GSDI and IGS Global News

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society
Vol. 4, No. 9, 2014

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

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Note to Members: This issue of the Global Newsletter has been published later than usual so that a report of the GSDI Board Meeting on 9 October could be included, given its importance in relation to the new GSDI Strategy & Strategic Plan 2015-2020, and accompanying Communications and Membership Strategies.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a busy time for the GSDI President, Dr David Coleman. From 17 to 19 September, David attended the *1st Annual Pan-Canadian Spatial Data Infrastructure Summit 2014* in Calgary, Canada, where he provided a keynote presentation, and provides the Members with the brief report that follows.

The Summit was sponsored by GeoDiscover Alberta [https://geodiscover.alberta.ca/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page] and the Earth Sciences Branch of Natural Resources Canada, [http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/home].

Overlapping with the Technical Meeting [http://www.opengeospatial.org/event/1409tcagenda] of the Open Geospatial Consortium, the first session was shared with OGC and included a keynote made by OGC President and GSDI Association Member Mark Reichardt. Sessions that first afternoon dealt in particular with technical presentations dealing with SDI in support of energy discovery and management — an issue of vital importance to jurisdictions across Canada.

On day two, the morning session opened with words of welcome and presentations from the two sponsoring organizations. A message of welcome from Tom Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development outlined the importance of information infrastructure creation and open data to the Province of Alberta. The follow-on keynote presentation by Prashant Shukle, Director-General of the Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, Earth Sciences Sector, Natural Resources Canada, described how CGDI initiatives have developed over the years, discussed the role of the federal GeoConnections program in that process, and outlined how cooperation among the provinces and the federal governments has led to concrete examples of shared data collection (e.g., the GeoBase Program).

These presentations were followed by shorter presentations and program updates from provincial government SDI managers in New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The discussion following this session highlighted areas of opportunity and common concerns over such issues as open data and access to information, standards-based SDI product and service development, and maintaining high-level executive and political support for SDI in an environment if shrinking budgets.

The second keynote of day two was a presentation by GSDI Association President Dr David Coleman entitled

"*International SDI Initiatives: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally*". After providing context on the role Canadians played in early land information networking and SDI developments through the 1980s and early 1990s, he described the importance of such transnational and international SDI initiatives as Digital Earth, GEO, OGC and ISO, UN-GGIM and — with special emphasis on the GSDI SDI Cookbook and Small Grants Program — the GSDI Association itself.

Day three's half-day session consisted of two invited presentations. The first, by University of Calgary Professor Steve Liang, was entitled "The Earth Will Don an Electronic Skin – A Geospatial Vision for the Future" and shared his experience and views on the sensor web revolution and crowd-sourcing growth. In the second invited presentation, "Alberta's Wet Areas Mapping Initiative: Advancing World-Class Resource Stewardship in Alberta", provincial government Forest Management Specialist Chris Bater introduced Alberta's Wet Area Mapping Program, discussed the extent of LiDAR data acquisition, and described research findings, new research partnerships, availability of data availability to the general public, and next steps in the program.

Members can download David's presentation at the links below:
As PDF:
http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1605
On GSDI's SlideShare:
http://www.slideshare.net/GSDI/david-coleman-presentation-at-sdi-summit-2014-calgary-canada-1719-sept-2014

In October, David was also a keynote speaker at the *Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications* in Toronto, Canada, presenting the paper: "*Paper Title: Challenging Traditional Models, Roles and Responsibilities in Evolving Spatial Data Infrastructures".* The link to his presentation will be in the next issue of the Global Newsletter.

On 9 October, David also chaired the GSDI Board Meeting teleconference, at which important proposals regarding the planned forward strategy for the Association and other issues were presented to the Board and approved.

FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

One of the motions passed at the 9 October GSDI Board meeting was confirmation of Roger Longhorn as the new Secretary-General of the Association, confirming a role that he has been fulfilling for the past several months as acting Sec-Gen. The Board also approved a motion to officially acknowledge the long and excellent service to the Association by Prof Harlan Onsrud for the many years

in which he served as Executive Director and later Secretary-General of GSDI. Harlan is taking some time off to focus on professional activities at his university, but remains a valued Individual Member of the Association.

For my part, having functioned as both Operations and Communications Manager for more than a year, and now taking on the overall role of Secretary-General, as well as guiding new Member Recruitment activities, I can only promise that I will do my best for all GSDI Members, both organisations and individuals, as we move forward in 2015 implementing the new GSDI Strategy 2015-2020. We have a great deal of work ahead in defining, producing and delivering new benefits to all Members, developing the capacity building initiatives called for in the Strategy and more fully incorporating all our Members into the GSDI fold. You can read more about the Strategy in other sections of the newsletter. The GSDI Association continues to provide a global focal point for networking on the challenges in implementing SDIs across the world at national, regional and global levels, also in support of the new UN-GGIM initiative. Speaking for the officers and staff of GSDI, I hope that we can count on full support from the whole Membership in achieving the goals set out in the Strategy over the coming years.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

GSDI Board Meeting Brief Report

On 9 October, the GSDI Board met by teleconference, led by Dr David Coleman, GSDI President. All Board members will have received the e-mails announcing the meeting, with links to the various documents presented for discussion and/or votes of approval, which are available from the GSDI Member Services System maintained by member OGC. All Board and Council Members will receive a full of the meeting in the next few weeks.

We held the GSDI Board meeting teleconference on 9 October, at which a quorum was present for voting purposes (12 of the total 19 voting members of the Board, or their named delegates), and several motions were passed, including:

- confirmation of Roger Longhorn as the new GSDI Secretary-General,
- approval to make a special award to Harlan Onsrud for his long and valued service to the Association as former Executive Director/Secretary-General,
- approval to present to Council a proposed change to the Bylaws governing status of individuals who serve as Treasurer and Secretary (official officers of the Association) and location of business and official addresses of the Association,

- approval to enter into an MoU with the new Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety at the Univ. of Melbourne (led by past-President, Abbas Rajabifard),
- approval of Mr. Jeremy Shen (founding member of the IGS, the Individual Member arm of the Association) as the next President-elect to represent Individual Members on the Board from January 2017 (Dev Raj Paudyal, current President-elect, assumes the Presidency from Sives Govender in January 2015),
- approval to adopt the new GSDI Strategy and Strategic Plan 2015-2020, with proviso that work on the proposed new fee structure will continue via a smalll working group representing all categories of member in the Association (Full and Individual) (see the Strategy at:
  http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1579

- approval that the Executive Committee will have authority in future to approve (or deny) membership applications on receipt, while the full Board will retain the right to overturn a decision, by majority vote, at a future Board meeting (covered by Article IV - para (6) of the Bylaws).

Note that the new Strategy focuses on:

- capacity building activities for our members,
- projects that deliver useful products or services of value to the global community engaged in implementing SDIs
- promoting continued SDI research
- a more streamlined organisation (reducing the size of the Board from 19 members to 11) and reducing administration costs as a percentage of total annual expenditure,
- making Individual Members more inclusive within the Association (removing focus on the 'IGS' brand from 2015), and
- adopting a new fee structure (yet to be determined and following consultation with the membership) to help ensure future financial sustainability of the organisation, plus a plan for seeking external sponsorship funds.

We will of course continue to conduct the GSDI World Conferences (the next will most likely be in the first quarter of 2016), produce our monthly Regional and Global Newsletters, maintain current information on the web site (a new one will be released by year end), and are also planning to hold smaller, regional meetings or conferences during 2015 and 2016 - for which we could use assistance from Members located in the different regions, please.

Also at the meeting, the GSDI Communications Strategy and Membership Strategy were presented, and the Board

approved the principle that in future not all information content and services developed by or offered by the Association would be freely available to everyone at no cost. While all Members in good standing would continue to have full access to all our resources, including newly planned webinars, analytical reports and training materials, non-member access to some recourse would be on a paid basis. This is considered essential if we are to deliver meaningful benefits to fee-paying members of the Association, whose fees are the source of revenue employed in producing our SDI-related content.

We also seek to broaden the membership beyond just the 'geo' community, seeking new members from all sectors where access to harmonised and interoperable spatial information is of great importance, i.e. the users and beneficiaries of SDIs, not just those producing them.

Because of the new Strategies, major changes are required to the Bylaws, which are being re-drafted by Roger Longhorn. The initial draft will be reviewed by an attorney based in Virginia, USA (where the Association is registered as a non-profit organisation), then reviewed by the Board before presentation to the Council for a vote of approval or rejection (in whole or in part), as required by the current Bylaws. That vote will be held electronically and our target is to complete this entire process within the next three months.

Draft minutes of the Board meeting will be available to the Council within the next three to four weeks, following approval by the Board. Thanks to all our Members for their continued support of the Association and its work, and we look forward to successful implementation of the new Strategy in 2015 as the Association moves forward in meeting its stated Vision, Purpose and Mission statements.

IJSDIR Special Call for Geospatial Dataset Descriptions

The *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research (IJSDIR)* is one of the free and open access journals focusing on SDI issues and is one of the journals recommended to members interested in current SDI research. In August, IJSDIR made a pre-announcement of a Special Call for Geospatial Dataset Descriptions.

The IJSDIR would like to support Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) research and by inviting researchers and practitioners to submit descriptions of their datasets as short scientific papers for peer-review.

Published papers will illustrate current and potential areas for reuse of the geospatial datasets. Such examples could contribute to ARE3NA's existing evidence base about the cross-cutting nature of geospatial data to support a range of public policies.

Custodians and managers of INSPIRE datasets are encouraged to submit examples for this special call. The formal call has yet to be announced, however, potential contributors are invited to indicate their interest to the editor, Dr. Sven Schade, at: sven.schade@jrc.ec.europa.eu.

Source: http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/announcement

ASSOCIATION MEMBER NEWS

Industry Member News

News from Spatial Innovision Ltd

Spatial Innovision 2-Day Workshop at URISA Caribbean Conference – 26 October

Spatial Innovision are conducting a 2-Day Workshop: "Mobile and Server GIS: Field to Finish" - for details, see: http://urisacaribbean2014.sched.org/event/b2a931f5fd09daaa015a4feeb0b2dd27

This workshop will take place on Sunday and Monday it is a two day comprehensive course.

Overview

This course will entail details on Mobile, Web and Server GIS technology and the integration from field to finish. The skills required to accomplish this task will be taught step by step for participants to take advantage of emerging technology to improve their process flow within their respective organization.

Course Outline

- Overview of ArcGIS for Server, ArcGIS Online and Collector for ArcGIS
- Creation of Enterprise Geodatabase
- Check out data from ArcGIS for Server
- Data preparation for the mobile environment:
- Geodatabase Design
- Replicating data
- Publishing Feature Services using ArcGIS for Server
- Creation of Web Application using ArcGIS Online
- Data Collection using Collector for ArcGIS (Using GIS Data in the Mobile Environment)
- Check data back into ArcGIS for Server

Special Note: Participants will need to bring a laptop computer and smartphone with Android or iOS operating system compatible with esri Collector for ArcGIS.

Presented by Spatial Innovision. Participation is Limited.
Fee to attend: $300
Sunday October 26, 2014 9:00am - 5:00pm

For full details of the UrisaCaribbean Conference, visit this link: http://urisacaribbean2014.sched.org/

See the full URISA Caribbean Conference announcement later in the Allied Conferences section of the Newsletter.

News from Esri

Esri Health GIS Conference Update

The **Esri Health GIS Conference**, being held 3-5 November in Colorado Springs, CO, USA, is about more than tools and techniques. It's about transforming your community and helping people live healthier, more fulfilling lives.

But don't take our word for it. Here are some of the inspiring stories you'll experience at the Health GIS Conference:

- The Sonoma County Human Services Department will detail how it has boosted a range of programs and policies, from SNAP to Child Protective Services, through geospatial analysis.
- National nonprofit KaBOOM! will show how integrating a range of data and imagery is helping it design accessible play spaces in communities that need them most.
- Community Commons will reveal how geospatial technology is helping it visualize, analyze, and share important information that promotes smarter decisions about community well-being across the country.

Rise to the challenge in your community. Join us in Colorado Springs to see how you can take your work farther with GIS.

Register today here:
http://www.esri.com/events/health/registration

News from Intergraph

Intergraph Participates in CityNext

Intergraph is committed to engaging government, businesses and citizens to shape the next generation of cities. Intergraph Security, Government and Infrastructure (SG&I), the leader in smart solutions for emergency response, utilities, transportation, and other global challenges, today announced it is working with Microsoft on CityNext, an initiative designed to help governments, businesses and citizens reimagine what is next for their cities.

For the first time in history, more than 50 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas and nearly 70 percent of people will live in cities by 2050. This ongoing migration creates unprecedented opportunities, but also intensifies problems such as aging infrastructure, hazards to public health and safety, pollution, crime and traffic. Through the CityNext initiative, Microsoft and Intergraph will help leaders to do "new with less," by combining the power of technology with innovative ideas to connect governments, businesses and citizens with city services that increase efficiencies, reduce costs, foster a more sustainable environment and cultivate communities where people thrive.

Local, state, and central governments from around the world use Intergraph solutions for public safety and security, infrastructure management, public services and more. These solutions use best-of-class technology that is open, enterprise scalable and supports industry data standards for solving government business problems.

 "Our participation in Microsoft CityNext demonstrates our commitment to helping cities innovate now and modernize for the future. Working with Microsoft, we can help cities transform their operations through smarter technology and devices; engage citizens and field personnel through mobile apps and initiatives; and accelerate innovation opportunities throughout public and commercial services," said Teresa Smith, senior vice president, Intergraph SG&I.

"We're thrilled to partner with Intergraph on CityNext. Microsoft prioritizes putting people and partners first in our initiatives and CityNext is no different," said Laura Ipsen, corporate vice president Microsoft Worldwide Public Sector. "Even though cities are feeling the strain from economic challenges, we believe a new era of innovation will create opportunities for people to utilize technology to accomplish what they never thought possible. We're inspired by our diverse partner ecosystem and know that working together we can help cities realize their full potential."

Source: Intergraph press release – see:
http://www.intergraph.com/assets/pressreleases/2014/09-08-2014.aspx

OHB Group Selects Intergraph to Manage Big Data Solution

OHB Group, Germany's major space system company, has selected Intergraph to provide long-term storage and cataloging of earth observation data as part of a satellite system. Utilizing Hexagon Geospatial's server architecture, including ERDAS APOLLO, Intergraph's solution will provide services for management, retrieval and ingestion of the data. In addition to long-term storage of processed images, the archive will also store raw image

data and provide a catalogue of all filed data for investigation or research purposes.

"*Intergraph offered the most robust solution to meet our need for archiving multiple petabytes of data and offering 24x7 availability for a continuous feed,*" said Maik Plenter, head of procurement, OHB System AG.

OHB is specialized in low-orbit and geostationary small satellites for navigation, communications, Earth observation and scientific research, as well as reconnaissance satellites and instruments for broadband wireless transmission of reconnaissance image data for greater security and reconnaissance.

Source: Intergraph press release

News from Boundless

GeoGig Grows Up, Contributed to LocationTech

We're proud to announce that GeoGig (http://geogig.org) is approaching its first major release and we're contributing the project to the LocationTech working group at the Eclipse Foundation (http://www.locationtech.org).

For those not familiar with the project, GeoGig is an open source tool that draws inspiration from Git (hence why it was previously called GeoGit) but adapts its core concepts to handle distributed versioning of spatial data. With GeoGig, users are able to import spatial data into a repository where every change to the data is tracked. These changes can be viewed in a history, reverted to older versions, branched in to sandboxed areas, merged back in, and pushed to remote repositories.

Learn more about GeoGig and how to use it with these posts and videos:

GeoGig in Action: Distributed Versioning for Geospatial Data - http://boundlessgeo.com/2014/03/geogit-distributed-versioning/

Recovering from Yolanda with help from OpenStreetMap and GeoGig - http://boundlessgeo.com/2014/03/geogit-and-openstreetmap-for-yolanda/

GeoGig for Python: Announcing geogig-py - http://boundlessgeo.com/2014/04/geogit-py/

Teaching GeoGig at Facebook Open Academy - http://boundlessgeo.com/2014/03/geogit-at-facebook-open-academy/

Geospatial data versioning with GeoGig (on Vimeo) - http://vimeo.com/92558110

GeoGig-based OpenStreetMap Import Workflows (on Vimeo) - https://vimeo.com/91942253

As one of the founding members of the LocationTech initiative, we've given several talks at LocationTech events and look forward to continuing to participate in the LocationTech Tour. Join us at the events in New York on December 9 and Washington DC on December 11.

News from the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

OGC supports American Geographical Society Geography 2050 Fall Symposium

The OGC is a partner with the American Geographical Society, the Earth Institute and the US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation in presenting the American Geographical Society (AGS) Fall Symposium, "**Geography 2050: Mounting an Expedition to the Future**". The symposium will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2014. Hosted by the Earth Institute at Columbia University, the one-day event will take place in the historic Low Library, site of the Pulitzer Prize Award Ceremony. This is the inaugural event of a multi-year strategic dialog meant to help us understand the major trends that will reshape our nation and our planet between now and 2050, and the investments in data, technology and capabilities necessary to navigate our uncertain future successfully.

This Symposium offers an opportunity for professionals in industry, government, academia, and the social sector, as well as members of the general public to come together to think collectively about exploring the future, and to examine how geography, geographic thinking, and geospatial data and technologies will enable us to address these major trends proactively.

The Symposium will address topics including:
- Populations, Shifting Identity, and Well Being;
- Climate, Risk and Opportunity;
- The Future Energy Landscape;
- The Emerging Geography of the Internet of Things; and
- Investment, Law and Policy.

For more information on the Symposium, including registration options, go to http://geography2050.org/.

"*The Open Geospatial Consortium is proud to support this important forward-looking dialog in partnership with the Symposium's other partners and sponsors*," said Mark Reichardt, OGC's President and CEO. "*Through this exploration of the future of geography, spatial thinking and the application of geospatial information and technology, scientists and policy makers as well as technology providers and consensus standards organizations like OGC have the opportunity to anticipate and include important requirements into their plans and their development activities.*"

Since 1851, AGS has been a leading advocate for geography in the United States and around the world. The Society promotes the use of geography in business, government, science, and education. The mission of AGS is to advance geographic knowledge and the recognition of its importance in the contemporary world. The goal is to enhance the nation's geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS stands for explicit recognition of the geospatial and temporal contexts that shape the real world and influence how it works. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City, New York. For more information on AGS go to www.amergeog.org.

OGC's Mark Reichardt to Deliver Geospatial Keynote at GEO-Energy Summit

Mark Reichardt, president of the Open Geospatial Consortium, will deliver the geospatial keynote address at the GEO-Energy Summit and Educational Forum on November 13, 2014. The Summit is a two day event that will be held November 12-13 at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration and hosted by GEO Huntsville and Energy Huntsville in conjunction with the U.S. Space and Rocket Center (USSRC). Summit speakers and workshops will focus on Interoperability & national security key topics.

The GEO-Energy Summit 2014 will host corporations and government agencies to demonstrate emerging technologies that will help business and government meet future energy needs, support interoperable and effective technology integration, and provide the backbone for economic security.

"*Interoperability is a significant challenge for realizing a more energy efficient infrastructure and the implementation of sensor technology. I'm extremely pleased that Mr. Reichardt will be able to address these issues with our attendees,*" said Joe Francica, conference co-chairman, editor-in-chief of Directions Magazine.

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Dr. Deborah Barnhart, CEO of the USSRC will provide the welcome address. The Summit will feature plenary panel sessions with senior executives from organizations such as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the TVA, and many others.

Keynote speaker for the Summit will be Mr. Robert Cardillo, newly appointed director of the National Geospatial-intelligence Agency. Other guest speakers will include Mr. Bill Johnson, CEO of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Ambassador Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., chairman of the Stimson Center.
Registration and information

The conference organizers encourage early registration, which will cost only $95. The cost for students is $25. More information about speaking at or sponsoring the conference can be found at the conference website http://www.GEOHuntsville.com/conference.

Dr Ingo Simonis to Lead OGC Geomatic Sciences Initiatives

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) announced that Dr Ingo Simonis has been appointed to the position of Director, Interoperability Programs and Science. As Director, Interoperability Programs and Science, Simonis, who is based in Germany, will work with OGC members to plan, manage, and develop architectures for OGC interoperability initiatives such as testbeds, pilots, and interoperability experiments. He has a long history of working in the OGC process as a member, and he brings those years of experience to this role.

Since 2000, Ingo Simonis has been a principal developer of OGC's Sensor Web Enablement initiative. He has authored four OGC standards and been a member of the OGC Interoperability Projects Team. He has served as lead architect for an OGC testbed thread. He has also served as lead architect for the GEOSS (Group on Earth Observation System of Systems) Application Integration Pilot activities, which are administered by the OGC on behalf of the GEO organization.

He has led a broad range of international research and development projects and research groups. He co-founded the international open source initiative 52°North and was the 52°North-Sensor Web community lead. In 2009, he founded with Martin Klopfer (Technical Director OGC Europe), the International Geospatial publications Institute, iGSI (www.igsi.eu), which provided leadership of the Sensors ANYwhere (SANY) FP7 project (ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/necs/20081022-wsnnco-22-sany_en.pdf).

While pursuing all of these activities, Ingo Simonis has also had a distinguished academic career in the fields of

ecology and geoinformatics. Most recently he has worked at South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and will continue to lecture at Carinthia University. His recent research has focused on the integration and analysis of complex data structures in the context of large-scale sensor networks.

In 2010, he received the OGC Kenneth D. Gardels award for the extraordinary contribution he has made throughout all phases of the design, development and market acceptance of the OGC Sensor Web Enablement (SWE) standards.

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News from Africa Members

Data World's Social Program Commitments

The focus areas outlined in the Data World policy indicate areas in which Data World shall direct their corporate social responsibility spend. In allocating resources to the outlined focus areas, Data World is guided by the need to:

- Focus on communities in which the company operates
- Emphasize investments in disadvantaged communities
- Support programmes that engender empowerment and development

Data World, as a leading GIS and ICT consulting company in South Africa, believes that it has a fundamental responsibility to assist in improving the lives of disadvantaged communities in South Africa. Data World has therefore developed a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy which is aligned to the company strategy and which contributes to the overall mission and vision.

Our CSR Programme is a deliberate, focused, coherent and progressive programme that meets the following objectives:

- Make a positive, sustainable impact on the communities in which Data World operates through investing in improving the quality of life of disadvantaged communities
- To develop and empower disadvantaged communities through skills transfer and training for the sustainability and long term growth of the company
- To build and improve relationships with the existing and potential stakeholders through forming mutually beneficial partnerships
- To create and enhance the company reputation as a caring corporate citizen
- To attract quality socially responsible staff to the company as well as retain and enhance the loyalty and pride in the company of existing staff

Source: Data World website at:
http://www.dataworld.co.za/Default.aspx?PAGE=C_CSI.html

News from Americas Members

PAIGH & CAF (GeoSUR)

Regional Flood Mapping Webinar

MundoGEO, GeoSUR and the Darmouth Flood Observatory (DFO) held a Webinar on a joint Latin American and Caribbean Project on Flood Mapping and Remote River Flow Estimations funded by CAF. Prof Brakenridge of DFO conducted the presentation. The Webinar is available for viewing at: http://mundogeo.com/webinar/flood-mapping/downloads.html

Most of the information generated by this joint cooperation is available in the GeoSUR Map Viewer: http://www.geosur.info/map-viewer

Source: Eric van Praag, Coordinador Programa GeoSUR
CAF - banco de desarrollo de América Latina

GeoSUR, the Geospatial Network for Latin America and the Caribbean – an Update

Humanity faces serious threads, and we often hear worrying news in the media about issues such as an expanding population, environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, floods, earthquakes, and tsunamis. The World needs timely and accurate spatial information that can help us deal with these issues and

that can help us to better manage and preserve our common environmental heritage.

It is customary to produce and manage the geospatial data needed to respond to today's environmental and societal challenges by country. It is a great challenge to transcend national boundaries and promote collaborative efforts to produce, manage and integrate data at the regional and global levels for events that don´t respect national jurisdictions and that can no longer be managed at purely national levels.

Trans-national SDI initiatives that stand out are collaborations between EuroGeographics and INSPIRE in Europe and GeoSUR in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). These have been instrumental in making available regional geoinformation in geoservices that provide accurate and timely information for decision makers.

The deployment of GeoSUR has been a real challenge, in a region comprising 33 countries, 588 million inhabitants and a territory covering 7.8 million square miles. Monitoring the state of forests, coral reefs, infrastructure, soils or agricultural resources cannot be monitored without the use of geospatial information that is digital, available on line and open to the public.

GeoSUR was set up by GSDI Member CAF – the Latin American Development Bank - and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) in 2007 to help the region make sense of its territory and to view it from a regional perspective. A network of more than 100 geospatial data providers from 26 countries participate in GeoSUR and have put on the Web tens of thousands of maps and other GIS resources in easy to use applications. GeoSUR has developed five main components:
1. a Regional Geoportal,
2. a decentralized network of map services,
3. a LAC Regional Map Service,
4. a Topographic Processing Service, and
5. regional geoprocessing tools for hydro power assessment and flood mapping.

The Portal features more than 300 OGC-based services, 14,000 metadata records (harvested), 220,000 metadata records (searchable), and 110 map viewers. GeoSUR relies on a decentralized system architecture; one that keeps data close to its producers.

The regional components of GeoSUR leverage Esri technologies: Geoportal Server for the Portal, ArcGIS Server for the Regional Viewer and Topographic Service and ArcGIS Online for the light-weight version of the Portal. Esri technology was selected because it provides a reliable and robust foundation for building a cradle of regional geoservices. All these services were built with support from and are operated by the U.S. Geological

Survey (USGS) Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center.

More than 700 regional datasets produced by 30 international agencies are now available via the GeoSUR Viewer, and some of this information cannot be found online elsewhere. A recent survey of GeoSUR users shows that 22% of them have used GeoSUR's online tools for decision making. Reported use include river mapping, modelling of landslides and flooding events, mapping of slope for agricultural use, emergency relief, watershed analysis, road planning, ecological planning, analysis of school coverage, expansion of protected areas, impact of new infrastructure, vulnerability to climate change, environmental monitoring in the Andean Amazon region, land use scenarios, and viewshed analysis for cellular companies, among many others.

GeoSUR continues to expand into new fields, including GIS-based hydropower assessments and efforts to harmonize and integrate regional datasets. In collaboration with the USGS, PAIGH and the geographic institutes of Central America, GeoSUR assisted in the development of the first Regional Central American Map, at 1:250,000 scale, now available in the GeoSUR Viewer. The project developed methodologies that could be applied for the development of an integrated Latin American map.

"*GeoSUR has brought GIS resources much closer to the decision maker and the public and it can provide a model for building regional SDIs in other areas of the world*" says Rodrigo Barriga, PAIGH´s Secretary General. The Program has received three Esri international awards: the Special Achievement in GIS in 2010, the Esri Venezuela NASIG 2012 Award from and the Esri Presidential Award in 2012. For more information on GeoSUR contact Eric van Praag at email: evanpraag@caf.com and visit www.geosur.info.

Readers note that the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Esri, USGS/FGDC and PAIGH are all valued, long-time members and supporters of the GSDI Association.

Socio-economic Impacts Workshop, 28-29 October, USA

Assessing the Socio-economic Impacts and Value of "Open" Geospatial Information is a workshop to be held 28-29 October 2014 at George Washington University, Washington DC, USA.

The objectives of this workshop are to examine the consequences of the changing technology, data, and policy landscape, evaluate the emerging new data-driven paradigms, and advance the state -of-the-art methodologies to measure the resulting socioeconomic impacts.

Examples of key issues to be discussed include:

- Valuing information, including infonomics (valuing information as an asset);
- Assessing an increasingly diverse set of information sources;
- Understanding the relationships between societal, environmental, and economic impacts;
- Building, measuring, retaining, and communicating trust in data and their sources;
- Addressing emerging constraints to open access, including intellectual property rights and privacy issues;
  Learning from experience of other data-rich domains such as environmental management, internet businesses, health, and transportation; and
- Developing new means of co-creating and communicating science.

This is a working meeting with strong participant engagement leading to recommendations for action. Participants will include economic, social and natural scientists in a forum where dialog and strategy for future directions is the theme. Outcomes of the workshop include a plan for a sustained, multi-disciplinary community to address impacts and identification of use cases for further research and applications. Participation will include policy makers and analysts, financial analysts, economists, geospatial practitioners and other experts from government, academia and the private sector.

There will be a series of keynote addresses and panels. The format for each panel will be centered on a pre-circulated position paper and the panel will include the paper author and two discussants.
Details: Workshop announcement – details
http://www.socioeconomicbenefits.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Workshop-announcement-details.pdf
Agenda: Workshop announcement-Agenda
http://www.socioeconomicbenefits.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Workshop-announcement-Agenda.pdf
Logistics: meeting location, lunches, reception, and hotel information workshop-announcement-logistics
http://www.socioeconomicbenefits.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/workshop-announcement-logistics.pdf

Registration: **the workshop attendance is limited to approximately 65 attendees**. Please submit an initial request for participation and short bio to info_benefits14@yahoo.com. If space is available, you will receive a response directing you to the registration website. A $150 registration fee for each participant will be charged to support some of the workshop logistics.

GPS World *GPS World Magazine*, published by North Coast Media, LLC, is the premier global media brand serving the exploding world of positioning and navigation for OEM, commercial and consumer applications. GPS World Industry leaders look to GPS World for continuous innovation in delivery of the freshest, most comprehensive GPS/GNSS-related news to high-level corporate managers, project and engineering managers, product designers, researchers, and system developers.

The free subscription offer is valid in the USA, Canada, Mexico and selected International locations.

Visit this link to see if you qualify for the free subscription offer:
http://executiveandprofessional.tradepub.com/free/gps/prgm.cgi

Source: GPS World Magazine promotion

News from Asia-Pacific Members

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://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1532
June 2014 - http://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1533
July 2014 – http://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=156
August 2014 - http://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1570
September 2014 - http://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1608

Note: These translations are provided by staff of Mr. Jeremy Shen, vice-Chair, Capacity Building, of the GSDI Societal Impacts Committee, with great thanks from the Association.

Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety at Univ. of Melbourne

Prof. Abbas Rajabifard, past-President of the GSDI Association, has set up the new Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety (CDMPS) at the Univ. of Melbourne.

The Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety (CDMPS) is a research centre established at the University of Melbourne focused on conducting multi-disciplinary research and training on disaster management and public safety both nationally and internationally.

The CDMPS is focused on conducting multi-disciplinary research and training on disaster management and public safety both nationally and internationally.

Research at CDMPS focuses on themes associated with preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against incidents across the all-hazards spectrum of emergency/disaster management. This is an important objective in light of major disasters worldwide which have had significant impact.

The Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety held its first **International Symposium** on 30 September at the University of Melbourne. The event coincided with the launch of the Centre's new research lab, which is located in the Walter Boas building on campus and offers a space for students, researchers, and industry to collaborate and come together to advance their knowledge in the field of disaster management and public safety. The research symposium, "*Delivering a Resilient Future: The Next Generation of Disaster Management and Public Safety*" attracted over 120 participants from industry, academia and government – a significant achievement.

Speakers at the event included: Mr. Greg Scott, United Nations inter-regional advisor for global geospatial information management; Mr. Robert Jensen, International Disaster Communications Expert; Mr. Craig Lapsley, Emergency Services Commissioner of Victoria; and Mr. Kevin Casey, Assistant Commissioner of Victoria Police, among others.

Throughout the event trends, strategies and a vision for delivering a resilient future were discussed, as well as the additional themes of Global Disaster Management, Building Resilience across Nations, An on the Ground Perspective of Public Safety, and Stepping into the Future of the Next Generation for Disaster Management. For more information about the event please visit: http://cdmps.org.au/symposium2014/index.php/home

For more information about the CDMPS, visit: http://www.cdmps.org.au/

At the GSDI Board meeting on 9 October, approval was also given to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between GSDI and CDMPS. This can be downloaded from this link: http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1609

News from European Members

Dutch Kadaster

Dutch Kadaster has published the latest release of its periodic English-language newsletter – *Abroad*, which can be downloaded at: http://www.kadaster.nl/web/artikel/download/Abroad-September-2014-special-edition.htm

From the newsletter is an interesting article on the global *MapMyRights* initiative.

Solving land issues, especially security of tenure, is at the heart of supporting solutions to our 21st century challenges. Current land administration solutions are slow, expensive and hard to scale. The world can't wait. New innovative solutions are required that can scale quickly.

The global initiative MapMyRights is one of the new innovative solutions that are required to improve security of tenure in the world. It will democratise the capture of evidence of land rights through fit-for-purpose and crowdsourcing approaches. It is supported by the Social Tenure and Land Administration Domain Models (STDM/ LADM). This initiative reflects a move from legal to trust (societal evidence) based systems.

The objective of MapMyRights is to provide tools and data to non-government and government actors. Citizens and communities are supported in defining and recording their evidence of land and resource rights, primarily using mobile technologies. Initially, a network of trusted intermediaries and para-surveyors, trained by NGOs, will mobilise these efforts within communities. Eventually, true crowdsourcing will be introduced. The captured crowdsourced data will be posted and maintained on MapMyRights global repository that will be open and transparent. Another value add of MapMyRights data is its expected support to other development interventions such as microfinance, micro-insurance, informal settlement upgrading, policy advocacy, disaster recovery and increased government transparency.

This informal starting point on the continuum of rights can be upgraded towards formality and legal status. MapMyRights will work with governments, wherever possible, to establish a roadmap for formal recognition of the land rights. The MapMyRights Foundation will be formally launched in October 2014. For more information, visit http://mapmyrights.org/community/.

Source: Robin McLaren (MapMyRights) in Dutch Kadaster 'Abroad' Newsletter.

EuroGeographics News

EuroGeographics General Assembly and UN GGIM Europe meeting

EuroGeographics' Fourteenth General Assembly and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management in Europe (UN GGIM Europe) meeting were held from 29 September to October 01, 2014 in the Moldovan capital Chisinau.

The Moldovan Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre (State Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre) hosted this year's Assembly and the plenary meeting of the UN GGIM Europe, with the support of management EuroGeographics. The Moldavian Agency had been selected as this year's host, because it is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its founding.

More than 150 representatives from more than 50 national mapping and cadastral organizations took part in this year's Assembly. During the Assembly, experts from Europe and invited speakers shared experiences and discussed current topics and issues and plans for further

development. Specifically, discussions focused on the future directions of development of the cadastre and the method of adjustment of national institutions to the needs of users and the wider community.

During the Plenary Meeting of the UN GGIM Europe, representatives of the working group for the preparation of the meeting presented the work plan that focuses on two main objectives:

1) Increase interoperability and harmonization of data by defining the basic (core) of spatial data that meet the most important users

2) The integration of core data with other thematic and sectoral data to support the further use.

The aim of the UN GGIM is to ensure support at the global and regional level for national mapping and cadastral organizations for the implementation of the development goals of the United Nations, as well as ensure cooperation with statistical institutions, contributing to the efficient management of geoinformation in Europe in line with user requirements.

Source:
http://www.geosrbija.rs/template1.aspx?pageID=284 and
http://www.eurogeographics.org/news/eurogeographics -general-assembly-2014

HUNAGI News

The Hungarian Association for Geo-information (HUNAGI) suggested actions under the theme "Spatially enabled society". The proposal endorsed by GSDI and EUROGI at President's level has impressed the National Council on Communication and Informatics (NHIT - www.nhit.hu) in Budapest. A grant has been provided for HUNAGI to implement the proposal according to a contract signed with the National Media and Info-communications Authority of Hungary (NMHH) recently - see http://english.nmhh.hu/#sthash.2nFQObcH.dpuf.

The challenging point for HUNAGI will be the first time opportunity to act as co-organizer to arrange geospatial sessions at the largest annual Governmental ICT conference scheduled for 6-7 November in Balatonfüred, where over 1000 decision makers of the government, industry and academia are expected to attend. We

anticipate that experts from the European Commission and EUROGI will accept the invitation of HUNAGI.

The preliminary program of the sessions under the theme "Spatially enabling society" is nearing completion with the organizer Infotér (www.infoter.eu), and will be posted on HUNAGI's blog (http://hunagi8.blogspot.com) shortly.

Informatika a Társadalomért Konferencia, will be held at the Anna Grand Hotel, Balantonfured, Hungary, from 6-7 November 2014.

Roger Longhorn, Secretary-General of the GSDI Association, will deliver a keynote presentation on 6 November, as well as presenting the GSDI Mobile Apps Award.

The main issues to be addressed are data sharing, data portals, open data and open source, both from policy and applications perspectives. One of the highlights of the geospatial segment of the Infotér Conference will be the award ceremony of the contest "Mobile (geospatial) apps development" that was launched by HUNAGI for students and young professionals in late August. The GSDI Association is also offering a sponsored award (see below).

The Call for Opportunity was announced on the website of the contest: http://mobilalkalmazasok.blogspot.com.

A translation of the Call that was announced in Hungarian is provided below by Dr. Remetey-Fülöpp Gábor, HUNAGI Secretary-General and former Chair of the GSDI Legal & Socioeconomic Committee.

GSDI Award added to the competition for Developing Mobile Applications

Subject of the competition: Development of mobile applications that provide assistance for the user by location information and map visualization. The application may use open source and/or proprietary software as well.

Who may apply? Anyone can participate, but mainly students and young professionals are expected to apply. Teams or single individuals can equally apply.

Deadline for the application submission:

The application has to be developed in the Hungarian language and submitted **at the latest by October 15, 2014 12 AM (CET)**. Requirements for submission are the accessibility of the developed application on the Internet

and the completion of the on-line data sheet downloadable from this link: http://mobilalkalmazasok.blogspot.hu/.

Criteria of acceptance:
- Downloadable application
- User guide
- Half page textural introduction
- Introduction of the application in video or presentation

Announcement of the award winners: The award winners will be listed on 3 November 2014 onward at the website and the winner will be informed via the contact person given on the completed data sheet. (N.B. the ranking will be announced at the award ceremony at the Infotér Conference first).

Evaluation aspects and weighting: Scoring and weighting
- Originality of the idea: 3
- Visual impression: 2
- User satisfaction: 2
- Complexity: 3
- Quality of the accessories (N.B. guide, textural introduction and video/presentation)

Prizes: Prizes will be given to the awarded applications and an opportunity will be provided to introduce them shortly at the first "Spatially enabled society" session of the Infotér Conference scheduled on 6 November, 2014

The prizes are:
- First prize: 80 000 HUF
- Second prize: 40 000 HUF
- Third prize: 30 000 HUF

An additional prize is being awarded by the GSDI Association for the best mobile application that takes advantage of harmonized and interoperable location-based data suitable for use across national boundaries.

(N.B. 1 USD is about 260 HUF)

For details please write to hunagi@hunagi.hu. For additional information please visit the website at: http://mobilalkalmazasok.blogspot.hu/.

National Land Survey of Finland (NLS)

International Activities

The field of activities of the National Land Survey of Finland is becoming increasingly international in scope.

We actively participate in international projects as well as the activities of several international organizations.

The National Land Survey's international operations focus during the years 2013 - 2017 on the European Union. The main forums are cooperation between the European Mapping and Cadastre Agencies (especially Nordic cooperation, cooperation with the Baltic countries, EuroGeographics cooperation), the UN organs, participation in the activities of the selected organisations and their conferences, as well as preparation of international standards and regulations.

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 especially students and young professionals from developed and developing nations.

Since IGS members are automatically GSDI Association Individual Members, the new GSDI Strategy and Strategic Plan 2015-2020 proposes to find ways to be more inclusive of Individual Members in the services and resources available from the Association. Over the coming weeks, more news will be sent to current Individual Members as to how this transition will take place, which will involve no additional intervention by the members themselves. The stated goals and workplan of the IGS will not change and we hope to be able to devote even more resources from the Association into benefits for Individual Members, especially those from less developed nations.

The current web site is at http://www.igeoss.org and this is being redeveloped as part of the new GSDI website, to be released by year's end.

IGS Officer Election Results

As Dev Raj Paudyal, current President-elect of IGS, assumes the Presidency from Sives Goender (EIS-Africa and CSIR, South Africa) on 1 January 2015, the election of a new vice-President/President-Elect was announced in September. The call for nominations resulted election of IGS founding member, Mr. Jeremy Shen, of the Min. of Interior, Chinese Taipei, who was duly confirmed in the post at the 9 October GSDI Board meeting, and will assume his duties in January 2015 through end of 2016. Mr. Shen's organisation also plays host to the two-week GIS training seminars offered to GSDI members for the past three years, which will once again be offered

in 2015. The seminars include all-expense paid trips to Taipei, where the seminars are conducted.

Mr Shen, acting in his capacity as vice-Chair, Capacity Building, GSDI Societal Impacts Committee has also indicated that his agency will once again be offering two-weeks of GIS training in Taipei in 2015, all expenses paid, following on from three successful sessions in previous years.

REMINDERS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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
GSDI Individual members are reminded that SDI information is uploaded in the *GIKnet Spatial Data Depot*, to which they are requested to contribute. Members are invited to actively participate in the member's 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 on LinkedIn and Facebook
If you have not already done so, please join the GSDI Group on the professional networking site **LinkedIn** at www.linkedin.com. This group now serves both the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society – and is there for YOU to use to let the geo community know what you are doing – or to seek advice on important issues that you may be facing in your work or studies. You can now also join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gsdiandigs/ to share your news.

Individual Member News!

GSDI Individual Members – submit your news, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are more than 450 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: rlonghorn@gsdi.org, or to Dev Raj Paudyal, IGS President-elect, at: DevRaj.Paudyal [at] usq.edu.au.

Join GSDI Today!

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

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 Newsletter (regional news from around the globe) and the GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter (GSDI Association and IGS Member activityes), EuroGeographics Messenger, the UN-SPIDER Newsletter, and the newsletters of the organisations with which GSDI has MoUs – ICA, FIG and ISPRS. Historical issues of the FGDC Newsletters, EIS-Africa (environmental news from Africa), SALB Newsletter (Second Administrative Level Boundaries from the UN), and EUROGI Newsletters are also available.

As a result of the new GSDI Strategy and Strategic Plan 2015-2020, from 2015 the role of Committees within the Association will be replaced by Projects, each with a named Project Leader and support staff (typically volunteers with some limited financial support). Projects and funding may be proposed by Members and first option to execute a Project will also be available to GSDI Members.

Outreach & Membership Committee

The final draft of the GSDI & IGS Strategy and Strategic Plan 2015-2020 was accepted by the GSDI Board at their meeting on 9 October. Additional work is underway in regard to a potential new fee structure, via a small internal working group involving representatives from the various member groupings of the Association. O&M vice-Chair, Communications, Roger Longhorn, also the new GSDI Secretary-General, is completing a comprehensive review of fee structures and associated membership benefits of various similar organisations to help guide the work on the new fee structure.

The draft **Communications Strategy** and proposed Membership Strategy were also completed and sent to the Board mid-September, for discussion at the Board meeting on 9 October. These were duly approved and include the decision that, in future, while attempting to provide as much information content as possible on a wholly free and open basis to everyone in the global geo community, some content will be free only to GSDI Members, whose fees help pay for its development.

The Global Newsletter continues to be produced within the remit of the O&M Committee, edited by Roger Longhorn. This role will be taken over by **Karen Levoleger** from January 2015.

Regional News Editor, **Kate Lance**, continues to provide news to the various regional and Committee news lists, as well as preparing the new Regional Newsletter, which is being well received.

Work on the new website proceeds, with an initial release expected in time for a switch to the new site by year end. The O&M Committee manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has **372 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/gsdiandigs).

GSDI O&M has also created a *Slide Share* account so that members can publish their presentations online. Members wishing to take advantage of this, please send your Powerpoint files to vice-Chair, Communications, Roger Longhorn at rlonghorn@gsdi.org.

We have also launched an online viewing facility for the Regional and Global Newsletters, via the ISSUU.com e-zine system. With the announcement of each newsletter release, the link will also be provided to ISSUU where the newsletters can be viewed online. We hope that this may alleviate some of the Internet bandwidth restrictions that are affecting some members trying to download large PDF files. The online editions are searchable by full text.

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

Legal & Socioeconomic Committee

Geo Legal Interoperability Map of the World (GLIM)

Work continues on expanding content on GLIM, the Geo Legal Interoperability Map of the World. GLIM has three main views showing the licenses for every country.

- All licenses in use view
- Detailed license view
- Country view.

GLIM aims to promote the legal interoperability of geographic data by exploring and making transparent the global utilization of open licenses for geographic data and services.

Additional work is planned for 2015 which was presented to the Board meeting on 9 October by co-Chair, Baastian van Loenen.

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

The four projects selected for funding in 2014 are now underway, and initial reports are already arriving, which will be introduced to the Members in the next issue of the Newsletter.

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

GISCorps of URISA

URISA Members Recognized for Exceptional Volunteer Service

During GIS-Pro 2014, URISA's 52nd Annual Conference in New Orleans last week, a number of individuals were recognized for their exceptional volunteer service to the association. URISA was pleased to recognize these outstanding members during the Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, September 10.

Ed Wells, GISP, GIS Manager for the Washington (DC) Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, was the recipient of URISA's **Horwood Distinguished Service Award**. This award is URISA's ultimate award for service and leadership to URISA and the geospatial industry and is named after founding member and first URISA President, Edgar Horwood. Ed Wells has led URISA in numerous volunteer roles throughout the years, from president (2006-2007), board member and committee chair, to certified workshop instructor and chapter leader. Ed is a co-leader of URISA's address standard working group and an active member of the URISA policy advisory committee.

Tripp Corbin, CFM, GISP, CEO of eGIS Associates in the Atlanta area, was the deserving recipient of the 2014 **URISA Leadership Award** recognizing his exemplary leadership, creativity, innovation, and dedicated support of URISA programs. In addition to serving on the URISA Board of Directors (2011-2014), Tripp is a certified workshop instructor, led the chapter relations committee, and has served URISA's Georgia Chapter in every possible leadership capacity.

URISA's **Service Award** is presented to members who have demonstrated faithful service to URISA and participation in its program over a period of several years. **M. Glenn O'Grady**, GISP, retired from the City of Poway, California was recognized with this honor. Glenn was president of URISA (1996-1997) and led the organization admirably for a number of years. He continues to be very involved in the organization, particularly as an influential member of the policy advisory committee and active participant at URISA conferences.

URISA's **Barbara Hirsch Special Service Award** is presented to members or staff who have made special contributions to URISA. This year, URISA recognized two of its outstanding young professionals with special service awards.

Ryan Bowe, GISP, GIS Technician for Photo Science, a Quantum Spatial Company, in Lexington, Kentucky was one of the recipients. She has been an influential member of numerous URISA committees, leading a URISA Lab on "metadata" and spearheading an important education survey on behalf of the organization. She was recognized as URISA's 2013 Young Professional of the Year, serves as a member of the URISA Vanguard Cabinet steering committee and is president-elect of the Cumberland URISA Chapter.

The other deserving recipient was **Wendy Peloquin**, GISP, Senior Geospatial Analyst for Geographic Services, Inc. (GISi), based in Jacksonville, Florida. Wendy is a current member of the URISA Vanguard Cabinet, is leading a working group within URISA's professional practices division, and is actively involved with both the Georgia and

Florida URISA Chapters, serving as chair of the 2014 Georgia Geospatial Conference.

As previously announced, during the same Awards Ceremony, **Dr. Charles Croner** was inducted into the URISA GIS Hall of Fame and the 2014 **Exemplary Systems in Government Award** winners were celebrated.

The GSDI Association remains extremely grateful to URISA's GISCorps volunteers who have supported many of the GSDI Small Grants projects over the years.

FROM OUR MOU PARTNERS

ICA News

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

All issues of the ICA Newsletter since 2001 can be found on the GSDI Newsletter archive site at: http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#ICA

ICC 2015 Update

The 27th International Cartographic Conference and the 16th General Assembly of ICA will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23-28 August 2015. Visit the conference website here: http://www.icc2015.org/

The call for papers is open and the deadline is 15 October: (see http://www.icc2015.org/call-for-papers.html)

Important dates:
- Paper submission deadline (full papers and abstracts) - October 15, 2014
- Registration opening - November 1, 2014
- Papers Acceptance Notification - February 15, 2015
- Final Paper Deadline - April 15, 2015
- Authors Registration Deadline - April 30, 2013

For details please consult the ICC2015 website (http://www.icc2015.org)

27th International Cartographic Conference pre-conference workshop (2015) - Call for Abstracts

The call for extended abstracts is open fo rpre-conference workshops for the 27th International Cartographic

Conference: Spatial data infrastructures, standards, open source and open data for geospatial (SDI-Open 2015). Jointly organized by the Commission on Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards and the Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies, the venue is the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), Rio de Jaineiro, Brazil, on Friday, 21 August 2015.

The discovery, access, exchange and sharing of geographic information and services among stakeholders from different levels in the spatial data community is facilitated through a spatial data infrastructure (SDI). Standards are key for the quality and development of interoperable geographic information and geospatial software.

The drive for access to geographic information has led to its publication as open data, i.e. freely available to everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control. According to a report by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the use of open source solutions is likely to increase significantly in the future as a viable alternative to proprietary suppliers. Open source software for geospatial, geographic information standards and open data policies are therefore significant for SDI development and implementation. This workshop aims to record examples of current SDI practice with an aim to identify benefits and challenges to implementing free and open source software for geospatial, geographic information standards and open (spatial) data in an SDI.

SDI researchers and practitioners are invited to submit extended abstracts of 1,000-1,500 words that describe SDI case studies where:

- open source software for geospatial is used in the technical implementation; and/or
- geospatial standards are implemented; and/or
- geographic information is accessible as open data.

The case studies shall include the following:

- Background information about the SDI, including the relevant policies.
- A description of how open source, standards and/or open data are implemented in the SDI.
- An evaluation of the motivators, benefits, barriers and challenges concerning implementation of open source software, standards and/or open data.
- Based on the evaluation, provide recommendations for improvements and/or further work.
- Conclusions.

Extended abstracts have to be written in English. Contributions must be original and previously unpublished. Author guidelines are available at

http://opensourcegeospatial.icaci.org/. Abstracts have to be submitted through the online submission system, available at:
https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sdiopen2015.

Abstracts will be reviewed by members of the organizing ICA Commissions. Upon acceptance, a revised abstract has to be submitted for inclusion in the workshop proceedings. At least one of the authors of an accepted abstract must register for the workshop and make an oral presentation at the workshop.

Accepted abstracts will be published in the online workshop proceedings with an ISBN number and will be openly archived on the ICA website under a Creative Commons Attribution License, which allows others to freely access, use, and share the work, with an acknowledgment of the work's authorship and its initial publication in the online workshop proceedings. Authors of a selected number of high quality abstracts may be invited to submit an extended paper to a peer-reviewed journal.

Important dates:
- **Abstract submission: 2 March 2015**
- Notification of acceptance: 1 June 2015
- Submission of revised abstracts: 6 July 2015
- Full workshop registration payment for presenters: 6 July 2015
- Pre-conference workshop: 21 August 2015
- 27th ICC 2015 Conference: 23-28 August 2015

If you have any questions, please contact Antony Cooper acooper@csir.co.za, Serena Coetzee serena.coetzee@up.ac.za, Suchith Anand Suchith.Anand@nottingham.ac.uk, Luciene Delazari luciene@ufpr.br or Silvana Camboim silvanacamboim@gmail.com

ICA Research Scholarships

Are you a young scientist? Is your research topic linkable with the ICA Research Agenda and an ICA Commission? Do you need support?

I would like to point your interest to a new instrument of ICA, the ICA Research Scholarships. With this we would like to reach the following aims:

- to foster academic research in the domain of Cartography and GIScience,
- to establish contact between young scientists and ICA Commissions,
- to support young scientists to be able to actively contribute to ICA activities and events, such as especially International Cartographic Conferences,

- to establish opportunities for young scientists within ICA publications and conferences.

Information about how to apply can be found in the document here:
http://icaci.org/files/documents/reference_docs/2014-2015_research_scholarship.pdf

Source: Georg Gartner, ICA President

ISPRS News

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

Joint EuroSDR and ISPRS Workshop - November 2014

EuroSDR and ISPRS have announced a joint workshop, titled *'Efficient Capturing of 3D Objects at a National Level: with a Focus on Buildings and Infrastructure'*. The event will take place on **26-28 November 2014** at Ordnance Survey in Southampton, UK.

Traditionally geospatial data has been restricted to two dimensions. Initially simply the result of limitations in the available technologies, subsequently the methodologies for modelling in 2D which evolved have proved to be sufficient for most geo-applications and become entrenched. However the growing awareness for our intensively used environment makes 3D information increasingly important in many applications. For National Mapping Agencies (NMA), that have a long history in collating and maintaining countrywide 2D-datasets, the major challenge is how to best adopt a 2D base into 3D environment with an established process of continuous incremental update, and making best use of available resources. This is not a transition however and the ability to retain consistency with the original source is an imperative.

Several mapping organisations that face these challenges have joint forces in the EuroSDR 3D Special Interest Group. They are: Swisstopo, Ordnance Survey Ireland, Ordnance Survey UK, IGN France, IGN Belgium, Bavaria (Germany), Landmateriet Sweden, NLS Finland and Dutch Kadaster.

This workshop has the multiple aims:

- to specify the minimum 3D modeling requirements of NMAs;
- to identify, together with industry and researches, the most efficient 3D object capture methodologies for very large areas (e.g. national coverage);
- recognizing that "as automated as possible" might not always be the most efficient solution (i.e.

guaranteeing a valid 3D object output for 60% of the objects could be preferable over a solution that targets a higher percentage but requires higher levels of human verification);

- to examine in addition to the reconstruction processes, the issues of validation of generated objects;
- to examine the ability to remain consistent with the original source;
- to focus on the most prominent features in (the majority of) 3D topological models, buildings and transportation networks (including tunnels and bridges);
- to focus on 3D object generation including the generation of accuracy information on the generated data. Data capture methodologies that can be varied in their sources (e.g. LiDAR, aerial photogrammetry, terrestrial laser scanning, existing 2D data) are of interest but not the prime focus of the workshop;
- to explicitly address the distinction between initial data capture and the incremental update of existing national models, which will require embedding the 3D modeling within established processes of continuous incremental updating of countrywide data sets.

Register via: http://3dsig.eventbrite.co.uk

Source: http://www.eurosdr.net/workshops/eurosdrisprs-workshop-efficient-capturing-3d-objects-national-level-focus-buildings-and

All past ISPRS eBulletins can be viewed at: http://www.isprs.org/news/newsletter/default.aspx or downloaded (PDFs) from the GSDI Newsletter archive at http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#ISPRS.

FIG News

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

FIG Working Week 2015 Call for Papers

The FIG Working Week 2015 will be held from 17 - 21 May 2015. The Working Week is hosted by the International Federation of Surveyors and the Chamber of Graduated Surveyors, Bulgaria as the local host. Our Bulgarian colleagues are experienced professionals and great hosts as they have had the leadership of FIG and have successfully organized several memorable international events, FIG Commission workshops and the FIG Congress in 1983. The overall theme of the Working Week is "From the Wisdom of the Ages to the Challenges of the Modern World".

The Technical Programme offers both specially invited high profile presentations and papers that are selected through the open call for papers procedure. The Call for Papers is open for both peer review and non-peer review submissions. The deadline for full papers for peer review papers is: **20 October 2014** (please also remember to submit your abstract by the deadline).

Deadline for abstract submission for non-peer review papers: **15 November 2014**.
Call for papers:
http://fig.net/fig2015/downloads/call_for_papers.pdf

Important deadlines:
http://fig.net/fig2015/downloads/deadlines.pdf

For updated information about the FIG Working Week 2015 check the conference web site:
www.fig.net/fig2015

Call for Bids to host 2019 FIG Working Week

FIG member associations are invited to consider making a bid to host the FIG Working Week 2019 together with FIG. At its meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria 17-21 May 2015, the FIG General Assembly will select the host and venue for the Working Week 2019. The Council has prepared bidding guidelines for making the bid. These guidelines explain in detail the information that is required for a successful bid. **Deadline: 30 November 2014**. Download the Guidelines for FIG Working Week 2019 here:
http://fig.net/admin/ga/2015/bids/FIG_WW2019_bidding_material.pdf
For more information, see the cover letter here:
http://fig.net/admin/ga/2015/bids/bid_cover_letter.pdf

FIG Monthly Newsletter

The September 2014 FIG Newsletter has been published at: http://fig.net/pub/enews/september_2014.pdf

The newsletter promotes the *FIG Article of the Month* for September 2014, written by Daniel Roman and Xiaopeng Li (United States) – "GRAV-D: Using Aerogravity to Produce a Refined Vertical Datum". This paper focuses upon the aerogravity science necessary to support the production of a cm-level accurate geoid height model. The background is the Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D) Project in 2008 with a goal of developing a new vertical datum realized through a regional (continental scale) geoid height model. The paper was presented at the 2014 FIG Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Download the full paper here (PDF): http://www.fig.net/pub/monthly_articles/september_2014/roman_li.html

All FIG monthly e-Newsletters from 2007 can be downloaded from http://fig.net/pub/enews/index.htm or from the GSDI Newsletter Archive at http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#FIG for those posted since January 2010.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Online Training

Numerous online training opportunities, some for free and others a very modest cost, are available from many of our Members. See the links below for more details:

- *Esri Training*: http://www.esri.com/training/main
- *Intergraph Training*: http://www.intergraph.com/ppm/training/virtual_training/default.aspx
- *Boundless Training*: http://boundlessgeo.com/resources/training/
- *CAF (GeoSUR) Training* (in Spanish): http://www.geosur.info/geosur/index.php/en/trainingcorner
- *UNIGIS u-Lecture Webinars*: http://www.unigis.net/study-with-UNIGIS/ulectures

Webinars

Readers should not forget the 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, various national governments, etc.

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

This 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.

Forthcoming Webinar of the Month

Building Open Data Ecosystem: Bring Civic Innovation to the Core of Governance

This free webinar from The World Bank e-Institute is being presented on Wednesday, 22 October, 2014 at 10:00h EST. The Webinar is led by David Lemayian, Lead Technologist at Code for Africa (CfAfrica). The URI is:

http://einstitute.worldbank.org/ei/webinar/building-open-data-ecosystem-bring-civic-innovation-core-governance

Speakers from Africa and the Caribbean will share their experiences on how to address the widening gap between the public and private sectors in their effective use of technology and design, by focusing on building civic technology capacity within civil societies and partnership with local governments.

Code for Africa (CfAfrica) is the continent's largest open data initiative, using technology and data to help citizens shape their governments and hold those in power to account. CfAfrica currently has country-based programmes in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa.

David Lemayian serves as Code for Africa's (CfAfrica) lead technologist, managing a team of software developers and pilot CitizenLab accelerator, plus all shared "backbone" infrastructure. For more information on CfAfrica, visit http://www.codeforafrica.org/.

New Reports

GIS Market Report for EMEA Region 2014-2018 Published

Analysts forecast the GIS market in the EMEA region to grow at a CAGR of 9.27 percent over the period 2013-2018. This report from Research and Markets Limited covers the present scenario and the growth prospects of the GIS market in the EMEA region for the period 2014-2018. The market can be segmented into three: Software, Data, and Services.

The report, the *GIS Market in the EMEA Region 2014-2018*, has been prepared based on an in-depth market analysis with inputs from industry experts. The report covers Central Europe, France, the Middle East, the UK, and Others; it also covers the landscape of the GIS market in the EMEA region and its growth prospects in the coming years. The report includes a discussion of the key vendors operating in this market.

For more information, visit: http://www.researchandmarkets.com/publication/mcisrp8/gis_market_in_the_emea_region

Executive Summary from the Report

The author announces the Publication of its Research Report - Geographic Information System (GIS) Market in the EMEA Region 2014-2018

The author recognizes the following companies as the key players in the Geographic Information System (GIS) Market in the EMEA Region: Esri Inc., Hexagon AB, HERE and Ordnance Survey.

Other Prominent Vendors in the market are: Autodesk, Bentley Systems, Bing Maps, Digital Globe, GE Energy Smallworld, Google Map and Tele Atlas.

Commenting on the report, an analyst from The author's team said: "One of the major trends in the market is the increased adoption of GIS applications for mobile computing. Major vendors are developing mobile-based GIS application portfolios, which give end-users freedom to access GIS information from any location, at any given time."

According to the report, one of the major drivers in the market is the increased demand for GIS technology from the Government sector. Many government and military organizations have increased their investments in GIS technology to effectively increase their national infrastructure and security.

Further, the report states that one of the major challenges faced by this market is the need for high initial investment. GIS technology requires high capital investment, which affects the growth of this market in industries such as Retail, Telecom, Real Estate, and Transportation and Logistics as the complexities involved in receiving real-time data increases the overall cost of GIS solutions.

The study was conducted using an objective combination of primary and secondary information including inputs from key participants in the industry. The report contains a comprehensive market and vendor landscape in addition to a SWOT analysis of the key vendors.

Key Vendors included: Esri, Hexagon, Nokia Navteq and Ordnance Survey

Other Prominent Vendors include: Autodesk, Bentley Systems, Bing Maps, Digital Globe, GE Energy Smallworld, Google Map and Tele Atlas.

Key questions answered in the Report in include:
- What will the market size be in 2018 and what will the growth rate be?
- What are the key market trends?
- What is driving this market?
- What are the challenges to market growth?
- Who are the key vendors in this market space?
- What are the market opportunities and threats faced by the key vendors?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the key vendors?

For more information please visit:
http://www.researchandmarkets.com/publication/mcisrp8/gis_market_in_the_emea_region

Pricing:
- Electronic (Single User): EUR 2049
- Electronic (1 - 5 Users): EUR 2295
- Electronic (Site License): EUR 2868
- Electronic (Enterprisewide): EUR 8195

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- Order by mail: Please click here to print an order form that you can post to Research and Markets, Guinness Centre, Taylors Lane, Dublin 8, Ireland.

Source: Amy Cole, Senior Manager, Research and Markets Ltd – contact: amy.cole@researchandmarkets.com

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Global Newsletter, we publish an article from the GSDI column that appears monthly in *GIM International* magazine. This month's article is by IGS President and President-elect, Sives Govender and Dev Raj Paudyal, reporting on the findings of the recent IGS Member survey.

International Geospatial Society (IGS) 2014 Member Survey Results

The International Geospatial Society (IGS) is the individual membership arm of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association. IGS members have geospatial, Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), GIS, spatial enablement or related professional interests. IGS was born in 2009 with 169 Founding Members and membership has steadily increased with 450 members representing over 70 countries as of 30 August 2014. Figure 1 illustrates the membership distribution by regions.

The annual GSDI & IGS member survey was conducted from 24 July to 18 August with 227 responses to the online questionnaire representing an overall response rate of over 45%. The questionnaire was arranged into four parts, the first part seeking feedback on topics of most interest to the membership. Nine geospatial technology areas were provided and members were asked to choose the four applications of most interest to them. The top five most important application areas were:

- sustainable development,
- disaster prevention, warning, response and recovery,
- management of the built and natural environment,
- facilitating land registration and ownership, and

- ensuring food security.

Table 1 provides the members' ranking of topics for the GSDI Association to focus on in future SDI reports, webinar, onsite workshops and training. The survey revealed that the most important topics were SDI experiences, case studies and best practices, emerging innovative approaches in SDI education/research, and the role of crowd sourcing and volunteered geographic information (VGI).

Table 1: Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) Topics

Topics	Rank
Experiences and case studies in use of geospatial technologies as tools in achieving societal goals, e.g. for sustainable development, alleviation of poverty, environmental management, etc.	1
Emerging approaches in providing geospatial education and training	2
Best practices in developing spatial data infrastructure (SDI)	3
Basic and applied research challenges in advancing spatial data infrastructure theory and concepts	4
Experiences and case studies in the implementation of SDIs	5
The role of crowd sourcing in use of geospatial and mobile technologies in meeting the needs of citizens, government and business	6
The Basics: Concepts in developing spatial data infrastructure	7
Assessment and measurement methods in determining whether geospatial infrastructure initiatives actually achieve intended goals	8
Overview: Standards use in the Geospatial Industry and their applicability and limitations	9
Overview: technical challenges in design and development of depositories, portals, and registries for geographic data, metadata and services	10
The complementary and competing roles of commercial versus open access geospatial data and services	11
Overview: legal, economic and institutional challenges in implementing spatial data infrastructure	12
The complementary and competing roles of commercial versus open source software in the geospatial community	13

This survey results will help prioritise focus areas for future learning, training and research opportunities of the Association and IGS.

Sincerest thanks to all IGS members who responded to the survey!

Sives Govender, IGS President
sives.govender@gmail.com

Dev Raj Paudyal, IGS President-elect
paudyal@usq.edu.au

Learn more about the GSDI Association and how to participate 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

ALLIED CONFERENCE NEWS

7th URISA Caribbean GIS Conference – 26-30 October 2014

URISA is pleased to announce the program details for its Seventh Caribbean GIS Conference, taking place October 26-30, 2014 at the Santa Barbara Resort in Curacao. The conference, themed "Spatial Technologies: Fuelling Economic Growth and Development" features important regional conversations, preconference courses and workshops, comprehensive education, and opportunities to connect with experts, peers and private sector sponsors.

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.

Important Regional Conversations:

Geospatial Information High Level Meeting: targeted at key decision makers in the industry particularly, senior personnel of international and regional bodies with responsibility for the management of geospatial data and information, senior government officials, experts on geospatial related issues in academia, members of the donor community, and private sector companies.

General Session: The Importance of Geospatial Technology in the Caribbean: will examine the various issues that organizations are facing in the region as well as what is the overall value proposition that geospatial technology brings to the Caribbean economy. Participants will include senior representatives from national governments, donor agencies, academia, as well as experts from the vendor/consultant community.

Special Interest Group Roundtables: Important conversations including Geodetics, Open Source, Women in GIS, and Education.

Preconference Courses and Workshops:

- Getting Started with GIS
- Caribbean Decision Support System for a Climate Resilient Marine Managed Areas Network
- Mobile and Server GIS: Field to Finish (two-day course)
- URISA Certified Workshop: Addressing
- URISA Certified Workshop: GIS Return on Investment
- ArcGIS Online
- UAV Workshop

Comprehensive Education: Nearly 50 presenters in sessions covering important topics including…

- Climate Change and Sea Level Rise
- Disaster Mitigation/Modeling
- Harnessing the Power of GIS for Utility, Asset and Infrastructure Management

- Environmental Hazards
- GIS in Disaster Management
- Innovations in GIS
- National GI Policy Development & NSDI
- Public Participation GIS
- Public Safety, GIS for Emergency Response
- Addressing Systems
- Change Detection
- Geosciences & Regional Economic Development
- Enterprise GIS and Mobile Technologies
- Best Practices in Today's Digital Organization
- Spatial Technologies for Water Resource Management
- GIS in Public Health
- K-12 Education
- Using UAVs (Drones) for Aerial Imagery Acquisition

Start reviewing the abundance of education on the schedule. - http://urisacaribbean2014.sched.org/.

Exhibits & Sponsors: The opportunity to connect with the companies that provide solutions for Caribbean technology needs is a major component of the conference. Several of the conference sponsors are also developing vendor solutions sessions to allow for a deep-dive to learn about their products and services. Discounted exhibitor fees are available until September 1.

Conference Venue: The Conference will take place at the Santa Barbara Resort. We have arranged for discounted sleeping room rates at the hotel. URISA Conference attendees may take advantage of $129 rates for single or double occupancy which includes in-room internet access.

Registration - Register for the conference by September 1 and save $100!

Full conference registration (only $325) includes the conference proceedings papers, access to keynote speeches, breakout sessions, meetings, two lunches, reception and networking social event.

Learn more about the 2014 URISA Caribbean GIS Conference here:
http://www.urisa.org/education-events/caribbean-gis-conference/.

Contact: Wendy Nelson, Executive Director - URISA
wnelson@urisa.org - www.urisa.org

DGI 2015 Update

In a survey sent out to over 1000 government and military agencies, 85% consider GIS and Technology

development a priority for their organisation.

It's no wonder. As new terrorist states continue to emerge using misinformation and popular media for maximum disruption, quick and secure transformation of information into finished intelligence has become a number 1 priority for the world's geospatial experts and their user communities.

DGI, Europe's largest conference covering location intelligence, has developed a key agenda that focuses on the challenges brought forward from research over the last 6 months.

To see some of the Key Highlights read on below or for more detail download the agenda here: http://wbresear.ch/gsdiagenda

19 January at 12.20: Challenge the experts - what are the new requirements, what are the solutions

In this panel with Jim Hill, Marine Corps Intelligence, CDR Kelly Taylor, US National Ice Center, Martin Jeffries, Office of Naval Research and more you will receive new ideas from leading US and Canadian geospatial intelligence experts plus ask questions yourself

19 January at 14.20: How Interoperability Between Geospatial Intelligence And The MAJIIC Project will be Achieved During 2015

Learn from NATO and NCIA about how they are breaking down the silos for increased collaboration between forces, in order to tackle threats more efficiently.

20 January at 10.00: 5 Challenges Geospatial Intelligence Leaders Need to Overcome

Spend time with some of the world's most experienced geospatial intelligence leaders to understand how they prioritise activities in response to the biggest challenges today during this unmissable panel!

21 January at 8.40: Geo-Political Changes Shaping the Future for Location Intelligence Professionals

The onset of cross border and home grown terrorists is a new challenge and threat which has multiple implications. Find out what measures have been put in place to reduce these threats from world-renowned expert Robert B. Murrett Deputy Director, Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCT) Professor of Practice, Public Administration and International Affairs.

If you are interested in finding out more about this event then download the agenda today here: http://wbresear.ch/gsdiagenda

I will be at DGI from 19th to 21st January 2015, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Source: Neil Thompson, Former Director, Geospatial Intelligence Canadian Armed Forces Advisor, Defence Geospatial Intelligence

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 abstracts closed on 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]

- 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.

Registration for the workshop is now open. This event is being sponsored by EuroGeographics and spaces are limited. See details at:
http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/international-workshop-spatial-data-and-map-quality

Workshop cancellation and substitution

You may substitute delegates at any time. Cancellations, via email, will be accepted until 10 January 2015. Cancellations after 10 January 2015 or failure to attend the event will incur costs to EuroGeographics; these will be invoiced to your organisation.

Delegates are expected to make their own hotel arrangements and several rooms have been booked for your stay at the Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana, but they must be confirmed **before 15 December 2014**. To confirm the accommodation, please use the registration form from the workshop website and send it to reservations@excelsior.com.mt.

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.

CoastGIS 2015 Conference - 2nd Call for Extended Abstracts

Deadline for submission of Extended Abstracts – 24 October 2014.

The CoastGIS2015 Local Organising Committee and the International Scientific Committees of the CoastGIS series of symposia are delighted to inform you that the 12th CoastGIS Symposium, and the first in Africa, will be held 22-24 April 2015 in the city of Cape Town, South Africa at the Protea Hotel Breakwater Lodge. CoastGIS is a biennial series of symposia that brings together practitioners and researchers in the field of marine and coastal Geographic Information Systems, remote sensing and computer cartography. We invite you to visit the website www.coastgis2015.co.za for more details.

The Symposium theme "***Monitoring and Adapting to Change on the Coast***" refers to the increasing demand on decision-makers and managers to be aware of changes in the coastal and marine environment. Not only must there be a much greater emphasis on the measuring of change, but also increasing and creative options to act on the observed changes, which may have either positive or negative societal impacts. In other words, how can CoastGIS2015 contribute to the understanding of coastal change, and how can the powerful tools we use, as a scientific and management community, help us make

better decisions? Can we demonstrate how the excellence, passion and creativity in the various disciplines encompassed by CoastGIS be used to improve the use of science for decision-making relating to coastal management?

Papers responding to the symposium theme and the topics below that describe the use of GIS/Geospatial tools in the coastal and marine environments are welcome:

- Analysing and modelling coastal and marine processes
- Spatial information and observation systems
- Coastal risk and vulnerability
- Advances in data visualization
- Advances in geographical information technologies
- Decision-support and spatial planning
- Innovative application of geospatial technologies in coastal environments
- Coastal mapping and monitoring
- Coping with data scarcity in coastal and marine management
- Coastal and marine spatial data infrastructure (SDI)
- Application of geospatial technologies to support climate change adaptation in coastal regions

We would love to host you in South Africa and I invite you now to submit an extended abstract by the end of September 2014. Instructions for submission of abstracts can be found on the website.

Students from countries in the Western Indian Ocean and the Small Island Development States (excluding South Africa) can apply for a number of travel grants that will be dispensed on a competitive basis. Please contact me for more information.

Contact details: Louis Celliers, Chair, CoastGIS2015
Email: coastgis2015@csir.co.za
Website: www.coastgis2015.co.za

GISTAM 2015 - CALL FOR PAPERS

GISTAM 2015 - 1st International Conference on Geographical Information Systems Theory, Applications and Management

GISTAM will be held from 28 to 30 April 2015 in Barcelona, Spain. The conference website is at: www.gistam.org

The International Conference on Geographical Information Systems Theory, Applications and Management aims at creating a meeting point of researchers and practitioners that address new challenges in geo-spatial data sensing, observation, representation, processing, visualization, sharing and managing, in all aspects concerning both information communication and

technologies (ICT) as well as management information systems and knowledge-based systems. The conference welcomes original papers of either practical or theoretical nature, presenting research or applications, of specialized or interdisciplinary nature, addressing any aspect of geographic information systems and technologies.

Important Dates
Regular Papers
- Paper Submission: November 19, 2014
- Authors Notification: February 13, 2015
- Camera Ready and Registration: March 2, 2015

Position Papers
- Paper Submission: January 9, 2015
- Authors Notification: February 16, 2015
- Camera Ready and Registration: March 2, 2015

Workshops
- Workshop Proposal: November 26, 2014
Doctoral Consortium
- Paper Submission: February 18, 2015
- Authors Notification: March 3, 2015
- Camera Ready and Registration: March 11, 2015

Special Sessions
- Special Session Proposal: December 8, 2014

Tutorials, Demos and Panel Proposals
- February 18, 2015

GISTAM 2015 is sponsored by:
- INSTICC – Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication
- INSTICC is Member of:
- WfMC – Workflow Management Coalition
- OMG – Object Management Group

Logistics Partner:
SCITEVENTS – Science and Technology Events

Keynote speakers include:
- Robert Laurini, INSA, University of Lyon, France
- José Bioucas Dias, Telecommunications Institute, Portugal
- Jordi Corbera, Geological and Cartographic Institute of Catalonia, Spain

All accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings, under an ISBN reference, on paper and on CD-ROM support. SCITEPRESS is a member of CrossRef (http://www.crossref.org/) and every paper is given a DOI (Digital Object Identifier). All papers presented at the conference venue will be available at the SCITEPRESS Digital Library. The proceedings will be submitted for indexation by Thomson Reuters Conference Proceedings Citation Index (ISI), INSPEC, DBLP, EI (Elsevier Index) and Scopus.

The Conference Chair is Cédric Grueau, Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal/IPS, Portugal, and Program Chair is Jorge Gustavo Rocha, Universidade do Minho, Portugal

Conference Topic Areas

Each of these topic areas is expanded below but the sub-topics list is not exhaustive. Papers may address one or more of the listed sub-topics, although authors should not feel limited by them. Unlisted but related sub-topics are also acceptable, provided they fit in one of the following main topic areas:

1. DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING
2. REMOTE SENSING
3. MODELING, REPRESENTATION AND VISUALIZATION
4. KNOWLEDGE EXTRACTION AND MANAGEMENT
5. DOMAIN APPLICATIONS
For information on the Program Committee, visit:
http://www.gistam.org/ProgramCommittee.aspx

Please check further details at the conference website
http://www.gistam.org/CallForPapers.aspx

INSPIRE and Geospatial World Forum Joint 2015 Conference

The INSPIRE Conference and Geospatial World Forum 2015 will be jointly organised on **25-29 May 2015** in Lisbon, Portugal. The joint conference theme "Convergence: Policies + Practices + Processes via PPP" aims to address the need for greater coordination among policy-makers, technology providers and users to benefit the industry, and to highlight geospatial workflows as an enabler for successful PPPs by facilitating more informed decision making among the stakeholders.

Call for Abstracts

The Program Advisory Board is pleased to invite abstracts to be presented in thematic sessions, posters and for workshop proposals at the conference. Being the first joint effort between European Commission and Geospatial Media and Communications, the conference promises to be an exciting platform to showcase best practices and interchange of ideas among geospatial community at regional and global level.

See the Proposed Scope of Presentations here:

http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/callforabstract_workshop.htm

The Submission Guidelines are here:
http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/Submission_Guidelines.htm

Important Dates
Abstract Submission Deadline   - 15 November 2014
Abstract Acceptance Notification - 1 December 2014
Abstract Submission Deadline   - 15 January 2015

Submit Abstracts at this link:
http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/submit_abstract.asp

Submit Workshop Proposals here:
http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/submit-abstract-for-workshop.asp

Proposed scope, technical themes, submission guidelines and important dates are available on conference website at:
http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/callforabstract_workshop.htm

Any further queries can be sent to the conference secretariat at papers@geospatialworldforum.org.

Call for Abstracts

The 2015 INSPIRE-GWF conference offers the opportunity to submit proposals for abstracts of presentations which will be delivered in thematic sessions, workshops and poster presentations. In terms of content, presentations given in sessions or the outcomes of workshops shall contribute to the general scope of the conference. Read more for some of the proposed themes and scope of presentations.

Abstract Submission Deadline: 15th November 2014

Theme

Policies, technologies and applications are the three key factors affecting growth of geospatial industry. Formulation of policies and its associated implementation requires strong engagement and propagation of innovations and practices. Public private partnership is one instrumental driver not only in bridging technological gaps, but in integrating stakeholders for maximum impact. The theme CONVERGENCE: Policies + Practices + Processes via PPP aims to address the need for greater coordination among policy-makers, technology providers and users to benefit the industry.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

GSDI and EUROGI at NESSI Summit 2014, Brussels, May 2014

On 27 May 2014, more than 80 people participated in Brussels in discussions about the European software industry, software engineering and "Big Data Value" for Europe. Researchers, policy makers, and industry representatives from Europe were present at the NESSI Summit 2014.
http://www.nessi-europe.eu/?Page=nessi_summit_2014

Two topics high up on NESSI's and the European ICT agenda were discussed:

- Big Data Value for Europe
- Software Engineering for Europe

The issues discussed, especially Big Data and how to manage this resources, are of special interest to the geo community, in which many sectors now produce huge volumes of location-based data, which volume is expected to greatly increase in the future.

After a welcome speech by Jan Sundelin, co-chair of the NESSI Board, and an opening speech by Mario Campolargo, Director of Directorate E "Net Futures" in DG CONNECT, the participants had the opportunity to attend to three enriching panel discussions and exchange with the speakers.

The first session addressed the major statement of the ISTAG report 2012 "Software Technologies, the Missing Key Enabling Technology", outlining that "Missing the strategic importance of software technology as a key enabling technology will lead to a significant drawback for global competitiveness". Giuseppe Abbamonte, director for media and data in DG Connect, and Jorge Gasos, head of sector for Cloud and Software Research and Standards, both from the European Commission, provided their policy expertise to tackle these issues. Mr. Abbamonte outlined that research and innovation was fundamental for the future of Europe and that Software is a key driver for productivity and growth. Mr. Gasos presented the great potential of Cloud computing, and explained that

Europe's cloud strategy aims at supporting industrial and public sector innovation by providing new business opportunities.

The second panel discussion focused on another statement from the ISTAG Report, that "A Strategic Agenda for Software Technologies in Europe should be created in cooperation with Industry, Academia and Public sector". The panel was moderated by Josef Urban, Head of Software and Security Research at Nokia, who pointed out that today the telecommunication equipment providers' revenue share based on Software and Services was much more important than the revenue share based on hardware.

Michel Cosnard, Chairman and CEO of INRIA, insisted that NESSI's responsibility was to raise awareness of Software importance in Europe and to put this topic higher on the agenda, explaining that "Software is now everywhere". Andreas Metzger, Head of Adaptive Systems and Future Internet Applications, Paluno, The Ruhr Institute for Software Technology, the University of Duisburg-Essen, gave a presentation about the Software Engineering White Paper, underlying the fundamental importance of Software Engineering in developing key sectors such as Cloud computing, Cyber Physical Systems, and Big Data. He also pointed out the need to define a clearer Software Engineering Research Strategy. The panel also included Ken Ducatel, Head of Unit E2, Software and Services, Cloud, DG Connect, European Commission, and Michal Skubacz, Head of Business Analytics & Monitoring Research, Corporate Technology, Siemens.

The last panel tackled the issue of Big Data Value innovation for Europe, discussing the statement: "Big Data - possibly one of the few last chances for Europe's software industry to take true leadership" (K.-H. Streibich, CEO, Software AG). This session was moderated by Edward Curry, Research Scientist and Unit leader at Insight, National University of Ireland, Galway.

Professor Stefan Wrobel from Fraunhofer presented the benefits of a potential data-driven economy, underlining Europe's weaknesses in improving the value of its Big Data market. US companies are in the lead in using Big Data, followed by Latin American ones. A survey shows that 68% of US companies had undertaken at least one Big Data initiative in 2012, but only 45% of European companies were involved in such a project. Barriers in the European Big Data market include lack of skilled people in gathering, developing and creating business value from data, the complexity of privacy regulation, the insufficient budget concerning research and innovation on data, as well as the issue of interoperability, reliability and access to large data sets. Prof Wrobel proposed that a contractual Public-Private Partnership (PPP) could solve these problems and strengthen the European Big Data market.

Prof Michael Beigl, of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), followed with a presentation about the Smart Data Innovation Lab, a German initiative which aims at transferring knowledge between industry and research and which would be one of the core elements of the Big Data Value Partnership.

Emmanuel Miconnet, Research Director, Thales, and Gabriela Cattaneo, Senior Associate Vice President, IDC European Government Consulting, gave two presentations, respectively about the transformation of software in Europe and about the European Big Data market. Mr Miconnet showed that open source was now the standard for software development and that clouds are the new server paradigms.

Gabriella Cattaneo pointed out that the worldwide development of the amount of data constitutes a huge potential for improving Europes's competitiveness and delivering social benefits. Indeed, the Big Data market is expected to grow significantly during the next years, providing many opportunities for large companies and SMEs

Two representatives of the geo community were present at the Summit – Dr Wolfgang Steinborn, representing EUROGI (with microphone above, center), and Roger Longhorn, Secretary General of the GSDI Association (first row, far left). They addressed questions to the panel regarding future management of big data in the geospatial sector, that will in future, and already does (in remote sensing), flow from global expansion of sensor webs, satellite imagery, and other sources. From audience reaction, it was apparent that many continue to be unaware of the INSPIRE Directive and its implementation across Europe.

Access the presentations here:

Jorge Gasos, European Commission
http://www.nessi-europe.eu/files/PastEventsDocs/NESSI-SUMMIT-2014-Presentations/3_JorgeGasos_NESSI summit 27-05-14.pdf

Emmanuel Miconnet, Thales
http://www.nessi-europe.eu/files/PastEventsDocs/NESSI-SUMMIT-2014-

Presentations/Adressing SW Transformation - Miconnet - NESSI Summit V1.pdf

Gabriella Cattaneo, IDC
http://www.nessi-europe.eu/files/PastEventsDocs/NESSI-SUMMIT-2014-Presentations/NESSI_European data market presentation_4.0_Cattaneo.pdf

Andreas Metzger, Paluno/University Duisburg Essen
http://www.nessi-europe.eu/files/PastEventsDocs/NESSI-SUMMIT-2014-Presentations/1_NESSI_Summit_SE_Panel_paluno_Andreas_Metzger_v3.pdf

Josef Urban, NOKIA
http://www.nessi-europe.eu/files/PastEventsDocs/NESSI-SUMMIT-2014-Presentations/5_NESSI Summit_SE_Panel_JosefUrban.pdf

Stefan Wrobel, Fraunhofer IAIS
http://www.nessi-europe.eu/files/PastEventsDocs/NESSI-SUMMIT-2014-Presentations/1_Wrobel NESSI Summit Big Data Panel Intro.pdf

Michael Beigl, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology/ Smart Innovation Data Lab
http://www.nessi-europe.eu/files/PastEventsDocs/NESSI-SUMMIT-2014-Presentations/3_20140527_sdil_nessi3_Michael_Beigl.pdf

On 2 July 2014, the European Commission published a press release urging national governments to embrace the potential of Big Data. As indicated at the NESSI Summit, the main problems identified by the Commission in the field of Big Data are the lack of cross-border coordination, insufficient infrastructure and funding opportunities, a shortage of data experts and related skills, as well as a fragmented and overly complex legal environment.

To solve these problems, the Commission proposed several concrete actions, such as creating an open data incubator to help SMEs set up supply chains based on data and use cloud computing more, establishing a series of Supercomputing Centres of Excellence to increase the number of skilled data workers in Europe, as well as establishing a Big Data public-private partnership that funds "game-changing" big data ideas, in areas such as personalised medicine and food logistics.

Source: NESSI Europe - http://www.nessi-europe.eu/?Page=nessi_summit_2014

European Regional SDI Updates & INSPIRE

EU INSPIRE Marine Pilot Project Experts

Call for expression of interest for individual experts and organizations to participate in the INSPIRE marine pilot.

http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/documents/INSPIRE_/Call_INSPIRE_Marine_Pilot_20141003.pdf

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC (MSFD) gives a formal reporting requirement on assessment, good environmental status, environmental targets, monitoring programmes and programme of measures that should be applied to marine (sub)-regions. MSFD article 19 includes a requirement that data used in initial assessments and stemming from monitoring programmes shall be compliant with Directive 2007/2/EC, Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE).

Irrespective of any specific INSPIRE-related obligations in the MSFD, the INSPIRE Directive requires Member States to share spatial information in support of environmental policies and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment. The INSPIRE Implementing Rules legal acts address, among other aspects, metadata, network services, interoperability of spatial data sets and services, prescribing how this shall be done.

In order to facilitate the implementation of Article 19 of MSFD, the Commission, in collaboration with the European Environment Agency (EEA), and Member States representatives in MSFD working group on Data Information Knowledge Exchange (DIKE), decided to set up a pilot project to address both the MSFD and the INSPIRE requirements. The main trust of this pilot is to help Member States with the implementation of both Directives following a harmonised approach, taking into account other relevant maritime policies activities including the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNet).

The pilot is included in the Commission-driven programme Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA) of DG Informatics, as part of ISA Action 2.13 European Union Location Framework.

The **pilot will run from September 2014 for a period of 16 months**. A detailed description is provided in the Project Charter for the Marine pilot publicly available in the CIRCABC folder of the 10th MSFD WG DIKE meeting – see: https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/bc33dff1-0f8c-467a-8382-7724c5f79d45

The pilot is managed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and supported by a Steering Board consisting of the relevant Commission Services and the EEA.

The pilot requires the participation of representatives of organizations dealing with the MSFD implementation, as well as experts from INSPIRE, the EMODNet, and the EEA. This document is a call for expression of interest to participate in the work foreseen in the pilot.

This call has two aims:

1. To invite experts that are acquainted with – or have responsibilities for – MSFD-related data management and reporting obligations, to register as a Horizon 2020 expert so that they may be selected to contribute to the marine pilot under the conditions laid down for Horizon 2020 experts; and

2. To invite organizations that have a role in the MSFD data flows and reporting to express their interest to participate in the pilot, to use the required data and to make the necessary transformation(s) to be in line with INSPIRE.

New release of INSPIRE registry service

On 29 September 2014, a new release of the INSPIRE registry service has been published at http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/registry/. This 4th release of the service and the underlying v0.4 of the Re3gistry software incorporate the feedback received during the public testing period between mid-July and 21 September 2014 as well as the recently proposed RDF format.

In the meantime, the JRC registry development team are already working on the next release of the software and the service, which will be released for testing in mid-November. See the development roadmap for further details here:
https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/registry-development/wiki/Registry-roadmap

UN-GGIM

UN-GGIM Europe Plenary Meeting

The UN-GGIM Europe Plenary Meeting was held on 1 October 2014 at the LEOGRAND Hotel & Convention Centre. Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. A brief report follows.

UN-GGIM Liaison Report

The European Region of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (**UN-GGIM: Europe**) was formally established on 1 October 2014 at a meeting in Chisinau, Moldova. An Executive Committee of eleven persons was formed and a work plan adopted.

Establishing UN-GGIM: Europe

The process to establish UN-GGIM-Europe has been structured into three phases:

1. Inaugural phase starting in November 2012. The goal of this phase has been to take stock of the European situation in geospatial information management, to identify priority areas of work during the preparatory phase and within the framework provided by the UN-GGIM inventory of issues, and to plan the process leading to the formal establishment of UN-GGIM-Europe.

2. Transitional phase from the 3rd session of the Committee of Experts on GGIM (UN-GGIM3) in 2013 until its 4th session (UN-GGIM4) in 2014. This phase was characterised by the increasing and active involvement of European UN Member States and focussed on creating a governance structure for UN-GGIM-Europe and producing a draft work plan.

   A report (commencing at page 18 - see http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM4/E-C20-2014-14%20Report%20of%20Regional%20Entities.pdf) and presentation was provided to UN-GGIM4 (see http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM4/Item%2014%20-%20Europe.pdf).

   The Report on the fourth session on page 11 notes that delegates 'Congratulated the group of European countries for their extensive work to define modalities of cooperation and formulate a common work programme, endorsed the establishment of UN-GGIM: Europe, welcomed the announcement to hold the first plenary meeting in Moldova in October 2014, and invited UN-GGIM: Europe to report regularly to the Committee of Experts.'

3. Operational phase at which time the European UN Member States assumed the full operational responsibility for UN-GGIM-Europe commenced on

1st October when 110 delegates, including representatives from 6 National Statistical Institutes and 43 NMCAs met for the first time in Chisinau Moldova.

The meeting was from the start chaired by Dr. Vanessa Lawrence CB, Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts and Co-Chair of the Preparatory Committee. The other Co-Chair Walter Radermacher, Director General of Eurostat and Chief Statistician of the European Union delivered an opening speech by video.

Mr. Victor Bodiu, Secretary General of the Government of Moldova welcomed delegates to Chisinau and The UN-GGIM Secretariat was represented by Stefan Schweinfest and the UN Economic Commission for Europe was represented by Mr Steven Vale. Nine people representing observer organisations also attended.

During the meeting, European UN Member States' representatives adopted the Articles and Rules of Procedure and accepted the proposals for an Executive Committee comprising eleven people including a Chair and two Vice Chairs, thereby formally established UN-GGIM Europe.
(see http://un-ggim-europe.org/sites/default/files/UN-GGIM-Europe%20Articles%20and%20Rules%20v1.pdf)

At this point in the proceedings Dr Lawrence, congratulated members and handed over to the Chair of the Executive Committee for UN-GGIM: Europe Mr. Bengt Kjellson (Sweden).

The Executive Committee

Chair	Bengt Kjellson	Sweden
Vice Chairs	Dorine Burmanje	Netherlands
	Antonio Arozarena	Spain
Members	Kristian Møller	Denmark
	Pascal Berteaud	France
	Hansjoerg Kutterer	Germany
	Ezio Bussoletti	Italy
	Jacek Jarząbek	Poland
	Tomaz Petek	Slovenia
	Peter ter Haar	UK
	Andrei Tarnopolskiy	Ukraine

The Work Plan for UN-GGIM: Europe

The work plan, which was adopted on 1 October, is based upon reports written during the preparatory phase. European UN Member States, the European Environment Agency and both Eurostat and the Spatial Data Infrastructures Unit, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission contributed extensively to its preparation.

Initially two working groups have been established:

- Work Group A, Core Data: Increasing data interoperability and harmonisation by proposing core geospatial data which meets essential user needs. Chaired by France
- Work Group B, Data Integration: Enabling integration of core geospatial data with statistical and other data in order to foster further usage. Chaired by Germany

More details of both are available in the presentation made by Pascal Berteaud, France. See:
http://un-ggim-europe.org/sites/default/files/Presentation%20UN-GGIM%20Europe%20Work%20Plan%20-%20Item%2015%20-%20P.%20Berteaud.pdf

Working Arrangements

The Netherlands has been granted responsibility for providing an effective secretariat to UN-GGIM: Europe. EuroGeographics will carry out the work for them under a service level agreement. The website http://un-ggim-europe.org/ has already been established and will provide the main channel for communication.

Conclusions

'**UN-GGIM: Europe'** was successfully established on 1 October 2014. A programme of work has commenced under the guidance of an Executive Committee and the leadership of France and Germany. The Chair and Executive Committee acknowledge the significant contribution from many of the European UN Member State NMCAs, NSIs, the European Institutions and other Regional bodies, to this important milestone. In particular it thanks the Asia Pacific Region for their encouragement, guidance and support over an extended period.

UN-SPIDER Monthly Updates

The UN-SPIDER monthly updates are compiled at the end of each month and sent out by e-mail to all subscribers. The aim is to update subscribers on the latest UN-SPIDER and community news, and about upcoming events organized or supported by UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER. The updates present the reader with an overview or summary of the news and provides him/her with a link to the full

online version. Subscribe to the Updates here: http://www.un-spider.org/mailing-list-subscribe

The Updates are also available from the GSDI Newsletter Archive at: http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#UNSPIDER.

The September UN-SPIDER Newsletter can be accessed here:
http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/updates/un-spider-updates-august-2014

From the September Newsletter

UN-SPIDER Beijing Conference "**Multi-hazard Disaster Risk Assessment**" successfully concluded on 15 to 17 September 2014 in Beijing, China. This conference was co-organized by the UN-SPIDER Beijing Office of UNOOSA and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the people's republic of China. More than 110 participants from 36 countries representing 56 organizations attended the event. The conference agenda offered six plenary sessions, three working group sessions and one scientific symposium consisting of about 50 presentations. the symposium focused on "advances in using space technology and geospatial information for disaster management". On the last day, the conference invited participants to visit two centres of excellence in Beijing. All presentations are available online. Read more here:
http://www.un-spider.org/BeijingConference2014

UN-SPIDER Featured Dataset of the month

In a new section of the Monthly Updates, the UN-SPIDER team presents every month one special dataset or product out of our database on satellite resources. The September dataset selection is the Hazards data distribution System (HddS) provided by GSDI Association member USGS (US Geological Survey).
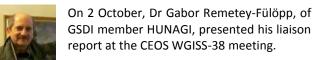
In case of a disaster, immediate access to relevant information can save lives. Satellite imagery provides an invaluable source of information. Searching for relevant datasets can be a time-consuming task. With its Hazards data distribution System (HddS) Explorer the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides easy and tailor-made access to selected datasets for specific disasters. The HddS Explorer is a unique web-based interface to search for satellite and aerial imagery and documents designed to assist in the response to natural and man-made disasters. HddS contains imagery acquired in the aftermath of a disaster as well as imagery of the same region before the event. Find our more here: http://www.un-spider.org/links-and-resources/data-sources/dsotm-hdds

The GSDI Association acquired Special Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 1 May 2014, permitting GSDI to engage with ECOSOC, the

United Nations Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies on activities related to GSDI's area of expertise.

WGISS-38 Meeting

WGISS-38 was held in Moscow, Russia, September 29 to October 3, 2014, hosted by JSC "Russian Space Systems" and ROSCOSMOS.

On 2 October, Dr Gabor Remetey-Fülöpp, of GSDI member HUNAGI, presented his liaison report at the CEOS WGISS-38 meeting.

WGISS (The Working Group on Information Systems and Services) is a subsidiary body supporting the Committee on Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS). WGISS promotes collaboration in the development of systems and services that manage and supply these observatory data.

WGISS creates and demonstrates prototypes supporting CEOS and Group on Earth Observation (GEO) requirements. WGISS also addresses the internal management of EO data, the creation of information systems and the delivery of interoperable services. The activities and expertise of WGISS span the full range of the information life cycle from the requirements and metadata definition for the initial ingestion of satellite data into archives through to the incorporation of derived information into end-user applications.

The full agenda for the meeting is available from this link: http://www.ceos.org/images/WGISS/Meetings/wgiss_38/WGISS-38_Agenda_Version_1.0.docx

Dr. Remetey-Fulopp is former chair of the GSDI Legal & Socioeconomic Committee and HUNAGI are long-time members and supporters of the GSDI Association.

You can download Gabor's presentation here (PDF) [http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1604] or view it on GSDI SlideShare at:
http://www.slideshare.net/GSDI/wgiss38-meeting-presentation-of-gabor-wgiss-38-gaborgsdireport

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

The aim of *GIKNet* is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geospatial information and SDI community. Visit and contribute to GIKnet, including registering your own details or those of your organisation in the *Community Registry*.

The GIKNet *Community Registry* permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other

institutions to record details about themselves in a central, searchable database. They can also submit documents to the searchable *Spatial Documents Depot* archive. The Community Registry currently holds profiles of nearly 700 individuals, 27 companies, 28 NGO/Non-Profits and Academic institutions, and 165 government agencies.

Spatial Docs Depot Document of the Month

Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction

This peer-reviewed book is the result of a collaborative initiative between the Global SDI Association (GSDI), the School of Computing and Information Science at the University of Maine, and the Centre for SDIs and Land Administration (CSDILA) in the Department of Infrastructure Engineering at the University of Melbourne. The articles featured in the book were mostly the result of the Call for Papers for the *GSDI 14 Global Geospatial Conference: Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction*, but also include contributions of full articles which were solicited for specifically for publication in the book.

The authors and reviewers were advised of the theme in advance and, in most cases, they addressed this theme in their papers. Even in cases where the theme was not directly referenced, the article reflected the impact and application of spatial data infrastructures that are now being developed worldwide. The peer-review process resulted in 15 chapters that when considered together, reflect how SDIs are enabling us all today, particularly in meeting the global challenges of poverty and sustainable economic development.

To download the document, you must be logged in to the GIKnet. Membership is free and you can register here: http://www.giknet.org/register/register.php. See the directions below.

Participating in GIKNet

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

GLOBAL 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.eyeonearth.org.
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – www.earthobservations.org.
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu.
- EU INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu.
- International Cartographic Association (ICA) – www.icaci.org.
- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) – www.fig.net
- International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) – Marine SDI Working Group – www.iho.int.
- International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) - www.digitalearth-isde.org.
- International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) – www.iscgm.org
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – www.iode.org.
- UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – www.ungiwg.org.

GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR

GSDI's calendar of upcoming international events at http://www.gsdi.org/upcnf is a unique summary of global and regional conferences, symposiums, workshops, and other related gatherings that pertain to spatial data infrastructure, such as spatial data handling, data visualization, open data policy, research cyberinfrastructure, and RS/GIS applications. GSDI is always on the lookout to include appropriate events, so if you know about one which is not already included, feel free to submit it.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS

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 rlonghorn@gsdi.org. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to GSDI Members, GSDI partners 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"