

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society
Vol. 3, No. 10, 2013

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS



GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCE 2013 IS UNDERWAY!

As we go to press with this issue of the GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter, the Global Geospatial Conference 2013 is underway at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with workshops and some meetings starting on 3 November and the full conference running through 8 November. Visit the Conference website at www.gsdi.org/gsd14/ for the latest conference news.

Other Important Links

Past GSDI World Conference Proceedings:

<http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconferences>

Past open access Books affiliated with the conference:

<http://www.gsdi.org/openaccessbooks>

THANKS TO OUR HOSTS, SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS AND COLLABORATORS

Once again, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our Sponsors, without whose contributions the conference might not have been possible. **Esri, Inc.** is the conference Titanium Sponsor while **Intergraph Corporation** and **Google, Inc.** are Platinum Sponsors, **GEO** is a Gold sponsor and **DigitalGlobe** is a Bronze sponsor.

Other hosts, sponsors, supporters and collaborators include EIS-Africa, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI), International Geospatial Society (IGS), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), EiABC Addis Ababa University, African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE), Ethiopian Mapping Authority (EMA), GIS Society of Ethiopia (GISSE), Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA).

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GEO CHALLENGE GRANTS

The **Group on Earth Observations (GEO)** 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. Our grateful thanks to GEO for making this generous offer and travel assistance to needy participants during times of restricted budgets globally.

Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director of GEO, is one of the keynote speakers at the conference, and will be focusing on GEO's AfriGEOSS initiative to be launched during the conference, 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.

GSDI GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD 2013

Professor Jacqueline McGlade will receive the GSDI Global Citizen Award for 2013 on the opening day of the conference, where she will also deliver her visionary presentation to the audience. Prof McGlade completed her mandate as Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA) in June 2013, following ten very active and productive years of service. Since 2003, Jacquie presided over a significant increase in the coverage and extent of data and information processed and analysed by the EEA and a doubling of resources for the agency. During this time, membership reached 32 countries and the EEA participated in more than 60 countries globally.



A strong advocate of new technologies to improve information gathering, including crowdsourcing, and providing citizen access to environmental information, Prof McGlade was also instrumental in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the European Union. SEIS brings together key aspects of national and international research for environmental planning, monitoring and reporting, including information from the EU's Copernicus Earth observation programme. In her new role as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Jacquie has special responsibilities for UNEP-Live and Eye on Earth.

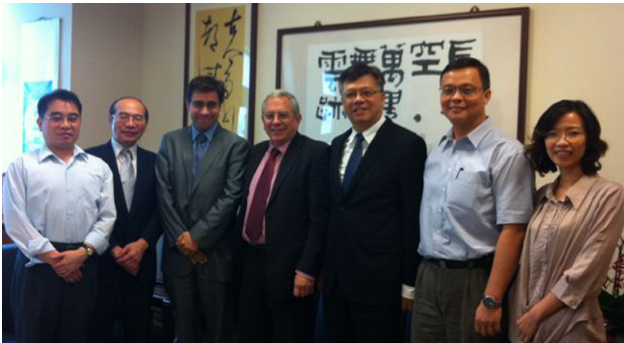
GSDI COMMITTEE NEWS

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), 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), and the newsletters of the organisations with which GSDI has MoUs – **ICA**, **FIG** and **ISPRS**



Outreach & Membership Committee

Work continues on developing the **5-year GSDI & IGS Strategic Plan**, with the working group expanded to include **Sives Govender**, President of the IGS, and **Dev Raj Paudyal**, IGS President-elect. This is because, as the private members' arm of the GSDI Association, it would be difficult to develop a strategy for IGS that did not take account of, or was included in, the GSDI's own strategic plan. The working group has been meeting via teleconference as well as physically, and work will continue at the GSDI 14 conference in Addis, following reports at the IGS Meeting, to GSDI Council and the GSDI Board.



During October, O&M vice-Chair Communications, **Roger Longhorn**, and regional vice-Chair Europe, **Joep Crompvoets**, were guests in Taipei, delivering keynote speeches at the annual conference of the national Geospatial One-Stop (TGOS) portal, while also visiting various government departments to learn of the great advances being made in implementing a far-reaching government open data initiative across all branches of government.

Also in October, O&M Chair, **Denise McKenzie**, was involved in several events organised by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) where she serves as Executive Director, Marketing. Denise is also active in the GSDI Strategic Planning WG.



The O&M Committee manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has 297 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.

Our new **Facebook** account created in July to help promote the GSDI Conference, has gathered a few more followers and GSDI and IGS members are encouraged to use Facebook to tell us about their activities. Visit us on Facebook at: (www.facebook.com/gsdiandigs).



We continue to publish news on the Members' Corner of the GSDI website and the **Twitter** account will be used during the forthcoming Global Geospatial Conference in November.

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.

In October, Societal Impacts Committee vice-Chair, **Jeremy Shen**, announced the third annual GIS training opportunity in Chinese Taipei for March 2014, under which three GSDI or IGS members from Africa or Latin America are sponsored to participate in the International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training (ICLPST) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei from 19 March to 1 April 2014. Applications are now open and details can be found at:

http://ngis.moi.gov.tw/lan_en/Content.aspx?MenuID=95&SubjectID=510.



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_content&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.

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 October 2013, IGS had **339 active members**. The IGS web site is at: <http://www.igeoss.org>.

The **IGS Member Survey** launched on 20 June was very successful, with 115 members responding (40% of the membership). Results were sent to all IGS Members for use in the discussions to define the next 5-year IGS Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2015 at the IGS Meeting held at the GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013 joint conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3 November. More details on that meeting and further development of the IGS strategy to follow next month.

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>.

NEW – Subscriptions to Geospatial World Online Magazine

Geospatial World magazine is now offering free subscriptions to IGS members from developing nations or who are students. Details were sent to the IGS Members mail list on 25 September and by 30 September more than 90 IGS members had provided their subscription details to the web site registration web site provided by Geospatial World.

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.

Join 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 the end of 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 339 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.

CAPACITY BUILDING

GISCI Releases Exam Development Process Summary

To strengthen the GISP certification program and advance the GIS profession, GISCI is developing an exam component for the GISP certification process. The exam is based on the Geospatial Technology Competency Model (GTCM) Tier 4, Geospatial Core Technical Competencies. Because the GTCM is exemplary, in order to develop the detail needed as a foundation for an exam, GISCI is basing its exam development on job analysis, a standard practice of certifying organizations. The key steps in GISCI's exam development process are:

- 1) Job Analysis. The core technical tasks and knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) for GIS Professional jobs are identified through focus groups of GIS Professional Subject Matter Experts (SMEs or job incumbents) from the full range of GIS jobs and sectors. The process also includes consideration of the Geographic Information Science & Technology Body of Knowledge. Via an extensive survey, GIS Professional SMEs rate these tasks and KSAs. The tasks and KSAs are then linked together.
- 2) Exam Blueprint Development. The Exam Blueprint will be derived from the Job Analysis results and will lay out the content of the exam. It will indicate the task-related knowledge that will be included on the exam and the extent to which they will be covered.

- 3) Item Writing. Following the Exam Blueprint, a team of GIS Professional SMEs will be trained in item writing by professional test developers and will write the exam questions in a workshop setting. Each question will go through several iterations of review and rewriting before becoming part of the item bank.

- 4) Exam Construction. The specific exam(s) will be constructed from the item bank, according to the blueprint.

- 5) Pilot Exam. A large group of GIS Professional SMEs will take the exam in a pilot form.

- 6) Standard Setting. Standard setting or "pass score" determination will be developed by a group of senior GIS Professional SMEs, working as a team. They will follow procedures standard to the professional certification and exam development industry.

The Job Analysis is being conducted in September through November 2013. More than 350 GIS Professional Subject Matter Experts will be involved in the development of the exam, through focus groups, workshops, surveys, and pilot exams. The exam will become a component of the GISCI GISP certification process in the first part of 2015. For further information, contact Bill Hodge GISP, Executive Director GISCI - bhodge@gisci.org www.gisci.org

2014 Training Opportunity in GIS and Land Management

Eligibility for sponsored attendance is available for three individuals who are members of the GSDI Association or International Geospatial Society.

The Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association will provide a free training opportunity for up to three candidates from Africa or Latin America to attend the ICLPST (**International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training**) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei. The training seminar will begin on 19 March 2014 and conclude on 1 April 2014.

Chinese Taipei is the sponsor of the training program that entrusts ICLPST to carry out the project. Each candidate must satisfy the following guidelines:

- Candidates must be an individual member of the International Geospatial Society (IGS) or must be affiliated with an organization that is a member of the GSDI Association.
- Candidates must be proficient in both spoken and written English in order to be able to follow lectures



and instructions conducted in English. Nominees with basic computer skills will be considered more suitable for this course.

- Candidates must be persons who are presently working as an administrator, planner or project analyst in areas such as land use and management, urban planning, land surveying, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information systems, etc.
- Candidates must be under the age of 55 and must be medically certified as fit for study and travel abroad. Please see the referenced Medical Report form for the required physical check-up. Those who are taking medication for chronic diseases have to prepare sufficient medication for the duration of the stay in Chinese Taipei.

All participants should have valid passports and visas (they shall apply for a visa valid for at least a one month stay) for entry into Chinese Taipei. Please note that each participant will receive a round-trip, economy-class air ticket for travel between his/her country's capital city and Taipei by the most direct route, and will be provided with board and lodging expenses during the training seminar. The participant is fully responsible to pay for any and all other incidental expenses in connection with the travel such as visa fees, airport taxes, en-route hotel accommodations, etc.

To better facilitate discussions among the participants and with the lecturers, we require that every participant prepare a country paper about developments in their home country to be presented in class. The topic should be relevant to the theme of the course (see the curriculum). Each country-based presentation is limited to 20 minutes. A computer and projector will be provided by the Center (ICLPST) for the presentation. However, outside the presentation, participants are expected to bring and use their own laptop computers during the training seminar.

If you are interested in the training seminar, please fill in the application form and medical report form found at http://ngis.moi.gov.tw/lan_en/Content.aspx?MenuID=95&SubjectID=510, and send it to Mr. Jeremy Shen, vice chair of the Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association at jeremyshen0120@hotmail.com or moi0795@moi.gov.tw before 31 December 2013.

Every application submitted will be reviewed by GSDI Association's Societal Impacts Committee and Sives Govender, President of the International Geospatial Society. Selections should occur within 10 to 15 days of the closing date for applications.

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

From Esri, Inc.

Esri Joins European Location Framework Project (E.L.F.)

Esri has joined the European Location Framework (E.L.F.) project to assist in harmonising and sharing geospatial data across Europe. As part of the project, Esri has agreed to a grant offer with EuroGeographics to help its 59 members implement ELF and INSPIRE-compliant services. Under the grant, Esri will be providing the ArcGIS platform, including ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS for INSPIRE software, as well as support and training and entrance to the Esri International User Conference.

Esri is a welcome addition to the European Location Framework, said Dave Lovell, EuroGeographics secretary general and executive director. The assistance Esri is offering will help the community of national mapping, land registry, and cadastral authorities as they continue to create the interoperable, cross-border, INSPIRE-compliant public-sector information necessary for better decision-making.

ELF is funded under the European Commission's Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and brings together 30 organisations, including 14 European National Mapping Authorities, to harmonise and share authoritative national mapping and cadastral data across Europe. The project will run for three years, having begun in March 2013, and builds upon existing national INSPIRE implementations. ArcGIS Online will serve as the cloud platform for the project, with ArcGIS for INSPIRE feeding national services into the network. Esri will also support the development of various geoprocessing tools including generalisation and quality assurance.

Both Esri and EuroGeographics are longstanding and valued members of the GSDI Association.

From the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

Location Matters Report Published

"Location matters: spatial standards for the Internet of Things" is ITU-T's latest Technology Watch report (September 2013) introduces readers to location (spatial) standards and their role in enabling the Internet of Things, describing how communications infrastructure has increased people's associations with the natural and built environment as well as how this can be leveraged to improve governance and service delivery by revealing new insights into how we interact with one another and the services and infrastructures that surround us.



Authored by staff and members of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), with support from ITU-T, the report is titled "Location matters: Spatial standards for the Internet of Things" and can be downloaded free of charge here:

http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/oth/23/01/T23010000210001PDFE.pdf.

The report discusses the technologies and standards emerging in support of location-based services (LBS), analyzing shortfalls in interoperability and highlighting where global standardization can tap the full potential of these fast-maturing technologies and the valuable data they return.

Spatial standards' role in the marketplace is critiqued with a view to uncovering clear trends or market drivers, and readers will discover that location matters in a wide range of sectors, with examples being made of emergency and disaster management and response; smart infrastructure; smart water management; and, of course, transportation.

The report goes on to describe the spatial standards landscape, looking at the activities of the involved standardization bodies and concluding with an analysis of the greatest obstacles to be overcome in the spatial standards arena.

DigitalGlobe Becomes Principal Member of the Open Geospatial Consortium

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) announced that DigitalGlobe has raised its membership level from Technical Committee level to Principal level. As a Principal member, DigitalGlobe will participate in OGC's Planning Committee to explore market and technology trends relevant to OGC's mission, to assure that OGC's policies and procedures remain effective and agile in a changing technology environment, and to act as final approval authority for all OGC standards.

"The work the OGC does in creating open source standards for geospatial information is key to what we do at DigitalGlobe," said Walter Scott, Founder and Chief Technology Officer at DigitalGlobe. *"Our purpose is to 'see a better world' and global standards for geospatial data enable us and the industry to innovate at an accelerated rate to solve pressing global problems."*

"DigitalGlobe is a key player in the Earth imaging industry. Principal Membership in the OGC enables them to play a greater role in providing important open standards that help put the power of earth imaging into the hands of users and decision-makers worldwide," said

Mark Reichardt, President and CEO of the OGC. *"We look forward to DigitalGlobe's continued involvement in OGC's Technical Committee, and we welcome their voting participation in OGC's Planning Committee."*

From KU Leuven

smeSPIRE: Training on INSPIRE

The **smeSPIRE** training programme aims to prepare the GI users/professionals – both beginners and advanced – coming from the commercial sector (SMEs), governmental sector or academic sector to become proficient and successful in implementing INSPIRE. The objective is to help to mature the geospatial professional's skills and knowledge regarding INSPIRE implementation activities and regarding innovative subjects, which than – in turn - can lead to the creation of (business) opportunities.



In the frame of the **smeSPIRE** training initiatives, Spatial Applications Division of KU Leuven (SADL) just launched an intense program of seminars, which will take place in Leuven from Autumn 2013 to Spring 2014, the first of them on 21 October. The **smeSPIRE** training programme consists of 3 types of seminars:

- Introduction Seminars: aim to introduce the participants to the heart of the matter (basics) but at the same time stay at the level of non-technical comprehension;
- INSPIRE Advanced Seminars or Training: intends to make the participants proficient in mastering the process(es) and techniques and thus are in-depth and are mostly hands-on training sessions which will enable the participants to effectively execute and test geospatial activities;
- Innovation Seminars (introduction or advanced): aim to make the participants acquainted with innovative technologies (services, applications, trends) and the latest geospatial technological trends.

The full program, together with the registration to each single seminar, are available on the **SmeSPIRE** site at:

<http://www.smespire.eu/index.php/training-smespire>.

Note: GSDI Association member EUROGI are also involved in the **smeSPIRE Project.**



IRLOGI Stakeholder Survey 2013

IRLOGI are members of the European Umbrella Organisation for GI (**EUROGI**), a GSDI Association founding member. Just as the GSDI Association and International Geospatial Society have been investigating what their members think of these organisations and what more they would like to see done, in preparation for a new 5-year strategic plan, IRLOGI launched a similar survey in 2013 with its members in Ireland. Their press announcement follows below.



"The most truthful, and often most painful, way to improve is to listen to those nearest and dearest to you."

With that thought in mind, the Irish Organisation for Geographic Information (IRLOGI), the umbrella organisation for the geographical information industry in Ireland, produced a stakeholder survey (released on 23 September 2013) to allow community members to have an input on the future of IRLOGI. Established in 1995, the mission, objectives and activities of IRLOGI have a high initial focus on establishing a spatial data infrastructure (SDI) for Ireland.

Starting with a stakeholder survey, the executive committee of IRLOGI is conducting a strategic review. The focus of this review is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the organization and to highlight the opportunities and threats to the organisation. That analysis will lead to a strategic intent document being release before the end of 2013.

Although the executive committee members are in the drafting phase for the strategy, they thought it might be interesting to share their observations so far. "In terms of our strengths, we have summarised that:

- we deliver a good conference, and should continue to do so;
- our website and social media presence has greatly improved (although more can be done);
- the level of engagement in the stakeholder survey indicates a motivated community;
- we have a very large stakeholder community, which underlines a need for focus.

Set against those strengths, we have observed a set of weaknesses that we have summarised as:

- we are not good at communicating what we do in terms of marketing IRLOGI and the community; building awareness; achievement of objectives; and activities within education; and
- we do not do enough to bring this community together, for example:

- there need to be more events which engage the community beyond Dublin,
- there need to be more positioning papers (from building the business case for GIS through to specific technical topics, such as identifying relevant standards),
- we are not active enough on lobbying government on behalf of our community,
- we do not communicate the value of membership of EUROGI,
- we appear to have a lack of focus as an organization.

Looking at factors external to the organisation, a number of potential opportunities have been observed from the stakeholder survey:

- use the existing network to broaden the organisations bandwidth,
- bring more focus into key areas highlighted above: driving education and awareness of GIS within the community: position paper production; hosting more events; lobbying government,
- deliver more blog posts, engage more on social media, and examine the opportunity to produce a newsletter,
- introduce and publish targets and measures.

As ever there are also a number of potential threats to IRLOGI, which we have identified as:

- funding for voluntary organisations is challenging in particular during recession,
- as a voluntary organisation, there is only so much that can be realistically achieved (hence the need for focus),
- there are signs that IRLOGI is getting by-passed on various undertakings within the GI community in Ireland".

[announcement ends]

As a participant in the current GSDI & IGS Strategic Plan Working Group, your editor sees many parallels with the results of the IRLOGI survey, indicating that we all face similar issues in identifying with, and engaging more effectively with, our memberships.

NSGIC Report on Location Data Privacy Issues

Newspapers and legislative hearing rooms are full of concerns over individual privacy. While some of those concerns are well founded, there is a danger all data will be sequestered, that it will be locked behind firewalls. If that happens, all transparency will be lost. People will not be able to



understand what is happening in their community. They will not be able to make intelligent decisions or know how their government is functioning.

Thomas Jefferson said, "Information is the currency of democracy." The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) believes this and is especially concerned with attacks on locational information because Geographic is NSGIC's middle name. Therefore, NSGIC's Outreach Committee has recently published a document, "This Isn't Private Information". The document presents five examples of locational data that NSGIC sees as clearly not private:

- Street addresses, even with x-y coordinates, if no resident names are associated;
- Property ownership and assessment records are purposely available as public records;
- Aerial photography resolution is typically too coarse to identify individuals;
- Published Census data is only summary information;
- Google's Street View and similar images;

The document aims to explain reasons why these data should not be protected under privacy laws.

Access the document at this URL:

http://www.nsgic.org/public_resources/This_Isnt_Private_Information_082313_NSGIC_Outreach_Committee.pdf

MAPPS is also concerned about federal overreaction on privacy issues. They have developed a resolution and other materials that document the value of imagery and geospatial information for the economy, public safety, open government, etc. See Federal Issue: Privacy, http://www.mapps.org/?page=GA_FI_Privacy

Defence and Intelligence Survey Available

The first Defence and Intelligence Survey study was conducted in September 2013 with 322 senior-level defence and intelligence professionals from defence and government organisations worldwide. It was designed to help benchmark the current 'state of the industry', looking at what their current requirements and concerns are and where they see future trends heading. We hope these results will bring new insight to the industry as to precisely what the key decision makers are focusing on and how they see their budgets shifting.

The survey highlights a challenge faced by virtually all 'big-data'-driven industries: Where to put data and how to use it. 44% of respondents have said that their main requirement for the next 1-2 years is for data to be available in a timely manner. With 66% of respondents planning to invest in new GIS technology in the next 3 years, could we expect a step-change in the industry?

Download The DGI 2014 Benchmarking Survey at this link:

<http://www.wbresearch.com/dgieurope/benchmarkingsurvey-form.aspx>

FROM THE PRESIDENT



This has been a very busy month for GSDI President David Coleman, and all others on the Global Geospatial Conference 2013 organising committee. See David's contribution to the GIM International magazine's GSDI Column later in this issue. David will be very much in action at the Conference in Addis Ababa in chairing the GSDI Association Council and Board meetings, as well as various plenary sessions and technical presentations. Look out for more in our full conference report next issue.

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 by GSDI President, Prof David Coleman.

"The GSDI Association and EIS-Africa welcomes you to join us in Addis Ababa in November 2013"

The Global Geospatial Conference 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia will run from 4-8 November 2013. Originally mentioned in May's GSDI Column, this event brings together the GSDI 14 World Conference, the AfricaGIS 2013 Conference and the AfriGEOSS initiative launch in one location at the UN Conference Centre of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The joint theme for this conference is 'Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction'. An excellent technical program of more than 170 papers, 9 workshops and many meetings has been arranged, speakers from five continents are already registered, and the exhibit space is almost fully booked. The following Keynote Speakers have been confirmed (alphabetic order):

- 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
- Helge Onsrud, Director, Norwegian Mapping Authority Centre for Property Rights and Development



- Wilber 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, USAID GeoCenter
- Stanley Wood, Gates Foundation
- plus speakers from leading international geospatial technology firms, including Stan Tillman (Integrapp), Mark Cygan (Esri), Ed Parsons (Google) and Andrea Smith (DigitalGlobe).

Jacqueline McGlade, the former Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA), has been named the 2013 GSDI Global Citizen Award Recipient, and will also be delivering a keynote presentation.

Founded in 1886 and known as "the political capital of Africa", Addis Ababa is the capital city of Ethiopia and home of the African Union and its Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and Addis Ababa University. Bole International Airport is a hub to and from many international destinations, and the airport is a short distance away from all the major hotels and conference venues in the central business district of Addis Ababa.

The GSDI Association and EIS-Africa, together with the Addis Ababa University, the Ethiopian Mapping Agency and the UNECA, are working together to ensure that this conference attracts global to local experts, students, professionals, researchers and policy-makers under one roof in November 2013. We look forward to seeing you there. More information can be found at the following websites:

- <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14> (everything you need to know about AfricaGIS 2013 and GSDI 14)
- <http://www.eis-africa.org> (Join EIS-Africa network)
- <http://www.gsdi.org> (Learn more about the GSDI Association and how to participate here: www.gsdi.org/joinGSDI)
- <http://www.igeoss.org> (Join the International Geospatial Society – IGS – the private individual's arm of the GSDI Association)

Dr. David Coleman is President of the GSDI Association, a professor of geomatics engineering and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of New Brunswick in Canada.

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.

From the GIKnet Spatial Documents Depot

This month's featured document from the GIKnet Spatial Documents Depot is "***The Value of Geoinformation for Disaster and Risk Management (VALID): Benefit Analysis and Stakeholder Assessment***" by Orhan Altan, Robert Backhaus, Piero Boccoardo, Fabio Giulio Tonolo, John Trinder, Niels van Manen, and Sisi Zlatanova, published by the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JB GIS).

The booklet, *Geoinformation for Disaster and Risk Management - Examples and Best Practices*, published on 2 July 2010 by the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JB GIS) and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA), outlined the potential uses of Geoinformation technologies for reducing the impact of natural or manmade disasters and risks. It brought together concise scientific contributions from experts around the world and created a decision support forum based on their knowledge. The articles in the booklet covered natural events such as earthquakes, floods, volcano outbreaks, tsunamis, landslides, dust storms and wildfires, as well as societal issues such as health care, refugee camps, urban sprawl and traffic infrastructure security. Case related regional studies are complemented by presentations of global information systems. This publication aims to raise awareness amongst governments, disaster management professionals and other decision-makers, of the potential uses of Geoinformation technologies to reduce the impact of natural disasters and to assist in support of decision-making in all phases of disaster management, prevention and mitigation, as well as immediate response and recovery.

The second publication of this series, which is being published by the JB GIS, ICSU-GeoUnions (International Council for Science-GeoUnions) and OOSA outlines the potential financial benefit of Geoinformation technologies used to reduce the impact of natural or manmade disasters and risks. It contains examples and case studies of Geoinformation Technologies resulting from different stakeholder assessments.

We believe that this publication will contribute towards harmonious co-existence of human beings and nature by creating awareness of potential natural and man-made hazards and measures that can be taken to manage their impacts.

Download the booklet from the GIKnet Spatial Document Depot here:
<http://www.giknet.org/depot/?docid=94>

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.

ASSOCIATED CONFERENCE NEWS

The GSDI Association acts as a Media Partner for various other international conferences in exchange for promotional opportunities at those conferences. This month, we feature two such events for which we have entered into joint promotional activities.



The ***DGI (Defence Geospatial Intelligence) Conference & Exhibition*** is being held **21-23 January 2014** at the QEII Conference Centre in London, UK. It brings together heads of defence geospatial intelligence, remote sensing, GIS data & mapping, satellite imagery and analysis within the military, governmental, and intelligence sectors. It attracts professionals who are responsible for using, and



integrating, geo based capabilities in their operations and organizations.

DGI provides a unique forum for defence intelligence professionals to discuss and debate the development of geospatial intelligence capabilities. Over 700 senior defence and security executives from 46 countries attend the Defence Geospatial Intelligence (DGI) in Westminster, London, to discuss the future role of GeoInt, Data and Cyber Security in their organisations, to debate new strategies, future collaboration plans, and to find solutions to their current Geo challenges.

Focusing On The Challenges That Most Affect Geo Professionals:

- **Contingency Planning:** Learn about the latest ideas and strategies for effective and interoperable defence and intelligence capability in the urban environment.
- **National Security:** Build your homeland security strategy based on experiences and tools from colleagues who are fighting terrorism the world over.
- **Littoral Focus:** Develop an understanding of geospatial and intelligence support of operations and security missions in coastal waters around your country.
- **Maritime Domain:** Get the latest insight into real time maritime surveillance of ships and environmental, defence and economic security
- **Big Data and the Cloud:** Tackle the challenges of big data storage, analysis and exploitation in intelligence and defense operations, with a special focus on using and integrating open source data.
- **IT Architecture:** Develop an effective data and IT architecture to support interoperable and scalable intelligence functions
- **North America Day:** Gain insight into cutting edge strategies used in intelligence and geospatial support capabilities in the USA and Canada.
- **Arctic Focus:** Giving you insight into the challenges and opportunities of northern passage real time surveillance, environmental matters, maritime and littoral issues.

Supported by the UK MoD, the NGA, US Army, NATO, Australian DoD, the EU and many more international military and governmental organisations, DGI combines a high level conference, with a large exhibition hall, to combine unparalleled networking, benchmarking and learning opportunities into one event.

Find out more information at: <http://bit.ly/1cQjyx9>

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

GEO News

AfriGEOSS Launch

The GEO initiative AfriGEOSS is being launched this week at the Global Geospatial Conference 2013 in Addis Ababa, at the UN Economic Commission for Africa. A



full plenary session at the conference has been assigned to the launch, which will be followed by a reception and an associated workshop. More details from the conference web site at gsdi.org/gsdi14/.

The D_CITY Manifesto

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) has sponsored two print runs of the **D_City manifesto**: the world's first comprehensive 'snapshot' report on efforts to create a networked environmental monitoring system.

Warmly received by several hundred geospatial scientists attending the latest **International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE)** conference in Kuching, Malaysia in September 2013, the D_City: Digital Earth|Virtual Nations|Data Cities report is being commended by publishers and editors of the top three international geospatial trade publications (Geospatial World, Sensors and Systems and Apogeo Spatial), the science and development network (SciDev.Net), architecture book publishers Actar, and the quarterly journal for city governments (Cities Today). They are all supporting different aspects of the emerging 'Science for Cities' and 'Data Cities' movement. Get the manifesto here: <http://dcitynetwork.net/manifesto>

Shortly before the ISDE conference, GEO and the ISDE issued a joint media release announcing GEO's approval of the report, which was co-edited by two founders-leaders of the ISDE's digital cities working party, Davina Jackson and Richard Simpson. They collaborated on D_City (the 'D' being defined as 'dynamic digital data design for decent development') to help educate next generation urban development professionals about effective ways of using geospatial technologies.

The D_City report can be read and downloaded at dcitynetwork.net/manifesto. It has been online since early 2012. The current update includes a 'Postscript' summary of latest advances supporting the GEO-coordinated 'global Earth observations system of systems' (GEOSS) project. These recent ventures include the International Council for Science's Future Earth project and programs promoting cities and the emerging 'space



economy' at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Geospatial World has published an interview with D_City co-editor and 'network catalyst' Davina Jackson, on its 'Asia Geospatial Digest' site at this link: <http://www.geospatialworld.net/Interview/ViewInterview.aspx?id=30665>.

INSPIRE in Europe



Geospatial SMEs in Europe - in May and June 2013, two major events highlighted the importance and strength of "geospatial" SMEs (or Geo-ICT SMEs) regarding INSPIRE. The first one was the dialogue session "Leveraging SMEs strength for INSPIRE" organized in May by the European Commission's DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) during the Geospatial World Forum, in Rotterdam. The second one was the workshop "Concrete Steps to Implement INSPIRE: Synergies Between The Public and The Private Sector" organized by the *SmeSpire project* in June at the INSPIRE Conference, in Florence. The report is available at:

<http://www.smespire.eu/index.php/publications?did=19>.

- Eye on Earth – www.eyearth.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.gsd.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

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.

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