

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 4, No. 6, 2014

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

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

The first full draft of the 5-year GSDI & IGS Strategic Plan, developed by a working group led by President-elect Dave Lovell (EuroGeographics) was completed and circulated to the Executive Committee and selected GSDI officers for final comment. The final version will be sent to the Board not later than 1 September, prior to the planned GSDI Board meeting telecom on 9 October 2014. Following Board comments and/or approval, the strategy document will then be circulated to all GSDI and IGS Members.

Roger and vice-Chair, Europe, Joep Crompvoets (also co-Chair of the Legal & Socioeconomic Committee) will be delivering keynote presentations at the 2014 MOI Open Data Forum, hosted by the Ministry of the Interior of Taiwan. This is their third return visit to Taipei, arranged by Societal Impacts Committee vice-Chair, Capacity Building, Mr. Jeremy Shen. While there, they will also be meeting with other GSDI and IGS Members. The occasion of the Forum is the official launch of Taiwan's Open Data Portal.



The O&M Committee manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has **340 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 Facebook account 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/gsdiaandigs).



We continue to publish news on the Members' Corner of the GSDI website and via **Twitter @GSDI_IGS**.

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.

2014 GSDI Small Grants Program Update

Since its launch in 2003, the GSDI Association's Small Grants Program has supported more than 100 projects across the globe. Through 2012, the program was sponsored via a partnership between the GSDI Association, the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee, and the GISCorps of URISA. Three types of awards are available: a cash award of up to US\$ 2500 per project; SDI/GIS consulting services up to the value of US\$ 2500; or a combination of cash award and SDI/GIS consulting services. The consulting services are offered through the GISCorps.



In 2014, GSDI secured funding for four Small Grants projects from GeoConnections, a national collaborative initiative led by GSDI Association member Natural Resources Canada. GeoConnections supports the integration and use of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI), an on-line resource that improves the sharing, access and use of open geospatial information. The CGDI helps decision-makers from all levels of government, the private sector, non-government organizations and academia make better decisions on social, economic and environmental priorities. The infrastructure itself consists of data, standards, policies, technologies and partnerships that are in place to allow the sharing and visualization of information on the Internet.

(See: <http://www.geoconnections.nrcan.gc.ca>)

With the GeoConnections contribution, a Call for Proposals was issued in March 2014, resulting in 40 proposals, which were reviewed by volunteers from six continents from organizations in over 20 countries. The proposals selected for funding in 2014 came from Ghana, Uganda, Belize and Armenia, as reported in last month's issue of the Global Newsletter.

Many other very worthy proposals were received, but to support those, GSDI needs more funding! We hope that other GSDI Association members, or organizations that are not members but who appreciate the value of the Small Grants Program, would consider supporting some of the unfunded proposals this year. The Societal Impacts and Outreach and Membership Committees are reviewing the non-funded proposals to create a short list for further support, should the funds become available.

To see details, including final project reports, from all the proposals funded by GSDI Small Grants since 2003, please visit this web site: <http://www.gsdi.org/sic1>

Further Funding Needed for Small Grants Program

Further funds to expand the Small Grants Program this year and ensure its long term sustainability into the future are still being sought from other sources, so watch this space for more news in future issues

Many of the applications for support received in response to the call earlier this year warrant funding, yet within the current Small Grants Program budget, we were only able to fund 4 grants. If your organisation can offer such support, please contact either the GSDI President, Dr. David Coleman, at dcoleman@unb.ca or the Societal Impacts Committee Chair, Carmelle Terborgh (cterborgh@esri.com) or Brigitta Urban-Mathieux (Gita Urban-Mathieux burbanma@fgdc.gov). The Small Grants Program has been one of the most successful initiatives of the Association, having funded or part-funded more

than 100 projects, meetings, conferences, and training opportunities since its launch in 2003. For information on how to donate, download the program flyer at this link: http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1512.

Note: The Small Grants Program is intended as a benefit of "full membership" in the GSDI Association. We make this opportunity available to non-members, as well, however, full members may obtain favored treatment in the instance in which two grant applications have been ranked similarly in the peer review process. Note that the annual GSDI Association membership fee for national organizations in low and very low per capita income nations may be as little as U.S. \$100 or documented in-kind contributions in lieu of dues. Please see www.gsdi.org/joinGSDI for details.

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 and Natural Resources Canada (via GeoConnections) 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.

IGS members are automatically GSDI Association members. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. As of 30 June 2014, IGS had **426 members**. The IGS web site is at: <http://www.igeoss.org>.

The IGS officers are launching a second survey of members to find out more about the topics of most interest to the membership, in order to continue development of action plans for implementing the 2014 – 2015 IGS Strategy, which can be accessed here: http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1536

Also this year sees the election of a new vice-President/President-Elect, as Dev takes over as President from Sives on 1 January 2015. The election will be held electronically, with all current members able to vote online, scheduled for late October 2014. A further announcement calling for nominations and explaining the voting process will be distributed in the next few weeks.



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>.

Subscriptions to Geospatial World Online Magazine

Geospatial World magazine is now offering free subscriptions to IGS members from developing nations or who are students.

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/gsdianigs/ to share your news.

Join IGS Today!

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.gsd.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>.

Help us reach – or beat! - our goal of 500 IGS Members in 2014 - 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 Member News Needed!

IGS Members – submit your news, please, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are more than 300 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

New Collaboration Announced by GSDI Members

Four key members of the GSDI Association - EuroGeographics, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH), and PSMA Australia Limited - have entered into collaboration, via a Letter of Intention signed at the European INSPIRE Conference. The collaboration will lead to an intercontinental agreement between the organisations with the objective of contributing to the development of a practical Global SDI. The aim is to share knowledge and support worldwide demand for consistent, authoritative geospatial information while also enhancing the individual capabilities and organisational capacities of each signatory. See the announcement later in this newsletter, from PSMA.

UNIGIS Latin American MSc in GIS

GSDI Member UNIGIS is pleased to present the UNIGIS virtual program for the MSc in GIS (Master of Science (in Geographical Information Science & Systems). The MSc degree in GIS is offered in virtual mode, using open and distance learning, and is currently certified by the University of Salzburg, Austria. The degree awarded is to the MSc (GIS) - Master of Science (Geographical Information Science & Systems), which is validated in Colombia and other Latin American countries.

Course of study and program structure:

- Traditionally, UNIGIS programs open in the months of April and October. The study, corresponding to 120 ECTS credits, is completed in 13 modules, each of which has a duration of 8 weeks (not counting the time of development of the thesis).
- Instructional materials are taught in Spanish language.



- The Blackboard platform is one of the most important resources for access to academic materials, and also for the interaction between the community of students, tutors and teachers.

Costs and Payment

UNIGIS accepts funding through public or private institutions. The cost of the program is EUR 5 500 (five thousand five hundred euros), and may be paid in two ways:

- A single payment of EUR 5 000 (five thousand euros). Deadline: end of September 2014
- Two payments: A first installment of EUR 3 000 (three thousand euros). Deadline: End of September 2014. Second installment of EUR 2 500 (two thousand five hundred euros). Deadline: September 2015.

Requirements

Fundamentally, the applicant must have a title, "professional grade " or "Third Level ", issued by a university officially registered in the country of origin, duly recognised. Being a foreign university study, the passport is also a requirement.

Admission

Entries are open for the academic year which will begin in November 2014. We invite you to fill out your basic information online in this format: "Admission" (no charge):

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dDUzd0dOVXBvRzFUUEljc1pwTmRDbmc6MQ>

Once the application for admission is posted, please send a confirmation mail to either office.cali@unigis.net or to office.americalatina@unigis.net.

Feel absolutely free to contact us by which mechanism you prefer, to address any concerns that you have or for further information that you consider relevant to the virtual UNIGIS Programme MSc in GIS - Master of Science (Geographical Information Science & Systems).

Contact: Jenny Correa, Coordinator, UNIGIS in Colombia

Skype: jennycorrea1

E-mail: jenny.correa@team.unigis.net

office.cali@unigis.net

<http://quito.unigis.net>

Tel: +57 (315) 792 5409

New Edition of the International ICGC Postgraduate Course 2015 in Barcelona

We are pleased to inform you that pre-enrolment for the second edition of the international postgraduate ICCARTOTECHNOLOGY course is now open. In this course, lecturers with international operational

experience participate, under UPC certification and with support of IBM joined in the management and understanding of programs and geoinformation technologies. If you are interested, please complete the pre-enrolment form at the web site or contact jordi.corbera@icgc.cat as soon as possible to make provision and management of places in the most favorable way for you. Get full details at www.iccartotechnology.com where you can also download the Student Guide and the course brochure.

Webinars and Online Training

Readers should not forget also the many possibilities for training on specific aspects of geomatics, geoscience and SDI implementation offered by online webinars and more formal training opportunities from some of our members, not least our industry members, such as Esri and Intergraph, or association members, such as EuroGeographics, ICC (Cartographic Institute of Catalonia), UNIGIS, USGS/FGDC, EUROGI, HUNAGI, etc.

The latest information and schedule of webinars is maintained on the GSDI web site at this link: <http://www.gsd.org/webinars>

and includes webinars from other agencies, not just GSDI members, including US NOAA, ICA (with whom GSDI has a Memorandum of Understanding on joint promotion), Open Geo Foundation and government agencies from various nations, to name but a few.

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

Industry Member News

News from Esri

Esri Education GIS Conference 12-15 July, San Diego, CA, USA

If you have never attended the Esri Education GIS Conference, here are a few suggestions to make your experience rich, rewarding, and fun. Meet new people and share different experiences and ideas. Make it a point to introduce yourself to one new person at each session you attend. Plan your 30-second "elevator pitch." Be able to introduce yourself and say what interests you in half a minute. Include an intriguing fun fact. And be sure to ask others what interests them.

Think big. Share your ideas on how GIS can address major issues by participating in the self-organizing sessions on Tuesday. Sharpen your skills. Training opportunities abound with technology workshops, the Hands-on Learning Lab, and computer labs. Figure out which sessions you'd like to attend and add them to your



calendar using the Esri Events App (available for iOS and Android). Many of the computer labs fill up fast, so arrive early. Learn something outside of your usual area of interest by attending a session on an unfamiliar topic. Get out of your box.

Get full details and register today here:
<http://www.esri.com/events/educ>

Esri 3D Mapping Forum 12-13 July, San Diego, CA

Intelligent 3D Mapping - Explore the Promise of 3D Mapping

The world isn't flat - neither is your data. Register now for the Esri 3D Mapping Forum, to be held Saturday and Sunday, July 12 and 13, 2014, in San Diego, California. Discover the insight 3D can give your decision making. Esri experts, including Lawrie Jordan, Nathan Shephard, and Clayton Crawford, will give you exclusive content on the latest ArcGIS platform enhancements for 3D. Then, custom tracks will let you explore areas of interest to you.

Don't take our word for it. Listen to personal stories from users such as Jan Halatsch and Eiko Kumakura from Tokyo Metropolitan University, who will discuss 3D reconstruction modeling of tsunami-stricken villages in Japan with Esri CityEngine and ArcGIS. The Esri Partner EXPO will provide specific solutions for giving your data new life in the form of 3D GIS. Check out the full agenda online and register today here:
<http://www.esri.com/events/3dforum>.

Esri Business Summit – 12-15 July 2015, San Diego, CA

Where is the next frontier in business? At the Esri Business Summit, being held at the San Diego Hilton Bayfront Hotel from 12-15 July, you'll hear from leading brands that have already figured that out. They'll tell you how maps are driving greater profits and growing market share, using real stories, real data, and real insights. The speakers below join a stacked roster of executives from leading companies like Bank of America, Chick-fil-A, Conway Freight, Inc., Cisco Systems, and JLL. Come to the Esri Business Summit and learn how location intelligence will put your company on the map.

- Clear Position - Tom Simms, Head of Data Insights, Rural Bank
- GeoDecisions - Brian Smith, Director of Commercial Solutions
- Rural Bank of Australia - John Marshall, Manager, Marketing, Products and Customer Management
- Softbank/Agooop - Kazuhisa Sibayama, Senior Director, Information Planning Division

- Sonae MC - Leonor Azevedo, Project Manager, Market Research

Register today here:

<https://events.esri.com/uc/2014/registration/index.cfm>

Esri National Security Summit

The Esri National Security Summit will be held 12-15 July 2014 at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel, San Diego, CA, USA. When a disaster strikes, knowing what you need and how to find it can be the key factor that saves lives, resources, and critical infrastructure. Join us at the Esri National Security Summit to see what preparedness really looks like and how GIS can get you there. Whether you work in defense, national security, intelligence, law enforcement, emergency management, or public safety, you'll see how geospatial technology enables true situational awareness and comprehensive understanding in even the most dire circumstances. Esri's domain experts and national security users just like you will also discuss:

- Critical infrastructure protection and cyber security
- Multi-intelligence fusion and activity-based intelligence analysis
- Information exchange during emergencies across multiple jurisdictions and levels of government

Quick Links:

- Detailed Agenda - <http://www.esri.com/events/homeland/agenda>
- Featured Speakers - <http://www.esri.com/events/homeland/agenda/featured-speakers>
- 2013 Proceedings - <http://proceedings.esri.com/library/userconf/nss13/index.html>
- Public Safety Resource Center - <http://resources.arcgis.com/content/local-government/public-safety>
- Ask a Question - nssummit@esri.com

News from Intergraph

Issue 3 (2014) of *Perspectives*, a publication of Intergraph Security Government & Infrastructure is now out. Learn how businesses and governments are making smarter decisions that improve the lives of millions of people. Read the latest perspectives on the technologies and trends impacting public safety, utilities, transportation, defense, and more. Learn more about Perspectives – and subscribe – at this link:
<http://www.intergraph.com/perspectives/>
Access the online issue here:
http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/intergraph/perspectives_2014issue3/



News from Boundless



GSDI Member **Boundless** announced the release of OpenGeo Suite 4.1, which includes numerous fixes and component upgrades as well as bringing many new features and improvements to the platform. Get the full details at this link:

<http://boundlessgeo.com/2014/06/opengeo-suite-4-1-released/>.

Download OpenGeo Suite 4.1 and try the census map tutorial or heat map tutorial to learn more. Details about this release are included in the release notes and, as always, we strongly advise you to read the upgrade instructions and backup your data before installing.

OpenGeo Suite 4.1 download:

<http://boundlessgeo.com/blog/boundlessgeo.com/solutions/opengeo-suite/download/>

Release notes:

<http://boundlessgeo.com/solutions/opengeo-suite/release-notes/>

Boundless Offers New Online and On-site Training for Geospatial Users

Boundless, the leading provider of open source geospatial software and services, has launched a new series of training courses for all skill levels. With a wide range of online and on-site options, Boundless continues its commitment to providing the training needed to leverage OpenGeo Suite, a geospatial platform that allows developers to build commercial grade apps that address today's enterprise challenges.

The new courses update and expand existing programs to meet the rapidly evolving needs of developers. Courses range from a few hours to multiple days depending on the depth of training provided and costs vary based on details such as the depth of information taught and the course format.

"Boundless has always made an extensive investment in training our community of users," said Eddie Pickle, CEO of Boundless. *"From the beginning we have conducted interactive sessions at major industry events, online webinars and free introductory workshops, so system administrators and web developers trust that we will help them make their spatial IT projects a success."*

Four new online courses provide training for both newcomers and advanced technologists. These include

an introduction to OpenGeo Suite, PostGIS and two GeoServer courses. All of these courses, as well as their on-site counterparts, provide the opportunity for students to receive certification credit through the GIS Certification Institute. The online courses are pre-recorded, allowing students around the world to conduct the training on their own schedule at their own pace.

For customers requiring on-site instructor-led training for individuals or groups, Boundless is offering nine courses designed specifically for geospatial administrators, spatial database administrators or those involved with mapping applications. These courses range from half-day sessions to multi-day certification programs and can be held at the client's facility or Boundless' offices for up to ten students.

Since its founding, Boundless has offered free, downloadable workshop materials and tutorials for practical walk-throughs of actual application development examples. Popular courses in this category, used by thousands of students globally, include the Introduction to PostGIS and Introduction to GeoServer.

"We help developers become masters of OpenGeo Suite and its components through a wide variety of training offerings that conform to their schedules, their needs, and their budgets," continued Pickle. *"Nothing we do is one-sized fits all, and we will continue to build out these training offerings as the needs of our users and customers grows and changes over time."*

From the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

OGC 3DIM Honors Gerhard Gröger with OGC 3D Award

During the 3rd OGC 3D Summit in Geneva, Switzerland, the second OGC 3DIM Award was given to Gerhard Gröger from the University of Bonn, Germany. He was chosen to receive the award for his contributions to the development and adoption of the OGC CityGML Standard. Gerhard is a senior lecturer and researcher at the Institute for Geodesy and Geoinformation and is a founding member of the SIG 3D. Gerhard provided critical leadership in influencing the INSPIRE Building Thematic Working Group to adopt CityGML concepts and enabling the INSPIRE building specification to be represented in CityGML through an Application Domain Extension (ADE). Gerhard has been respected as one of the key contributors to the CityGML specification since its inception.

CityGML is an open data model framework and XML-based encoding standard for the storage and exchange of virtual 3D urban models. SIG 3D (<http://www.sig3d.org/>) is a special interest group of the German National Spatial Data Infrastructure (GDI-DE). SIG 3D developed the initial



CityGML specification before it was brought into the OGC in 2007.

The mission of the OGC 3D Information Management (3DIM) Domain Working Group is to facilitate the definition and development of standards for sharing and accessing 3D geo-information. According to members of the Working Group, *"Gerhard has been a tireless contributor and proponent of CityGML, playing a key role in consolidating the CityGML data model as chair of the SIG3D's data modeling working group. He has also been one of the editors of all three CityGML specifications published by OGC to date. He continues to advance the specification to meet adopter demands and currently leads on a number of work packages in the development of the next version of CityGML, which is expected to be published by 2016."*

OGC Academic Summit 2014 – Call for Presentations – Due 25 July

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) has issued a call for presentations and presentation abstracts at the inaugural OGC Academic Summit 2014. The OGC Academic Summit will be held 15-16 September 2014 at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada as part of the September OGC Technical Committee Meeting. We invite presentations and presentation abstracts related to research in the development and application of geospatial interoperability standards.

The deadline for presentations and presentation abstracts is 25 July 2014. Note that the deadline has passed for submission of full papers. The full paper submissions are currently under review. Selected papers will be accepted for publication in a special issue of the ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information (IJGI) that the editors will publish for the OGC Academic Summit 2014.

For 20 years, the OGC's academic community has played an important role in conceptualizing, developing, and promoting the use of OGC standards. As human impact on Earth systems intensifies and technology accelerates, the need for academic participation in the OGC has never been greater. Emerging technologies and trends such as cloud computing, mobile computing, UAVs, Smart Cities, Discrete Global Grid Systems, sensor networks and the Internet of Things bring new means and purposes for collecting, accessing, sharing and analyzing geospatial information. Mature OGC Web Service standards play an increasingly important role in this progress. At the same time, new technology approaches not bounded by the established web services paradigm – JSON, REST, and linked data and the Semantic Web – bring new challenges and opportunities to the geospatial interoperability research community as well as the

geosciences and all the domains served by the OGC. The organizers of the OGC Academic Summit welcome presentations that advance knowledge and understanding in any of these thematic areas.

The OGC Academic Summit 2014 will provide a unique international forum in which to present and discuss progress and future directions of geospatial interoperability as it applies to computer science and to sciences in which geoprocessing has become an essential tool. Academic Summit attendees will have an opportunity to network with OGC member representatives from around the world and participate directly in OGC working groups, plenary sessions, dinners and outings.

Presentations and presentation abstracts must be in English. Abstracts must be no longer than 500 words. Submit presentations and abstracts to the Academic Summit EasyChair system at: <https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ogcacademicsummit2014>.

OGC and EC JRC Collaborate on Standards for Geospatial Interoperability

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) have signed a collaboration agreement to enhance the development and use of geospatial standards. It is anticipated that this collaboration will enable the JRC to more effectively contribute to the OGC standards process, and facilitate the consideration of European objectives and requirements during the development of international open geospatial standards.

The agreement formalises the partners' planned collaboration in the field of development, application, maintenance and promotion of international open geospatial standards and best practices in support of European objectives and requirements, in particular in relation to the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive.

"This is an important step forward for both of our organisations," explained Mark Reichardt, President and CEO of the OGC. *"OGC benefits from the JRC's leadership in advancing geospatial information sharing across Europe, enabled by open standards, including those of the OGC. The European Union benefits greatly from open standards that improve discovery, sharing and application of diverse collections of information to address a range of important issues."*

According to Mrs. Maria Betti, Director of the JRC's Institute for Environment and Sustainability, *"During the development and implementation of INSPIRE, the JRC has gathered a lot of experience on the implementation of*



infrastructures for geospatial and environmental data based on interoperability standards - on an unprecedented scale. The joint activities of the OGC and the JRC will be instrumental in feeding this experience into the international standardisation process."

The JRC is the technical coordinator of the Directive establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE - 2007/2/EC).
Contact: info@opengeospatial.org

ECCMA and OGC Announce Agreement to Cooperate on Standards for Identification of Real Property

ECCMA announced today the finalization of a memorandum of understanding with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) to formalize the collaboration between the two organizations around the standardization of electronic real property information and identifiers.

The primary area of common interest is in advancement of Property Identification using ECCMA 1 Standards and KML. The two organizations will jointly investigate potential areas of collaboration for standards development, standards harmonization, and outreach and education. Also, they will identify, prepare and disseminate joint outreach materials including journal articles, white papers and related reference documentation, to improve understanding, support and application of jointly addressed standards areas and projects.

The effort includes the establishment of a joint workgroup to develop and promote implementation of the standard under the name ePROP (electronic property standardization). The mission of the workgroup is real property data content standardization and seeks to foster the adoption of standards published by the organizations. ePROP will include representatives from the memberships of ECCMA and OGC and also other organizations. The workgroup is chaired by Elizabeth Green, Principal Consultant with rel-e-vant Solutions. "The combination of expertise and credibility of these two standards organizations is exactly what is needed to bring new solutions to the realm of real property data," said Green. More information can be found at <http://www.eccma-eprop.org>.

"Quality identifiers and quality descriptions are core principals of the ECCMA organization. Quality data as defined by ISO 8000, the international standard for quality data, is simply portable data that meets requirements. The key (no pun intended) to quality data is the resolution of identifiers. All identifiers are copyright unless they have been created using an open standard or they have been put in the public domain. Being able to

identify a property using an open or public domain identifier is critical to data integration and data exchange and ultimately the road to real time, verifiable quality data," said Peter Benson, Executive Director of ECCMA.

Mark Reichardt, President and CEO of OGC commented, *"It's extremely important to have standards for managing information about real property. It's also extremely important for property information to be easily integrated with other kinds of spatial information. Planning, architecture, public health, emergency and disaster management and many other domains depend on it. We're very pleased and excited to be part of this effort."*

About ECCMA

ECCMA (<http://www.eccma.org/>) is a not-for-profit International Association of Master Data Quality Managers set up in 1999, to develop and maintain open solutions for Faster - Better - Cheaper access to authoritative master data.

OGC Calls for Participation in a CityGML Data Quality IE

The OGC calls for participation in an interoperability experiment to define data quality requirements for virtual 3D city models encoded in CityGML. CityGML has been widely adopted and is used throughout the world as a data model and exchange format for virtual 3D city and landscape models. An increasing range of applications has raised the demand for high quality 3D data.

The CityGML Data Quality Interoperability Experiment (CityGML QIE) aims to provide implementation recommendations for CityGML data based on data specification and a conception of the validation workflow. Another goal of the Interoperability Experiment is to provide a suite of essential quality-checking tools to carry out quality assurance on CityGML data. This will be accomplished by evaluating the quality of existing CityGML data as well as the quality of CityGML sample data sets that have been specifically developed for this experiment with available quality checking tools. Data requirements and recommended implementation guidance will be defined from the insights obtained by these experiments and may serve as input to extend and refine the CityGML standard and provide better implementation guidance for CityGML.

The CityGML QIE will be carried out as a joint activity between OGC, SIG3D and EuroSDR. Organisations and individuals are invited to participate in the activity by providing CityGML test data and/or test tools, defining requirements, or carrying out tests using a variety of different test tools. Participants need not be OGC members.



The experiment's initiators plan to start with a kick-off meeting 9-10 September 2014 at the Kadaster office in Amsterdam.

Please contact CityGMLQIE@lists.opengeospatial.org for further information and to register as a participant.

OGC Testbed 10 Aviation Information Management Engineering Reports

22 public Engineering Reports resulted from the OGC's recently completed OGC Interoperability Testbed 10 (OSW-10), the most recent in the OGC's yearly series of major geospatial interoperability testbeds. Eight of these reports focused on Aviation Information Management. Use cases and scenarios provided by Testbed 10 sponsors defined the interoperability requirements. The Engineering Reports document interoperability prototypes developed by the testbed's participating technology providers. They describe work in progress on potential new standards and work done to validate candidate standards or improve adopted standards. This information may be useful to implementors of OGC standards, but OGC Engineering Reports do not represent official OGC positions.

The OGC Public Engineering Reports web page provides links to the Engineering Reports. (Select "Date" in the table header to see the most recent reports listed first.) Some are still being edited and have not yet been posted.

The Testbed 10 Aviation Engineering Reports include:

- OGC Testbed 10 Aviation Dissemination of Weather Data Engineering Report (14-038r1)
- OGC Testbed 10 Aviation Human Factor Based Portrayal of Digital NOTAMs (14-039)
- OGC Testbed 10 Engineering Report: GML for Aviation Conformance Testing (14-000)
- OGC Testbed 10 FIXM GML Schema (14-037)
- OGC Testbed 10 Recommendations for the Exchange of Terrain Data (14-006)
- OGC Testbed 10 Report on Aviation Architecture (14-008)
- OGC Testbed 10 Report on Aviation Binding AIXM to Development Tools (14-007)
- OGC Testbed 10 WFS Temporality Extension Discussion Paper Revision (12-027r3)

The OGC Testbed 10 FIXM GML Schema Engineering Report, for example, provides guidance for implementing the Flight Information Exchange Model (FIXM) using the same best practice as the Aeronautical Information Exchange Model (AIXM) and the Weather Information Exchange Model (WXXM). These implementations employ ISO and OGC standards. The report is aimed at system and client developers whose software is intended

to use the FIXM data encoding for the exchange of flight information.

The sponsors of the upcoming OGC Testbed 11 testbed activity are reviewing the results of Testbed 10 and developing new sets of interoperability requirements to be addressed by Testbed 11's participating technology providers. OGC Testbed 11 requirements will undoubtedly include additional Aviation Information Management interoperability requirements. Contact the OGC to learn more about OGC Testbed 11 and how you might get involved as a sponsor or technology provider participant.

OGC Seeks Comments on Candidate OGC Web Map Tile Service Simple Profile

The OGC membership seeks public comment on the candidate OGC Web Map Tile Service Simple Profile of the OGC Web Map Tile Service (WMTS) Interface Standard. Current OGC WMTS Interface Standard implementations return small, pre-generated map images (e.g., PNG or JPEG) or reuse cached map requests that follow a discrete set of tile matrices. The standard defines rules for multiple request/response patterns, including KVP, REST and SOAP.

The candidate OGC WMTS Simple Profile aligns the currently implemented and more comprehensive OGC WMTS Interface Standard to other popular tile initiatives that are less flexible but widely adopted. Server implementations of this profile should share two common sets of tile matrices and have a mandatory RESTful interface, though other interfaces are allowed. The WMTS Simple Profile is designed to allow developers to more quickly implement the WMTS standard.

The 30 day public comment period for the OGC WMTS Simple Profile ends 2014-07-12. After the OGC's WMS Standards Working Group has addressed comments received in response to the WMTS RFC the draft documents will be submitted to the OGC Technical Committee and Planning Committee for their review and possible approval as an adopted OGC Standard.

The WMTS Simple Profile RFC can be downloaded from <http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/requests/122>

OGC Seeks Comments on Charter for Agriculture Domain Working Group

An OGC Agriculture Domain Working Group (SWG) is being chartered as an open forum for the discussion and presentation of interoperability requirements, use cases, pilots, and implementations of OGC standards in the Agriculture domain. Initiators of the new SWG seek



comments from the public on the draft charter. The comment period closes on 2014-07-31. Comments should be submitted to: charter-requests@opengeospatial.org.

Few human activities are more tied to location, geography, and the geospatial landscape than agriculture. Farming businesses, food supply chains, and public agricultural policies are increasingly tied as well to quantitative data about crops, soils, water, weather, markets, energy, and biotechnology. Agriculture now touches many aspects of the work that OGC is doing to promote interoperability of geospatial data and geographic analysis. Data users include growers, consultants, landowners, suppliers, and foodstuff processors, as well as regulators at all levels of government. They have common needs to exchange data on the extent and utilization of farmland, soil and crop characteristics, water availability, environmental impacts, etc. The complexity in global food supply chains is leading to societal needs for tracking and tracing of products for purposes of food safety, tax collections, and customs operations efficiency. All of these activities require information standards that support market and regulatory transparency.

The rapid evolution of information technology in agriculture is being driven above all by historic challenges to traditional agricultural practice now posed by climate change, increasing population, shortage of water and arable land, pollution, and changing diet. As agriculture moves into an era of large-scale geospatial information exchange, it seems timely for an OGC Domain Working Group to support development, implementation and use of open interface and encoding standards and best practices that maximize interoperability and address these challenges.

OGC adopts Open Modelling Interface (OpenMI) Standard

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) membership has approved the Open Modelling Interface Standard Version 2 (OpenMI) as an OGC standard. 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 OpenMI was the European Water Framework Directive and the 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.

Roger Moore, chairman of the OpenMI Association, said, *"The OpenMI Association sees huge opportunities ahead for many stakeholder groups if the linking of models of different processes as they run can be made simple and reliable. Our immediate goal is to facilitate the integrated modelling needed to understand Earth system processes and hence help scientists, policy makers and managers find sustainable solutions to environmental challenges. By publishing the OpenMI as an adopted OGC standard, we seek to make the OpenMI standard available and accessible to the worldwide modelling community."*

Environmental modelling is not the only application of integrated modelling. For example, a possible shorter term application will simply be in enabling developers to convert their existing large, and often unmanageable applications, into sets of linkable components. This could change the modelling market from one for complete systems into one for components and services. It could make it much easier for products to be brought to market, widen participation and dramatically drive up the rate of innovation.

The standard can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/openmi>. More information is available on the OpenMI website at www.openmi.org.

"Progress toward a sustainable future depends on our improved understanding of Earth systems and our collective ability to act from the local to global levels," said Mark Reichardt, President and CEO of the OGC. *"This partnership with OpenMI enables our organizations to work more closely to assure that open standards-based modelling capabilities can be seamlessly and rapidly integrated into processing environments."*

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>.



News from Asia-Pacific Members

NASG Hosts International Workshop 9-12 June 2014

The International Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information, jointly organized by the UN Statistics Division (Secretariat of the UN Statistical Commission and the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management) and the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG) of China was held on June 9-12, 2014 at the NASG headquarters in Beijing. About 150 professionals from national geospatial information agencies and national statistics offices of over 40 countries attended the workshop.



Mr. Kurexi Maihesuti, Director General of NASG, said in his speech at the workshop opening ceremony that as the largest developing country, China is fully aware of the importance of geospatial information for economic and social development, and appreciates the efforts made by the United Nations in coordinating geospatial information management in the member countries. NASG will, as always, actively participate in and support the UN Global Geospatial Information Management initiative (UN-GGIM), and is willing to carry out extensive and in-depth exchanges and cooperation with related organizations of other countries to achieve common progress.

Mr. Greg Scott, Inter-regional Adviser on GGIM of the United Nations Statistics Division, said that this international workshop has provided a very good platform where people can share their experience and methods in integration of geospatial and statistical information, and solve the key problems and challenges in formulation of the statistical geospatial framework.

Ms Gemma Van Halderen, Co-Chair of the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, believed that this workshop would facilitate the participating representatives and countries to build strong partnerships in the future and to jointly promote the integration of statistical and geospatial information worldwide, providing important decision-making support for the key issues that concern the country and the international community.

In the four day workshop, country experiences in the integration of geospatial and statistical information were shared. Presentations and discussions were made on such topics as the approaches to determine and represent geographical units for statistics, comparison of grid-based versus administrative approaches to the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics, statistical analysis of geospatial (environmental, social, etc.) information, and relevance of SDI's and international standards, and positioning for future: trends in technology, big data, 2020 Round of Censuses, and the post-2015 development agenda. Detailed workshop program and the presentations are available at <http://ggim.un.org/International%20Workshop.html>.

PSMA Cloud Services

In the last couple of years, the demand for location data has grown exponentially, as has the amount of data generated. To continue to facilitate value to be derived from our datasets and enable every organisation that wants to leverage the power of location intelligence the opportunity to do so, PSMA developed a cloud-based services platform, PSMA Cloud.

PSMA Cloud is designed to facilitate access to PSMA's data and cost-effectively and easily integrate this data to existing systems and applications, regardless of industry, expertise or budget. There are three components to PSMA Cloud:

- Address verification and geocoding services
- Query PSMA location data over the internet
- Link to third party data e.g. open datasets, ABS demographics or your own database

PSMA Cloud has been recognised by the following awards for excellence:

- 2012 URISA Exemplary Systems in Government (ESIG) Award in the Enterprise Systems Category
- 2012 Geospatial World Policy Award for Exemplary Implementation of Geospatial Policies and Programs
- 2012 GITA Excellence Award

PSMA Cloud cuts through the barriers to organisations adopting location thinking. The straightforward system design and functional capability allows for rapid rollout and uptake into any business. You choose what you want to integrate, leveraging the scalability, reliability and optimisation that a cloud-based platform provides.

Download the PSMA Cloud brochure here [PDF]: <http://www.pdma.com.au/download/PSMACloudBrochure.pdf>



PSMA to Collaborate with Other GSDI Association Organisations

EuroGeographics, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH), and PSMA Australia Limited – all key members of the GSDI Association - signed a Letter of Intention setting out steps for closer cooperation, at the 8th INSPIRE Conference in Aalborg, Denmark.

The collaboration will lead to an intercontinental agreement between the organisations with a key objective of contributing to the development of a practical global spatial data infrastructure. The aim is to share knowledge and support worldwide demand for consistent, authoritative geospatial information while also enhancing the individual capabilities and organisational capacities of each signatory.

“We’re delighted to be planning closer cooperation with our colleagues in CAF, PAIGH and PSMA,” says EuroGeographics’ Executive Director and Secretary General, Dave Lovell OBE.

“Exchanging expertise across the three continents will help to advance the development of national, regional, and global spatial data infrastructures. It will also support demands for consistent authoritative geospatial information from organisations such as the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the UN Global Map for Sustainable Development project (UNGM4SD).”

CAF funds and coordinates the CAF/PAIGH GeoSUR Program, the Latin American and Caribbean Geospatial Information Network. GeoSUR Program coordinator, Eric van Praag added: *“This collaboration creates a number of very exciting opportunities, particularly in developing important datasets, establishing networks for sharing best practice and knowledge and, in doing so, increasing the capacity for building geographic information.”*

Secretary General of PAIGH, Rodrigo Barriga-Vargas said: *“Our organisations have much in common and we welcome the opportunity to learn from one another’s experience. Collaboration between us will greatly benefit the whole geospatial community.”*

Chief Executive Officer, PSMA Australia, Dan Paull added: *“Further cooperation between us opens up many possibilities for enhancing the delivery of geographic information using the latest ICT developments and leveraging Cloud services. We are really excited to be part of an initiative that focuses on meeting market demands and the needs of users.”*

Source: Spatial Source – read the full news item here: <http://www.spatialsource.com.au/2014/06/24/psma-to-collaborate-with-international-organisations/>

Chinese Translations of A-P Section of the new Regional Newsletter

Translations into Chinese of the Asia-Pacific section of the new GSDI SDI Regional Newsletter, edited by Kate Lance, are published on the GSDI Newsletter website and can also be downloaded directly from the archive at the links below.

May 2014 -

http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1532

June 2014 -

http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1533

News from European Members

Dutch Kadaster

Kadaster is one of the partners working on the implementation of an open and transparent agricultural land market in Ukraine. To achieve this, Kadaster will develop a set of efficient tools for managing and monitoring the land market, based on best practices in EU member states. Kadaster also provided IT and Land Administration expertise to modernise processes of the Egyptian Real Estate Tax Authority (ERETA). From February to May, intensive hands-on training courses, prepared for ERETA staff, were given in three locations in Cairo. These trainings covered diverse subjects like computer-assisted mass appraisal, valuation, networking, databases, geographical information systems and best practices-based IT-management.

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Source: From ‘*Abroad, June 2014*’, the newsletter issue of Kadaster International – download the Newsletter at this link:

<http://www.kadaster.nl/web/artikel/download/Abroad-June-2014-1.htm>



2nd EUROGI imaGIne 2014 Conference Update

‘Showcasing the very best Europe has to offer’ is the key guiding principle that will shape all aspects of the conference. The defining focus is to highlight Europe’s best examples of the use and role of Geographic Information and Geo-technologies in a variety of thematic fields, including energy, job creation and economic growth, environment, demography, smart cities, big data, Internet of Things and open data.

All speakers will have been specifically selected on the basis of their expertise or their involvement in particularly innovative practical GI/GT exercises which deliver meaningful value for beneficiaries/users.

EUROGI are also proud to announce that Esri as our new Gold Sponsor for the 2nd EUROGI imaGIne Conference 2014.

Flyer with all basic information is available here: http://www.imagine2014.eu/scripts/download.php?file=/data/upload/imaGIne2014_Flyer.pdf

It is confirmed that Deputy Director-General Roberto Viola of the European Commission, DG CONNECT, will give the opening keynote at the 2nd EUROGI imaGIne Conference 2014. [<http://www.imagine2014.eu/>]

Why Attend?

- imaGIne Conference - Get insight into cutting edge European GI policy and practice, network with key European decision makers and GI data and service providers
- INTERGEO Fair - Explore hundreds of stands showcasing a wide variety of GI related products and services. All the top companies present
- BERLIN - A great city to visit, a city with a real buzz

ImaGIne 2014 is present on social networks:

- On Facebook you can follow the link <https://www.facebook.com/imagine2014.eu>
- When tweeting the content related to imaGIne 2014 conference, please use hashtag #imagine2014eu

News from our MoU Partner Organisations

ICA News

The GSDI Association and the International Cartographic Association (ICA) established a Memorandum of Understanding for joint action in 2011.

Be part of "Geo for All" - Leading Open Geospatial Science through ICA Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies

Developing a Geospatial Data Science Research Agenda

Of interest to many GSDI members, in relation to capacity building and geo-ICT skills development, a joint paper on "Geospatial Data Science" is being developed through the Geospatial Interest Group of the Research Data Alliance [<https://www.rd-alliance.org/group/geospatial-ig.html>]. The aim is to look at the current and future developments for both research (geodata driven discovery, algorithms for location data mining, geospatial data harmonisation, geostatistical modelling, techniques for integrating both authoritative and crowd sourced data, etc.) and teaching (what are the curriculum requirements for teaching geospatial data driven discovery for future geoprofessionals) and plan future actions. Details at: <https://rd-alliance.org/group/geospatial-ig/post/geospatial-data-science.html>

Dr Suchith Anand will present some initial ideas for the vision behind "Geospatial Data Science" and the importance of data sharing during my keynote presentation at FOSS4G-Europe [<http://foss4g-e.org/>] 15-17 July 2014 at Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany. We will use the RDA4 Plenary meeting to further develop this.

We aim to build strong research collaborations with all those interested in Geospatial Data Science for the future. Anyone interested in collaborating please contact me.

Contact details:

Dr Suchith Anand
Nottingham Geospatial Institute
Nottingham Geospatial Building
University of Nottingham NG7 2 TU
Tel: (0)115 82 32750

Workshops at OSGIS 2014, September, UK

We look forward to working with you all for making geospatial education, software and opportunities accessible to all. We are inviting your strong participation for "Building up Open Access, Open Education and Open Data for Open Science" on 2 September 2014 at Nottingham, UK, in parallel with OSGIS 2014.

The aim of this one day workshop is to bring together participants from various disciplines to enable an in-depth dialogue focused on Open Access, Open Data and Open Education for building synergies and



collaboration opportunities for Open Science and also with the "Geo for All" initiative.

There will also be an "RDA for Newcomers session" organised at this workshop, led by Herman Stehouwer. The purpose of the Research Data Alliance [<https://rd-alliance.org>] is to accelerate international data-driven innovation and discovery by facilitating research data sharing and exchange, use and re-use, standards harmonization, and discoverability. This will be achieved through the development and adoption of infrastructure, policy, practice, standards, and other deliverables. This session is aimed to welcome and provide opportunity for those who are new to RDA to understand how RDA works and be part of the movement to accelerate international data-driven innovation and discovery by facilitating research data sharing and exchange, use and re-use, standards harmonisation, and discoverability. Topics addressed by the workshop include:

- Open access developments
- Policy developments in Open Data
- Global aspects of Open Education
- Open educational resources, open courseware and open online courses
- Application use cases : Government, Health, Energy, Water, Climate change etc. for Open Science
- Open architectures
- Open content
- Open science
- Internationalisation and localisation
- Open Source examples in widening Education
- Implementation and deployment case studies in Open data
- Issues on data exchange, data harmonisation

Details of the workshop are at this link:
<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/osgis/workshops.aspx>

ISPRS News

The GSDI Association and ISPRS established a Memorandum of Understanding for joint action in 2011

ISPRS Individual Membership Category Approved by ISPRS Ordinary Members

As a reminder to our readers, the ISPRS Ordinary Members voted, with an overwhelming majority, for the introduction of an Individual Membership category in ISPRS. While ISPRS remains a 'society of societies', the new membership category is being introduced to give individuals in areas without active Ordinary Members the possibility to link to the ISPRS network.

Individual membership in ISPRS is free of charge and is governed by Bylaw VI (7) [<http://www.isprs.org/documents/bylaws14.aspx>] and the new ISPRS Policy on Individual Membership [http://www.isprs.org/news/newsletter/2014-02/22_ISPRS_indiv_membership_policy.pdf].

Anyone interested in ISPRS Individual Membership should review the Bylaw and policy documents first and can then either contact their national ISPRS Ordinary Member or submit an application at this link: <http://www.isprs.org/members/individuals/RegisterIndividuals.aspx>.

ISPRS and the GSDI Association entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2011 to provide continuing liaison between the two organisations. Download the MoU from: http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1324

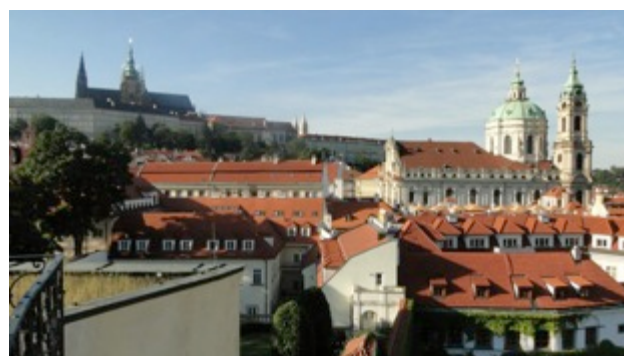
ISPRS Congress 2016 Announcement

ISPRS is organized in 8 Technical Commissions. Each commission has 6 to 10 working groups that are the basic bodies of the Society's development.



The working groups carry out benchmark tests, publish special issues on topics within their interest and organize workshops in the period between two congresses. Each technical commission presents the results of their work during a so called Midterm symposia – two years after the last ISPRS Congress.

The ISPRS Congress is a special scientific meeting bringing together all members only once in four years. The General Assembly of the XII ISPRS Congress in Melbourne in 2012 elected the Czech Republic to host the next ISPRS Congress. The Congress is a big event with several thousand participants from the entire world.



The scientific goals of the Congress have been discussed from the very beginning during Council meetings. Council and Technical Commission Presidents approved a procedure of reviewing abstracts for papers that will be placed in the ISPRS Archives (proceedings) and a



procedure of double blind review of full papers that will form the proceedings called Annals. The second phase, which is now under preparation, is to define a structure for the scientific program. The final structure will be publicized in the second call that is to be issued in January 2015. The program will consist of plenary sessions, technical sessions of individual working groups, thematic sessions with bridging themes, and special sessions led by important players of the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial sciences world. Special attention will be dedicated to a Forum of National Mapping Agencies.

The educational goal will be fulfilled by the ISPRS Summer School that will precede the Congress by one week. It will be organized in cooperation with ISPRS Student Consortium.

The technical goals of the Congress will be twofold – technical exhibition and technical tours. The Congress organizers have already prepared the manual for interested exhibitors, available at www.isprs2016-prague.com/download. Technical tours will be offered, for example an excursion to Riegl Laser Measurement Systems GmbH, Vexcel Imaging GmbH, and to the leading national metrology institute, the Metrology Service BEV-Eichwesen in Vienna. Germany is ready to welcome participants to DLR (German Aerospace Centre) located in Oberpfaffenhofen near Munich. The Czech Republic will invite interested participants to the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre, the Czech mapping Agency, to present the Register of land identifications, addresses and real estate, cadastre system, etc.

The social program has various components. The organizers are preparing culture programs and social programs for all evenings. A welcome drink after the Opening Ceremony will be the first one. Participants are invited to a concert, theatre and a boat trip. Accompanying persons can choose from short and long excursions in and outside of Prague. There is a long list of pre- and post-congress tours already prepared.

The venue of the Congress, Prague Congress Centre is situated two metro stops from the Prague centre – Václavské náměstí (Wenceslaus Square) offering not only comfortable transport connections, but also accommodation close to the centre of the city.

The Congress motto *From human history to the future with spatial information* should evoke respect to the achievements of our predecessors who invented maps, geometry, topology, photographs, etc. Our goal – from my point of view – is to continue in the development to help humankind in their personal life, in their “working days”, to secure them from disasters, to inform them about the actual state of floods, forest health state, e.g.

This short list represents effort of thousands of people to create 3D models of objects, to classify and show individual states of the Earth surface, and to record these data efficiently and in a user friendly way for human society.

It is the proper time to think about participation in the Congress and preparation of a paper as **the due dates are 30 November (Annals) and 13 December 2015 (Archives)**.

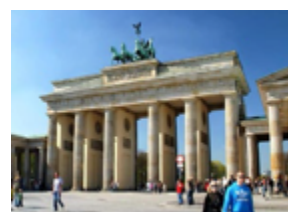
Lena Halounová, Congress Director
Website: <http://www.isprs2016-prague.com>

Note that the *ISPRS e-Bulletins*, from which this article was taken (Issue No. 3, July 2014), can be found at <http://www.isprs.org/news/newsletter/default.aspx>. The e-Bulletins are published five to six times annually, since 2011, replacing the earlier ‘ISPRS Highlights’ newsletters, published from 1996 to 2010, which can be found at: <http://www.isprs.org/publications/highlights.aspx>.

36th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment (ISRSE) – 11-15 May 2015, Berlin

You are invited to the 36th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment (ISRSE), which will take place on May 11-15, 2015 in Berlin, Germany. This 36th Symposium will represent a major event in the long series of internationally recognized ISRSE meetings. The overall theme of the symposium is the use of Earth Observation systems and related Remote Sensing techniques for understanding and managing the Earth environment and resources.

ISRSE-36 takes place at a significant moment: The process to define the UN global development agenda post 2015 with its Sustainability Development Goals will be finalized in 2015. The Future Earth initiative has been created as a global platform to deliver solution-orientated research for sustainability. Among its key challenges are innovative approaches to integrate knowledge systems (data, observation, modelling, etc.), including remote sensing of the environment.



A second Hyogo Framework of Action with its goal to substantially reduce disaster losses is set to be launched in 2015, where Earth observation approaches play an increasing role in making societies resilient to disasters. The global Group on Earth Observations (GEO), together with its partners, such as the Committee on Earth Observing Satellite (CEOS), addresses all of these political and scientific agendas while it currently prepares for its second implementation phase 2016-2025. ISRSE-36 will

be an excellent forum to present results from past and current scientific achievements related to those international developments, as well as to discuss future plans for them. ISRSE-36 will feature recent milestones in the development of Earth observation programmes addressing sustainable development, global environmental issues and resilience to disasters:

- The European Union's Earth Observation Programme Copernicus, managed by the European Commission in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA), has gone operational in 2014. The first mission of its dedicated Sentinel satellite fleet, Sentinel-1A, has been launched successfully, others will follow soon.
- The Symposium will also devote attention to other significant Earth Observation programmes worldwide, public as well as private, such as the US Land Imaging Programme and its Landsat legacy, the SPOT, Radarsat, ALOS or CBERS programmes, and ESA's Living Planet programme.
- The German Aerospace Center DLR is operating very successfully the TerraSAR-X mission and, together with its twin satellite, the TanDEM-X mission. 2015 will witness the full completion of the TanDEM-X global Digital Elevation Model. This will be an unique dataset with unprecedented quality and coverage. The RapidEye mission has been launched in 2008, where DLR supports its scientific exploitation. DLR also prepares for the EnMAP Hyperspectral Imaging mission to be launched in 2017.

ISRSE-36 will provide an outstanding opportunity to learn about these major programmes and their first results. It will be an important forum to present applications based on these new missions and to exchange views on future directions of Earth Observation technology and geographic information management. The Symposium will include plenary and thematic sessions, poster sessions and side events on issues of interest to scientists, policy makers and resource managers in the public and private sectors. The programme will feature speakers from around the globe sharing their experiences and knowledge on Earth observation applications and programmes. By attending the ISRSE-36, practitioners, scientists, policy makers, system engineers and students will be able to get a full view of the current situation in a range of fields now deemed critical in the Earth's sustainable management.

The 36th ISRSE is organized by the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in partnership with the International Center for Remote Sensing of Environment (Tucson, Arizona). **ISRSE is an International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Symposium.**

For full details, including call for papers, venue, accommodation information, etc. visit the conference website at: <http://www.isrse36.org/welcome/>

FIG News

The GSDI Association and FIG established a Memorandum of Understanding for joint action in 2010

Chryssy Potsiou was elected as new president of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) for the upcoming 4-year term (2015-2018) at the recent 25th FIG Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Potsiou, from the Technical Chamber of Greece, was the sole candidate for the presidency. Two FIG vice-presidents were also elected for the same period: Rudolf Staiger, DVW, Germany, and Diane Dumashie, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, United Kingdom.

Potsiou has been active within FIG since 1982 and has served as vice-president since 2011. With over 30 years of experience in education, training and international capacity building in land management and administration, she will be directing the FIG in the run-up to the 2017 FIG Working Week in Helsinki, Finland (organised by the Finnish Association of Geodetic and Land Surveyors (MIL) and Finnish Association of Surveyors (MAKLI), with the National Land Survey of Finland (NLS) as partner), and the 2018 Congress in Istanbul, Turkey (hosted by the Turkish Chamber of Survey and Cadastre Engineers). Potsiou holds a position as associate professor at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA).

FROM THE PRESIDENT



June has been another busy month for President, Dr. David Coleman, and other members of the GSDI Executive Committee. David and Past President Abbas Rajabifard represented the GSDI Association at the 25th FIG Congress in Kuala Lumpur June 16 - 21. The congress was well attended by more than 2000 participants from 99 countries. Dr. Coleman acted as Rapporteur for two sessions of Commission VII dealing with "Land Registration eServices" and "Global Cadastration", while Dr. Rajabifard delivered three separate papers during the conference: "Cadastre 2014, in Relation to Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)", "Let's Talk About land and property information in 3D: What Should The Future Look Like?", and "The Cadastral Template 2.0, From Design to Implementation". The talk related to SDI and Cadastre 2014 was based on a joint initiative between GSDI and FIG on spatially enabled Societies. As a result of the partnership and the joint work a joint publication addressing the spatial enablement was prepared and was launched at the GSDI



13 in Quebec in 2012. GSDI has entered into partnership with FIG in 2010. Proceedings from the FIG Conference are available here:

http://www.fig.net/fig2014/technical_program.htm

In addition to participation in the Conference Program and informal meetings with members of the GSDI Association's Council and Board of Directors, David and Abbas attended a special informal meeting of the Joint Board of Geospatial International Societies (JBGIS - <http://www.fig.net/jbgis/>). The special JBGIS meeting was held to discuss details of JBGIS participation in the United National Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN GGIM) meeting to be held from 6-8 August 2014 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. See: <http://ggim.un.org/Global%20Forum.html>

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, Dr. David Coleman, which appeared in the June 2014 issue of *GIM International*.

In Thanks and Recognition...

This month's GSDI column will focus on our sector's most important resource - our people - and three in particular. Our global geospatial data infrastructure community is influenced by a diverse group of men and women with a shared passion to advance the technologies, data, people, policies and practices we have all come to rely upon. You know who they are. Depending on our areas of specialization, we have seen their influence, may have met them, and, in some cases, know them as friends and colleagues.

The more capable and enthusiastic these people are, the more we see them or the evidence of their thinking - in meetings, at conferences, in journals and the popular press. Depending on the role they need to play on a given day, they are sometimes vocal and passionate, and other times perhaps quiet and in the background working through others.

It comes as a shock when they leave us too soon. Our geospatial community lost a grandfather early this year in Dr. Roger Tomlinson. Thankfully and appropriately - both before and after his passing - many others have already recognized and thanked him with eloquence and authority for his many contributions.

Our GSDI Association lost two individuals in the first six months of 2014 who exercised important influence on the direction of our organization. Both died in tragic

accidents too young and far too soon. In each case, they have left an important legacy and a big gap to be filled.

Mark Becker was Associate Director of CIESIN at Columbia University and was the elected representative for "Global Initiatives" on the GSDI Association Board of Directors. In addition to his substantial contributions to CEISIN, his suggestions and insights to the GSDI Association were valued and will be missed by his colleagues on our Outreach and Membership Committee.

(See <http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/becker.html>)

Doug Nebert (<http://www.fgdc.gov/fgdc-news/doug-nebert>) was a long-time employee of the U.S. Geological Survey and the US Federal Geographic Data Committee Secretariat. He was very influential as Vice-Chair of the GSDI Technical Committee and -- when the GSDI movement was still very young -- was a driving force behind the Association's *SDI Cookbook*, including its launch as an online wiki.

Both these men were known nationally and internationally for their work in advancing the capabilities of the geospatial technologies, standards and practices that we use today. Both have been recognized formally by their colleagues and employers, but I am sure many in our community would have liked to recognize and thank them personally one more time for their many gifts of time and talent to the causes they pursued with such experience, vigour and wisdom. They will be missed.

Do you know and respect someone in your own organization, city or country for the contributions they are making to the geospatial community? Why wait? Organize a more formal ceremony later on if you like, but make the time today to call or email them just to say "Thanks". Life is too short, and they'll appreciate it.

Dr. David Coleman is President of the GSDI Association and Professor in the Department of Geodesy and Geomatics 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>

Readers are reminded that they can subscribe to GIM International digital version completely free of charge or the print and digital version for 39 euro per annum. Visit the subscription page online at: <http://www.gim-international.com/subscription/index.php>



THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

Visit and contribute to GIKnet, including registering your own details or those of your organisation! The aim of 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.

Participating in 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

EUGISES 2014: Ninth European GIS Education Seminar – September 2014

The EUGISES 2014 9th European GIS Education Seminar - "GI Education for a Spatially-enabled Society" – will be held in Cork, Ireland, on 4-7 September, 2014. The programme includes invited talks:

- Sean O'Sullivan (GI Entrepreneur, venture capitalist and co-founder of MapInfo Corp.) (tbc);
- Prof Chris Brunsden (National Centre for Geocomputation, Ireland).

Symposium sessions include:

- GI Education Initiatives across Europe,
- The GI Book of Knowledge - Need to Know (GI BoK-N2K) project,
- New Technologies on the Curriculum,
- The Labour Market and GI Education



- And more...

Hands-on workshops led by staff from ESRI and Google. And of course an active social programme, featuring the best of Irish entertainment and hospitality! For more information, offer an abstract or to register visit: <http://eugises2014.eugises.eu>

About EUGISES 2014

This will be the ninth European GIS Education Seminar - EUGISES 2014. Developing upon very successful meetings in the Netherlands (1998), Hungary (2000), Spain (2002), Austria (2004), Poland (2006), Cirencester (2008), Serres (2010) and Leuven (2012), it will come to Cork in Ireland for 2014. The seminar will provide an informal setting for European and global researchers and professionals in the Geographical Information sector to share ideas, best practice, innovations and novel applications, and to discuss issues relevant to teaching and learning about GIS, Earth Observation and Remote Sensing, surveying and photogrammetry, and all aspects of geoinformatics education. Papers will be presented in a single stream through the seminar to ensure delegates can attend all sessions.

Geospatial and Engineering International Conference, September 2104

The Conference program will feature agencies and organizations that finance, procure, coordinate, and manage geospatial and engineering projects outside the United States with presentations on their programs, budgets, requirements, and procurement procedures. Private sector professionals experienced in international business will share best practices and lessons learned. Sessions will focus on both new entrants to the market outside of the United States, as well as those experienced in overseas work. Get the program here: <http://www.mapps.org/page/GeoInternatProgram>

Who should attend?

If you are responsible for and interested in international contracting outside of the United States for professional geospatial and engineering services, then this conference is for you. The conference will provide information and practical knowledge to enable firms to export their services, data and products to overseas clients.

What organizations are involved?

MAPPS is pleased to be hosting the Geospatial & Engineering International Conference: Entering & Expanding Global Business Opportunities on September 25-26, 2014 at the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, VA. Participating organizations include the Association of American Geographers (AAG), American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS),

Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), **Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI)**, National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), and the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA).

Conference & Hotel Registration

Early rate for conference registration is available now. All MAPPS members, as well as members of all participating organizations, receive a discount. Conference registration here:

<http://www.mapps.org/events/register.aspx?id=385075>

MAPPS has secured a special hotel room rate with the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, VA. The room rate is guaranteed through September 12 or until rooms sell out, so make your room reservations today here:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1312097048&key=71A50>

Contact Information

For specific questions, contact sally@mapps.org. If you are interested in receiving updates about the conference via email, please use this link:

<http://www.mapps.org/page/GeoInternatContactUs>

Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications – October 2014

This joint conference will be held on October 6-8, 2014 at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, Toronto, Canada. The conference Registration and Online Hotel Room Booking is now open. Register before 01 May 2014 to enjoy the early registration rates, and book your rooms before 01 August 2014 to receive \$20.00 reduction on top of the group rates from the hotel. The ISPRS Foundation offers travel grants to support participation in 2014 ISPRS TC II Midterm Symposium. To apply, please visit: <http://www.isprs.org/foundation/>

The Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications is hosted by the Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG) and co-organized by the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Technical Commission II on Theory and Concepts of Spatial Information Science, International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geographical Information Science and Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems. With a theme on Building Connections in GISciences for Future, the conference intends to present and disseminate the research, development and the innovative applications of geographical information theory and technologies in broad areas, as well as other interested areas by the participating organizations.

This conference joins the following symposia together:



- 2014 ISPRS Technical Commission II Midterm Symposium
- 16th IGU Spatial Data Handling Symposium

ISPRS Technical Commission II Midterm Symposium is held every four years in between two consecutive ISPRS Congresses. The symposium aims to bring together scholars and professionals from the international community of geospatial information sciences and engineering to present latest research achievements and technological developments. The topics of the symposium address the focuses outlined by the Commission, stated on its website:
<http://www2.isprs.org/commissions/comm2.html>.

The **International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling (SDH)** is the biennial international research forum for Geospatial Information Science, co-organized by the IGU Commission on Geographic Information Science and the IGU Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems. It commenced in 1984, in Zurich, Switzerland and has since been held biennially in Seattle, USA; Sydney, Australia; Zurich, Switzerland; Charleston, USA; Edinburgh, UK; Delft, The Netherlands; Vancouver, Canada; Beijing, China; Ottawa, Canada; Leicester, UK; Vienna, Austria; Montpellier, France; and Hong Kong, China. The International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling has become a major resource for recent advances in GIS research and is regarded as a premier international research forum for GIS.

7th URISA Caribbean GIS Conference – October 2014

URISA is pleased to host the 2014 conference in the Dutch Caribbean on October 27-30, 2014 at the Santa Barbara Beach & Golf Resort, Curacao! The conference will focus on the effective application and management of GIS and other information technologies within the Caribbean. Previous Caribbean GIS conferences have taken place in Jamaica (2001), Barbados (2004), the Bahamas (2006), the Cayman Islands (2008), Trinidad and Tobago (2010) and Jamaica (2012). Get full details here:
<http://www.urisa.org/education-events/caribbean-gis-conference/>

The objectives of URISA's Caribbean GIS Conference are to:

- inform broad cross-section of Caribbean users about GIS technology and applications,
- share experiences regarding GIS implementation and management issues,
- establish new relationships with the vendor/consultant community,
- provide workshops and sessions that are application driven, and are relevant to the Caribbean community of GIS users,
- foster a Caribbean GIS network,

- assess the state of readiness of national and regional Spatial Data Infrastructures,
- act on directives from the High Level Meetings held over the past several years, fostering executive support for GIS.

The Conference Program is developed through a Call for Presentations. The committee welcomes the submission of individual papers, complete sessions, panel discussions and lightning talks.

Esri Health GIS Conference Update – November 2014

Big changes are coming to health and human services (HHS). And you are invited to a gathering of peers and experts where it all will be spelled out - the 2014 Esri Health GIS Conference, to be held November 3-5, 2014, at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This major national GIS event is your opportunity to be on the geospatial cutting edge -- to experience the winds of progress ahead of your colleagues who do not attend. You'll learn state-of-the-art GIS tools, network with peers across the health continuum, and gain perspective from industry leaders including Esri experts.

Two Ways to Participate: Present a Paper, Display a Map: Put your geospatial expertise in front of customers and peers. If you're a GIS professional in health and human services - someone with practical expertise and skills in the real world, then at the 2014 Esri Health GIS Conference, you'll have an opportunity to show your colleagues what works - or doesn't work.

Here are two ways you can help them accelerate their projects or avoid costly mistakes:

- Share your best work - give a 20-minute presentation about one of your successful GIS experiences.
- Show off your cartographic skills - put one of your GIS-based maps on display.

Submit an abstract and a map. **The submission deadline is August 1, 2014.**

If you're among the first 30 to register, you'll attend for only \$300 - a "Red-Eye" fee that's \$199 off the standard \$499 rate. We welcome professionals in public health, hospitals and health systems, human services, and academic health and research. The Esri Health GIS Conference is much more than any other user conference - it will put you squarely on the front line of HHS geospatial technology and best practices for 2014.

Get the details and register here:

http://www.esri.com/events/health/?WT.mc_id=EmailCampaignh21803



International Workshop on Spatial Data and Map Quality – January 2015

The International Workshop on Spatial Data and Map Quality will take place on 20-21 January 2015 at the Old University Building, Valletta, Malta. **Deadline for abstract submissions is 12 September 2014.**

A number of international groups and organisations actively involved in spatial data and map quality issues are organizing a two-day international workshop aimed at providing innovative and original contribution to the ongoing debate on spatial data and map quality issues and at improving the process of knowledge transfer by means of the development of new techniques and methods for quality assessment of spatial data sets and the maps produced.

Download workshop announcement here:

http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/SDMQ15-Workshop_announcement1_0.pdf

Please direct any queries to Carol Agius.
[carol.agius@mepa.org.mt]

Submissions:

Abstracts (500 - 100 words) using the approved template (.docx format)

http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/SDMQ_abstract_template.docx can be uploaded on-line here:

<https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sdmq2015>

- Acceptance for an oral presentation, poster, or software demonstration at the workshop will be announced by 31 October 2014.
- **Deadline for long abstract/full paper is 31 December 2014.**
- Registration for the workshop will open in September 2014.



The workshop is organised by **GSDI Members EuroGeographics** and the **Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)**, plus EuroSDR, ISO and members of the EU-funded European Location Framework (E.L.F.) project.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

INSPIRE (the European Regional SDI) Updates

INSPIRE and Geospatial World Forum announce joint 2015 Conference



During the INSPIRE 2014 conference in Aalborg, Denmark, INSPIRE and the Geospatial World Forum announced plans to co-host the 2015 INSPIRE and Geospatial World Forum scheduled for 24 to 29 May 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal. The theme of the 2015 joint conference will be Convergence: Policies + Practices + People (PPP) addressing the need for synergy between policy makers, technology providers and end users highlighting workflow in order to facilitate more informed decision making from stakeholders.

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

Presentations from INSPIRE Conference 2014, held 18-20 June 2014, Aalborg, Denmark

The 8th annual INSPIRE Conference, organised by the JRC, DG ENV and the European Environment Agency, took place from 16 to 20 June in Aalborg, Denmark. Over 550 participants, from 44 countries, came together to discuss their different national INSPIRE implementation strategies and initiatives.

The workshop presentations can be downloaded at this link:

http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2014/index.cfm/page/wsl#c_26_51

The parallel sessions presentations can be downloaded here:

http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2014/page/oral

The plenary session presentations are available from this link:

http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2014/page/plenary

INSPIRE Public Consultation on Sharing Spatial Information in Europe

Better data retrieval and access, greater interoperability of data and improved coordination across the EU top the list of benefits perceived by both data producers and users of spatial information on the environment. Key changes suggested refer to improving communication and coordination, and to reducing the complexity of technical specifications as much as possible.



These are some of the findings of a public consultation carried out by the JRC and the European Commission's Directorate General Environment (DG ENV) to support a mid-term evaluation of the 2007 INSPIRE Directive which sets the guidelines for the sharing of spatial data for environmental policies and the creation of a pan-European platform by 2020. INSPIRE stands for Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community.

In its role as technical coordinator of the INSPIRE Directive, the JRC carried out the public consultation with a survey on the experience of producers and users of spatial data. The survey took place in late 2013 and early 2014. According to the 700 questionnaires returned, the INSPIRE Directive is seen to be starting to address key barriers that prevent the efficient sharing and use of spatial information. Respondents estimated that progress has been made in documenting data and making them available through web services. The survey also highlighted the delays incurred by Member States' public administrations in putting measures in place to improve data sharing.

INSPIRE Public Consultation 2014 - Report of Findings

This report presented the findings of the public consultation on INSPIRE organised by the European Commission in December 2013 - February 2014. Almost 700 responses were received to the consultation from public and private sector, academia, and private citizens.

The key messages from the public consultation are:

- INSPIRE is starting to work and address the key barriers identified at the outset of this initiative that prevented the sharing and use of the spatial information needed to support environmental policies and policies affecting the environment.
- Most progress has been done in documenting data, and making such data discoverable and viewable through web services. There are however delays, particularly for Annex I and II data that should all have become available by the time of the survey. Delays are also present for Annex III, both for completing the metadata and for making data available via download services.
- The area of greater concern is the delay by the Member States in putting in place measures necessary to remove obstacles to the sharing of data at the point of use among public administrations. Only about half of the data producers indicated that such policy measure had been put in place in their organisation, and this was felt by users still finding data policy as a major barrier. Taking into consideration that such measures should have been in place since 2009, this delay is clearly significant.

- Improving communication, and sharing of best practice, reducing as far as possible complexity of technical specifications, and improving coordination are key suggested changes.
- There was almost unanimous view across all participants in the public consultation that the objectives of INSPIRE of making spatial data and services more easily shared and used are still as pertinent as ever.
- INSPIRE is delivering benefits to public administrations through improved data management processes and increased skills/competences in managing and publishing geographic information and related services.

See: JRC final report on the INSPIRE Public Consultation 2014, at:

http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/reports/consultations/INSPIRE_Public_Consultation_Report_final.pdf

CAFF and Arctic Mapping Organizations Cooperate on Arctic SDI

The national mapping organizations involved in this project include: the US Geological Survey (United States); Natural Resources Canada; the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Mapping (Russia); the National Survey and Cadastre (representing Denmark and the Faroe Islands); the Ministry of Housing, Infrastructure and Transportation (Greenland); the National Land Survey (Finland); the National Land Survey (Iceland); the Norwegian Mapping Authority; and the Swedish Mapping, Cadastre and Land Registration Authority. USGS, NR Canada, and NLS Finland are all valued members of the GSDI Association.

Source:

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/resources/news-and-press/news-archive/883-caff-and-arctic-mapping-organizations-cooperate-on-arctic-spatial-data-infrastructure>

UN-GGIM Meetings in 2014

UN Global Forum and UN GGIM Meetings in New York, August 2014

The United Nations Global Forum on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information is taking place in the UN Headquarters in New York from 4-5 August 2014. The Forum is being organized by the United Nations Statistics Division, as the Secretariat of the UN Statistical Commission and the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and substantively supported by the United Nations Expert



Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

Convened in accordance with Statistical Commission decision 44/101 and UN-GGIM decision 3/107, which welcomed the proposal to organize an international conference as a way of reaching out and developing best practices bringing together both statistical and geospatial professional communities, the Global Forum will bring together senior leaders from both professional communities to discuss the strategic vision and goals for the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

The Global Forum aims to continue the global consultation and communication on the development of a global statistical-geospatial framework, initiated by the UN Statistical Commission and UN-GGIM, and the work of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. It will take place in conjunction with the fourth intergovernmental session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), to be held in New York, from 6-8 August 2014.

GSDI President, Dr. David Coleman, will be representing the GSDI Association at the UN-GGIM meeting in New York in August, and will be joined by GSDI Past-President, Dr. Abbas Rajabifard, for the UN-GGIM Third High Level Forum meeting in Beijing, China, October 22-24, 2014. GSDI achieved special consultative status at the UN on 1 May 2014.

List of documents:

- Announcement Letter:
<http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM4/GGIM-4AnnouncementLetter10April2014.pdf>
- Flyer:
<http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM4/Stat-GeoGlobalForumFlyer10April2014.pdf>
- Concept Note:
<http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM4/ConceptNote.pdf>

Contact details:

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Global Geospatial Information Management, UN Statistics Division

Tel: +1-212-963-3042 - Fax: +1-212-963-9851

E-mail addresses: laaribi@un.org

GSDI AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

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

- Eye on Earth – www.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.gsdi.org/discussionlists>, choose the forum of interest and select the 'Archives' option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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