GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 3, No. 5, 2013

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

GSDI 14/AfricaGIS Conference Update!

The **Global Geospatial Conference 2013** - the joint **GSDI 14 World Conference** and **AfricaGIS 2013 Conference** - is being held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA) Conference Center, 4-8 November 2013. Organizers and hosts of the conference include the GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the UN ECA, EiABC - Addis Ababa University, and the International Geospatial Society. The conference theme is "Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction".

As of the (extended) deadline (31 May) for submission of abstracts, the organizers have received over 240 abstracts for oral presentations, which are now under review by the review committee. Thus, we expect that there will be more than enough accepted papers to fill all of the available technical sessions at the forthcoming conference.

In addition to several plenary sessions and many parallel presentation sessions at the conference, at least ten Training Workshops will be offered throughout the week, sponsored and organized by agencies, private companies and consortia. Further details of these will be on the website in the coming weeks.

Among those individuals already fully or tentatively committed as keynote speakers are:

- Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA - the conference hosts)
- Wilber Khasilwa Ottichilo, Member of Parliament, Emuhaya Constituency, Kenya
- Jack Dangermond, President, Esri
- Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director, Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
- Peter Gilruth, Director, Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Lee Schwartz, Director, Office of the Geographer and Global Issues, US Department of State

Other keynote speakers who have been approached by the organizers will be named shortly.

Check the conference web site for registration information, as online registration will be available very shortly at:
http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/register.html.

A substantial reduction in registration fees is available for local participants, members of EIS-Africa and members of the International Geospatial Society who are from low income per capita nations. 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 or International Geospatial Society to enjoy conference fee reductions, but you must be a registered member of either the Association or the Society in order to benefit from the discounted fees.

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 Submission of Full Papers for Non-refereed Publications: 1 Sept 2013
- Deadline for Full Conference Registration Payment for All Presenters: 15 Sept 2013
- Conference Dates: 4-8 Nov 2013

Important Conference Links

- Joint Conference Call for Abstracts and Papers: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/papercall.html
- Conference Website: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14
- Past GSDI World Conference Proceedings: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences
- Past open access Books affiliated with the conference: http://www.gsdi.org/openaccessbooks
- Other Important Dates: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/dates.html

Messages from our Conference Supporters

"*We appreciate that the intention of the event is to give opportunity to GIS experts from the entirety of the African continent for participation. ... This Conference can continue the intensive work undertaken by cartographers, GIScientists and researchers of Africa, providing a good opportunity to establish an interdisciplinary environment, where cartography and GIScience is the key scientific area.*" **Executive Committee of the International Cartographic Association**

Consult the web site at http://gsdi.org/gsdi14/ for latest information and details about the program, facilities and Sponsorship opportunities. Come prepared to engage, learn and enjoy! **We look forward to seeing you in Addis Ababa in November 2013!**

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

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. Our first two award winners - Jack Dangermond and Gilberto Camara - exemplify the continuing standard of excellence and service we are trying to set for future recipients of this Award.

The Award is not necessarily presented at every conference. A Call for Nominations was issued earlier this year and the nominations received are now under consideration. The sole recipient will be selected by past recipients of the award and your GSDI Association Executive Committee that consists of the Past President, President, and President-elect. The GSDI Global Citizen Award winner receives a medallion and certificate to be presented at the next global GSDI conference. She or he is invited to present a vision speech to the plenary audience, is permanently recognized on the Association's Global Citizen Award web site, and receives a lifetime membership in the International Geospatial Society.

Partner Event News
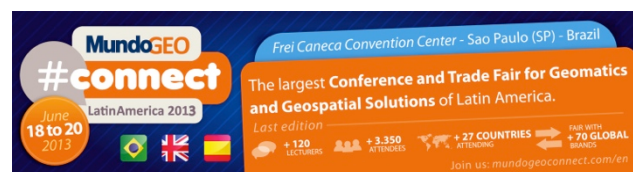
MundoGEO Connect# Latin America 2013 is the Conference and Trade Fair for Geomatics and Geospatial Solutions, to be held 18-20 June 2013 at the Frei Caneca Convention Center, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Full details of the conference are at:

http://mundogeoconnect.com/2013/en/

and program details can be found at:

http://mundogeoconnect.com/2013/en/program/.

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

O&M Committee vice-Chair, Communications, Roger Longhorn, continues to support communications related activities of the newly elected International Geospatial Society (IGS) officers, as well as serving on the GSDI 14 World Conference committee. This past month attention of the Committee has focused on re-design of the Association and Society web sites, further global conference preparations, enhancing the Communications and Membership Strategies for both the Association and Society, conference abstract review, and creating new membership promotional literature for use by Members in our current membership drive.

Committee vice-Chair, Middle East and India, Dr Khalid Al-Haidan, Director of the Geographic Information Systems Directorate at the Central Informatics Organisation, Bahrain, has also provided information on his agency's activities in the 'Association and Members News' section of this newsletter. Dr Al-Haidan continues his successful efforts in enlisting many new members from the Middle East and India to the International Geospatial Society, the individual members arm of the GSDI Association. Thanks to Dr Al-Haidan once again for continuing to promote GSDI in the region so successfully!

The Outreach & Membership Committee also manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has 267 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. Note: you do NOT have to be a member of the GSDI Association or the International Geospatial Society to join the LinkedIn group!

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is responsible for updating of the *GSDI SDI Cookbook*, a wiki maintained at: www.gsdidocs.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Page. The Committee is currently developing a new work plan for 2013-2014 under leadership of Chair, *Eric van Pragg* (CAF).

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) supports the Small Grants Program development. *Jeremy Shen*, Committee vice-Chair, Capacity Building, has provided a video on GIS standards at the website http://ngis.moi.gov.tw/lan_en/VideoEN.aspx#.

Jeremy also organizes annual training sessions held at his Ministry in Taipei (see the report in this issue's 'Capacity Building' section) and continues to oversee translation of the GSDI Asia-Pacific Newsletter into Chinese plus maintains contact with international SDI/GIS organizations to provide capacity building related material for the association.

The Societal Impacts Committee works closely with the International Geospatial Society officers in relation to capitalizing on capacity building initiatives for IGS members from developing nations.

GSDI Small Grants - URISA GISCorps Support

A second volunteer has been deployed for the GSDI project in Tanzania. This project was initiated as a small grant request from the GSDI by the University of Kwazulu-Natal and the Wami Ruvu Basin Water Office in Tanzania. The first volunteer conducted the analysis using the TM imagery and now the consortium has acquired new and higher resolution imagery (Rapid Eye) and the second volunteer Linda Delay, a GIS Specialist from New Mexico, will conduct similar analysis on the Rapid Eye. The intention of the project is to assess the effects of fragmentation on the landscape using high resolution imagery.

A cadastral mapping specialist is recruited for a GSDI project in Uzbekistan. The National Centre of Geodesy and Cartography (NCGC) in Uzbekistan has requested the assistance of a GIS professional via the GSDI Small Grant Program. NCGC is in the process of designing and implementing activities related to GIS strategic planning and capacity development. As part of this project, a number of land record management related papers/studies have been developed and the GISCorps volunteer's task will include reviewing these documents and making recommendations. The search for a seasoned volunteer in cadastral mapping resulted in recruiting Dr. Nancy Von Meyer, the vice president of Fairview Industries. Nancy is a GIS leader in the area of land record management and the recipient of URISA's Horwood Distinguished Service Award in 2007. Dr. Von Meyer is currently in contact with the NCGC team.

URISA GISCorps / GSDI Partnership Overview

As stated in its website, 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.

Among its goals, GSDI supports the establishment and expansion of local, national, and regional spatial data infrastructures that are globally compatible and supports interdisciplinary training, education and research activities that advance spatial data infrastructure development. Both internal and external funds are used to support projects and programs that further these goals.

Since 2005 GISCorps has collaborated with the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) in its Small Grants Program. In that year, Juna Papajorgji, a GISCorps co-founder, initiated a partnership between GISCorps and GSDI and, as a result, GISCorps joined the Association's Small Grants Program's review team. Since then GISCorps has been identifying proposals that may benefit from having a GISCorps volunteer. Missions may be on-site or remotely accomplished at the volunteer's location. Awards in professional services or in cash are for spatial data infrastructure or earth observation systems-related activities in economically disadvantaged nations. The partnership with the GISCorps has expanded the GSDI program to allow for a larger number of grant awards and for an increase in value of others. To date, GISCorps has participated in 2005/2006 and more recently in 2008/2009, 2010/2011, and 2011/2012 projects. The past three years' efforts have been spearheaded by Mark Salling, a GISCorps Core

Committee member.

2011/2012 Projects - The 2010/2011 application deadline was October 31, 2011 and the review of 2011/2012 projects resulted in multiple recruitments . At toal of 8 volunteers were recruited for seven projects in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Uzbekistan, and Russia. More detail is posted on ongoing projects' page.

2010/2011 Projects - The 2010/2011 application deadline was October 31, 2010. As a result, approximately 40 applications are under review and it is expected that between 14 and 18 awards will be given to organizations in emerging nations to help with developing SDI's and to encourage collaboration and additional funding. Several applicants will be invited to apply for GISCorps volunteers.

2008/2009 Projects - In 2008/2009 cycle, the GSDI and GISCorps team reviewed 31 applications – 19 from Africa and six each from Asia and the Americas. At the end, the effort resulted in launching one GISCorps related mission in Nigeria. GISCorps volunteer Alison Fischer has been providing support to that applicant - the Geographical Resources for Development Centre (GRDC), a non profit organization since 2010. Read about that project here.

2005/2006 Projects - In 2005/2006 cycle, 71 grant proposals from over 50 countries were received and reviewed by the review team. Six of those projects qualified for receiving GISCorps volunteers' remote assistance. The total value of the program in the 2005/2006 cycle was $30,000 in cash from GSDI and $13,500 in services from the GISCorps. The following were the 15 final winners:

Recipients of cash from the GISCorps:
1. Namibia - Biodiversity database
2. Armenia - Web-mapping volcanoes
3. Kenya - Coastal resources maps/oil spills

Recipients of voluntary services from the GISCorps and cash from the GSDI:
- Institute for Ecology & Botany (Hungary) - Botany Portal
- World Food Program (Mali) - SDI Application
- Marshall Islands (Marshall Islands) – Metadata / Clearinghouse

Recipients of cash from the GSDI:
- Columbia - Web mapping workshop
- Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (Congo) - Biodiversity database
- Directorate of Land and Property (East Timor) - SDI Workshop
- Foodlink (Kenya) - workshop on data inventory and

agreement
- Ministry of Lands & Environment (Jamaica) - continuation of existing work
- Livestock (Kenya) - Data Inventory & Clearinghouse Development
- Delta (Niger) - On-line Database and Clearinghouse
- Information Management (Philippines) - Building NSDI, technology working groups; policies and database
- Management of Health Services (Uganda) - SDI Workshop

For information on the 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 Executive Director, 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.

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 web pages!
As always, we express the Association's grateful thanks for the past support of the US Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and current support from the URISA GISCorps for making the grants 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 May 2013, IGS had 273 active members. The IGS web site is at http://www.igeoss.org.

IGS President, **Sives Govender** (Executive Director, EIS-Africa), and President-elect **Dev Raj Paudyal** (Lecturer, University of Southern Queensland, Australia) and **Roger Longhorn**, vice-Chair, Communications, GSDI O&M Committee, continue to hold bi-weekly teleconferences, including other GSDI Association Committee Chairs, vice-Chairs and or officers, as needed, focusing on the developing IGS Strategy and workplan, which will be presented to the membership in the next few days, as a draft for comment.

Dev has also been analysing the membership composition, so that we can focus on developing a truly global representation across all types and locations of members. Here are his initial findings of location of our members, in graphic format:
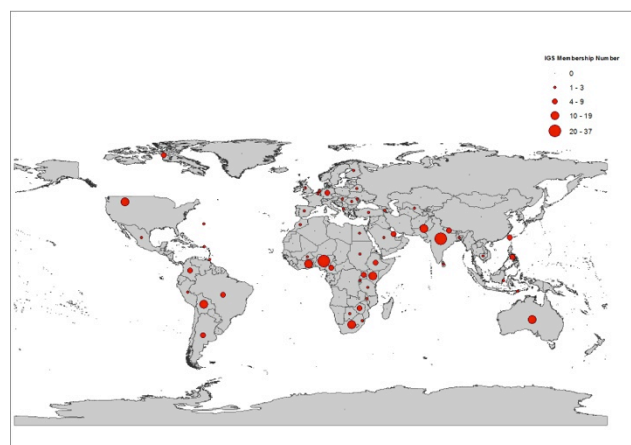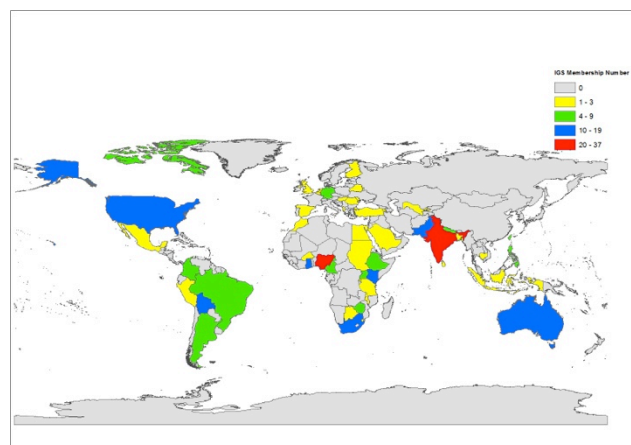
Sives and Dev have also developed a member survey that will be notified to each member for online completion by the end of June.

As reported last month, the intention is to have a final IGS Strategy document ready well in advance of the next face-to-face IGS meeting to be held at the ***GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013*** joint conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November, to which all IGS Members are invited. Finally, the team are actively participating in the project to redesign the current GSDI and IGS web site to better serve the membership(s) and promote the Association and Society.

Remembering the IGS Mission and Goals

The **mission** of the International Geospatial Society is to:

- serve as a point of contact and effective voice for those in the global community involved in developing, implementing and advancing geospatial, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information science, and geographic information system concepts,

- foster geospatial, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information science, and geographic information system concepts that support sustainable social, economic, and environmental systems integrated from local to global scales, and

- promote the informed and responsible use of geographic information and spatial technologies for the benefit of society.

The **goals** of the International Geospatial Society are to:

- support the establishment and expansion of local, national, and regional (multi-nation) spatial data infrastructures that are globally compatible,

- provide an organization to foster international communication and collaborative efforts for advancing geospatial technology, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information science, and geographic information system innovations,

- support interdisciplinary research and education activities that advance geospatial technology, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information science, and geographic information system concepts, theories and methods,

- enable better public policy and scientific decision-making through such advancements,

- promote the ethical use of and access to geographic information, and

- foster geospatial technology, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information science, and geographic information system developments in support of important worldwide needs.

Learn more about IGS at ***www.igeoss.org*** and follow IGS and GSDI news at www.gsdi.org.

IGS REMINDERS

Subscriptions to GIM International

As a member benefit of IGS, you may receive a free subscription of *GIM International*. 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 they can upload information in GIKNet, to which they are requested to contribute:

- Topics of general interest (English) http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=41

- Topics of general interest (Spanish) http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=42

- Task 5. Promote the work of IGS members as a network sharing information, knowledge and publications among IGS members http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=12

Members are invited to actively participate in the IGS discussion list and/or on the GSDI LinkedIn Group as a means of sharing news.

LinkedIn IGS Sub-Group

On 1 May 2013, we discontinued the IGS Sub-group in the professional social network LinkedIn, since all IGS Members were already required to be members of the GSDI Group before they could join the sub-group, and there seemed little need to continue with maintenance of the sub-group. In future, most communications with IGS Members will be via the IGS mailing list and the web site will shortly be updated to reflect this.

All IGS members are reminded that they should join the GSDI Group on LinkedIn.

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 1000 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 over 200 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 News at roger@alum.mit.edu.

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

GeoCat Applies for GSDI Membership

Established in the Netherlands in 2007, GeoCat offers cutting-edge, customized software and services that make publishing geospatial data on the Internet easier and more efficient than ever. GeoCat operates in the fast-growing market of Spatial Data Infrastructure and geospatially-enabled technologies, building sustainable, evolving applications following the Free and Open Source Software philosophy and open standards. They have provided successful consulting services and products contributing to development of National Spatial Data Infrastructures for The Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Spain, Canada, Swiss, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Scotland, ESA and many others.

GeoCat was founded by Jeroen Ticheler in 2007. Jeroen studied Tropical Forestry at Wageningen University, specialising in GIS and Remote Sensing. Following graduation in 1997, he worked for the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Rome for almost ten years, where he held various positions in GIS/remote sensing and established the GeoNetwork opensource project. The FAO GeoNetwork is the first implementation based on this software, releasing a large quantity of geospatial data to the public. Today

GeoNetwork opensource is accepted as the definitive open source geospatial catalogue application with implementations from project to international level. From 2007-2009, Jeroen served on the Board of Directors of the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo). He is a strong fan and supporter of OSGeo and its yearly FOSS4G conferences. Learn more about GeoCat at http://geocat.net/about/

GeoCat also announced that it was awarded a framework contract, within a joint venture, by the Statistical Office of the European Commission (Eurostat) regarding the development and maintenance of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) software. The contract will span 48 months and cover the development of the technical components of the European Commission SDI - "INSPIRE@EC" - compliant to the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) Directive. The main purpose of INSPIRE@EC is to provide a platform for sharing spatial information within and amongst the departments of the European Commission in order to ease collaboration and to minimize transaction costs by optimizing workflows, which rely on the availability and accessibility of distributed spatial information. GeoCat has provided successful consulting services and products that contributed to the establishment of National and Global Spatial Data Infrastructures for The Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Scotland, Spain, Canada, Swiss, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, EEA, the United Nations and many others. For more information, visit the GeoCat web site at: http://www.geocat.net.

CAF (Latin American Development Bank) – GeoSUR Update

GeoSUR, led by Association member CAF, convened a meeting of specialists to evaluate its technical platform, held at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., on 28 February and 1 March 2013. Geospatial specialists convened to review the SDI platforms of the United States, Spain, Europe, Colombia and Chile, among others, to identify best practices in the implementation of SDI services and to define the new scope and functionality of the future GeoSUR platform.

The meeting was attended (both physically and remotely) by specialist from the US Federal Geographic Data Committee, Chile´s National Land Information System, Colombia´s Geographic Institute, the US National Map, the Inter American Development Bank, the US Department of the Interior, the US Geological Survey, Spain´s Geographic Information Center, the EU´s DG Joint Research Centre, the US State Department, the United Nations Environment Programme and ESRI. A technical report outlining the meeting recommendations and

defining the future scope of the GeoSUR platform was produced and circulated to stakeholders in early May.

In April, the GeoSUR Program and the Dartmouth Flood Observatory, University of Colorado, initiated a project that will map floods in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in near-real-time. The existing system at Dartmouth will be adapted to serve flood information for the region, free of charge, Users will be able to view and download maps of current floods and maps of historic floods. As part of the project Dartmouth will increase the number of points where remote river flow monitoring in LAC is assessed with its River Watch application. The information generated by this project will be available from the GeoSUR Regional Map Viewer and from the Dartmouth website.

In May, CAF and the Ministry of Energy in Peru completed the first phase of a comprehensive hydropower assessment of Peru. This initiative leveraged the SRTM level-2 dataset (30 meter resolution) and hydrological data from Peru to undertake a detailed GIS analysis of the hydro power potential of more than 1,000,000 stream segments in the country. The study was conducted with funding from CAF, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS), Peru's Ministry of Energy, the GeoSUR Program and CAF's Energy Program. USGS/EROS developed the methodology and undertook the GIS analysis required by the first phase of the study. A similar study was previously undertaken for Sao Paulo State, Brazil, in partnership with the Sao Paulo Energy Secretariat.

A second phase of the Peru initiative will be launched in July 2013, with a feasibility study to be conducted by local agencies and aimed at estimating where the potential assessed in Phase I can be exploited. Detailed technical sheets of potential hydropower projects will be developed in this phase of the project. This type of hydro power assessment can now be conducted anywhere in Latin American and the Caribbean, thanks to the USGS and GeoSUR Program's access to the SRTM level-2 dataset for the whole region.

OpenGeo Member News

GSDI Association member, **OpenGeo**, the creators of the ***OpenGeo Suite*** announced a US$ 3 million investment from Vanedge Capital of Vancouver, British Columbia. Simultaneous with the funding event, the company has spun off from its incubator parent, OpenPlans, and is boosting OpenGeo's product and customer-support initiatives. The OpenGeo Suite is widely used for managing and sharing spatial data. OpenGeo has led the industry shift toward flexible, interoperable geospatial software infrastructures and will use this Series A funding

to further enhance its industry-leading product and training offerings and reach a broader array of customers. The Vanedge-led investment enables OpenGeo to complete its separation from tech incubator OpenPlans, which founded OpenGeo in 2002. OpenGeo is the world leader for commercial open source geospatial software, with a global customer base using the OpenGeo Suite, a complete open source geospatial web services stack, to deploy solutions for web mapping, transportation, telecommunications, open government and a huge range of other solutions. OpenGeo supports open source communities by employing key developers of PostGIS, GeoServer, and OpenLayers. We are committed to the ideals of open source and aim to bring the best practices of open source software to organizations around the world.

Also, on 24 May 2013, at Sponsor Day at FOSS4G-NA 2013, OpenGeo announced a full public beta of its new server analytics console. The product, formerly known as "The Enterprise Console," is now ***Mapmeter*** (mapmeter.com), a full administration and management tool for analyzing GeoServer systems. Mapmeter enables organizations to monitor the health of production deployments, optimize applications during development and diagnose critical issues. With these details, administrators and managers alike can better - and more cost effectively - make decisions about their geospatial deployments. Mapmeter sits on top of GeoServer within the OpenGeo Suite or standalone. As a complete web-mapping solution, the Suite enables organizations to install, effectively operate and manage spatial assets.

The Suite is commercial open source software, offering customers the best of open source (greater access and control, scalability, customization and more) with the assurance of standards compliance, expert support and advanced capabilities guaranteed by OpenGeo. With Mapmeter, spatial monitoring and reporting become one piece in a complete IT workflow.

Finally, OpenGeo announced appointment of senior officers on 20 May, promoting key team members ***Juan Marin, Tim Schaub***, and ***Justin Deoliveira*** to new roles within the company. Marin has been named chief technology officer, while Schaub and Deoliveira assume vice-President positions in OpenGeo's software development group.

Marin, a graduate of the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, has more than a decade of experience developing geospatial applications in the energy, environmental, defense, telecommunications and retail industries. As an architect, analyst and developer, he has also played a key role in large enterprise efforts that required integration of geospatial capabilities with other IT systems.

Tim Schaub and Justin Deoliveira are taking on new roles reflecting the continued growth of OpenGeo product development. Deoliveira joined OpenGeo in 2005 and was a major contributor to virtually every significant OpenGeo software initiative since that time. Schaub joined OpenGeo in 2007 and has been developing open source mapping software since 2001. His work has included extensive contributions on the leadership and development of OpenLayers and other front-end mapping software.

Intergraph Offers Emergency App That Saves Lives

In Denmark, GSDI Member Intergraph has released a new app, available on iPhone, Android, and Windows phones, to ensure the emergency dispatch center receives the exact position of the caller. When calling the Danish emergency number '1-1-2' through the app, the smartphone automatically sends the GPS coordinates to the dispatch center. The dispatch officer will be able to immediately dispatch the vehicles to the correct location. Intergraph developed the app in collaboration with the Danish National Police, the Copenhagen Fire Department, and the Danish Geodata Agency. The goal was to keep the app as simple as possible, while also taking into consideration several technical factors.

When the GPS receiver is activated on a smartphone, the battery is quickly drained, yet verbal communication between caller and the dispatch officer is still the most important part of an emergency call. So Intergraph designed the app to deactivate the GPS receiver when the phone battery is at less than 25 percent.

Denmark launched the '1-1-2' app in one of the busiest places in Copenhagen during the morning rush hour. Only a few days after the announcement, local news media reported about a life that was saved because someone called 1-1-2 through the app. Because this person's position was hard to determine, the GPS coordinates were crucial and helped the rescue team save time, ultimately saving his life. The app was downloaded more than 200,000 times during the first 15 days since its launch, which makes it the most downloaded app ever in Denmark.

Member News from Esri

This month, Esri Canada announced that the company was named one of the Top 100 IT Solution Providers in Canada by Computer Dealer News (CDN), the country's leading IT channel publication and Web site. CDN Top 100 is an annual ranking of Canada's best-in-class solution providers by revenue. This marks the second year in a row that Esri Canada ranked 20th on the list.

Esri is also making available (from Esri Press) the book

"*Land Administration for Sustainable Development*". In its 489 pages, the book examines global land administration systems and outlines basic principles applicable to all countries. This book shows how to help ensure social equality, economic growth, and environmental protection through holistic land management. Professors, government officials, and students of land planning, land administrators, land planning managers will find this an invaluable resource. Two of the book's four authors (Ian Williamson and Abbas Rajabifard) are professors at the University of Melbourne, another valuable GSDI Association member, and Abbas Rajabifard is past GSDI Association President. To download this excellent book (PDF), visit this link:

http://www.esri.com/landing-pages/industries/land-administration/e-book#sthash.7NhUN6Ri.dpbs?WT.mc_id=EmailCampaign16127

A printed version is available from Esri Press for US$24.95 - to order, visit their web site at: http://esripress.esri.com/display/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&websiteID=165&moduleID=11

Dutch GSDI Members Visit China

In March 2013, representatives from the Dutch geographic sector visited China, laying the foundations for a new kind of international collaboration. The delegation consisted of representatives from businesses (Esri), the government (Dutch Kadaster), and scientific institution (University of Twente). The professional association for the geographic sector, GIN, was also represented.
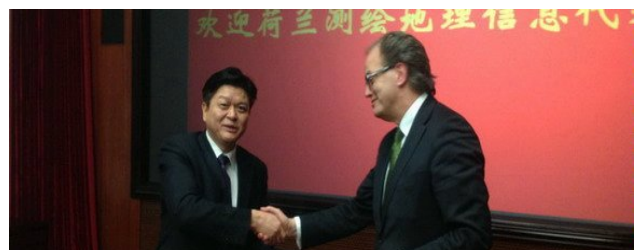
The delegation visited various businesses, ministries and knowledge institutes. During the visit, the Chinese organisation National Administration for Surveying, Mapping and Geo-Information (NASG) and Kadaster signed an agreement establishing the intention to collaborate more in the future, e.g. China and the Netherlands could collaborate in 3-dimensional registration, navigation techniques and establishing standard methods for recording data.

China is a country of long-term relations, large numbers and accelerated economic development, areas in which geo-information plays a key role. The visit and the signing of the agreement are constructive contributions to the Netherlands' efforts to promote its geographic sector in China, thereby creating opportunities for government authorities, scientific institutions and the Dutch business community.

OGC Standards News

In May, the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) and the OpenMI Association (OA) announced a call for public comment on the Open Modelling Interface Version 2 (OpenMI) and its accompanying reference manual. This standard defines a means by which independently developed computer models of environmental processes, or indeed any processes, can exchange data as they run and hence facilitates the modelling of interacting processes.

The original driver for the standard was the European Water Framework Directive and its requirement for an integrated approach to water management. It was foreseen that implementing the Directive would be very challenging and that there would be a need to provide help, in the form of decision support systems (DSS), to environmental managers. As Earth systems are complex and interrelated, these DSS would need to bring together many models in order to better understand and predict the environmental impacts of events and policies. To make it feasible to link together models of different processes from different suppliers and hence simulate process interaction, the European Commission therefore co-funded the research and development of a generic model interface, the outcome of which is the OpenMI.

The documents released for comment were specially prepared so that the description of the OpenMI matches the OGC style. They can be viewed and downloaded at: http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/requests/101

Comments were due by 1 June 2013 and more information is available at www.openmi.org.

The **OpenMI Association** is an entirely open not-for-profit international group of organizations and people dedicated to taking the OpenMI (Open Modelling Interface) forward into the future. Its primary objectives are to develop, maintain and promote the OpenMI and integrated modelling. Learn more about the OpenMI Association at http://www.openmi.org.

Also from OGC, news that Dr Carl Reed, CTO & Executive Director of OGC, will deliver a keynote at COM.Geo 2013 in San Jose on 22-24 July. The talk will explore the use of Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards in the context of Big Data requirements and analytics for accessing and processing geospatially-enabled content. A short description of the OGC is provided. This is followed by a discussion of how key OGC standards are or can be used for Big Data applications. The discussion of OGC standards and Big Data analytics is in the context of geospatial information and sensor fusion. Examples are provided. The talk concludes with a discussion of some of the key issues, such as provenance, quality, security and privacy, facing the use of geospatial data in Big Data applications.

Canadian Geomatics Community Strategy

Our March issue 'Article of the Month' by GSDI President Prof David Coleman - "*The Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table*" - presented his views on the development of Canada's national geomatics strategy. The **Canadian Geomatics Community Strategy "White Paper" and Scenario**s (January 2013) was prepared for Natural Resources Canada by Hickling Arthurs Low Corporation (HAL). The report was prepared under the direction of the Interim Steering Committee (ISC) of the Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table (Round Table). Its purpose is to provide a foundation for the Round Table to prepare a pan-Canadian Geomatics Sector strategy. The contents of the White Paper are drawn from a review of available documents and literature, consultations with selected stakeholders and the authors' own experience. Download the White Paper at: http://spatialinformation.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/white-paper-final-version.pdf.

Now, a May article by **Jeff Thurston** in 'GoGeomatics', offers new thoughts on Canada's strategy as proposed in the "Canadian Geomatics Community Strategy White Paper and Scenarios" document. Jeff, a Canadian living in Europe for many years and with a long history of geo-related journalism, adds another perspective toward furthering the development of geomatics and the use of spatial data in Canada. He notes that although Canada is a resource-based economy, current trends in geomatics applications and maturity indicate that spatial data is now driving mature applications, often highly integrated and complex in nature. Read his extensive article in 'GoGeomatics' here: http://www.gogeomatics.ca/magazine/furthering-canadas-geomatics-strategy-new-visions-new-direction-new-future.htm

US National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)

The US NGAC, Landsat Advisory Group, published a valuable report in September 2012 titled "The Value Proposition for Ten Landsat Applications". Landsat

imagery provides the United States and the world with continuous, consistent monitoring of critically important global resources. Supplying an unprecedented record of global land cover status and change for the last 40 years, Landsat imagery is an essential "national asset" which has made, and continues to make, critical "contributions to U.S economic, environmental, and national security interests." However, because Landsat imagery is primarily utilized by non-commercial entities - thereby not passing through a market where its value is set by market forces - estimating the economic value of Landsat data is an on-going challenge. Accordingly, the Department of Interior requested that the Landsat Advisory Group of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee provide advice to the Department "concerning the economic benefits of Landsat data."

There are thousands of users and hundreds of applications using Landsat in the United States, with strong international use as well. The white paper provides estimates of the economic value of ten (10) uses of Landsat data and summarizes recent estimates of the economic value of Landsat data from two large-scale surveys. Both approaches clearly show that the annual economic value of Landsat data far exceeds the cost of building, launching, and managing Landsat satellites and sensors. Download the paper at: http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/september-2012/ngac-landsat-economic-value-paper-FINAL.pdf

GIS Directorate of the Central Informatics Organization (CIO) of Bahrain

GSDI Association member, the GIS Directorate of the Central Informatics Organization (CIO) of Bahrain, was established to cater for and support the increasing needs of the Geographic Information System in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The role of the Directorate, which acts as a GIS Center, is to develop, drive and support various geospatial initiatives catering to the GIS needs of the service sectors and maintaining the National Geospatial Database. In achieving the targeted milestone, the GIS Directorate has also reached a level of maturity where spatial datasets are acquired and managed comprehensively and optimized strategically. The work of the Directorate was recognised recently when it won the "Maturity in GIS Achievement Award in NSDI", awarded for the first time at the GISWORX '13 International Conference held in Dubai in April 2013, adding to their "Outstanding Achievement in GIS" award in 2011 from geo industry leader Esri (also a GSDI Association member).

As a custodian of Geospatial Data and the nominated administrator of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), fulfilling the interests endowed by the National Steering Committee, the GIS Directorate plays an important role by taking determined steps towards the implementation of the Bahraini SDI (BSDI) and also obtaining collaboration with the global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI). The BSDI Portal, which is a manifestation of NSDI, currently serves 42 entities. The national GIS database today hosts almost 157 layers of data themes categorized into various datasets.

RCMRD Workshop News

"Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)" is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce carbon emissions from forested lands and to invest in a sustainable low-carbon development supported by the United Nations (http://www.un-redd.org). Several African countries evaluated REDD+ as a valuable mechanism for sustainable development and have already established initial schemes at forestry related national ministries.

A major limitation for a successful and sustainable implementation of REDD+ in many African countries is the lack of technical capacity required to establish a REDD readiness program. Association member Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) in partnership with RapidEye (www.rapideye), a leading satellite imagery provider, seeks to strengthen these efforts to enable national authorities to improve existing capabilities to carry out IPCC compliant carbon stock assessments while also supporting the implementation of a national REDD+ Measurement, Reporting & Verification (MRV) system. RapidEye imagery has been successfully used globally in the scope of many REDD initiatives – see the report at: http://www.rapideye.com/upload/RE_REDD.pdf

RCMRD, UNEP, Tsinghua University, Berkeley University, USAID and U.S. Department of the Interior are jointly committed to host a workshop on "***REDD+ Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)***" from **11 – 13 June 2013**, with the following objectives:

- Discuss, demonstrate and review the methods, qualities, innovations and technical issues involved in the new global LULC mapping products – the 30 m satellite derived global land cover map completed through international collaboration between China and the USA with particular reference to Africa.
- Discuss and develop a plan for validating and improving the 30 m land cover map product over the African continent.
- Define regional training needs for building capacity to improve the national and regional land cover datasets for Africa
- Discuss data sharing and applications for the high-resolution global land cover map for carbon cycling,

biodiversity monitoring (particularly Aichi Targets) greenhouse gas monitoring, and other environmental issues. This may include a demonstration of carbon accounting applications.

Participation is open. Please register with Ms Lu Liang (luliang@berkeley.edu), Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of California, Berkeley, or Byron Anangwe, Product Development Executive - RCMRD (banangwe@rcmrd.org), Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (http://www.rcmrd.org).

RCMRD also hosted the Advance Party of the EU/AU MESA Project at RCMRD on 17 May 2013. Dr Jolly Wasambo, Africa Technical Coordinator for the program Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) was at RCMRD to engage with technical teams and familiarize himself with other operations of the Centre. MESA is joint initiative of the European Union (EU) and Africa Union Commission (AUC) as a follow-on program of African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD). MESA will be implemented by the AUC and will run until 2018, with the objective of addressing the need for improved management of natural resources and environmental security towards sustainable development in Africa at continental, regional and national levels, including all Sub-Saharan African countries.

MESA is oriented toward strengthening capacities for the use of EO data in Africa, with a dedicated focus on climate and environmental applications. Among other activities, MESA will secure the maintenance and upgrade of the EUMETCast reception stations deployed by AMESD and support the development of operational services based on Earth observation data, primarily EUMETSAT data and products. RCMRD will provide technical backstopping services together with IGAD Climate and Prediction Application Centre (ICPAC) for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Regional Economic Community of the AUC. Dr. Jolly Wasambo, was accompanied by Messers Fortunate Muyambi and Kenneth Mwangi both of IGAD - AMESD Project

Sensors, Empowerment, Accountability in Tanzania (SEMA)

'*Sema*' means '*report*' in Kiswahili. Yola Georgiadou, Juma Hemed Lungo and their teams in Tanzania and the Netherlands have given this name to the 'Human Sensor Web' they are putting in place: a combination of social media, mobile networks and geo applications that will give ordinary citizens the opportunity to report which public services are not working. SEMA is short for 'Sensors, Empowerment and Accountability'. The project runs from 1 May 2012 to 1 May 2016, with partners University of Twente (NL) and University of Dar es Salaam.

In 2004, the World Bank published a report that argued for 'short lines' along which ordinary citizens could demand immediate social accountability from their suppliers. Now that 79 percent of the population in developing countries has access to a mobile phone, these 'short lines' are technically within reach too.

A Human Sensor Web is a communication network of geo and other web applications including Google Maps, traditional and new media, and ordinary citizens with their mobile phones, the 'human sensors'. The applications provide access to public service locations, such as water boards and healthcare. If the level of service is below standard, ordinary citizens can issue a complaint using their mobile phone. The caller goes through a digital menu, after which the application displays the complaint as an icon on the map, at the place where the public service is located. It is now visible to everyone when a supplier is in default. The icon remains visible until the problem has been solved.

The project leader for the Human Sensor Web is Yola Georgiadou, Professor of Geo-Information for Governance at the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) at the University of Twente in the Netherlands, a valued GSDI Association Member for many years. Read more about the project here:

http://www.itc.nl/Pub/services/Major-projects/SEMA-sensors-empowerment-accountability.html

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

GIS Training in Taipei

The Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association provided a free training opportunity for candidates drawn from the GSDI and IGS membership to attend the ICLPST (International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training) training seminar on Geographical Information System and Land Management in Taipei. There were 46 applications for the 2013 training seminar, and after review from the Societal Impacts Committee, three applicants were selected. They were Mr Jannett Ibanez (Bolivia), Ms Karishma Busgeeth (Mauritius), and Ms Juan Ardila Lopez (Colombia). The seminar was held successfully from 20 March to 2 April, 2013.

All the participants increased their skill levels in GIS management and brought the best practices learned in the training back to their home countries. Here are comments about the training from candidates Juan Ardila Lopez and Karishma Busgeeth.

Juan Ardila Lopez: "*The course comprised two weeks of an intense experience-sharing and learning process between the 55 participants from 35 countries, Taiwanese academics and government officials. As part of the country presentations, the attendants had the opportunity to express the progress and challenges faced by their countries in the adoption of geospatial technologies and implementation of spatial data infrastructures. From those presentations we learnt that even though there are serious efforts to improve the use and share of geospatial data, there are still challenges regarding the infrastructure capacity and the commitment of government institutions to support SDI creation and implementation.*"

Karishma Busgeeth: "*The seminar was not all work - there was lots of time to play and I played hard! Taipei city, Baishawan Beach, Beitou Springs, the Grand Hotel, the parks, the night markets, the temples, the plethora of food, the myriad of delicacies and explosive aromas, the irresistible charms of the island's architecture, the infinite choices of accessories. You name it, Taiwan has it! Attending the training seminar afforded me the opportunity to forge deep and genuine relationships with professionals around the world. I gained priceless benefits for my attendance at the seminar; it was an incredible gathering of innovative thinkers and a true life time experience. Many Xie Xie!*"

In 2014, the training seminar will be held in March and once again three candidates will be selected from withint the GSDI and/or IGS membership. As with previous training sessions, each candidate will receive a round-trip air ticket, daily allowance and lodging expenses during the training seminar. Please follow the guidelines for the 2013 seminar application if you are interested in this training seminar. For more information, follow the GSDI website or contact Mr Jeremy Shen at: moi0795@moi.gov.tw.

Capacity Building Videos and Seminars

Don't forget to check out the GSDI Association's 'Capacity Building Resources' web pages at http://www.gsdi.org/sic3 to view some of the videos relating to SDI implementation provided by our members. Instructional videos are also available at http://www.gsdi.org/SDIvideos. Forthcoming webinars of interest to the SDI/GI community are also listed at: http://www.gsdi.org/webinars. If you have any material to contribute, please notify us by contacting Harlan Onsrud (Onsrud (at) spatial.maine.edu) or the editor, Roger Longhorn (ral@alum.mit.edu).

Institut Cartografic de Catalunya (ICC) Cartography Course Announced

GSDI Association member Institut Cartografic de Catalunya (ICC) is pleased to announce the start of the "International Course on Management and Applied Techniques in Cartography" (*IC_Cartotechnology*). IC_Cartotechnology is a capacity-building instrument to provide a wide range of geoinformation professionals with basis of advanced and up-to-date techniques, tools and critical thinking in Geoinformation. IC_Cartotechnology is an international networking platform for attendees, lecturers and professionals; it is the place to exchange different ideas and experiences.

IC_Cartotechnology is a semi-residential Postgraduate Program (45 ECTS) consisting of several modules, certified by the Fundació de la Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and supported by Direcció General d'Universitats de la Generalitat de Catalunya. The Program integrates all the disciplines, approaches and techniques used to acquire and exploit geospatial data. Such data are a key part of scientific, administrative, legal and technical operations involved in the process of production and management of spatial information.

The Program is conducted by the Institut Cartografic de Catalunya (ICC), the official mapping agency of Catalonia with 30 years of experience in capacity building in terms of developing knowledge, infrastructures and added value in cartography. This experience has been key in defining an innovative and consolidated course to track and translate current needs, requirements and geoinformation challenges into a powerful capacity building instrument. Course background:

- The course begins in September 2013.
- Course comprises a 3 term program - 2 terms attended learning + 1 term distance learning
- Modular options available
- Conducted in English

- Program size: 15-20 students
- International highly qualified lecturers
- International Advisory Board
- Total learning effort: 1125h (45 ECTS)

IC_Cartotechnology is a knowledge and technology transfer tool to boost and spotlight your institution by updating your staff knowledge, launching projects on demand and putting the spotlight on your activities. IC_Cartotechnology offers an optimum scenario to promote the basis for an outstanding institution:

- Boosting new ideas and competences along your added valued chain and staff
- Participating in an international networking framework
- Investing in knowledge for internal promotions
- Opening your mind to new ideas and visions

For more information about the modular options and any other aspects of the IC_Cartotechnology, please contact:

Dr Raquel Serrano Calvo and Dr Jordi Corbera
Support Centre for the Catalan Earth Observation Programme (PCOT)
Institut Cartografic de Catalunya (ICC)
raquel.serrano@icc.cat and jcorbera@icc.cat
Tel: (+34) 935671500 ext. 3161 or ext. 3280
Visit the website at: www.iccartotechnology.com

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Newsletter, to further promote the Global Geospatial Conference 2013, we are re-publishing the *GIM International* magazine GSDI column "*The GSDI Association and EIS-Africa welcomes you to join us in Addis Ababa in November 2013*" by Association officers Sives Govender, Harlan Onsrud and David Coleman.

The joint AfricaGIS 2013 and GSDI World Conference (GSDI 14) and exhibition will take place at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Convention Centre in "Africa's political capital", Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 8 November 2013. The joint theme for the conference is 'Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction'.

Building upon the success of GSDI 13 in Quebec, Canada and maintaining a valuable tradition of organising its events with respected local partners, GSDI

Association is partnering with EIS-Africa, the organisers of the biennial AfricaGIS conference, as well as with the University of Addis Ababa and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, to bring you the most anticipated geospatial event of the year for the African continent.

Sives Govender, EIS-Africa Executive Director, says "*EIS-Africa as a pan African non-profit organisation which has, for two decades, been promoting the use of geospatial science and technology through the use of spatial data infrastructures to support sustainable development. EIS-Africa has been the primary organiser of the AfricaGIS conference and exhibition since 1993. This year mark the 20th anniversary of what was initially 'an idea for a workshop' and which is now Africa's premier geospatial event. Fittingly, this edition of AfricaGIS will partner with the GSDI Association to elevate AfricaGIS 2013 to greater heights and success in building Africa's geospatial and spatial data infrastructure capacity and networks*".

According to GSDI President, Prof David Coleman, "*This conference will provide the leading opportunity in 2013 to discuss issues in the design and development of spatial data infrastructures and to explore innovative approaches for spatially enabling companies, governments and individual citizens. From national and international agency perspectives to local grassroots initiatives, this conference brings together specialists, practitioners and decision-makers from around the world who employ and develop spatial applications, technologies and databases*."

Addis Ababa, founded in 1886, is the capital city of Ethiopia - a country renowned for the way in which ancient historical traditions have been preserved and honoured. Addis Ababa is also the home of the African Union and its Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the Addis Ababa University, which was founded in 1950. 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 and the UNECA, will ensure that this conference will bring together global to local experts, students, professionals, researchers and policy-makers, all under one roof in November 2013, and this is an opportunity that should not be missed. Mark it in your calendar now, and we look forward to welcoming you to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November! Visit the conference website for more information on how you can participate.

Important Websites:

- http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14 (everything you need to know about AfricaGIS 2013 & GSDI 14)
- http://www.eis-africa.org (Join EIS-Africa network to receive substantial discounts to the conference fee)
- http://www.gsdi.org (Learn more about the GSDI Association and how to participate at www.gsdi.org/joinGSDI, including reduced fees for participating in the conferences)

Sives Govender is Executive Director of EIS-Africa, Operations Director of the GSDI Association, and newly elected President of the International Geospatial Society. Prof Harlan Onsrud and Prof David Coleman are, respectively, the Executive Director and the President of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association.

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 SDI PROJECTS

The Copernicus (GMES) Masters Wants Your Ideas

'**Copernicus**' is the new name for the EU's **Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)** programme. Submit your ideas to this year's competition on how Earth Observation data can benefit business and society. Entries will be accepted in all nine categories starting on 1 June through 15 September. The Copernicus Masters (previously the 'GMES Masters') rewards the best ideas for services, business cases and applications based on satellite Earth observation data. With a prize pool of € 350 000 in cash prizes, technical support, data packages and business incubation, it aims to foster product development and entrepreneurship in Europe.

Started in 2011 by ESA, the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, the DLR German Aerospace Center, Anwendungszentrum Oberpfaffenhofen and T-Systems GmbH, the competition is supported by the European Commission, European Space Imaging GmbH, Astrium GEO-Information Services, BMW Group and GEO magazine. Participants in the competition can choose from a total of nine Challenges covering topics such as environmental monitoring, cloud computing and mobile services, as well as the innovative use of radar and very high-resolution satellite imagery.

The ESA App Challenge will award the best application idea that uses EO data from European missions on mobile phones. Other categories in the Copernicus Masters competition include the Best Service Challenge, which aims to increase awareness of existing Earth monitoring services and their benefits, and the Ideas Challenge for the innovative commercial use of Copernicus data. The European Space Imaging High-Res Challenge invites people to create new and viable applications using very high-resolution satellite data.

Contestants in the *GEO Illustration Challenge* are asked to illustrate humankind's footprint on our planet – from past to current developments – in vivid, artistic ways based on satellite imagery. ESA is teaming up with DLR, European Space Imaging and Astrium GEO-Information Services to provide free satellite data to the contestants of this category.

Submissions for the GEO Illustration Challenge 'Traces of Humankind' are being accepted until **30 June**. For a complete list of Challenges and more information on the competition, visit the Copernicus Masters website at: http://www.copernicus-masters.com/.

GMES & Africa Water Resources Management Workshop

The "GMES and Africa" process was launched by the Maputo Declaration, signed on 15 October 2006. The initiative aims to strengthen and further develop infrastructure for a more coherent exploitation of Earth Observation data (space and in-situ), technologies and services in support of the environmental policies for sustainable development in Africa and ACP countries.

The ***GMES & Africa Water Resources Management Workshop*** - the 2nd GMES & Africa workshop, held on 14-15 May 2013, in Abuja, Nigeria - was organized through the BRAGMA FP7 project and was co-financed by the European Union in the framework of the joint Africa-EU Strategy and by the host organisation (and GSDI Association Member) the Nigerian National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA). The workshop was attended by over 60 participants from over 30 African countries and included representatives of the AUC, AMCOW, ECOWAS, EAC, CEMAC and NEPAD, plus representatives from the EU and EU financed supporting projects in Africa and the European Space Agency.

The background of the African technical representatives, as proposed by the AUC, was very broad and ranged from members of various (trans-boundary) water resources implementation organizations to members from various national universities, as well as the NASRDA, which also acted as the Workshop local organizing committee.

The "*Report on the 2nd GMES and Africa Workshop on Water Resources Management*" can be downloaded here (PDF):
http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/file/23/05/2013_-_1210/report_on_the_2nd_gmes_and_africa_workshop_on_wrm.pdf

A ***3rd GMES & Africa wor**kshop focusing on Long Term Management of Natural Resources will be held 25-26 June 2013, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. See more information here:
http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/africa-eu-part.gmes/minisite/3-long-term-management-natural-resources-workshop

Download the "*Long Term Natural Resources Management Chapter of the GMES & Africa Action Plan (GAAP)*" here (PDF) (in English):
http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/file/23/05/2013_-_1417/draft_0_en_-_natural_res_mang_chapter_gaap.pdf

(in French):
http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/file/23/05/2013_-_1418/draft_0_gestion_de_ressources_naturelles.pdf

(in Portuguese):
http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/file/24/05/2013_-_1716/draft_0_pt_-_natural_res_mang_chapter_gaap.pdf

Download the complete "*Baseline Draft 0 Action Plan on GMES and Africa*" here (PDF):
http://gmes-africa.iict.pt/images/pdf/GMESandAfrica_ActionPlan_Version0.pdf

1st *First Eye on Earth User Conference – Post-conference Update*

An archive of all presentations and videos of the plenary speeches at the Eye on Earth User Conference, held in Dublin, Ireland, 4-6 March 2103, is now available from the Eye on Earth website at:
http://www.eyeonearth.org/en-us/Pages/ARCHIVE.aspx

The conference outcome is captured in the *Dublin Statement* at:
http://www.eyeonearth.org/en-us/Documents/The%20Dublin%20Statement%206%20March%202013.pdf.

The basic training tutorial on exploring and creating maps in Eye on Earth has been updated and can be accessed at:
http://www.eyeonearth.org/en-us/blog/Pages/BlogPost.aspx?pID=58.

And see pictures from the conference and follow further Eye on Earth developments at their Facebook page. Note that many GSDI Association and IGS Members participated in the Eye on Earth meeting in Dublin in March.

UN-GGIM Participation

The Third Session of the **United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)** will be held 24 - 26 July 2013 at the Corn Exchange Building in Cambridge, United Kingdom. The event is a follow-up to the August 2012 meeting in New York, and will be coupled with the **Cambridge Conference 2013** which is due to take place from 21 - 24 July 2013.

Bringing together geospatial experts from across the globe, the Third Session of UN-GGIM is being convened back-to-back with the Cambridge Conference. It is expected that the meeting of senior executives from national geospatial information authorities and geospatial experts will augur for a very important visioning and strategic event which recognizes the critical role of geospatial information management and the need for strengthened collaboration and joined initiatives, to advance the development and use of geospatial data and tools to support global sustainability.

The United Nations Committee of Experts on GGIM welcomes the participation of Member States and relevant international organizations to its Third Session as it continues to move forward in fulfilling its mandate to enhance collaboration and support the use of geospatial information to promote sustainable development globally. The GSDI Association, a UN GGIM International Organization Partner, will be represented at the meeting by GSDI President-elect, Dave Lovell, of EuroGeographics.

US and GEO/GEOSS Standards Update

Association member, Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), standards support the US National Strategy for Civil Earth Observations. OGC standards are cited in the Obama Administration's National Science and Technology Council's (NSTC) recently released "National Strategy for Civil Earth Observations - a framework for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Nation's Earth-observation enterprise" available at:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/nstc_2013_earthobsstrategy.pdf

The US EO strategy identifies 12 "Societal Benefit Areas" for collection of information, one of which is water. The OGC WaterML 2.0 Encoding Standard is endorsed as an official component of the civil EO strategy. OGC Web Services, including the OGC WMS, WFS and WCS interface standards are listed in another NSTC document, "Exchanging Data for Societal Benefit: An IEOS Web Services Architecture" available at:

http://usgeo.gov/images/USGEOMain/exchangingdataforsocietalbenefit.pdf

IEOS is the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Integrated Earth Observing System. The Architecture and Data Management Working Group of the NSTC-led United States Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) (http://usgeo.gov) prepared the document, which states: "An Internet-based service-oriented architecture is the ideal approach for developing interfaces to both new and legacy data and information systems contributing to IEOS. Standards-

based service interfaces can then be designed to promote interoperability and allow users seamless access to USGEO data and services from multiple sources."

Through USGEO, the United States is a founding member and vital contributor to the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO). GEO, a group of 88 nations and the European Commission, is developing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). GEOSS is a set of agreements and technical arrangements being developed to link together existing and planned observing systems around the world. The OGC, a Participating Organization in GEO, leads the GEOSS Architecture Implementation Pilot (AIP) (see: http://www.ogcnetwork.net/AIpilot). GSDI Association is also a Participating Organization in GEO.

International Society for Digital Earth

*International Journal of Digital E*arth (IJDE) Editors' Choice - to give you a taste of the content in International Journal of Digital Earth, the Editors have highlighted a selection of significant articles to aid your research. These articles have been made FREE for you until the end of 2013. Explore the articles available at: http://explore.tandfonline.com/content/est/tjde-editors-choice.php

INSPIRE European Regional SDI Update

Over the next two years, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) will develop a *Reusable INSPIRE Reference Platform (ARE3NA)* [1]. Funded by the EU Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA) Programme [2], ARE3NA aims to establish a reference platform containing software components and other materials to support the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive, taking into consideration policies such as the Digital Agenda for Europe and initiatives related to 'open data' in the Member States. This complements work being undertaken by the JRC for the implementation and maintenance of INSPIRE by considering INSPIRE in ISA's context of cross-border and cross-sector interoperability [3].

ARE3NA would like to ask you to disseminate a survey (in English) to a broad range of stakeholders in your country to help further populate ARE3NA's three main inventories for subsequent presentation on the reference platform:
1. existing INSPIRE components from the open source community;
2. components used within the EU Member States to implement INSPIRE, especially core architecture components and support/guidance materials
3. 'missing components' or other items which are

required for the optimal functioning of the infrastructure (in terms of both technologies and standards). These may come from within INSPIRE, ISA-related activities or broader interests in data-sharing in the environment and other sectors.

By identifying these components, ARE3NA will be able to make existing approaches more visible through the reference platform. The results from the survey will help ARE3NA to select some open source developments to address missing items. The survey will also be sent to EU Member State representatives in the ISA Programme, so that their stakeholders can contribute. The survey will be open for the duration of the project, but we would like to have inputs by 14 June, so that we can follow the project plan for subsequent procurements. Initial results will be presented at the 2013 INSPIRE Conference. The survey is available at:

http://sdi-survey.jrc.ec.europa.eu/limesv/index.php?sid=28834&lang=en

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/isa/actions/documents/isa-1.17_re-usable-inspire-reference-platform_en.pdf
[2] http://ec.europa.eu/isa
[3] http://ec.europa.eu/isa/policy/index_en.htm

More information will also be available at the *INSPIRE 2013 Conference*, to be held in Florence, Italy, 24-27 June 2013.

New INSPIRE Generic Conceptual Model (GCM) Published

A new version of the *INSPIRE Generic Conceptual Model (GCM)* - version 3.4rc3 (release candidate 3) has been published on the INSPIRE web site. This version is consistent with the draft amendment of the Implementing Rules for interoperability of spatial data sets and services that was adopted by the INSPIRE Committee on 8 April 2013.

The new version of the GCM contains a new informative Annex on the implementation of identifiers using URIs in INSPIRE. The annex provides some background and guidance regarding identifiers and the deployment of URIs within INSPIRE for spatial objects and other resources such as code list values and coordinate reference systems. In addition, a FAQ page around implementing IDs using URIs in INSPIRE has been set up at: http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/ids. Access the new GCM document at:
http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/Data_Specifications/D2.5_v3.4rc3.pdf

INSPIRE Conference Reminder

The annual **INSPIRE Conference 2013 - The Green Renaissance** - will be held 23-27 June 2013 in Florence, Italy. Check the INSPIRE conference web site for the draft programme for the INSPIRE 2013 Workshops, including plenary sessions, oral presentations, workshops, and poster sessions. Many GSDI and IGS Members will be in attendance, offering presentations, participating in workshops, and attending related SDI development meetings. See the latest information at: http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2013/index.cfm

Thematic Standardization Report from EC's JRC

The European Commission's DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) has published a thematic report on Science for Standards: a driver for innovation. The report gives an overview of the standardisation work being carried out by the JRC in such diverse areas as health and consumer protection, low-carbon economy, nuclear safety and security, and the environment. The work on the INSPIRE Implementing Rules and Technical Guidelines, JRC's support to INSPIRE implementation and the on-going activities in the ISA programme and in GEOSS are prominently mentioned in the chapter on Interfaces, standards and data models for Digital Earth (chapter 1.1). Get the report here: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/downloads/jrc_science_for_standards_reports.pdf

Creative Commons Annual Report and Vision

Because of the emphasis on 'open data' in most of the developing SDI and e-government initiatives globally, and the role that the Creative Commons initiative project has played in that arena, our readers may be interested in this report from Cathy Casserly, CEO, Creative Commons, sharing their first-ever annual report, Dispatches from the Commons, [http://dispatches.creativecommons.org/] which highlights accomplishments of the past year and shows how both people and organizations are using CC licenses in innovative and powerful ways. CC have also published Creative Commons' strategic plan, The Future of Creative Commons [1], which captures the essence of how they see the world today and why CC is well poised to make it better. The new strategic priorities in this plan guide how CC spends its time and resources, and how they measure impact.

Many individuals and organizations have contributed to creating a moment of opportunity for open culture and access to knowledge. Creative Commons has never been in a better position to capture the moment, and advance their mission of universal access to education, science, research, and more. They remain intent on realizing the potential for full participation in culture in the digital age. [1]
http://wiki.creativecommons.org/images/c/ce/Future-of-creative-commons.pdf

New Steps to Liberate Open Data in USA

Yet another government advances the open data theme for government data, of which geospatial data is an important part. On 9 May, US President Obama signed an Executive Order with the objective of making government-held data more accessible to third parties to help drive innovation and economic growth. The Executive Order recognizes that information is a valuable resource and strategic asset supporting a new Open Data Policy released by the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Management and Budget. Under this policy, all new government data will be required to be made available in open, machine-readable formats, greatly enhancing accessibility and usefulness, while ensuring privacy and security.

This is the next in a line of initiatives to make government data more available to citizens, companies, and innovators. Users can already access government datasets about a wide array of topics through the Data.gov (http://www.data.gov) platform, launched in 2009, to which thousands of datasets have already been added and more than half-a-million data downloads have occurred in the last year alone. The Executive Order and Open Data Policy also support the Obama Administration's Digital Government Strategy and Open Data Initiatives in health, energy, education, public safety, finance, and global development, agencies have been hard at work unlocking valuable data from the vaults of government.

- Download the Executive Order (EO) on open data here:
  http://www.giknet.org/depot/index.php?action=dwl&v=84
- Download the new US Open Data Policy (PDF) here:
  http://www.giknet.org/depot/index.php?action=dwl&v=85
- See the US Digital Government Strategy here:
  http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/egov/digital-government/digital-government.html
- More on the Open Data Initiatives is here:
  http://www.whitehouse.gov/innovationfellows/open-data-initiatives

GSDI INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

- Digital Earth (International Society for Digital Earth) – visit www.digitalearth-isde.org.
- Eye on Earth – visit www.eyeonearth.org.
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – see
- www.earthobservations.org.
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu/default.aspx.
- INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu.
- International Hydrographic Organisation – Marine SDI Working Group – see www.iho.int.
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit www.iode.org.

- UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit ggim.un.org.
- UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit www.ungiwg.org.
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit www.iode.org.
- UNSDI – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit 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.

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