council comprises representatives from all GSDI members. We remind all GSDI members – and their representatives – that the purposes of the survey are to find ways to make the Association more relevant to current members' needs – and to be more attractive to potential new members.

Our new **Facebook** account, created in July to help promote the GSDI Conference needs more traffic (www.facebook.com/gsdiandigs) – those Facebook users out there are asked to consider using this new communications channel to help promote both the Association and their own organisations. We also continue to publish news on the **GSDI Member's Corner** of the GSDI website, with over 30 news items published online in August. (http://www.gsdi.org/memberscorner) A **Twitter** account has been created, and will be used during the forthcoming Global Geospatial Conference in November.

O&M Committee vice-Chair, Communications, **Roger Longhorn**, continues to support communications related activities of International Geospatial Society (IGS), as well as serving on the GSDI 14 World Conference committee. Activities in the past month continued in regard to re-design of the Association and Society web sites, further Global Conference preparations, and creating new membership promotional literature for use by Members.

Regional vice-Chair, **Nancy Aguirre** reports that the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Research on Biological Resources (http://www.humboldt.org.co/), created in 1993, is the biodiversity research branch of the National Environmental System (in Spanish SINA).

The institute is a civil nonprofit corporation linked to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and is responsible for carrying out scientific research on biodiversity in Colombia. This includes research on hydrobiological and genetic resources. In addition, the Institute coordinates the National System of Information on Biodiversity and the formation of the national biodiversity inventory. It is also fostering a Biodiversity Monitoring System based on Remote Sensing.

Currently, the Institute seeks to strengthen its Spatial Data Institutional Infrastructure (in Spanish I2D) and for this purpose, **Santiago Borrero**, Secretary General of **PAIGH** (and former GSDI President) and **Eric van Praag**, Coordinator of **GeoSUR** Program (and Chair of the GSDI

Technical Committee), visited its headquarters in Bogota last July. During the meeting, **Juan Carlos Bello**, Coordinator of the Information and Knowledge Management Program, together with Nancy Aguirre, Coordinator of the Socio-ecological Modelling Laboratory under this Program, discussed potential collaboration lines among organizations.

The Outreach & Membership Committee manages the **GSDI Group on LinkedIn**, which now has 282 members. If you are not already a member of this group, please join today – and tell your friends! Visit http://www.linkedin.com to join, then find GSDI in the 'Groups' option, to join the group or go direct to: http://www.linkedin.com/groups/GSDI-Association-3794985.

Note: you do NOT have to be a member of the GSDI Association or the International Geospatial Society to join the LinkedIn group! However, requests to join the group and/or to post messages are moderated.

Legal and Socioeconomic Committee

As reported by **Katleen Janssen**, formerly co-Chair of the GSDI L&SE Committee and now LAPSI 2.0 thematic network Project manager, in the LAPSI project July Newsletter. The LAPSI 2.0 Thematic Network has gathered experts from academic institutions, public and private sector from 15 countries to look at the remaining legal barriers and pitfalls that are still hindering the full and open availability of public sector information on the European content market. In its first year, the LAPSI 2.0 project is focusing on finding a solution for the proliferation of licence models by recommending strategies for ensuring licensing interoperability. Next to licensing, LAPSI 2.0 will come up with recommendations on how to use legal tools to create a stimulating environment for open data in the public sector, e.g. by looking at how open data can be integrated in the full course of the institutional processes, from procurement to final dissemination and, ultimately, effective redress mechanisms. Read more about the project at this link: http://www.lapsi-project.eu.

Technical Committee

Chris Holmes of **OpenGeo**, who has been a major contributor to the open source geospatial community since joining the GeoServer team as lead developer in 2002, has posted an illuminating blog entry about his experience in working with the Open Geospatial

Consortium (OGC) standards specification process on the GeoPackage specification.

Back in February Chris was unhappy with the GeopPackage specification as it then was. So much so that he decided to join the GeoPackage Standards Working Group (SWG), "participating in weekly (and then twice a week) calls, and trying to work with the OGC workflow of wikis and massive Word documents." One of his goals was to learn about how the OGC process actually works and be able to "offer some suggestions for improvement from my open source software experience." Visit the blog by Chris Holmes on: Githubbing the GeoPackage specification at the link below.
http://cholmes.wordpress.com/2013/08/12/githubbing-the-geopackage-specification/

Both **OpenGeo** and the **Open Geospatial Consortium** are members of the GSDI Association. Chris Holmes is a member of the GSDI Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee is also responsible for updating of the **GSDI SDI Cookbook**, a wiki maintained at: http://www.gsdidocs.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Pag e. The committee is also in the process of developing further online webinars and identifying others that already exist and are relevant to SDI implementation.

Societal Impacts Committee

The Societal Impacts Committee, chaired by **Carmelle Terborgh** (Esri), administers the GSDI Small Grants Program, where vice-Chair, **Brigitta Urban-Mathieux** (FGDC/USGS) supports Small Grants Program development. **Jeremy Shen** is vice-Chair, Capacity Building. The Societal Impacts Committee also supports the International Geospatial Society officers in relation to capitalizing on capacity building initiatives for IGS members, especially from developing nations.

A Message from the URISA GISCorps Core Committee

This year is the 10th Anniversary of URISA's GISCorps and we couldn't be more proud of our dedicated 446 volunteers who have served in 130 missions in 47 countries around the world. We will be celebrating this important milestone at the GIS-Pro 2013 conference in

Providence, RI (16-19 September 2013) where we hope to see many of you.

Since May 2013, 8 new projects (24 volunteers) have been launched in Chile, Indonesia, North Korea (sixth deployment), and the US and several more are in various stages of evaluation or recruitment. One of our volunteers, Michelle Kinzel is currently in Zambia teaching GIS to several employees of a small nonprofit organization (read more below).

We are also in the process of recruiting volunteers for several new projects. For two of those projects we are looking for JavaScript programmers. If you have expertise in that area please send your resume to recruit@giscorps.org.

Please note that we have recently added several new questions to our volunteer application form. These questions are mainly about new software programs and/or skillsets. Please log into your account and respond to these new questions. That way your record will be fully considered in the future recruitments.

Thank you for your continued support of GISCorps for the past 10 years! We look forward to furthering our services to underserved communities worldwide and those in urgent need of our volunteers' expertise for many more years. A total of 17 missions are currently in progress. Detailed accounts of these projects are posted on our Ongoing Projects Page.

Report by the GISCorps Core Committee: Heather Milton, Mark Salling, Allen Ibaugh, Dianne Haley, Dave Litke, Carol Kraemer, Shoreh Elhami

URISA's GISCorps works closely with the GSDI Association in providing professional GIS support in the field for the GSDI Small Grants Program. We encourage GSDI Association members and individual members of the International Geospatial Society to consider joining the GISCorps.

For updates on support from the *URISA GISCorps* volunteers on behalf of the GSDI Small Grants awards, and other URISA GISCorps activities, visit the **GISCorps Ongoing Projects** website at:
http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_conten t&task=view&id=96&Itemid=62

NEW SMALL GRANTS FUNDERS NEEDED!

The GSDI Association Board and Members are seeking funding to help ensure that the Small Grants Program can be continued in 2013 and for the future. Anyone who can help with future financial support, please contact the

Association President, Prof David Coleman, or Secretary General, Prof Harlan Onsrud.

A working group has been formed and a new information leaflet defined, to be used for fund raising (see the GSDI web site). This was finalised in October and fund raising actions are now underway, seeking contributions from both the industry and government agencies, plus major cooperation aid funding bodies, academic and research institutions – anyone wishing to offer support for this very worthwhile and highly visible GSDI Association activity. Watch this space for future reports on our success!

To see the final reports and for more information on the Small Grants Program visit our web site at http://www.gsdi.org/sic1. Those wishing to make donations to the Small Grants Program in any amount will now find a 'Donate' button on the GSDI home page!

As always, we express the Association's grateful thanks for the past support of the US Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and on-going support from the URISA GISCorps for making the programme possible.

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSPATIAL SOCIETY (IGS)

The International Geospatial Society is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association and seeks individuals for membership who have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests, including professionals working in these topic areas in government, academia or industry, and students. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. As of 31 August 2013, *IGS had 315 members*, an increase of 17 from the July figure. The IGS web site is at http://www.igeoss.org.

The IGS Member Survey launched on 20 June was very successful, with 93 responses recorded in the first month (fully one-third of the membership!). Since that time, an additional 15 members have responded. The survey seeks input from all IGS Members on a range of issues, which will be used to help focus the new IGS strategy and proposed activities in the future work plan. The final Strategy document will be circulated to members and presented at the IGS meeting to be held at the GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013 joint conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3 November, to which all IGS Members are invited. IGS President-elect Dev Raj Paudyal completed an initial analysis of the responses at the end of July, and is adding the new responses to that analysis, for which an updated analytical report will be published in the next newsletter and reviewed at the IGS Members' meeting in Addis Ababa.

IGS Members & Global Geospatial Conference 2013

Finalize your plans to attend the Global Geospatial Conference 2013 (http://gsdi.org/gsdi14) at the UN Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As you know this is the joint and fully integrated conference for *AfricaGIS 2013* and *GSDI 14* from November 4-8, 2013. It is shaping up to be a great event.

All GSDI delegates are invited to attend the IGS Business Meeting on Sunday morning, 3 November 2013. Items on the evolving agenda include:

1. Member survey and results.
2. Presentation of draft strategic plan.
3. Key short/medium term activities.
4. Member discussion.
5. Finalisation of strategic plan and key tasks.

Further, IGS members are invited, room permitting, to attend as observers at the GSDI Council Meeting that immediately follows the IGS meeting. There is also an Esri workshop throughout the afternoon.

Preparations for the Conference for IGS Members

1. Register for the Conference

Please register at http://gsdi.org/gsdi14/register.html under Individual Registration. IGS members from developing nations receive a substantial discount in the registration fee. You can return to your conference account at any time to provide further information but we recommend that you start the registration process now rather than later. Among the information items you will want to supply on the registration form include:

- Your name and other information as copied from your passport. This is needed for your invitation letter, for entry into the UN Conference Center and for the UNECA protocol officer(s) aiding your entry at the airport.
- Your flight details including arrival date, departure date and airlines. You will want to arrive in sufficient time to allow you to attend the business meetings on Sunday.
- The name of your hotel. Consult the list of recommended hotels at: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/accommodations.html

  Please note that your reservation is likely to be confirmed by the hotel you choose at a rate higher than the UN rate, but we have been assured that the UN protocol officer will provide your name to the designated hotel as specified on your registration form, following your registration, so that you will

acquire the much lower UN rate.

- Pay your conference fee. Rates are found at http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/fees.html

The system automatically checks to see if you are an IGS member from a developing nation. Your invoice will be generated automatically and you can pay immediately by credit card, through a bank transfer or through a money transfer service company (e.g. Western Union).

Make your payment before 15 September 2013 to get the early registration rate and greatly facilitate meeting planning. A very small amount of partial travel funding is available but only those who already have an abstract accepted and that pay the conference fee in advance as a strong commitment to attend will be included in the pool of people considered for support-.

2. Submit a new or revised full paper

If you have an accepted abstract at the conference and if you desire to do this, select Upload File at http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14docs/openconf.php (Use your submission ID number listed above) For those papers that have been reviewed and conditionally accepted in a refereed publication, the deadline for the revised article is 1 Sept 2013.

3. Acquire Your Travel Visa

Although most conference participants from most countries may acquire their travel visa upon arrival, we recommend that you acquire your visa in advance if you are able to do so in your home country. See http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/travel_info.html As the last step in the registration process, you are able to generate an invitation letter that will be needed in acquiring your visa, whether in advance or upon arrival in Addis. Although you can obtain the invitation letter without paying your conference fee, you will not be included on the UN protocol officer's list for emigration authorities if you do not pay in advance.

4. Check Your Vaccinations

Everyone traveling to Ethiopia should have a yellow fever vaccination. Proof is needed by persons arriving from all African nations and often for travellers from other nations. Additional health information is posted at http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/travel_info.html

Consult the website at http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14 for details on any of the above reminders. Or if you have questions, please feel free to contact us directly. Hopefully you have seen the news releases by our various geospatial media sponsors about the growing numbers of sponsors and speakers for the conference.

Come join us! We look forward to your active participation. Especially those IGS members based in Africa.

Sives Govender
President, International Geospatial Society
Executive Director, EIS-Africa

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sives.govender@gmail.com

IGS REMINDERS

Subscriptions to GIM International

Get your free subscription to **GIM International** magazine. GIM International carries GSDI news, including IGS news, in a monthly column. If you want to stay up to date with this column and read up on other developments in Geomatics, please follow this link and subscribe if you are not already receiving a hard copy of the magazine: http://www.gim-international.com/GSDI.

Participation in GIKNet

IGS members are also reminded that information is uploaded in the **GIKnet Spatial Data Depot**, to which they are requested to contribute. Members are invited to actively participate in the IGS discussion list and/or on the GSDI LinkedIn Group as a means of sharing news, plus on the other regional and topic-oriented discussion lists of the GSDI Association.

GSDI & IGS on LinkedIn and Facebook

If you have not already done so, please join the GSDI Group on the professional networking site **LinkedIn** at www.linkedin.com. This group now serves both the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society – and is there for YOU to use to let the geo community know what you are doing – or to seek advice on important issues that you may be facing in your work or studies. You can now also join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gsdiandigs/ to share your news.

Joining IGS

Remember that individuals in low and very low income nations can apply to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. The listing of low and very-low income nations may be found at http://www.gsdi.org/RankingTable.To join for free, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe on the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) at http://giknet.org and then apply for membership in IGS at http://www.igeoss.org/join.

To maintain your free membership, simply update your professional profile each year on or about December or January. You have the ability to view, edit, or delete your individual profile at any time. Members who joined IGS via this route, i.e. without paying the annual members fee, are reminded to update their information annually, or lose their membership of IGS.

Help us reach our goal of 500 IGS Members by November 2013 – get your friends, colleagues and associates to join today! We are continually looking for ways to improve on IGS Member Benefits, so please tell us what you think would be most valuable to you, as an IGS Member – or as a potential IGS Member.

IGS Members – submit your news, please, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are 298 of you out there now, so please communicate with us. News can be sent by e-mail directly to me, Roger Longhorn, Editor GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter at: ral@alum.mit.edu, or to Sives Govender, IGS President, at: sives.govender@gmail.com or to Dev Raj Paudyal, IGS President-elect, at: DevRaj.Paudyal@usq.edu.au.

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

OSKARI Open Source Map Solution

GSDI Member **EuroGeographics** is asking for your help in providing language support for an Open Source 'map' solution. The European Location Framework (E.L.F.) project (www.elfproject.eu) started on 1 March. The European Commission's Competitiveness & Innovation framework Programme (CIP) Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) is providing 6.5 million euro to establish a technical infrastructure (the E.L.F.) to deliver national reference data and services, harmonised and edge-matched for use and re-use to meet the requirements of users.

The National Land Survey of Finland (http://www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/en) is developing an Open Source map application framework called **OSKARI** (http://www.oskari.org/trac), which will be used in the E.L.F. Your help is needed to make it possible for more people to use this Open Source software in their own language. If you would like to help us, please download all of the tables linked to at the site below:
http://www.elfproject.eu/content/elf-oskari-translations

Please fill in the translations found in the "Value" field into the "Translation" field in your own language. Please indicate in your response, which language you have used. Note that all other cells in the Excel sheet have been locked to avoid accidental changes. You can look at the OSKARI functionality at this link:
http://www.paikkatietoikkuna.fi/web/en/map-window
to see the terminology in correct context.

Spatial Data Protection for Underground Critical Infrastructures

UPSIDEDOWN PROTECT is a two-year project funded by the EU Commission, Terrorism & other Security-related Risks (CIPS). The project focuses on Spatial Data and Meta Data Protection for Underground Critical Infrastructures and has the objective to harmonize the 'INSPIRE' Directive with CIPS-Security Regulations.

Many public, private, and non-profit organizations originate and publicly disseminate geospatial data and metadata about underground infrastructure. Dissemination is essential to the missions of many organizations and the majority of this data are appropriate for public release. However, a small portion of this data could pose risks to security and may therefore require safeguarding, using different decision procedures and criteria. The project provides standard procedures to:

- Identify sensitive information content of data that pose a risk to security;
- Review decisions about sensitive information content during reassessments.

Expected project results:
- development at EU level standard & measures to protect spatial data concerning underground critical infrastructure;
- exchange and dissemination of information, experience and best practices in the management of geo-spatial metadata;
- improvement of the relationship between public

authorities and private sector in the field of underground CIs;

- enhancement of the capacity to share good practices; informal platform and methodology between local authorities and utilities;
- development a training profile for "Security Expert in underground CIs Protection".

Visit the project website at this link: http://www.upsidedownprotect.eu/

GSDI Association member, **EUROGI** (European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information) is participating in the UPSIDEDOWN PROTECT project.
http://www.eurogi.org

European Location Framework Projects

GSDI Association member **EuroGeographics**, along with 29 partners, including 15 of Europe's geodetic, cadastre, land registry and mapping authorities are combining their knowledge skills and experience to deliver the **European Location Framework** (E.L.F.). The project to initiate the first phase, supported with funding from the European Commission, started on 1 March 2013. More information from the project website at: http://www.elfproject.eu

At the same time, the European Union is establishing the **European Union Location Framework** (E.U.L.F.) under its ISA programme - Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations - trying to build on the significant work being undertaken in creating a fully harmonised and interoperable pan-European (28 EU Member States) SDI - the INSPIRE initiative. For more information, visit: http://ec.europa.eu/isa/actions/02-interoperability-architecture/2-13action_en.htm

PC-IDEA GTnet - "Core Standards" Proposal

The objective of the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas (PC-IDEA) Working Group on Standards and Technical Specifications (GTnet) is to focus on the development of a series of activities designed to obtain a set of standards and technical specifications that apply to the region as a whole, beyond national specifications. This set of standards and technical specifications will promote the development and harmonization of spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) in each country and get closer to the consolidation of the Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (IDEA).

This proposal for "Core Standards" for the region was prepared by PC-IDEA GTnet. To develop the proposal, the starting point was the definition of fundamental data and then a prioritization of fundamental data themes and transversal themes within a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). After that, the proposal can be delivered to PC-IDEA member countries for consensus. Download the proposal at the link below (PDF, English, 22 pages). http://www.snit.cl/cpidea/index.php/component/jdownloads/finish/48-10-reunion-cp-idea/285-core-standards-proposal?Itemid=0

News from Esri

From **Esri Training News** - Plan Ahead to Keep Your Team Leading Edge! If you're a manager, you know that people are your most important asset. Did you also know that studies show investing in employee development leads to higher productivity and engagement on the job, plus higher customer satisfaction? At some organizations, internal budget and approval processes can delay learning opportunities that would help employees contribute more to your bottom line.

Enter the **Esri Training Pass**, a convenient method to purchase and manage training. Here's how it works: partner with an Esri training specialist to determine a set number of training days based on your staff needs and project timelines. Purchase the training days with one invoice to secure guaranteed pricing, then provide quick access to training throughout the year as needed. Training days can be used for instructor-led courses and workshops, client coaching services, Virtual Campus annual user licenses, and Esri Technical Certification exam vouchers.

Download the Esri Training Pass flyer at the link below: http://www.esri.com/library/fliers/pdfs/esri-training-pass.pdf

To talk with an Esri training specialist about an Esri Training Pass, call 1-800-447-9778, ext. 5757, or e-mail GIStraining@esri.com.

- **Australian SDI Forum hosted by Esri**

Esri Australia are hosting an Australian Spatial Data

Infrastructure (SDI) Forum in Brisbane, on Thursday, 5 September 2013, as part of their annual "Ozri Conference". This session will bring together senior executives from across the country to discuss the progress of the nation's premier spatial agencies and the delivery of key themes vital for the creation of community SDI's. The program will include presentations which highlight the vision, challenges and activities required to progress a community SDI – from a concept, to an information system capable of delivering real benefits to the community it was designed to assist.

- ***Esri Business Summit Presentations Available***

User papers and technical presentations from the Esri Business Summit are now available. You can view them at any time and share them with others. We hope that this information helps you continue to use the power of GIS and location analytics within your organization until we meet again next year. See the presentations at the link below.
http://proceedings.esri.com/library/userconf/biz-summit13/index.html?WT.mc_id=EmailCampaign16448

- ***Esri Geodesign Summit 2014 Registration Opens***

Join Esri for the 2014 Geodesign Summit, an event where professionals from all industries and disciplines will gather to examine geospatial technologies that support design. At the summit, you will be able to do the following:

- Connect with professionals interested in finding innovative solutions to geospatial and design challenges
- Take part in Lightning Talks and optional preconference training
- Learn about the latest geodesign best practices and how you can apply them to your work

Register at the link below today.
http://www.geodesignsummit.com/index.html?WT.mc_id=EmailCampaign16766

OGC®
Making location count.
www.opengeospatial.org

Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) News

OGC Seeks Comments on Interpolation Extension to WCS

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) is seeking comments on the candidate OGC Web Coverage Service (WCS) Interface Standard Interpolation Extension. See: https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=54502&version=1

OGC Web Coverage Service (WCS) Interface Standard defines an open standard interface to access multi-dimensional spatio-temporal coverages, such as sensor data, satellite imagery, image time series, point clouds, and meshes. The candidate WCS Interpolation Extension document specifies parameters to the WCS GetCoverage request that provide control over interpolation of a coverage during its server-side processing. WCS has a core mission to preserve data quality, and by default always delivers original, unaltered data. Whenever interpolation – which may impact accuracy – is necessary, this extension allows clients to specify the interpolation method that the server shall apply. This can even be indicated individually per axis, such as "perform linear interpolation along latitude and longitude, but perform nearest-neighbor interpolation along time."

An overview of the complete WCS suite is available at the link below:
http://external.opengeospatial.org/twiki_public/CoveragesDWG/CoveragesBigPicture.

All OGC standards are free and publicly available. Download the candidate OGC WCS Interpolation Extension Standard at this link: https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=54502&version=1

Note: Comments are due by 22 September 2013.

- ***OGC Geo4NIEM Webinar 19 September***

The *OGC Geo4NIEM Webinar* will demonstrate enhanced use of geospatial capabilities with the US National Information Exchange Model (NIEM). Program Manager – Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE), National Information Exchange Model – Program Management Office (NIEM PMO) and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) invite interested organizations to attend the OGC Geo4NIEM Demo public webinar on **19 September 2013** from 1030-1130am EDT. Geo4NIEM is an OGC initiative named Geospatial Enhancements for the US National Information Exchange Model (NIEM).

Working from a scenario in which a hurricane strikes New York City, the initiative's technology provider participants will show how enhanced geospatial capabilities enable situational awareness through the ability to identify, process, and comprehend critical information about an incident. OGC Geo4NIEM Initiative technology provider participants include OGC members Galdos, The Carbon Project, Luciad and ArdentMC.

In the demo, specific Information Exchange Packages (IEPs) from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are implemented using widely employed open standards

to support rapid and flexible communication of geospatial information in cross-community information exchange domains such as public safety, emergency management and maritime operations oversight.

Access information will be sent upon confirmation of your registration. Register at the link below:

https://portal.opengeospatial.org/public_ogc/register/130919geo4niem.php

- **OGC Seeks Comment on Scaling Extension to OGC WCS Standard**

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) is seeking comments on the candidate OGC Web Coverage Service (WCS) Interface Standard Scaling Extension. The OGC Web Coverage Service (WCS) Interface Standard defines an open standard interface to access multi-dimensional spatio-temporal coverages, such as satellite imagery, image time series, point clouds, and meshes. The candidate WCS Scaling Extension document specifies parameters to the WCS *GetCoverage* request that provide control over scaling of a coverage during its server-side processing. Scaling refers to retrieving gridded coverages in reduced resolution, such as for thumbnails or lower-resolution overview pictures.

All OGC standards are free and publicly available. Download the candidate OGC WCS Scaling Extension Standard at this link:

http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/requests/107

Comments are due by 19 September 2013.

INTERGRAPH®

Intergraph Mobile Alert App Enables Citizen Crowdsourcing

Intergraph has released Intergraph Mobile Alert, a new mobile application for crowdsourcing incident information. Intergraph Mobile Alert simplifies reporting for citizens. Cities benefit by enlisting the masses to help define and pinpoint issues, such as road or utility line damage. With crowdsourcing to collect data about city infrastructure growing in popularity, Intergraph's Mobile Alert allows citizens with GPS-enabled smartphones to play an active role in their regions by immediately sending incident information to authorities.

"This new offering is designed to enable local governments to foster more citizen involvement in community improvement efforts," said Vince Smith, Product Line Executive - GIS, Intergraph. "Now, citizens

can simply take a photo of an asset or an event and send it to a hosted system where it can be acted upon in near real-time by their local government authorities."

Interested citizens can register issues involving anything from graffiti and illegal trash dumping, to road problems such as potholes, missing streetlights, or broken signage. The app, downloadable from app stores like iTunes and Google Play, has an intuitive interface that allows users to complete a report and send it to the appropriate authorities in just a few minutes.

For resource-thin public works agencies, Mobile Alert offers a reliable, cost-effective means of collecting actionable data from any citizen source. Local government agencies and utility companies simply subscribe to receive the crowd-sourced information by email or through OGC web services.
Originally developed in collaboration with local governments in Europe, , the Mobile Alert client app has already been downloaded by more than 30,000 people worldwide and was ranked #1 on the Danish iTunes store for utility apps.

The launch of Mobile Alert supports Intergraph's efforts to bring mobile solutions to the marketplace that function as an extension of the overall enterprise with the ability to access geospatial data and asset and incident information in the field for real-time reviewing and updating. As mobile usage – on both a consumer and governmental scale – continues to increase, Intergraph will continue to develop innovations that allow organizations to enhance overall efficiencies and effectiveness. Other mobile offerings from Intergraph include Intergraph Mobile Responder and Intergraph Mobile MapWorks, meeting specific industry needs for public safety, government, and infrastructure organizations.
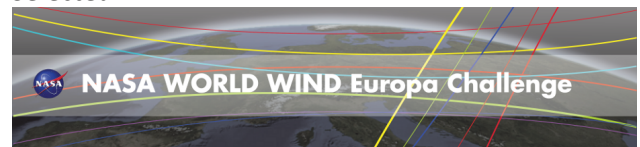
Mobile Responder:
http://www.intergraph.com/publicsafety/mobile/
Mobile MapWorks:
http://geospatial.intergraph.com/products/Mobile/IntergraphMobileMapWorks/Details.aspx
Mobile Alert:
http://geospatial.intergraph.com/products/Mobile/IntergraphMobileAlert/Details.aspx

NASA Worldwind Europa Challenge Projects Selected

Well done to all the teams who participated in the **NASA Worldwind Europa** challenge 2013 for their excellent work! It was my pleasure to participate in the NASA

Europa Challenge Jury and all the projects were excellent and covered a broad range of domains from transportation to air quality to linked data. The challenge achieved its objective of inspiring ideas for building great applications that serves the INSPIRE Directive and uses NASA's open source virtual globe technology World Wind. Special thanks to all the organisers and participants especially to Prof Maria Brovelli (Politecnico di Milano) and Patrick Hogan (NASA), whose efforts made this a great success. To see the Challenge winners, visit: http://eurochallenge.como.polimi.it/?q=projects

As reported by Dr Suchith Anand, Nottingham Geospatial Institute, Nottingham Geospatial Building, University of Nottingham, U.K.

Australian GNSS Economic Benefit Reports

New reports from June 2013 on the Economic Benefits of Precise Positioning to the Australian Economy have been completed and made available. The Australian Government's Space Coordination Office engaged ACIL Allen to prepare reports on the economic benefit of precise positioning to a number of different sectors across the Australian economy. The reports are available to the public at the IGNSS Society website. See links below for the overview report and individual reports on specific sectors:

- Economic Benefit General Overview - http://ignss.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=dKQ6MsXG BAw%3d&tabid=56
- Agriculture - http://ignss.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=iGTBwj8ksj M%3d&tabid=56
- Aviation - http://ignss.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1G4YG%2b EQyhE%3d&tabid=56
- Construction - http://ignss.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ntyClJz4fh8 %3d&tabid=56
- Maritime - http://ignss.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=b%2f3x6KE aFS4%3d&tabid=56
- Mining - http://ignss.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=X3x6ARJjTc I%3d&tabid=56
- Rail - http://ignss.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=rpl6BIao%2 f54%3d&tabid=56
- Surveying - http://ignss.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=8%2fOX44 UyLhk%3d&tabid=56
- Transport - http://ignss.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=afaFsLr%2b rmc%3d&tabid=56

- Utilities - http://ignss.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=h5iRKR7fd Uo%3d&tabid=56

Locationomics - the Value of Location

In a recent article by Jim Warner, COO of the Location Forum, published in the **LBx Journal** online, Warner defines location data as "the basis for location-based services and applications, … any data with an implicit or explicit geographic or geospatial reference. This includes any data derived from GPS and mobile devices, geo-tagged or geo-referenced images, video, audio, and text documents, satellite and aerial imagery, maps and GIS systems, IP address location, location-based applications, and address information from public documents, surveys, or product registrations."

Warner says that this is "*a much broader definition than the spectrum of services identified by Google*" in the reports they commissioned from the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Oxera "to place a monetary figure on the geo-services economy. BCG estimated the U.S. geospatial industry generated $73 billion in revenues and 500,000 high-wage jobs. Oxera estimated that globally the geospatial industry contributes to $274 billion in revenues across the value chain of companies, governments, and individuals who utilize geo-services."

Using Warner's definition, "*the vast majority of data an organization touches are location-based or have a location component, which means that every business process is location-based. Not everyone realizes that yet. Welcome to the world of Locationomics.*"

Read the full article at this link: http://www.lbxjournal.com/articles/locationomics/2604 49

US NRC Landsat and Beyond Report

A report from the **US National Research Council**, entitled "*Landsat and Beyond: Sustaining and Enhancing the Nation's Land Imaging Program*", warns that the future of the 40-year program may be in jeopardy. The report says that while the United States pioneered frequent-repeat global imaging, "other nations are now developing systems whose capability rivals or exceeds U.S. systems."

The committee that wrote the report includes experts in satellite imaging and remote sensing from across the country, including former NASA scientists and officials. The committee's primary recommendation is that the federal government establish a sustained and enhanced land imaging program with an overarching national strategy and long-term commitment, including clearly

defined program requirements, management responsibilities, and persistent funding.

Download the full report from the National Academies Press (NAP) at the link here. (Free registration required). http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18420

FGDC Endorses Time Space Position Information (TSPI) Version 2.0 standard

The Time-Space-Position Information (TSPI) Version 2.0 standard provides a single means of encoding spatiotemporal information for the storage, manipulation, interchange, and exploitation of spatiotemporal data. As US government systems become more interoperable, the need to unambiguously encode spatiotemporal data for exchange among systems is paramount. The TSPI common core standard is designed to be that unambiguous eXtensible Markup Language (XML) encoding standard.

The TSPI Version 2.0 standard is a robust mechanism for expressing "Where" and "When" spatiotemporal data in various core and extended XML-based information schemata throughout the US Federal Sector. Spatial information includes position, extent (shape), size, orientation, and rates of change in these characteristics, while temporal information includes position (instant), extent (duration), and periodic recurrence characteristics. The TSPI standard should be employed any time a standard eXtensible Markup Language (XML) encoding of spatiotemporal geospatial data is required. It is designed as a set of reusable data components upon which both Geography Markup Language (GML)-based application schemas and non-GML-based XML schemas may be developed. It specifies a registry-based extension mechanism enabling the development and reuse of additional spatiotemporal XML Schema components. It integrates the XML Schema for the United States Thoroughfare, Landmark, and Postal Address Data Standard, FGDC-STD-016-2011, including the necessary updates to work with the OGC® GML 3.3, Extended schemas and encoding rules.

The TSPI Version 2.0 standard specifies a core XML schema for the spatial, temporal, and accompanying quality assessment characteristics of real-world entities (for example, features, equipment and life forms). Unambiguous expression of the values of spatial characteristics requires the identification of a robust spatial reference system, such as those associated with the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84), and the ability to specify the values of these characteristics with respect to that spatial reference system. Unambiguous expression of the values of temporal characteristics requires the identification of a robust temporal reference system, such as Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and the ability to specify the values of such characteristics with respect to that temporal reference system.

The Geospatial-Intelligence Standards Working Group recommended inclusion of the TSPI Version 2.0 standard in the Department of Defense IT Standards Repository (DISR). It subsequently submitted the standard for FGDC endorsement. See the links:

- The TSPI Version 2.0 standard may be downloaded from: https://nsgreg.nga.mil/doc/view?i=82044.
- XML Schema Definition (XSD) documents (zip file) may be downloaded from: https://nsgreg.nga.mil/doc/view?i=82043

Spatial Computing 2020 Report

"*From GPS and Virtual Globes to Spatial Computing - 2020: The Next Transformative Technology: A Community Whitepaper resulting from the 2012 CCC Spatial Computing 2020 Workshop*"

This document is a direct outcome of the Computing Community Consortium (CCC) visioning workshop "From GPS and Virtual Globes to Spatial Computing-2020", held at the National Academies' Keck Center, September 10-11, 2012. It was created in response to the need to arrive at a convergence of interdisciplinary developments across geography, computer science, cognitive science, environmental science, etc. The workshop sought to promote a unified agenda for spatial computing research and development across U.S. agencies, industries (e.g., IBM, Microsoft, Oracle, Google, AT&T, Garmin, ESRI, UPS, Rockwell, Lockheed Martin, Navteq, etc.), and universities. The workshop program exhibited diversity across organizations (e.g., industry, academia, and government), disciplines (e.g., geography, computer science, cognitive science, environmental science, etc.), topics (e.g., science, service, system, and cross-cutting), and communities (e.g., ACM SIGSPATIAL, UCGIS, the National Research Council's Mapping Science Committee, etc.).

The program consisted of opening remarks from the CCC and National Science Foundation (NSF) during which spatial computing was defined, and community consensus and the challenges of diversity were articulated. There was a panel on disruptive technologies (graphics and vision, interaction devices, LiDAR, GPS modernization, cell phones, indoor localization, internet localization, and cloud computing) as well as a panel on national priorities [comprising officials from the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Energy (DoE), Department of Transportation's (DoT) Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA),

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), NASA, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), and NSF's EarthCube, and chaired by White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Senior Advisor to the Director Henry Kelly]. The program featured breakout sessions grouped by SC science, system, services and cross-cutting areas. The workshop concluded with a synthesis and reflection during which the success in bringing multiple disparate communities together was acknowledged and missing topics (e.g., national grid reference systems, measurement databases, etc.) were identified.

We thank the Computing Community Consortium (CCC), including Erwin Gianchandani (formerly CCC, now at NSF), Kenneth Hines (CCC), and Hank Korth (CCC Liaison, Lehigh University). We thank Michael Evans (University of Minnesota), Dev Oliver (University of Minnesota), and Kim Koffolt (University of Minnesota). We also thank the advising committee and the organizing committee for their direction and leadership.
Download the 44-page report at this link: http://cra.org/ccc/files/docs/Spatial_Computing_Report-2013.pdf

US Draft NSDI Strategic Plan for Comment

A new draft NSDI Strategic Plan (Version 2, 31 July 2013) has been released, replacing the initial draft NSDI Strategic Plan (Version 1, 5 June 2013). Previously, the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) indicated that following review and discussion of the initial draft plan by the FGDC Steering Committee and the NGAC in June 2013, the NSDI strategic plan team would develop a revised draft of the plan (Version 2) that would be distributed for broader public review and comment in July/August 2013.

Get the Draft NSDI Strategic Plan – Public Comment Version (Version 2, 7/31/2013) [PDF] at this link: http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/draft-nsdi-strategic-plana8093public-comment-version-7-31-2013.pdf

Following the public comment period, which ended on 21 August, a revised draft of the plan will be prepared for final review and adoption by the FGDC Steering Committee. Following completion of the strategic plan, the FGDC will develop more detailed project plans for the goals and objectives in the strategic plan. The initial Draft NSDI Strategic Plan (Version 1, 6/5/2013) is available at this link:
http://lists.gsdi.org/pipermail/sdi-northamerica/2013-June/000646.html

Crowd-Sourcing the Nation: Now a National Effort
The **USGS** continues to expand its crowd-sourcing of geographic data and is seeking volunteers nation-wide to contribute structures information. The mapping crowd-sourcing program, known as **The National Map Corps** (**TNMCorps**), encourages citizens to collect structures data by adding new features, removing obsolete points, and correcting existing data for The National Map database. Structures being mapped in the project include schools, hospitals, post offices, police stations and other important public buildings.

Since the start of the project in 2012, more than 780 volunteers have made in excess of 13,000 contributions. In addition to basic editing, a second volunteer peer review process greatly enhances the quality of data provided back to The National Map. A few months ago, volunteers in 35 states were actively involved. This final release of states opens up the entire country for volunteer structures enhancement.

To show appreciation of our volunteer's efforts, The National Map Corps has instituted a recognition program that awards "virtual" badges to volunteers. The badges consist of a series of antique surveying instruments ranging from the **Order of the Surveyor's Chain** (25 – 50 points) (see left) to the Theodolite Assemblage (2000+ points). Additionally, volunteers are publically acclaimed (with permission) via Twitter, Facebook and Google+.
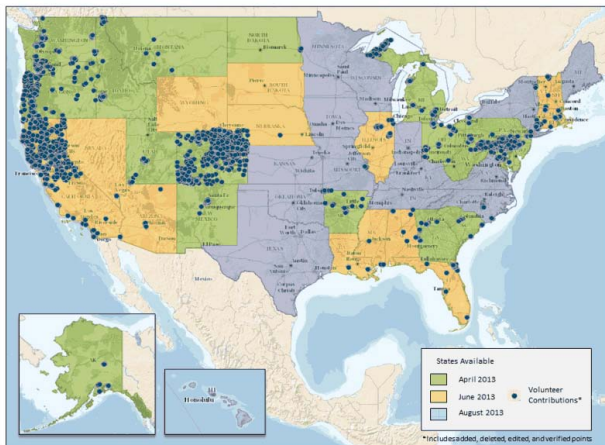
"*I enjoy mapping structures, it's a unique combination of validating structures from aerial photography and web-based sources,*" says TNMCorps volunteer Don Kloker. "*My structures contributions have provided me with an excellent geography lesson and I have learned many things about communities that I most likely would not have been otherwise able to experience.*" Don has contributed more than 2,000 points and quickly reached the highest recognition badge, the Theodolite Assemblage.

The citizen geographers/cartographers who participate in this program make a significant addition to the USGS's ability to provide accurate information to the public. Data collected by volunteers become part of The National Map structures dataset that is available to users free of charge.

"*TNMCorps allows me to update structure locations and their official names from the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS),*" said Corey Plank, Cartographer for the US Bureau of Land Management. "*These updates allow The National Map and US Topo*

map series to better represent ground structures and official labels."

As part of an effort to engage civilian organizations, this year's 4-H National Youth Science Day, planned for October 9, 2013, will feature geographic technology projects that are part of TNMCorps data collection efforts.

Tools on TNMCorps website explain how a volunteer can edit any area, regardless of their familiarity with the selected structures, and becoming a volunteer for TNMCorps is easy; go to The National Map Corps website to learn more and to sign up as a volunteer. If you have access to the Internet and are willing to dedicate some time to editing map data, we hope you will consider participating!

United Nations Award for Spanish National Plan for Land Observation

Spain's National Plan for Land Observation [Plan Nacional de Observacion del Territorio (PNOT)] from the Instituto Geografico Nacional/Centro Nacional de Informacion Geografica (IGN/CNIG) received the 2013 United Nations Public Service Award (UN/UNPSA), for Europe and North America, in Category 4, Whole-of-Government Approaches in the Information Age.

The Public Service Awards are bestowed on public institutions that have distinguished themselves in the following five categories: 1) Preventing and Combating Corruption in the Public Service; 2) Improving the Delivery of Services; 3) Fostering Participation in Policymaking Decisions through Innovative Mechanisms; 4) Promoting Whole-of-Government Approaches in the Information Age; and 5) Promoting Gender-Responsive Delivery of Public Services.

The PNOT is structured in three national plans, each of which is directed to coordinate a specific aspect of spatial information:

- The National Plan for Aerial Orthophotography, produce aerial images and digital models using also LIDAR system, over all Spain (http://www.ign.es/PNOA/).
- The National Plan for Remote Sensing, which co-ordinates earth observation satellite image coverage (http://www.ign.es/PNT/).
- The Information System for Land Occupation in Spain, which makes use of the data obtained from the two previous plans to accurately locate and identify urban areas, agricultural areas, forests, wetlands and other natural areas throughout Spain (http://www.siose.es/siose/).

PNOT applies a de-centralized management model, based on consensus, coordination, co-financing, and collaboration between the different public bodies. Download information at the link below: "*Spanish national plan for land observation: new collaborative production system in Europe*" [PDF - in English].

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/RCC/docs/rcca10/E%20Conf_103_5_Add1_Spanish%20national%20plan_report.pdf
PNOT:
http://www.ign.es/ign/layoutIn/actividadesObst.do

The GeoSUR Award

CAF – the Development Bank of Latin America - and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (**PAIGH**) are pleased to announce the GeoSUR Award 2013. The GeoSUR Award 2013 will be granted in Montevideo, Uruguay, during the 6th Meeting of GeoSUR Program, as part of the 20th General Assembly of the PAIGH, on November 2013.

La Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF) y el Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia (IPGH) convocan al Premio GeoSUR edición 2013. El premio GeoSUR edición 2013 será entregado en Montevideo, Uruguay, durante el 6to Encuentro del Programa GeoSUR, en el marco de la 20 Asamblea General del IPGH, en Noviembre de 2013.

Each year the award will be bestowed to the activity that arises from the relationship of the participating GeoSUR Program institutions, based on their available geospatial data and the use of geospatial information services offered in the region.

1. Requirements
The award will recognize the application of spatial data or development of geospatial information services offered in the region that, because of their innovative features and relevance, also contribute to the general objectives of the GeoSUR Program.

2. Nominations

Institutions or individuals from any Latin American or Caribbean country may participate. The Office of the Coordinator of the GeoSUR Program and the PAIGH will report on the number, title, author(s) and nationalities of the candidates selected in accordance with the bases of the award in a timely manner through the website.

Once the corresponding documentation has been submitted, candidates may neither withdraw nor relinquish to participate in the contest before the jury reaches its decision. Get the full announcement and details at these links:

- http://www.ipgh.org/GeoSUR/files/GeoSUR-award_2013.pdf (English)
- http://www.ipgh.org/GeoSUR/files/premio-GeoSUR_2013.pdf (Spanish)

Geospatial Data Extraction on Canadian GeoGratis Website

A new web tool for the dynamic creation of elevation products and the extraction of vector data (clip, zip and ship) now is available at the *GeoGratis* portal. The GeoGratis portal provides geospatial data from the Earth Sciences Sector (ESS) of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), at no cost and without restrictions. You can access the tool at the following address: http://geogratis.gc.ca/extraction/

Besides digital elevation models (DEM) per se, elevation data can be extracted as derived products such as slope maps, shaded relief maps, color relief maps, color shaded relief maps, aspect maps, and elevation points. Parameters allow users to personalize their products.

The web interface offers a dynamic map for pre-visualizing the information and to locate the area of interest. A mosaic of data can be obtained for an extent defined by the user or for a pre-defined extent such as an NTS sheet, a Drainage areas, or a Landsat image ground trace. In order to allow the extraction of areas of variable extent, the elevation data are offered in different resolutions.

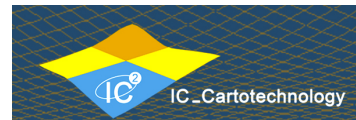### Cartography as a Tool for Geospatial Decision Support

GIM International interviews Ferjan Ormeling - From 25 to 30 August 2013, the 26th International Cartographic Conference is being held in Dresden, Germany, bringing together cartographers and geographic information science specialists from across the globe. In recognition of the importance of the study and practice of mapmaking, GIM International has devoted its August issue to this event, so it is particularly fitting to feature an interview with Ferjan Ormeling, the prominent Dutch cartographer. Covering cartographic challenges, the power of maps, and lessons that can be learned from the past, Ormeling's views are that of an inspired and inspirational proclaimer of his specialist field. See the full interview by *Wim van Wegen*, GIM International, at this link:

http://www.gim-international.com/issues/articles/id2020-Cartography_as_a_Tool_for_Geospatial_Decision_Support.html

IC_CARTOTECHNOLOGY International Course

We are glad to present the latest news of **IC_CARTOTECHNOLOGY** - the International Course on Management and Applied Techniques in Cartography – see www.iccartotechnology.com.

Announcing the Weekly Image Contest!

Participate every week and win a 5% enrolment discount to IC_CARTOTECHNOLOGY 2013/2014 and free updated world map! http://www.iccartotechnology.com/

New Synthesis Seminars

Learn more about the new Open Synthesis Seminar Projects within IC_Cartotechnology in collaboration with different institutions at:
http://www.iccartotechnology.com/Home-IC-Cartotechnology/Program#Synthesis%20seminar

Different Enrolment Options

Different enrolment options are available: whole postgraduate program, single itineraries or modules. More details at:

http://www.iccartotechnology.com/Home-IC-Cartotechnology/Enrolment

Visit the official website and complete the Pre-Enrolment Form for extra detailed information. For more information, contact Dr. Raquel Serrano-Calvo, Coordinator IC_Cartotechnology - www.iccartotechnology.com - twitter: @cartotechnology - Linkedin Group: IC_Cartotechnology

IC_Cartotechnology is a Postgraduate Program (45 ECTS)

consisting of several modules, certified by the Fundació de la Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, and supported by the Direcció General d'Universitats of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia.

The Program is conducted by the Institut Cartografic de Catalunya / Cartographic Institute of Catalonia (ICC). ICC is the official mapping agency of Catalonia with 30 years of experience in setting up and building new capacities in terms of developing knowledge, infrastructures and added value in Cartography. This very practical experience is key to defining an innovative and consolidated course to track and translate current needs, requirements and geoinformation challenges into a powerful capacity building instrument.

ICC are offering Special Discounts from course fees for GSDI or IGS members as follows:

- Postgraduate program: 10% reduction in cost
- Itineraries: 10% reduction in cost
- Modules: 5% reduction in cost

Applicants will still be required to pass through the normal participation selection process, of course. For more information about the enrolment options, the GSDI and IGS Member discounted fees, and any other aspects of the IC_Cartotechnology course, please contact: **Dr Raquel Serrano Calvo** and **Dr Jordi Corbera** - raquel.serrano@icc.cat and jcorbera@icc.cat - or visit: www.iccartotechnology.com.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continuing GSDI President **Prof David Coleman**'s new series of **'3 Questions with…'** interviews with senior representatives from the GSDI membership, this month we publish the third interview, conducted with **Dr Hussein Omar Farah**, Director General of the **Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RMCRD)**, and a member of the Board of Directors of the GSDI Association. He holds advanced degrees from universities in Kenya, Canada and The Netherlands, has extensive experience in land surveying and mapping, and has lead the RCMRD for over seven years.

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) was originally established in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1975 under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA - also a member of the GSDI Association) and the then Organization of African Unity (OAU). It is a non-profit intergovernmental organization and currently has 19 Contracting Member States in the Eastern and Southern

Africa Regions; Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somali, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Since its establishment, the Centre has been heavily involved in capacity building in resource surveys, mapping, remote sensing, GIS and natural resources assessment and management in Africa. It was also instrumental in helping different countries establish their National Mapping Agencies. To date, the Centre has trained over 3000 technical officers from its member States and other African countries in the fields of surveying and mapping, remote sensing, GIS and natural resources assessment and management.

GSDI: Your position and experience with the RCMRD give you a unique and important perspective on SDI developments across Africa. What is the best advice you would give to a country or state still planning how it is going to populate and maintain its SDI?

Dr Farah: *My advice is that first a thorough sensitizing of the stakeholders on the importance and rationale of SDI be undertaken so as to get their involvement and commitment to embrace SDI. Next is to formalize SDI policies and institutional relations and structures that will create an enabling environment to encourage institutions to populate and maintain the national SDI. The countries must provide resources to institutions to document the large data sets that they may have with metadata.*

The RMCRD helps in that regard. For example, this coming August, the Centre is holding an important stakeholder workshop for high-level managers on the importance of spatial data infrastructure. The Centre also offers 2-day training on metadata standards - an important consideration in many countries.

GSDI: We see lots of ways in which technology is improving the speed and quality of framework data collection and distribution. What do you see as being the single greatest constraint or inhibitor to national or regional SDI implementation in Africa?

Dr Farah: *Misunderstanding of institutions, that they will lose ownership or control of their data if they participate in SDI initiatives, is probably the single greatest inhibitor. Unfortunately this notion is widespread in Africa and is inhibiting SDI implementation. Equally important is the great task of converting large data sets in hardcopy formats to digital by national institutions and the creation of metadata, which is constraining implementation of SDI.*

GSDI: What excites you today in terms of new developments (technologies, operations, policies, whatever...) that may have an impact on SDIs in the future?

Dr Farah: *I see mobile phone technology which is rapidly increasing its penetration in Africa having a big impact in future on SDI implementation. Mobile networks are already having applications services for navigation and maps. Government institutions are already using mobile phones in order to get information directly to citizens in support of specific programs. These developments I believe will accelerate the demand and opportunities for SDI services implementation.*

GSDI: Our thanks to Dr Farah for participating in the "3 Questions with …" interview series - and we look forward to the next interview with interest.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Global Newsletter, we publish an article from the GSDI column that is published monthly by *GIM International magazine*. This month's article is article is by Dave Lovell, GSDI President-Elect, and Roger Longhorn, GSDI Communications Director.

Think Globally, Act Locally

As we look out at the geo world from a Euro-centric viewpoint, we see a lot to excite us, but it's not the geo-information technology that excites some people. No, it's the communities of people working together that give us a buzz. At the INSPIRE conference in Florence, at the Cambridge Conference in UK, at the ESRI User conference in San Diego, at the FOSS4G conference in Nottingham and, quite soon, at GSDI 14 and AfricaGIS 2013 in Addis Ababa, global audiences of like-minded people congregate.

Across the geospatial world, people are coming together to share experiences, to learn from each other and to stimulate ideas, to solve problems, make money, change lives and much more. This is encouraging because the world faces big problems, be they environmental or economic, social or security. And it is clear; we need to work together to find solutions to big problems.

With so much to be gained from working together, what is it that keeps people and organisations apart?

Fifteen years after the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) was founded, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management initiative (UN-GGIM) was established. GSDI offers the opportunity to drive SDI development from the ground up, while UN-GGIM offers the promise of driving SDI development from the top down. With concerted effort, and a commitment to work together, there is a good chance we could 'meet in the middle' to bring the geo-information component into the solutions we need.

INSPIRE, the European Directive establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe, has been very successful in getting people to work together. Implementing INPSIRE is of course a legal requirement of 28 European Union Member States. So is it global legislation that we need?

In finding solutions to the challenges of implementing regional and national SDI, people are working together. In Europe people from the NMCAs are now working with academics and commercial partners to deliver the European Location Framework (www.elfproject.eu). Will this be the basis for the first successful continental SDI? Is it possible that other pan-continental SDIs will emerge and integrated into global SDI?

It is people that create opportunities, it is people that solve problems, it is people that provide the engine, the 'powerhouse', in communities like GSDI, UN-GGIM, INSPIRE, and so on. Without people, and without organisations working together, no matter what we promise to deliver from the potential of geo-information and SDI, little will be achieved. However, the ideas, energy and efforts of people need organising and orchestrating. INSPIRE has proved that, UN-GGIM promises that and GSDI offers that.

GSDI thinks 'global' SDI, but supports 'local' SDI activities. GSDI is all about people and organisations working together. Today, it has 41 organisational members and, in the individual membership arm (http://www.igeoss.org) 315 individuals in 55 countries. Just imagine what we might achieve with twice that number.

Dave Lovell is President-Elect of the GSDI Association, the Secretary General and Executive Director of EuroGeographics, and a member of the advisory committee of the British Geological Survey.

Roger Longhorn is GSDI Communications Director, Information Policy Advisor to the Coastal and Marine Union (EUCC), geo journalist, editor and independent SDI consultant.

Learn more about how to participate in the GSDI Association here: http://www.gsdi.org/joinGSDI

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

The aim of the Association's *Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet)* is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geographic information community. GIKNet is a participatory, user-created and maintained information commons.

The GIKNet *Community Registry* permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other institutions to record and publish details about themselves in a central database, and to submit relevant documents to the Spatial Documents Depot, which provides a search facility for locating information and documents submitted by GIKNet members.

A comprehensive list of GI/SDI related discussion lists can be accessed from a single reference page. Access the GIKNetwork at this link: http://www.giknet.org/.

An 8-minute background video on the purposes and goals of the GIKNet may be found at: http://www.youtube.com/user/spatialinnovations.

The main categories under which documents can be referenced in GIKNet include: *GI Science - Education & Training*; *GI Science - Research*; and *SDI/GIS - Practice and Applications*. The network is promoted on the Association's e-mail lists and the LinkedIn GSDI Group.

All members of the GSDI Association and IGS are encouraged to sign up for GIKnet, enter their personal or agency profile information, and then submit documents relevant to any aspect of SDI development and deployment, globally.

Entering a professional profile to GIKNet is similar to entering a professional profile on Wikipedia, except that an individual may enter and maintain their own profile (in a format similar to that found on Linked In or other social networking sites) and GIKNet is restricted to geospatial professionals, students and those involved in implementing spatial data infrastructures (SDI) at any level.

Entering information about a geospatial agency or organization is similar to an entry in Wikipedia, except that individuals affiliated with the organization enter the data and it is much easier to accomplish.

The GIKNetwork is moderated by GSDI Association volunteers who review profile submissions for relevance. In short, none of us knows as much as all of us. GIKNet is intended for collective intelligence whereby each community member acts responsibly and makes their own decisions on what and how much to contribute.

Joining GIKNet

Join the network by clicking 'Login' in the upper right corner of the GIKNet home page (http://www.giknet.org) and use the 'Register for an Account' link. If you are already registered, then simply 'Login' to GIKNet (in the upper right corner of the welcome screen) or use the password reminder facility. (Your Username and/or Password can be e-mailed to you, using the e-mail address that you used when first registering).

The first thing you should accomplish after registering is to add information about yourself by using the 'GI Community Registry' link in the left menu to lead you to Enter Profile for Individual. The questions are similar to those used by sites such as "LinkedIn", so you might simply cut and paste from other sites in which you already participate. Most responses are limited typically to 200 words. Don't forget to upload a photo! You have the ability to view, edit, and delete your individual profile at any time in the future through your 'My Submissions' link in the upper right corner.

After that, feel free to add profile information about geospatial agencies, companies and NGO's with which you are affiliated. In a way, this is similar to entering basic information about geospatial organizations into Wikipedia, but much simpler.

Above all – contribute documents to the GIKNet *Spatial Documents Depot* relevant to any aspect of SDI development, implementation, monitoring, etc. so that we can build a useful repository of easily accessible information on SDI 'best practice' for access by all.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) Meeting

GSDI President-elect, **Dave Lovell**, attended the JBGIS meeting in Potsdam, Germany, on 31 August, representing GSDI, one of the ten member organisations comprising the board. Dave gave a verbal report on the GSDI's GI Knowledge Network (GIKnet) developments, for which plans are now in hand to more rapidly populate the Data Depot component using input from prior GSDI Conference Proceedings. We are also investigating potential overlap with the UN-GGIM's newly announced 'Knowledge Base' to ensure that effort is not being duplicated. At the meeting, progress on the VALID Project was also presented, including the report "The Value of Geo-Information for Disaster and Risk

Management (VALID): Benefit Analysis and Stakeholder Assessment" (see below).

VALID Project Launches Report

On 3 September 2013, ICSU-GeoUnions, JBGIS and UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER presented a new report which shows the economic, humanitarian and organizational benefits of applying Geoinformation to disaster management. The report "*The Value of Geo-Information for Disaster and Risk Management (VALID): Benefit Analysis and Stakeholder Assessment*" was edited by Orhan Altan and a team including Robert Backhaus, Piero Boccardo, Fabio Giulio Tonolo, John Trinder, Niels van Manen, and Sisi Zlatanova. The publication aims to raise awareness and to help set priorities in research and development.

The VALID report is a follow-up publication to the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) and UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER published 'Geoinformation for Disaster and Risk Management – Examples and Best Practices', a compilation of case studies that provides information on what can be done with Geoinformation in support of disaster and risk management – methods, systems, applications, experiences. It analyses cases and offers an expert stakeholder assessment.

The launch was considered to be a big success. Speakers at the presentation included Mazlan Othman, Director of UNOOSA, Orhan Altan, George Gartner (ICA and representative of JBGIS), Alik Ismail-Zadeh (IUGG and representative of ICSU GeoUnions) as well as Robert Backhaus and Luc St-Pierre of UN-SPIDER. The publication can be downloaded freely at:

http://www.un-spider.org/sites/default/files/VALIDPublication.pdf (9MB)

or without login for the full 30 MB version at: https://app.box.com/s/ch80uodlfz29tzn11f9q

UNRCC-A Meeting and Tenth PC-IDEA Meeting Notes

The 10th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the America (UNRCC-A) was held on 19-23 August 2013 in New York, NY USA. UNRCC-A provides a regional forum where government officials, planners, scientists and experts from the Americas and other regions meet to address their common needs, problems and experiences in the field of surveying and mapping, cartography, hydrography, remote sensing, land and geospatial information systems.

The 10th Conference was held under the theme 'UN-GGIM and the Americas', addressing global challenges through geospatial information. Several PC-IDEA presentations were made, highlighting the results of the work of this term. Preliminary reports are available on the websites provided below. As soon as possible we will replace them with the final versions. Visit: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/RCC/unrcca10.html http://www.cp-idea.org/index.php/reuniones/82-10-reunion-ampliada-de-cp-idea

The Final Report of the Activities carried out in the period 2009-2013, is also available, for the time being, in English only. The Resolutions and the Final Report of the Tenth UNRCC-A, are being finalized by UNSD team and will be available on the website as soon as possible.

Regarding the PC-IDEA Plenary Meeting, the minutes are being finalized and will be available shortly. In the meantime, some important points discussed were:

1) The name of the **PC-IDEA** changes to **UN-GGIM-Americas**.
2) Documents and manuals were approved and the final versions will be available on the website soon.
3) The new Executive Board for 2013-2016 was elected and includes:

- President: Mexico - Rolando Ocampo Alcántar
- Executive Secretary: Mexico - Mónica Aguayo González
- Vice President: Chile - Matias Fortuño
- Central America Representative: El Salvador - Rigoberto Magaña
- Caribbean Representative: Jamaica - Trevor Shaw
- South America Representative: Brazil - João Bosco de Azevedo
- North America Representative: Canada - Phashant Shukle

The next UNRCC-Americas will be held in 2016.

From now on, official communications of the UN-GGIM-Americas should be directed to Mónica Aguayo (monica.aguayo@inegi.org.mx), the new Executive Secretary.

Reported by Luiz Paulo and Valéria, Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística – IBGE, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

UN-GGIM Participation

UN-GGIM Third Session Meeting Report Published

The Third Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was held from 24-26 July 2013

at the Corn Exchange Building, Cambridge City Centre, United Kingdom. Bringing together more than 250 geospatial experts from across the globe, the Third Session of UN-GGIM was convened back-to-back with the Cambridge Conference, and made considerable progress in fulfilling GGIM's mandate to enhance collaboration and support the use of geospatial information to promote sustainable development globally.

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Report on the third session (24-26 July 2013) has been published. Download the 37-page report at the link below.

http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/3rd%20UNCE/GGIM_ 3%20final%20report%209%20Aug_FINAL.pdf

Several GSDI Association members were present at the July 2013 meeting in Cambridge, UK. The GSDI Association is one of the officially recognized International Organisations participating in the UN GGIM initiative via its participation on the JBGIS.

UN-GGIM Standardization Issues Report

The "UN-GGIM inventory of issues and geographic information standardization" (6 June 2013) was prepared by ISO/TC 211, Geographic information/Geomatics, in cooperation with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). Contributing authors were: Gilles Bessero, Jean Brodeur, Serena Coetzee, Olaf Østensen, Anthony Pharaoh and Carl Reed.

This report presents an analysis of standardization needs and currently available standards baselines from ISO/TC 211 Geographic information/Geomatics (ISO/TC 211), the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). Standardization addresses multiple facets beginning with the definition of interoperability of geographic information. Then, topics such as fundamental data types for spatial and temporal information, conceptual modelling rules, semantics of real world phenomena, metadata, services, encoding, etc. are developed into standards to set the foundation and building blocks that enable interoperability of geographic information. The report provides recommendations regarding standards setting in the global geospatial community to the United Nations Committee of Experts on the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNCE GGIM) in support of its aims and objectives.

Download the report at the link below (PDF).
http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/International_Organizatio ns/UN-
GGIM/Report_to_UNCE_GGIM_on_GI_Standards.pdf

Chengdu Forum on UN-GGIM Rescheduled

The Secretariat of the UN initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China (NASG) have rescheduled the Chengdu Forum until 15 to 17 October 2013 in Chengdu, China. The forums is also supported by the Regional Committee of the UN GGIM for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP).

The theme of the forum is **'Development and Applications in Urban Hazard Mapping'** and the forum will discuss the development and provision of consistent, accurate and reliable geospatial information and modelling techniques, which are able to be integrated and disseminated on appropriate platforms, to enable nations to better understand and implement natural hazard impact mapping and analysis in urban environments.

For full details of the Chengdu Forum, visit this link.
http://ggim.un.org/Chengdu%20Forum.html

New Version of the INSPIRE Download Services Technical Guidelines

A new version of the *Download Services Technical Guidelines (version 3.1)* has been published on the INSPIRE web site. The new version is based on feedback from the implementation of Download Services in the Member States and on discussions in the IOC Task Force. It contains a number of clarifications, additional examples, corrections of minor errors and a new section on measuring quality of service. The detailed changes from the previous version 3.0 can be found in the change log in the document or as tracked changes in this comparison document.

Get the new Guidelines at the link below.

http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/Network_Ser vices/Technical_Guidance_Download_Services_v3.1.pdf

See the comparison document at this link.

http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/Network_Ser vices/Technical_Guidance_Download_Services_v3.1_vs_ 3.0.pdf

GSDI INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

GSDI Member organisations, members of the GSDI Association Committees, Council and Board, and IGS members are involved in many other regional and global initiatives on an on-going basis.

- Eye on Earth – www.eyeonearth.org.
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – www.earthobservations.org.
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu.
- EU INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu.
- International Cartographic Association (ICA) – www.icaci.org.
- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) – www.fig.net
- International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) – Marine SDI Working Group – www.iho.int.

- International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) - www.digitalearth-isde.org.
- International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) – www.iscgm.org
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – www.iode.org.
- UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – www.ungiwg.org.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS UPDATES

To see the latest news from the different e-mail forums maintained by the GSDI Committees (4) and the regional SDI Newsletters (5), visit the web site at http://www.gsdi.org/discussionlists, choose the forum of interest and select the 'Archives' option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above

For more information on any of these items, visit the **GSDI Association** web site at http://www.gsdi.org.

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS - News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society – is published by the GSDI Association, edited by Roger Longhorn, vice-Chair, Communications, of the GSDI Outreach and Membership Committee. The Editor may be contacted at ral@alum.mit.edu. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to GSDI and IGS Member news or SDI initiatives at any level.

The GSDI Association is an inclusive organization of organizations, agencies, firms, and individuals from around the world. The purpose of the organization is to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments that will allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance.

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

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

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

The International Geospatial Society is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association and seeks individuals for membership that have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts.

"The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association - Advancing a Location Enabled World"