GSDI REGIONAL NEWSLETTER
for the Global Geospatial Community
covering

Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, North America, and the Middle East & North Africa

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The **GSDI Regional Newsletter** is a free, electronic newsletter for people interested in all aspects of implementing national and regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) around the globe. The newsletter continues the tradition of the GSDI Association's former separate regional newsletters that covered Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, from 2002 onwards. The purpose of the newsletter is to raise awareness of SDI issues and provide useful information to strengthen SDI implementation efforts and support synchronization of regional activities. The archive of all past copies of the previous regional newsletters can be accessed from the GSDI website by following the link to Newsletter Archive at gsdi.org.

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Announce your news or information!

Feel free to submit any news related to spatial data infrastructure implementation that you would like to highlight, including new tools, policies, application stories, studies or reports from your area, profession, organization, country or region. Send your contributions to the News Editor, Kate Lance, at newseditor@gsdi.org and we will try to include these in our next newsletter. Share this newsletter with anyone who may find the information useful and suggest they subscribe themselves.

Support and Contributions to this Issue

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Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

Senegal: Senegalese Association for Professionals in Geomatics (ASPG) holds first general assembly

The Association for Professionals in Geomatics (ASPG) held its constituent general assembly Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at the Hotel Ngor Diarama in the presence of specialists of the discipline. The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr. El Hadji Mansour Sy, Minister of Labour, Social Dialogue, Professional Organizations and Relations with Institutions. Professor Souleye Wade chaired the different sessions as president of the organizing committee with moderator Moctar Dieye, Technical Director of Ecological Monitoring Centre (CSE).

The statutes and internal regulations of the Association were discussed and approved subject to the recommendations. The executive committee of the ASPG has 15 members, divided between public, private sector, academics, training schools and local elected officials. The executive committee will elect the office and the establishment of four committees. These are the following committees:

- Training and development of geomatics expertise;
- Research and development
- Communication and public relations; and
- Committee to mobilize financial resources

The objectives of the association were recalled by Mr. Wade: "The Association aims to promote and encourage the development and use of geographic information in Senegal. It aims to unite the actions of the scientific or technical associations and professional organizations in the sector." The Association is open to anyone likely to promote or provide value-added geomatics. "Nothing is closed, everything is open for membership just wanting to join our statutes and comply," Said Mr. Wade.

The General Assembly follows recent Sensing Network scientific days of 17-19 February 2015 and the second edition of National Days of Geomatics held in Dakar from 17-18 March 2015.

Source: http://www.geosenegal.gouv.sn/?L-Association-Senegalaise-des

Ghana: EOI for Consultancy Service for the Development of National Geospatial Policy

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (http://www.ghanalap.gov.gh/) issued on June 22nd a Call for Expressions of Interest for Consultancy Service for the Development of National Geospatial Policy. The EOI closing date was July 3rd. Unique EOI ID: GR/MLN/LAP2/EOI/002/2015. Contact: Procurement Specialist, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources Annex (Old Wildlife Head Office), ebartropsackey@gmail.com

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Nigeria: Spotlight on Nigerian tech start-up that seeks to identify patterns in traffic chaos

Emmanuel Adegboye attempts to bring order to the chaos of African public transportation systems with his tech startup, Bus Stop (http://busstop.ng/). Bus Stop is a transit application for navigating through African cities using public transportation. In Lagos alone, the current population is estimated at 25 million people and a major percentage of these people rely on public transportation for their daily commute. The problem, however, is that the transportation system (in Lagos) is quite chaotic. Things are never the same. Bus times cannot be accurately predicted (There are actually no bus times! You just go to the garage or stand at a bus stop hoping to get a bus), bus routes change, new routes open up, prices fluctuate and all of this makes moving around a challenge. It's even worse when you're going to a new part of town.

Bus Stop is trying to understand the patterns in the seeming chaos and model the transport systems as is so that navigating using the app feels very natural and gives you an exact representation of the reality on ground. Bus Stop is still in development, but it will launch soon starting with Lagos, Nigeria.

Nigeria: Challenges, services and real-time capabilities of mobile and web GIS for emergency management

Author(s): Dr. Njar, Gertrude Nnanjar, Chairman, Nigeria Institution of Surveyors, Cross River Chapter
International Federation of Surveyors 2015 Conference, 17-21 May 2015, Sofia, Bulgaria

Abstract: The advent of the Mobile and Web GIS are great milestone in the evolution of civilization. Everything that happens somewhere, knowing "what" is "where" and "why" it becomes actually and critically important for making decisions, action plans and development. Geographic Information System (GIS) is the technology as well as the science for handling the "where" type of questions. This paper presents a framework of how mobile and web GIS have become embedded in many Location Based Services (LBS) applications, particularly in navigation functions and location awareness. Mobile and web GIS have taken advantage of technologies (wireless network and mobile devices) to offer the possibility of exchanging and analyzing Spatial Information in real geographic world time. The challenges involved include the scarce resource of mobile devices in respect with memory size, network limitation, computing power, communication bandwidth and accessing multiple heterogeneous data sources. The utilization of mobile and web GIS systems enables effective practice of emergency management of any possible disaster events whereby giving personnel information to plan, implement, modify and respond in real time world operations by simply providing a rich set of data management, visualization, analysis capabilities and Spatial Service Sharing. Finally status of emergency management in Nigeria and the prospects of application of Mobile GIS are presented and discussed.

Keywords: Location Based Services, Spatial Service Sharing, Spatial Information, Geospatial Web Services, Mobile GIS Systems, Emergency Management

Representatives of ECOWAS countries in Lomé for the establishment of geospatial data infrastructure

Thirty national directors of mapping agencies from countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) were in Lomé July 13-14, 2015 to make cartographic production more flexible and to advance geospatial data infrastructure. Opened by the Director General of mapping in the Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and the living environment, Koffi Dakey, in the presence of the Ambassador of Senegal to Togo, Tall Fall, and the Permanent Representative of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Garba Lompo, this two-day meeting was organized under the framework of the Vision 2020 of ECOWAS to improve how mapping agencies play their full part in achieving the Vision 2020. Digital maps now find application in many sectors such as national planning, land management, the environment, natural resources, health, transport, and

market studies. It is also an activity recognized as a fundamental infrastructure, along with physical infrastructure such as roads, telecommunications and other utilities.

Vision 2020 will contribute substantially to improving the quality and the amount of collected information for a better assessment of development planning and the environment of peace and security of ECOWAS countries. The director of early warning, Dr. Gueye Abdou Lat, recalled that Togo is one the first countries to realize its digital mapping to 1:50,000. "Today in many of our countries, if we talk about mapping, it is about maps that date back to colonial times, and while there are many who have made efforts [to improve the situation], much remains to be done. The technology today allows us to very quickly make maps from a satellite image at very large scale. Therefore, ECOWAS will support countries that are behind, for us to try to harmonize the mapping very quickly," he said.

Source: http://www.afreepress.info/index.php/world/business/item/2691-les-pays-de-la-cedeao-veulent-mettre-en-place-une-infrastructure-de-donn%C3%A9es-g%C3%A9o-sp%C3%A9ciales; http://news.alome.com/h/69609.html

Namibia: Statistics Agency extends technical assistance to Ethiopia on census-mapping

The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA, http://nsa.org.na/)'s recognition as among the models of innovation in statistical production in Africa has seen the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA, http://www.csa.gov.et/) requesting and receiving technical assistance from NSA to lend the agency a total of 220 personal digital assistants for use in census mapping pilot and main project in preparation for Ethiopia's fourth national population and housing census in 2017. Further the NSA has also availed two Geo-Information System (GIS) experts from its Division of Spatial Data and National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) to train Ethiopia CSA staff on census mapping using the devices during a 10-day pilot project. To this effect, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Ethiopia CSA and the NSA on the June 4, 2015.

Commenting on this collaboration, Liina Kafidi, the acting Statistician-General of NSA said: "The gesture is part of the South-to-South cooperation with our sister agencies in Africa and NSA's contribution towards the harmonisation of data collection methods and statistics in Africa in general. We at NSA perceive this as a capacity building initiative not only of our staff, but the two agencies can learn a lot from each other in many statistical dimensions.
"South-to-South cooperation is imperative in fostering mutual support or interdependence regarding statistical development among developing countries in order to inform policy leading to especially positive socio-economic development. The NSA has embarked upon a deliberate effort to become prominent in championing African statistics and this gesture would set the right tone."

She further said the two GIS experts are Namibians and are gaining international exposure and expertise which shows that Namibia could also export skills, which is critical for the country's own development and self-determination. The NSA is becoming a major player in statistical collection and production not only in Namibia but on the African continent. The agency has in its short period of existence refined its methodology for data collection by archiving time consuming paper-based methods and introduced modern and computerised methods for timely, accurate and reliable production of statistics to support evidence-based development planning.

Source: http://www.confidente.com.na/2015/07/nsa-extends-technical-assistance-to-ethiopia/

Malawi: National agencies develop national hazards and vulnerability atlas

The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), the Department of Surveys, the National Statistics Office and other national stakeholders have partnered with the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), with support from the SERVIR program to develop a comprehensive national hazards and vulnerability atlas covering the whole of Malawi. The atlas and GIS database are identified as part of key result areas by the government of Malawi in its National Disaster Risk Management Policy to support disaster risk reduction in the country and prioritize areas for resilience building in Malawi. Moreover, through the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) support, maps are being prepared for five climate change vulnerable districts namely: Karonga, Kasungu, Nsanje, Chikwawa and Salima. A three-day workshop was held in Lilongwe 29 June – 3 July, 2015, to present the products developed by RCMRD experts in partnership with national experts, to a larger expert panel and to validate the developed maps that will form part of the national atlas and the wallmaps for the five districts.

Source: http://www.rcmrd.org/rcmrd-presents-hazards-and-vulnerability-products-in-a-workshop-held-in-lilongwe-malawi/

Reaching farmers with climate services in Malawi and Tanzania
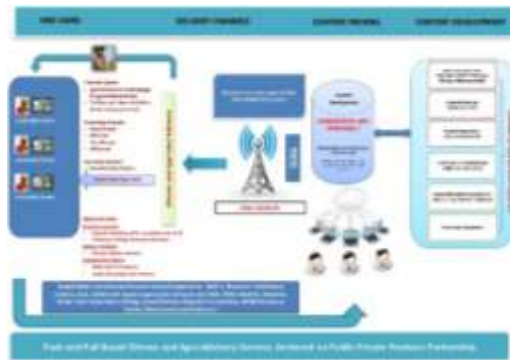
What happens if the climate forecast and agro-advisory information produced at the beginning of the season do not reach farmers and pastoralists? Or what if they do but farmers and pastoralists fail to understand the forecast or what decisions they need to make?

Over 53 public and private sector stakeholders met in Malawi and Tanzania in April 2015 to ponder over these questions and many others. These meetings were held as part of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Adaptation Programme for Africa; a multi-agency programme funded by the government of Norway. The meetings aimed to brainstorm on best possible ICT and radio interventions required to address gaps identified in existing climate and agriculture advisory information delivery systems. The workshops were jointly organized and undertaken by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Representatives of different sectors including climate, agricultural research and extension, farmer organizations, private sector cell phone providers such as Airtel and rural radio leaders discussed an ideal model for climate and agriculture advisory information flow in their countries. They then jointly identified and validated three components (content production, message delivery and end users feedback) of a successful national model for climate services communication to reach the end users.

Source: https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/reaching-farmers-climate-services-malawi-and-tanzania

Swaziland: GIS and knowledge-based national protected area and biodiversity consultancy

Through UNDP/GEF, the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs

(http://www.gov.sz/index.php?option=com_content&id=257&Itemid=207) seeks the technical services of a GIS Expert with strong database management and application development/programming skills to develop a national knowledge-based information system for the country's biodiversity and protected areas (PAs). The objective of the consultancy is to collate data and information for the establishment and operationalisation of a GIS knowledge-based information management system for conservation management and monitoring in PAs and the wider landscapes in the country. This will contribute to improved global reporting, as well as biodiversity data and information management and dissemination. Deadline: **August 10, 2015**.

Source: https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=58566

Seychelles: WebGIS of Ministry of Land Use and Housing (MLUH) facilitates national Strategic Plan

The Seychelles Planning Authority (http://www.luh.gov.sc/) hits the ground running. No sooner had the kick off meeting for the project to prepare the country's new Strategic Plan been organised, the Planning Authority started with its consultations with key stakeholders from across the Government, NGO, district Authorities and Private sectors. This of course is an essential element of the project being implemented with the support of a London based international consulting firm, ARUP, recruited for that purpose.

The and set year

where

aim of the Plan is to build on existing aspirations a vision for the future of the Seychelles up to the 2040. The Strategy will deliver sustainable and integrated solutions for the economy; the community; and the environment and address a number of critical issues such as establishing opportunities for growth and sustainable locations development will occur across Seychelles.

The Centre for GIS and IT support Services (http://www.luh.gov.sc/default.aspx?PageId=56) of the Ministry of Land Use and Housing (MLUH) already has developed its GIS & WebGIS which can be used to support analysis and visualization for the Plan. See MLUH WebGIS, http://www.webgis.gov.sc/map_default.phtml [To use the MLUH WebGIS, and up-to-date web browser such as Chrome, Firefox, Opera, Safari or Internet Explorer 9+ is required].

See also: Minister Lionnet launches first Charette to shape and inform the Seychelles Strategic Plan, http://www.luh.gov.sc/default.aspx?ArticleId=87

Source: http://www.luh.gov.sc/default.aspx?ArticleId=85

Regional Forum on National SDI calls for harmonised spatial data management

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) organized a two-day Regional National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) forum in Kigali, Rwanda with local host Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (http://rnra.rw/). The forum was attended by RCMRD member countries' representatives, advisors from countries that have successfully implemented NSDI (South Africa, USA, Malaysia), resource experts, potential participants from other parts of Africa, and other Spatial Data Infrastructures stakeholders and RCMRD partners.

The first day of the forum focused on the basics of NSDI, definitions and the realities of implementation and management, legal and political factors, institutional frameworks and the sustainability of NSDIs. The second day focused on the benefits of Spatial Data Infrastructures, examining the readiness of NSDI for countries and acquiring buy-in. In addition, there was a focus on case studies of NSDI initiatives in selected countries and challenges in the implementation process of NSDIs. Technical experts also had the opportunity to demonstrate samples of geo-portals at a stand within the venue.

Source: http://www.rcmrd.org/rcmrd-attends-the-regional-national-spatial-data-infrastructure-forum-in-kigali-rwanda/; http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/article/2015-07-29/191072/

Call for projects to subsidize regional best innovations for design of information tools and communication

Project building resilience through services related to innovation, communication and knowledge (BRICKS) Sahel and West Africa Program in Support of the Great Green Wall Initiative (SAWAP)

This call for proposal aims to encourage the different actors involved in the fight against natural resource degradation and climate change (GRN / CC) to submit proposals to subsidize regional best innovations in the design of tools information and communication.

The Eligible promoters must be nationals of the 12 countries that SAWAP program are Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Chad and Togo. These carriers can be a producer organization, a local government (including municipalities), an association, a private structure or civil society.

Deadline for applications is **31 October 2015** to 15 hours 30 minutes (TU). Any application received after the deadline will automatically be rejected.

Call for applications (French): http://www.cilss.bf/IMG/pdf/Appel_a_projets_VF_BRICKS.pdf
Call for applications (English) http://www.cilss.bf/IMG/pdf/Call_for_proposals_English_.pdf

Source: http://www.cilss.bf/spip.php?article535

Call for tenders: OSS/BRICKS project, GIS and remote sensing in support of monitoring-evaluation

In the framework of the BRICKS project entitled "Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge services", funded by the World Bank, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory makes a call for offers for the elaboration of complete

training courses on « GIS and Remote Sensing in support to Monitoring-Evaluation » for the development of training sessions to the benefit of the SAWAP projects ".

The BRICKS project (http://sawap.net/a-propos/) offers a multi-country platform and an opportunity for the implementation of common actions among 12 Sahelian and West African countries to improve accessibility to best practices and monitoring information on sustainable land management and utilization.
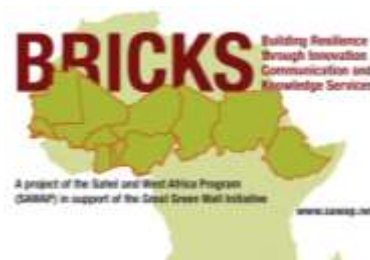
The terms of reference of this study can be downloaded from the link. http://www.oss-online.org/sites/all/modules/pubdlcnt/pubdlcnt.php?file=http://www.oss-online.org/sites/default/files/fichier/ToRs_training_kit_BRICKS.pdf&nid=700

Application files can be sent by post, email or delivered directly no later than **13 August 2015** at 14.00 Time in Tunis.

Source: http://www.oss-online.org/en/bricks-aoi

ACMAD-MESA Kick-Off Event Programme, August 31-4 September 2015, Nairobi, Kenya

ACMAD-MESA will perform its Kick-off Event programme aligned with the MESA Forum in Nairobi, Crown Plaza Hotel, 31 August – 4 September 2015. The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), based in Niamey, Niger, is responsible for the African Union (AU) THEMA (thematic action) for Continental Climate Services, which currently involves the development of two Continental Climate services:

1) Climate Change Assessment Service, and
2) Drought Service and Seasonal Climate Forecast.

The Continental Climate THEMA contributes to the reduction of risks of climate-related disasters in Africa.

Source: http://mesa.niamey.website/

1st Africa Open Data Conference, 1-3 September 2015, Dar es Salaam Tanzania
Theme: Developing Africa with Open Data

Organized by the World Bank and IBM, this conference is designed to bring together African governments, businesses, and communities with international aid organizations, foundations, and other interested parties to improve local, national, and regional investment, growth and economic development. The goal is to create Open Data awareness and demand across the continent by brainstorming new development opportunities in cross-functional hands-on workshops and round-table discussions that result in funding proposals and pilots at the end of the conference.

There will be four pre-conference Open Data workshops/Jams/and Hackathons on Health, Education, Water, and Agriculture. These same four subjects will continue as themes and tracks throughout the even as we explore Industry needs, capabilities, and international use cases for Open Data that drives economic growth and national prosperity. The Conference organizers are working with many partners (e.g., Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition Program (GODAN), International Development Resource Council, The Open Knowledge Foundation, The Open Data Institute, Code for Africa, The Open Government Partnership). Register at http://www.africaopendata.net/register.

See brochure: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6fLmeP8J372S1BMekYtelBMRkk/view?usp=sharing

Source: http://www.meetup.com/Africa-Open-Data/events/222499177/

Geo Empower Africa Summit, 6-7 October 2015, Johannesburg, South Africa

Geo Empower Africa Summit will encourage the mining, telecom, power, oil & gas and utilities companies for increased use of Geospatial technologies, acknowledging the accuracy which is demanded by industry today for the improved efficiency and efficacy in the domain.Panel

discussions and presentations by technical experts and users from across the globe will give a clear picture on the current successful applications of the technology and its prospective role in the domain of mining. For more information, contact pragya.vaid@fleminggulf.com.

Source: http://itc.fleminggulf.com/geo-empower-africa-summit

International Conference on "Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Urban and Rural Development 18-20 November 2015, Kigali, Rwanda

The International Conference on "Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Urban and Rural Development" is organised by the University of Rwanda in collaboration with the University of Twente/ITC, The Netherlands. The conference will be held in Kigali-Rwanda, on 18th to 20th November 2015. The main objective of this conference is to share knowledge and experiences on cutting-edge research and innovations using geospatial information technologies to address critical issues on sustainable urban and rural development at local and national levels. The conference targets professionals, technologists, planners and managers from institutions of higher education, governmental institutions, NGOs and the private sector who are using or have an interest in geospatial technologies and their use in spatial development issues.

You are invited to participate by submitting an abstract for an oral or poster presentation. Please submit your abstract through the Submission Form or send an email to conference-ur-itc@utwente.nl, mentioning 'GeoTechRwanda 2015' in the subject line. Abstracts must be submitted in English and should contain no more than 300 words. The deadline for abstract submissions has been extended to **15 August 2015**.

Source: https://www.geotechrwanda2015.com/

AARSE Survey on the Utilization of African National Earth Observation Satellite Products

The African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) launched an online survey to the African community working in the field of remote sensing and geospatial information to gather more information about the satellite sensors available in Africa, the remotely sensed data usage in research and development, as well as policies.

The survey had 10 questions that ranged from availability and accessibility of data to the policy. The results of the survey have been summarized in a report. The results will help in understanding the factors that foster or hinder the access and usage of remotely sensed data.

Source: http://africanremotesensing.org/Resources/Archive/June%202015/AARSE%20survey%20report.pdf

New project to assess hazard exposure in five African countries

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) recently awarded a contract for the development of a physical exposure database for five countries in Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Senegal, and Uganda. Key project tasks include development of spatial data on structural and infrastructural assets and estimates of their replacement costs; projection of the spatial distribution of population and Gross Domestic Product in the year 2050 consistent with socioeconomic scenario data currently under development by the research and assessment community; and collaboration with four other teams to support the integration of the exposure data with assessments of earthquake, flood, drought, and landslide hazards. Project partners include ImageCat, CIESIN, the University of Colorado Boulder, SecondMuse, and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Nairobi.

Source: http://www.imagecatinc.com/2015/06/imagecat-wins-world-bank-africa-exposure-development-project/

Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

India: Bhuvan Ganga (Ganges) Web Portal

The recently launched Bhuvan Ganga web portal (http://bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in/ganga) and the Bhuvan Ganga mobile application will use existing geospatial information and crowd-sourced reporting to monitor pollution levels in the River Ganga (Ganges). The data portal already provides access to a variety of geospatial information including as flood hazard

zones and environmental data and visitors to the site will be able to contribute to the project by uploading shapefiles and WMS layers.

Impressed by geospatial resources such as Google Earth, but concerned about potential misuses of the information following the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in 2008, the Indian Government launched its own version, describing Bhuvan as a gateway to the geospatial world. The benefits of providing open access to national, regional and local geospatial information outweighed lingering concerns over potential future attacks. Over the last seven years the site has developed into a comprehensive resource of geospatial datasets and services.

The Bhuvan geoportal includes high resolution satellite image, hydrological layers (basins, sub-basin, watershed boundaries and drainage), natural resources information (land use/land cover, wasteland, soil, geology & geomorphology and urban growth), disaster related layers, water resources projects and canal network. Continuous update of the portal is planned with water quality maps using satellite data, after integrating with the field measured water quality data.

The user-friendly, android mobile application is developed to enable the public to collect and report information on various pollution sources that affect the water quality of the river Ganga. The app has provision to collect information regarding urban sewage, semi-urban/rural sewage, natural drains/nallas, industrial waste water, solid waste disposal or any other pollution source. The first version of the application is available for download from the Bhuvan Ganga portal.

Source: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1632063173679049.1073741881.1502674319951269&type=3; https://spatialreserves.wordpress.com/2015/07/21/bhuvan-ganga-ganges-web-portal/

Indonesia: Prototype development of SDI and GIS system for natural disaster management
Case Study of the Emergency Response of Merapi Volcano Eruption in Yogyakarta Special Region

Author(s): Taufik Hery Purwanto
Dissertation, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, 2015, taufik@ugm.ac.id, taufik_hp@yahoo.com

Abstract: The aims of this research are: (1) to study the SDI in Yogyakarta Special Region for disaster management especially the emergency response of Merapi volcano eruption (2) develop a prototype SDI and application of GIS for policy formulation, decision-making, and implementation of activities in the emergency response of Merapi volcano eruption and (3) create a model of usability SDI and GIS for disaster management, especially in the emergency response of Merapi volcano eruption.

The research methods to study the SDI in Yogyakarta Special Region includes 6 elements: data, standards, data access, policy, technology, and human resources. To obtain a profile SDI assessment data quality, assessing the readiness and assessing the implementation of SDI elements specifically for emergency response of Merapi volcano eruption. A SWOT analysis performed on the elements of SDI to develop strategies and recommendations, especially in the emergency response of Merapi volcano eruption. Based on the recommendations obtained, a prototype SDI then was prepared, and the SDI and the use of GIS for decision-making in the emergency response of Merapi volcano eruption was assessed.

The result shows us that 93% of respondents have well-organized in disaster data, whether it is a spatial data or not. It means that the availability of the data is good, but they have no standard of arrangement for it. Only 29,63% of database are accessible by the internet, and we can say that is not fit enough for the accessibility and applicability criteria. From all of data, there are only 41,67% that has been used by the institutions to do a disaster analysis. This study found some constraints that make the SDI could not work well i.e. position accuracy, thematic accuracy, database management, accessibility, metadata system and the availability of it, geographic/geomatic standard, interoperability, spatial data acquisition, clearinghouse and institutional. The SDI prototype based cloud GIS could be used as a platform to access and analysis spatial data in the emergency response of Merapi volcano eruption.

Keywords: Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), Geographic Information System (GIS)

See also: Increase Merapi disaster spatial information accessibility, http://www.satuharapan.com/read-detail/read/tingkatkan-aksesibilitas-informasi-spasial-bencana-merapi

China: Present state and trends of the Geoinformation Industry in China

Figure 1. The number of enterprises for each grade in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Author(s): Hui-Feng Zhang, Qing-Yun Du, and Chao-Fei Qiao

Abstract: The geoinformation industry is a high-tech service industry based on modern surveying and mapping technologies, remote sensing technologies and satellite navigation and positioning technologies. In China, the geoinformation industry is an emerging strategic industry that has rapidly developed; it has played an increasingly important role in the economy and society. This essay briefly introduces the present state of the international geoinformation industry. The state of the geoinformation industry enterprises in China from 2011 to 2013 is introduced. Although this industry has greatly progressed in China, problems and limitations still exist. The structure of the industry is not sustainable. The innovation capacity of Chinese enterprises is weak. Various market demands, increasing social investments, rapid progress in surveying, mapping and geoinformation technology and attention from the government are the main driving factors in this industry. Developing trends in the industry are proposed. Overall, the government will remain the main user of geoinformation applications, and enterprises will continue to merge and reorganize. Mobile geoinformation applications have broad prospects, and new business models will continue to emerge.

Mekong River Commission (MRC) Data and Information Services Portal

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) Information and Knowledge Management Programme is one of the key data acquisition and analysis services in the Lower Mekong Basin that extends beyond national boundaries. The Programme's transboundary lens on data analysis allows communities at one location on the river to better understand water trends accruing at another, even across borders. The Programme not only acquires data, but performs quality assurance and makes it available to the public through the MRC website and the Data and Information Services Portal.

Through the MRC Information System (MRC-IS), the Programme provides ready access to environmental and socio-economic models and data in support of regional planning in the Mekong River Basin. The Mekong River Commission (MRC) collects and manages a range of data and information with its Member Countries and other regional stakeholders (http://portal.mrcmekong.org/index).

MRC manages a range of data and information including time-series data, spatial data and non-spatial data, which supports the MRC core functions, Member Countries, and other stakeholders. Using Google Maps, the MRC is developing a series of interactive maps to introduce selected MRC datasets in a user friendly way (http://portal.mrcmekong.org/map_service).

Satellite-based drought monitoring and warning system for Asian Pacific countries

The satellite-based drought monitoring and warning system is an application of space based technology (SBT) in the implementation of the Core Agriculture Support Program of the Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo, Japan. The benefits of this system are to develop satellite-based drought monitoring and early warning system (DMEWS) for Asian Pacific countries using freely available data, and to develop capacity of policy makers in those countries to apply the developed system in policy making.

Source: http://webgms.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/DMEWS/

Solomon Islands: Malaria Early Warning System established
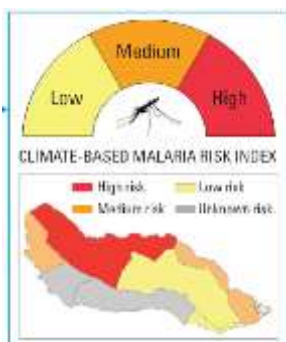
Solomon Islands is the first Pacific island nation to set up a Malaria Early Warning System. The Director of Solomon Islands Meteorological Service, Mr. David Hiriasi said the Malaria Early Warning System module was introduced on the main island of Guadalcanal. "The malaria early warning system was created basically to give information to the people about updates or warnings about malaria in concentrated areas. The initiative started in 1998 with the idea to monitor and control the spread of the disease," said Mr. Hiriasi.

With the support of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health (http://cosppac.bom.gov.au/products-and-services/malaria-early-warning-system/), the Malaria Early Warning System was set up. "The module itself depends on data's collected by health authorities from medical records of infected patients. The meteorological service then receives the records on a monthly basis and evaluates it against rainfall." "The information prepared is then categorised to a low, medium or high risk category before it is delivered to health authorities to use in their programs against malaria," said Hiriasi. The target is to create possibilities to eradicate malaria or to decrease the number of malaria infection.

See also: ***New WMO and SPREP partnership to help enhance Pacific Meteorological Services***
https://www.sprep.org/climate-change/new-wmo-and-sprep-partnership-to-help-enhance-pacific-meteorological-services
History made with the very first Pacific Ministers Meeting on Meteorology in Tonga
https://www.sprep.org/climate-change/history-made-with-the-very-first-pacific-ministers-meeting-on-meteorology-in-tonga

Source: http://www.sprep.org/climate-change/malaria-early-warning-system-established-in-solomon-islands

Call for contributions: FOSS4G 2015 Seoul Map Gallery

Contributions are invited to the FOSS4G 2015 Seoul Map Gallery to build an exciting and vibrant exhibit of the very best in mapping. This Map Gallery will not only demonstrate the work of delegates but also act as a reference point for the current state of mapping more widely. Anyone who even not participate the conference could submit the wonderful map through the on-line submission page. The submission page has opened on July 1, 2015 and the closing date for submission is **August 31, 2015**, leaving 1 month now to pull together the projects you've been working with over the last year. Click here to submit: http://2015.foss4g.org/programme/map-gallery/

Korea: Smart Geospatial Expo 2015 being held in conjunction with FOSS4G 2015

SmartGeo Expo is the largest geospatial event in Korea. SmartGeo Expo 2015 will be taking place between 15th and 17th September at the same venue as FOSS4G Seoul 2015. SmartGeo Expo is hosted and organized by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (www.molit.go.kr), LH Corporation (www.lh.or.kr) and LX Corporation (www.lx.or.kr) to introduce and promote geospatial business, geospatial industry, and geospatial companies in South Korea. Attendees of FOSS4G Seoul can visit any sessions and exhibition booths of SmartGeo Expo without additional registration.

Source: http://smartgeoexpo.kr/; http://2015.foss4g.org/how-to-flock-together-at-foss4g-seoul-e-newsletter-no-5/

Korea: 'Ideas contest' in conjunction with Smart Expo

To promote the use of spatial information, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation and the Spatial Information Industry Promotion Institute is holding a competition which is meant to spur nationwide interest in app development, spatial information policy suggestions, and best practices. Deadline: **August 21, 2015**.

Source: http://www.smartgeoexpo.kr/eng/event/idea.php;
http://www.hankyung.com/news/app/newsview.php?aid=201507107109p&intype=1

Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on e-Government, Smart Cities, and Digital Societies for Sustainable Development
19-20 August 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

WeGO is partnering with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) of the United Nations in organizing the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on e-Government, Smart Cities, and Digital Societies for Sustainable Development. The regional forum is hosted by the Ministry of ICT of Thailand and will provide a great opportunity for high-level dialogue among leaders in the smart city movement. It will be held from August 19-20, 2015 at the Plaza Athenee Bangkok Hotel, Thailand, and will be followed by the ITU Regional Development Forum on Smartly Digital Asia-Pacific from August 21-22 at the same venue.

Source: http://www.we-gov.org/WeGO_Events/11405

8th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium, Beijing, China, 9 - 11 September 2015
Towards the Next Decade of GEOSS in the Asia-Pacific Region

The 8th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium will be held in Beijing, China, from 9 to 11 September 2015. The Symposium is being organized by the People's Republic of China (Ministry of Science and Technology), Japan (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) and the GEO Secretariat. The local organizers include the Satellite Surveying and Mapping Application Center and the National Geomatics Center of China of the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation, the National Disaster Reduction Center of China of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Tsinghua University and the Peking University.

This year's Symposium theme will be: "Towards the next decade of GEOSS in the Asia-Pacific Region". The Symposium will focus on potential collaborative activities during the next decade of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that could be included in the new GEO Work Programme.

The Symposium will further strengthen international networking within the region and provide an opportunity to share experiences from the Asia-Pacific region globally. Each country will report on progress made in implementing GEOSS since the last Asia-Pacific Symposium in Japan. Parallel sessions are being organized which focus on the following topics:
- Disaster Monitoring;
- Asia-Pacific GEOSS Data Sharing and GCI Development;
- Agriculture and Food Security (GEOGLAM);
- Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON);
- Asian Water Cycle Initiative (AWCI);
- Global Carbon Monitoring.

The Symposium will include plenary sessions for summaries and report-outs from the parallel sessions, and for discussion of ideas regarding future collaboration in response to the final draft of the GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: GEOSS Implementation.

Call for applications: Urban Climate Resilience Southeast Asia Partnership (UCRSEA) Scholarship

The Urban Climate Resilience Southeast Asia Partnership (UCRSEA) invites graduate students, scholars and researchers to apply for funding to carry out field or desk-based research related to urbanization and climate change resilience in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and/or Vietnam. The UCRSEA partnership addresses vulnerabilities to climate change in urbanizing areas of Southeast Asia with the goal of enhancing resilience and, hence, economic and social well-being.

The project is a collaboration between academics in Canada and partners located in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Initiating partners include the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET-International), the University of Toronto, and York University. Deadline: **1 October 2015**.
UCRSEA Call for Research Grant Student Applications,
http://urbanclimateresiliencesea.apps01.yorku.ca/call_graduate_student_research_funding/
UCRSEA Call for Scholars (Non-Student) Research Grant Applications,
http://urbanclimateresiliencesea.apps01.yorku.ca/call_scholars_research_funding/

Europe Region SDI News

Switzerland: Federal geoportal geo.admin.ch winners of this year's eGovernment competition

The Swiss federal geodata portal

(http://www.geo.admin.ch/internet/geoportal/en/home.html) won second prize in this year's eGovernment competition, which took place in Berlin on 24 June. The portal provides online access to Swiss geographical information and related services from various suppliers (http://www.geo.admin.ch/internet/geoportal/en/home/geoadmin/mission.html). According to an announcement by the Swiss government (https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/documentation/media-releases.msg-id-57850.html), the award recognises the portal's ground breaking combination of open source software, open standards and cloud computing, allowing the optimisation of the portal's efficiency, usability and operating costs.

The geoportal is one of the priorities of the Swiss eGovernment program, according to the announcement. The project aims to increase the number of online government services to businesses and citizens, and promote the electronic exchange of information between public administrations.

Spain: Mapping service of 1st edition of National Topographic Map 1: 50.000

IGN has posted an update service display 1st edition of the National Topographic Map 1: 50.000. The new service consists of two layers, the "Mosaic" layer displays the map of the 1st edition of the MTN50 and "Link to other issues" layer by operating GetFeatureInfo offers the option of consulting the various editions there are a Leaf MTN 1: 50,000 and link to the website of the Download Center CNIG for the user to download the sheet of an edition of MTN50.

Italy: New national 3D geoportal

The new 3D National Geoportal is online, compatible with all browsers that support WebGL standard. Access the 3D Viewer Beta: http://www.pcn.minambiente.it/viewer3D/

Italy's National Geoportal (http://www.pcn.minambiente.it/GN/en/) is at the core of a network architecture designed as a federated network in which each node is "connected" to the central access point that is the National Geoportal itself. The main goal is the creation of a widespread environmental geographic information system consisting of nodes which make available their own environmental spatial information by sharing its metadata: the management and updating of metadata, spatial data and related services are carried out that way by the administration that produces the data without any physical transfer of it. This network is made up mainly by public authorities which may, in this way, fulfill its institutional obligations regarding the planning and management of land and environment.

Source: http://www.pcn.minambiente.it/GN/il-nuovo-3d-del-geoportale-nazionale

Ireland: GIS IRELAND 2015, 2 October 2015, Dublin?

GIS IRELAND 2015 returns for the 20th year. With a great new venue in the stunning Doubletree by Hilton Main Conference Suite, this year's half-day Workshop will take place on Thursday 1st October with the title 'The Emerging GI/GT Environment; Global, European and Irish'. The all-day Conference and Trade exhibition takes place on October 2nd 2015. This year, the Main Conference Topics will include:

- Big Data
- Linked Data
- Internet of Things
- SME promotion
- Remote Sensing (satellite, UAVs, ground based)
- Inside/outside positioning
- 3D/4D
- Return on Investment in GI/GeoTechnologies
- Showcasing Irish good/best practice in the GI/GT fields.

The Irish Organisation for Geographic Information (IRLOGI, http://www.irlogi.ie), which is the umbrella organisation for the geographical information industry in Ireland, will also offer a European Best Practice workshop on Thursday 1st October. More details to follow. The Conference Programme with keynote speakers will be published and regularly updated on the IRLOGI website.

Source: http://www.irlogi.ie/gis-ireland-2015/

United Kingdom: Environment Agency to make LiDAR data freely available

The UK Environment Agency (EA) is planning to make its LiDAR data sets freely available as open data to commercial entities starting in September 2015. LiDAR data can help build accurate 3D models of the terrain. The EA has accurate elevation data covering approximately 60 per cent of England and Wales. Much of this has been available to selected non-commercial entities for two years, but from September the agency will make the LiDAR data freely available to all users, including commercial app developers and the general public. The impetus to make this data more widely available was last year's floods that devastated many parts of the country.
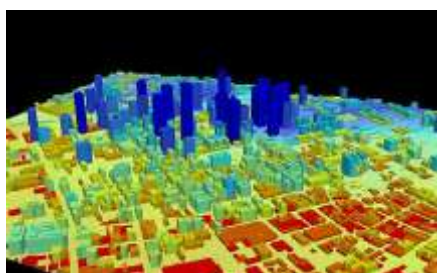
App developers will now be able to use this dataset to develop their own tools, for example to create flood warning or planning tools or to add fine-grained elevation data into existing mapping applications. The data has a vertical accuracy of 5-15cm with spatial resolutions ranging from 0.25-2m. The EA holds many other many other datasets, some of which also will be released as open data in the future.

Source: http://www.computing.co.uk/ctg/news/2413533/uk-3d-mapping-data-to-be-made-freely-available-to-app-developers-by-environment-agency

Open source runs Croatia's geospatial services platforms for nature protection

Croatia's Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (http://www.dzzp.hr/) has become one of the country's major users of open source solutions. The software is making possible two geospatial service platforms on biodiversity and environmental protection built for the State Institute for Nature Protection. The two systems were unveiled in May 2015.

The use of open source was not a requirement, but this type of software proved to be the most suitable, according to a spokesperson for IN2, the ICT service provider that built the two geographic information systems. "The ministry had highlighted in its request that it would prefer ICT solutions that would enable scaling the project without incurring new licence costs. Using open source software also prevents IT vendor lock-in, avoids proprietary licence restrictions and lowers costs."

One of the two platforms is publicly accessible. The Bioportal (http://www.iszp.hr/) offers access to information on biodiversity, habitat maps, protected areas and species distribution. All of the datasets on Bioportal can be reused in other GIS systems, the spokesperson says. "Sharing spatial data online is a key aspect." Previously, interested citizens and organisations had to visit the agency for nature protection, and in some cases had to pay fees. "Now the data can be browsed online, for free."

The other GIS portal is meant for internal use by the Croatian government. The GIS system provides access to all institutions, helping them to maintain and update their data and making it easy to share and exchange information. The internal system maintains the spatial representation of Croatia's natural reserves, its parks and protected areas.

Source: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/osor/news/open-source-runs-croatia%E2%80%99s-geospatial-services-platforms; http://www.hina.hr/#vijest/8672926

Local-Sats report identifies most common problems and best practices in the Mediterranean Basin

This Local-Sats report was prepared under the EU-funded "LOCAL – SATS" project – 'Improving the local governance processes through exchange of good practices, pilots and training in geospatial technologies.'

The overall objective of Local-Sats (http://www.localsats.com/) is to promote the local development and sustainability of cities and territories in the Mediterranean Basin through the exchange of experiences and best practices in the context of geospatial applications. In other words, one of the key goals of the project is to offer to local governments new and flexible tools and a whole suit of information that would enrich their decision-making process in the interest of the people living in the Mediterranean Basin.

The consortium of the project is composed of twelve partners from nine Mediterranean Countries: Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Spain and Tunisia. Larnaca District Development Agency is the Lead Partner. The consortium composition provides for a broad, cross-border analysis, applicable to the whole Mediterranean Basin.

Source: http://www.localsats.com/assets/D.4.2.1/LOCALSATS_D421.pdf

EuroGeographics signs contract to provide geospatial information to Eurostat

EuroGeographics has signed a contract to provide pan-European geographic information and related services to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

The four-year agreement means that staff at the European Commission can access geospatial data from National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registry Authorities through its geographical information service, GISCO. The data includes administrative units and statistical regions as well as 1:250 000 scale topo-geographic information.

Source: http://www.eurogeographics.org/news/eurogeographics-signs-contract-provide-geospatial-information-eurostat

INSPIRE Thematic Clusters collaboration platform – reaches 500 registered members

INSPIRE is pleased to announce that the INSPIRE Thematic Clusters collaboration platform has now over 500 members.

The platform, since its launch in December 2014, is fulfilling its role of "Connecting communities" of INSPIRE implementers and users. It serves as an entry point for the INSPIRE Community to share experiences, best practices, raise questions and resolve issues in their thematic domains.

The thematic discussions – to date with 240 discussion topics with almost 500 responses - are taking place in 9 clusters/groups as well as in their sub-groups. Each cluster has a facilitator whose role is to lead and participate in discussions, identify and facilitate sharing of best practice and key issues, identify relevant projects and software solutions. The thematic discussions have already indicated several potential additions, clarifications as well as omissions in the official INSPIRE technical documentation framework.

This activity is part of the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation Framework (http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/5160), with the objective of supporting INSPIRE implementation in the Member States. You are invited to join others on the platform (https://themes.jrc.ec.europa.eu/) and participate in the discussions relevant to you. You can use this opportunity to share your implementation experience and/or learn from others about best practice in implementation and use of INSPIRE.

Source: http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/newsid/11882

Proceedings available from GI_Forum 2015 – Geospatial Minds for Society

GI_Forum 2015 (http://www.gi-forum.org/), the 9th annual conference along with its sister conference, AGIT, organized by the Interfaculty Department of Geoinformatics - Z_GIS was held at the University of Salzburg, Austria. More than 1000 participants from 45 countries benefited from a variety of topics covered across 83 technical sessions and 20 workshops linking into the conference slogan of developing Geospatial Minds for Society. To name just a few themes, Earth Observation for Humanitarian Operation was discussed for a full day, as was GIS applications for Public Health, Mobility and Education. Keynotes included Ingo Simonis (Director, Interoperability Programs and Science, OGC), Manfred Hauswirth (Professor, TU Berlin), Sarah and Robert Bednarz (Texas A & M University), and Inga Gryl (University of Duisburg-Essen) and Thomas Jekel (University of Salzburg). Posters from the poster session can be viewed at: http://agitposter2015.blogspot.co.at/.

Source: http://epub.oeaw.ac.at/7826-2_inhalt

Horizon 2020 Space Information Days 2015

Two major international events will provide first-hand information on the content of the coming calls and bring interested actors together for matchmaking. Both events are co-organised by the European Commission and COSMOS2020, the network of National Contact Points (NCP) for Space.

The 2016-2017 work programme for the Space theme under Horizon 2020 will be published in October 2015. It includes:
- Applications in Satellite Navigation – Galileo
- Earth Observation – Copernicus
- Protection of European Assets in and from Space (Space Weather, Space Debris and Near Earth Objects)
- Competitiveness of the European Space Sector (Space Technology, Space Exploration and Science, International Cooperation, Outreach and Communication)
- SME Instruments and Fast Track to Innovation

Dates:
- 28-29 September 2015, Warsaw, Poland. See draft agenda: https://www.b2match.eu/system/h2020-space-infoday/files/COSMOS_2020_Info_Day_WARSAW_September_2015_DRAFT_AGENDA.pdf?1435336541
- 9-10 November 2015, Brussels, Belgium

Source: https://www.b2match.eu/h2020-space-infoday

2016 European Space Agency Living Planet Symposium, 9-13 May 2016, Prague, Czech Republic
Abstract deadline: **16 October 2015**

Living Planet Symposium 2016

The 2016 European Space Agency Living Planet Symposium follows the previous successful symposia held in Edinburgh (2013), Bergen (2010), Montreux (2007) and Salzburg (2004).

The event will be held in Prague, Czech Republic from 9-13 May 2016 and is organised with the support of the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic.

A first announcement has been released, with a deadline for abstract submission on 16 October 2015. All received abstracts will be reviewed by a Scientific Committee, notification of acceptance will be provided in early February 2016. Registration to attend the event will be opened in February 2016, after the publication of the preliminary programme.

Source: http://lps16.esa.int/

10th International Conference on Geo-information for Disaster Mgt, 1-2 October 2015, Montpelier, France

Across the world, the ability to bring together diverse sources of spatial data, and analyze and report on situations as they develop in the field has been critical in organising evacuations, guiding on the scene responders and allocating resources to victims. Urbanisation has also led to the emergence of evermore complex cities with high population densities. Much of the human activity in these cities happens indoors. For this reason in recent years there has a great interest in mapping indoor and enclosed environments in cities. One of the motivations of this mapping is the management of safety and security scenarios, such as fires, gas leaks, terrorism, and so forth. Safety and security scenarios are not limited to buildings in cities, but also include factories, underground tube stations, mines to name a few.

As part of the ISPRS Geospatial Week 2015, GiD4M is organising a workshop on the application of GIS in disaster management in urban areas. Workshop domains include (but are not limited to):

- User needs and requirements
- Technology developments
- Data collection and management
- Data integration and knowledge discovery
- End-user environments for interaction, visualisation and updating
- Positioning and location-based communication
- Assisted navigation and evacuation
- Automated mapping

Source: http://www.gi4dm.net/2015/

19th AGILE Conference on Geographic Information Science, 14-17 June 2016, Helsinki, Finland

AGILE 2016 will take place in Helsinki, Finland. Theme: Geospatial Data in a Changing World. AGILE 2016 builds on the success of previous conferences in this series held in Enschede (1998), Roma (1999), Helsinki/Espoo (2000), Brno (2001), Mallorca (2002), Lyon (2003), Crete (2004), Estoril (2005), Visegrad (2006), Aalborg (2007), Girona (2008), Hannover (2009), Guimarães (2010), Utrecht (2011), Avignon (2012), Leuven (2013), Castellon (2014) and Lisbon (2015).

- First call for papers: July 2015
- Full paper submission: Nov 2015
- Pre-conference workshop proposals: Nov 2015

Source: http://www.agile-online.org/index.php/conference/conference-2016

Presentations from 1ˢᵗ Urbanization in Europe and the World workshop

The workshop, held May 27-29, 2015, addressed European urbanization typologies and global urbanization trends and challenges from the point of view of reference data available, policy requirements, spatial planning recommendations and case studies. The event aimed to bring together planners from international and national practice, from academia and policy, to discuss how new mapping tools can inform the design of spatial planning, and promote best practice, bridging the urban/rural spectrum. The first two days were developed around a technical and a public policy discussion. The third day was reserved for the UNECE Housing and Land Management Committee Task Group meeting on spatial planning guidelines and for visiting the EXPO 2015. The workshop was by invitation only.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/workshop/urbanization-workshop

Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

Jamaica: Government entities to have unlimited access to GIS software

The Government has signed a $278.8 million (US$2.37 million) deal with Esri that will provide Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) with unlimited access to the entity's suite of technology software. Under the four-year Enterprise Licence Agreement (ELA) the 83 MDAs already using the system will have greater access to Esri's GIS software, thereby boosting their operations at a significantly reduced cost.

This is expected to considerably enhance key areas of the Government's operations including: land administration and management, planning, hazard mitigation and emergency management, environmental science, national security, and utilities and infrastructure. Agencies and institutions will also benefit from access to updated high resolution satellite imagery, topographic maps, and base content data; and training and technical assessments and guidance from visiting ESRI personnel, and representatives of their local agent, technology firm, Spatial Innovisions.

The arrangement will also see ESRI writing off the approximately $87 million (US$740,000) in outstanding licence fees owed to it by agencies, consequent on challenges experienced by the entities. The ELA, which will also accommodate 57 schools, was developed through collaboration with the Ministry's National Spatial Data Management Division, and the Land Information Council of Jamaica (LICJ). Water, Land, Environment, and Climate Change Minister, Hon. Robert Pickersgill, and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Spatial Innovisions, Silburn Clarke, signed the agreement during a brief ceremony at the Ministry's New Kingston offices on Wednesday, July 22ⁿᵈ, 2015.

http://jis.gov.jm/govt-entities-to-have-unlimited-access-to-gis-software/

Jamaica: ODPEM develops tool to assist with disaster impact assessment

As part of the thrust to improve the country's emergency response system, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM, http://www.odpem.org.jm/) in collaboration with the National Spatial Data Management Division has developed a system that is intended to assist with disaster impact assessment. The system, dubbed Geo Spatial Damage Assessment Tool (Geo-DAT) is a locally developed smart phone application (app) that is designed to capture data from post disaster sites in real time. The application is a web based system which utilises the Geographic Information System (GIS) crowd mapping and is available on the android platform. The disaster assessment tool boasts the capacity to assess multiple hazards such as hurricanes, fires, chemical spills and floods. Funding for the project was provided by USAID through the Washington D.C. based non profit economic development organization, Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA).

Source: http://jis.gov.jm/odpem-develops-tool-assist-disaster-impact-assessment/

Jamaica: Innovative weather model helps farmers prepare for drought

A new seasonal drought forecasting system pioneered by the Jamaican Meteorological Service, with support from USAID, helps the meteorological service anticipate conditions for the coming months. This technological innovation was the first step in building resilience. The system grew out of USAID's support for Jamaica's new national climate policy and recognition of how climate change might undermine the country's long-term development goals. USAID helped the meteorological service provide information and tools to specific groups such as farmers, who are highly vulnerable to climate change but important contributors to the national economy.

Source: Frontlines, Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, May/June 2015, http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/frontlines/science-technology-innovation-and-partnerships/innovative-weather-model

Launch of new application to support Climate Risk Management Caribbean Climate Impacts Database

Climate and disaster risk managers and researchers can now benefit from a new application that provides an evidence-based information archive which supports the forecasting and modeling of climate risk. The Caribbean Climate Impacts Database (CID) is an inventory of geo-referenced, historical climate-related impacts. The repository contains impact data for 17 Caribbean countries with some records dating as far back as 1780. The CID also has a sectoral focus and archives impacts affecting five climate sensitive sectors – agriculture and food security, water, disaster risk management, health, and tourism. It addresses the disconnect between climate and disaster impacts and the response to impacts at the national and sectoral levels by the inclusion of available response mechanisms and standard operating procedures. Eighteen months of development culminated with the launch of the Caribbean CID at the recently concluded Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) wet/hurricane season General Assembly on June 2, 2015 in Saint Lucia.

Going forward, developers plan to improve the content and functionality of the CID by expanding the data available for a wider range of countries; address the under-representation of positive climate impacts; and integrate near real-time impacts reporting in the response and recovery phases of disaster management. It is also anticipated that the CID will be instrumental in establishing a network of volunteer impact reporters in the Caribbean.

The CID is a collaborative effort between the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH, http://www.cimh.edu.bb/), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA, http://www.cdema.org/) and national disaster management agencies in the Caribbean. The database was developed under the 'Building Capacity to Manage Water Resources and Climate Risk in the Caribbean' partnership between the Centre for Resources Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES, http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/default.aspx) of the University of the West Indies, the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI, http://iri.columbia.edu/) of the Columbia University of New York and CIMH. This partnership was made possible by the generous support of the American People, through USAID and as managed by Higher Education Development (HED).

The CID can be accessed on the CIMH Regional Climate Centre (RCC) website: http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/; http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/cid/. Please follow the hashtags #CariCOF and #CIDLaunch2015 on Twitter to see more snapshots of the CID validation workshop and launch event. For more information about the CID, contact Shelly-Ann Cox at scox@cimh.edu.bb.

Source: http://www.climate-services.org/updates; Climate Services Partnership newsletter (July 2015), http://www.climate-services.org/system/files_force/CSPNewsletter_July%202015.pdf?download=1

Mexico: SIGECO platform to facilitate geographic information management for territorial management

The Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South Cooperation of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR, acronym in Spanish, http://www.conafor.gob.mx/) has developed a geographic information platform for territorial information, which will serve the planning and monitoring of local incentives to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

The GIS of CONAFOR (SIGECO, acronym in Spanish) will enable handling of all the geographic information generated by the institution, as well as that information produced by other federal and local governmental entities, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions that are considered relevant to the territorial management. This Platform will gather information on the location of federal funds for the forestry sector and will provide to users with relevant social, economic and environmental information to implement local incentives within the REDD+ Framework.

By this way, it will accomplish sharing geographic information inside the institution in a fast, secure and reliable manner, contributing to improve planning and administering the funds of CONAFOR in the territory so it can propitiate a sustainable rural development. The Platform has three components: a geographic database, a Geoportal and a desktop SIG tool. On the one hand, the SIG tool, based on free software, will help to improve the quality of data and will facilitate standardization of geographic information of funds applied by CONAFOR. On the other hand the Geoportal will permit to different Coordinations and Management Offices of CONAFOR access the database to make consults. It is planned that the implementation of the system will be tested this year in five states of REDD+ early actions: Jalisco, Chiapas, Campeche, Yucatan and Quintana Roo.

During the week of June 8th to 12th 2015, the Project organized a Course for technical users and managers or the system. In this workshop personnel of CONAFOR learned to create, edit, upload and download geographic information to the database using the developed software and to make consults through the Geoportal. Administration personnel learned to give support to the system and solve common problems, as well as manage the information contained in the database and the clearance to access it.

Video: https://vimeo.com/131046534 Facilitará plataforma el manejo de información geográfica para la gestión territorial

Source: http://www.mrv.mx/index.php/en/news/blog/304-facilitara-plataforma-el-manejo-de-informacion-geografica-para-la-gestion-territorial-2.html

Mexico: 1er. Congreso Nacional de Ordenamiento Territorial y Ecológia

La Universidad de Guanajuato, el Gobierno del Estado de Guanajuato, y la Sociedad Internacional de Ordenamiento Territorial y Ecológico convocan al I Congreso Nacional de Ordenamiento Territorial y Ecológico con el thema "Hacia una visión integradora de la Ordenación del Territorio," a celebrarse en la Ciudad de Guanajuato, Agosto 26 a 28 de 2015, con talleres temáticos el 24 y 25 de agosto de 2015.

Consulta aquí el programa de actividades: http://www.ordenamiento2015.org.mx/Programa_COTENAL_2015.pdf

Fuente: http://www.ordenamiento2015.org.mx/

Honduras: Nueva plataforma de información para la toma de decisiones en el sector forestal

El Instituto Nacional de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal, Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre (ICF), a través del proyecto MOSEF (http://mosef.org.hn/?cause=gesp;

http://www.icf.gob.hn/secciones/mosef/mosef_ini.html) y financiado con fondos de la Unión Europea, presentó el miércoles 17 de junio en el Hotel Honduras Maya, lanza el primer Geoportal y los Geoservicios de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales (IDE), en el marco de la Infraestructura Nacional de Datos Espaciales (INDES), realizado con una inversión de 117,000 Euros.

El IDE Forestal es un visor de información (Geoportal), que provee un acceso ágil a información sectorial forestal actualizada y contribuye a una mayor transparencia y conocimiento sobre el patrimonio forestal del país; Adicionalmente se facilita la consulta y descarga de datos actualizados y oficiales del ICF, para el sector forestal, y además la implementación de un catálogo de metadatos, que facilita la creación, almacenamiento, gestión y uso de la información geográfica del país de forma ordenada. Este geoportal se encuentra disponible en la dirección www.geoportal.icf.gob.hn.

Esta plataforma tecnológica (http://geo-mosef.gesp.it/geoportal/main) contribuye a la implementación de la Infraestructura Nacional de Datos Espaciales (INDES), facilitando la vinculación con otras instancias internacionales, nacionales y locales que apoyan el manejo de los recursos naturales y el ordenamiento territorial del país. Asimismo, permitirá interactuar con otras plataformas sectoriales (IDE sectoriales) que a futuro se vayan creando.

English summary: **New information platform for decision-making in the forestry sector**

The National Institute of Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife (ICF), through MOSEF project (http://mosef.org.hn/?cause=gesp; http://www.icf.gob.hn/secciones/mosef/mosef_ini.html) funded by the European Union, presented on Wednesday, June 17 at the Hotel Honduras Maya, launches the first Geoportal and Geoservices of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), as part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (INDES), realized with an investment of 117,000 Euros.

Forest IDE is an information display (Geoportal), which provides quick access to updated information and forest sector contributes to greater transparency and understanding of the forest heritage; Additionally facilitates the consultation and downloading of updated official data ICF to forestry, and also the implementation of a metadata catalog that facilitates the creation, storage, management and use of geographic information in an orderly country. This geoportal is available in the direction www.geoportal.icf.gob.hn.

The Geoportal (http://geo-mosef.gesp.it/geoportal/main) is developed in open source and configured based on mature and stable applications as GeoServer, GeoNetwork, PostgreSQL and OpenLayers. From a single access point, users can execute all activities: navigate maps, view and share geospatial information, view, search, and manage data and metadata, manage the system and all parameters and settings. To use of these functions, the structure of the GeoPortal includes three applications:
- Geographic viewer: navigation, visualization and analysis of geographic information
- Metadata Catalog: Display, Search and Insertion Metadata
- Administration Panel: Administration GeoPortal, visible only by authorized users

This technological platform contributes to the implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (INDES), facilitating links with other international, national and local levels that support the management of natural resources and land use in the country. It will also allow you to interact with other sectoral platforms (sectoral IDE) that in the future they are created.

Fuente: http://mosef.org.hn/?p=4850; http://www.gesp.it/en/experience-qualifications/hse-healyh-security-and-environment/22-referenze/262-mosef.html

Honduras: UN-SPIDER conducts Technical Advisory Mission

UN-SPIDER conducted a Technical Advisory Mission to Honduras from 13 to 18 July 2015. The mission was conducted at the request of the Permanent Commission for Contingencies of Honduras (COPECO, http://copeco.gob.hn), and was carried out with a team of experts from the Mexican Space Agency (AEM), the Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC), the Federal University of Santa Maria in Brazil, and with experts from two UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices: the Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute of Colombia (IGAC) and the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC).

The mission included a workshop with the Interagency Commission on Geospatial Data. This inter-institutional commission includes many government agencies which generate geospatial data and universities, as well as COPECO. This Commission has already advanced on several of the elements related to the national spatial database infrastructure including an inventory regarding which agencies store specific geospatial data and which agencies generate geospatial data. Furthermore the commission has already completed a metadata guideline. As expected, its establishment is facilitating the exchange of geospatial data among several institutions.

Source: http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/news/un-spider-conducts-technical-advisory-mission-honduras

Colombia: Análisis de la Matriz DOFA de la Infraestructura Colombiana de Datos Espaciales (ICDE)

En este documento, se presenta el proceso de análisis de unas matrices obtenidas a partir de información suministrada por los actores partícipes de la Infraestructura Colombiana de Datos Espaciales (ICDE), teniendo en cuenta criterios claves para el análisis situacional de la infraestructura: técnico, jurídico, organizacional y financiero.

Consulte el contenido: http://www.icde.org.co/alfresco2.1-5.1.1.1/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/93edd3aa-24b7-11e5-a102-25e781ea426c/ICDE_PE_An%C3%A1lisis_DOFA.pdf

English summary: **SWOT analysis matrix of the Colombia Spatial Data Infrastructure (ICDE)**

In this document, the SWOT analysis is presented based on information provided by stakeholders participating in the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ICDE) initiative; it takes into account key criteria for infrastructure situational analysis: technical, legal , organizational and financial .

Fuente: http://www.icde.org.co/web/guest/noticias

Bolivia: Se desarrolló la 8va reunión del Comité Interinstitucional de la IDE-EPB

El pasado 26 de junio del presente se llevo a cabo la octava reunión del Comité Interinstitucional de la Insfraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia (IDE-EPB) en el hall de la Vicepresidencia, en la que se reunieron representantes de mas de 60 instituciones estatales quienes además de la sesión plenaria participaron de dos jornadas de capacitación además de la presentación de los nuevos nodos que forman parte de la IDE-EPB.

English summary: **8th meeting of the Interagency Committee on IDE-EPB developed**

On 26 June, the eighth IADC meeting was held of the Spatial Data Infrastructure the Plurinational State of Bolivia (IDE-EPB) in the hall of the Vice President, in which more than 60 representatives of State institutions met who also attended the plenary session of two days of training in addition to the presentation of new nodes that are part of the IDE-EPB.

Fuente: http://geo.gob.bo/?Se-desarrollo-la-8va-reunion-del

Bolivia: GeoBolivia, Mapa del mes Julio 2015

Este el mes de Julio, GeoBolivia pone a disposición de sus usuarios los Mapas del Marco de Referencia Vertical (redes de nivelación y gravimétrica), elaborados por el Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), a través del Centro de Procesamiento y Análisis de Datos GNSS - CEPAG.

English summary: **GeoBolivia, Map of the month July 2015**
This July, GeoBolivia offers its users the maps vertical reference frame (leveling and gravimetric networks), developed by the Military Geographical Institute (IGM), through the Processing Center and Data Analysis GNSS - CEPAG .

Fuente: http://geo.gob.bo/?GeoBolivia-Mapa-del-mes-Julio-2015

Peru: New technologies improve the governance of the territory

Regional Government of Loreto presented its new Geoportal, Geographic Object catalogues, and Forest Management symbols. These three new initiatives launched with the support of Law, Environment and Natural Resources (DAR) were publicly presented for improving the management of Peruvian territory. These initiatives represent significant progress in the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) of the Regional Government of Loreto; the proposed factors to measure governance of zoning processes; and the proposed Land Information System.

Source: http://www.dar.org.pe/noticias/nuevas-tecnologias-mejoran-la-gestion-publica-del-territorio/

Paraguay: Catastro ofrece servicio online de datos de inmuebles

El Servicio Nacional de Catastro (SNC) informa que se ha implementado satisfactoriamente el módulo "IDE WEB" integrados que consiste en un portal digital de mapas basado en el framework Pmapper de MapServer (el visor externo), publicados en la web institucional: www.catastro.gov.py.

Mediante esta plataforma cibernética los usuarios ajenos a la institución pueden acceder a información alfanumérica y espacial de los inmuebles las 24 horas del día. Esta medida corresponde al objetivo del SNC de contribuir con la seguridad jurídica, poniendo a disposición de las instituciones toda información catastral que contribuya al ordenamiento territorial del país y transparencia de las gestiones inmobiliarias y/o catastrales de otros Ministerios.

Como prueba de este logro, se concretó con la Secretaría del Ambiente (Seam) la conexión online. De este modo, la Seam se convierte en la primera institución estatal conectada a la base de datos espaciales del SNC. Todo este procedimiento requirió nueve meses de trabajo coordinado dentro de un marco de convenio interinstitucional.

English summary: **Cadastre provides online data service properties**

National Cadastral Service (SNC) reports that it has successfully implemented the integrated "WEB IDE" module consisting of a digital mapping portal framework based on MapServer Pmapper (external display), published in the institutional website: www.catastro.gov.py.

Through this cyber platform users outside the institution can access alphanumeric and spatial information property 24 hours a day. This measure corresponds to the objective of the SNC to contribute to legal certainty, by providing cadastral information institutions all contribute to the territorial system of the country and transparency of the real estate managements and / or land registry of other ministries.

As proof of this achievement, an online connection with the Ministry of Environment (SEAM) was realized. Thus, the SEAM became the first state institution connected to the spatial data base of the SNC. This whole procedure took nine months of coordinated work within a framework of interagency agreement.

Fuente: http://www.ip.gov.py/ip/?p=40466

II Jornada de Geofísica y III Jornada de Cartografía, 29-30 de octubre 2015, Montevideo, Uruguay

La Comisión de Cartografía de la Sección Nacional de Uruguay del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia (IPGH) invita a participar de las II Jornadas de Cartografía en conjunto con la I Jornadas de Geofísica a desarrollarse los días 29 y 30 de octubre en la ciudad de Montevideo. Estos eventos serán un espacio de encuentro y discusión entre ciudadanos, organismos, academia y empresas, un ámbito para profundizar la difusión de conocimientos e intercambio de experiencias entre los diversos actores involucrados en estas temáticas.

Formulario de inscripción: http://www.ipgh.org.uy/inscripcion.php

English summary: **3rd Conference of Cartography & 2nd Conference of Geophysics**

The Commission of the National Cartographic Section of Uruguay's Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) invites you to participate in 3rd Conference of Cartography in conjunction with the 2nd Conference of Geophysics, 29-30th October, to held in the city of Montevideo. These events will be a meeting and discussion between citizens, organizations, academia and business, an area for further knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences between the various actors involved in these issues.

Fuente: http://www.ipgh.org.uy/

Argentina: El visor GeoLanús, una Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Municipio Lanús

El visor GeoLanús permite consultar la información territorial del distrito y la proveniente de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de la Provincia de Buenos Aires IDEBA.

GeoLanús nace en el marco de la implementación de una Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales Municipal (IDE), desarrollada íntegramente con software libre y recursos propios, y alojada en un servidor exclusivo donde se reúnen las capas de información disponibles.

La IDE Municipal se constituye como un Nodo que integra Servicios Web de Mapas de organismos e instituciones locales, provinciales y nacionales, y que permite acceder a la información geográfica que producen en tiempo real. Dicha integración se logró a partir de la articulación con la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de la Provincia de Buenos Aires IDEBA y la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de la República Argentina IDERA.

GeoLanús se consolida en el ámbito del Sistema de Información Urbana Catastral Georreferenciado (GeoSIUC, http://190.220.147.114:8027/geosiuc/), el cual depende de la Dirección General de Planificación, bajo la coordinación de la Dirección de Ordenamiento Territorial, con el objetivo de articular e integrar las acciones de todas las áreas municipales, facilitando la disponibilidad de información territorial confiable, integrada e interoperable.

English summary: *GeoLanús, spatial data infrastructure of the Province of Buenos Aires IDEBA*

GeoLanús, launched within the framework of the implementation of a Municipal SDI (IDE), was developed entirely with free software and resources and is hosted on a dedicated server where available layers of information are gathered.

The Municipal SDI constitutes a node that integrates Web Map Services of organizations and local, provincial and national institutions, and provides access to geographic information produced in real time. This integration is achieved from joining the SDI of the Province of Buenos Aires IDEBA with the SDI of Argentina IDERA.

GeoLanús is consolidated in the field of geo-referenced Urban Cadastral Information System (GeoSIUC), which depends on the Directorate General of Planning, under the coordination of the Directorate of Land Management, to coordinate and integrate the actions of all municipal areas, facilitating the availability of reliable, integrated, and interoperable land information.

Fuente: http://www.lanus.gov.ar/geolanus.php

Argentina: I Congreso Internacional de Tecnologías de la Información Geográfica, Chubut
October 8-9, 2015

Los Departamentos de Geografía Comodoro Rivadavia y Trelew, y el Instituto de Investigaciones Geográficas de la Patagonia (IGEOPAT, http://www.igeopat.org), organizan el III Congreso Nacional de Tecnologías de la Información Geográfica, las III Jornadas de Sistemas de Información Geográfica, y el I Congreso Internacional de Tecnologías de la Información Geográfica que se desarrollarán en la Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales de la Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia "San Juan Bosco" Comodoro Rivadavia.

Con el propósito de consolidar el espacio generado en los Congresos Nacionales y Jornadas de Sistemas de Información Geográfica, se invita a docentes, investigadores, graduados, operadores y técnicos desarrolladores de SIG, organismos públicos y privados, a participar con resultados o avances de investigación, tesis, trabajos sobre uso, desarrollo, y aplicaciones de herramientas vinculadas al análisis geoespacial. Contacto: iiicongresosig@gmail.com.

English summary: *Consolidated event of national GIS conferences and congresses*

The Departments of Geography Comodoro Rivadavia and Trelew, and the Geographical Research Institute of the

Patagonia (IGEOPAT), are consolidating the 3rd National Congress of Geographic Information Technologies, the 3rd Conference on Systems Geographic Information, and the 1st International Congress of Technologies Geographic Information into one event, which will be held in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the National University of Patagonia "San Juan Bosco" Comodoro Rivadavia.

Fuente: http://www.ign.gob.ar/content/iii-congreso-nacional-de-tecnologias-de-la-informacion-geografica; http://www.igeopat.org/images/novedades/2daCircular-III%20Congreso%20SIG.pdf

Chile: Nueva información disponible para la visualización y descarga en Geoportal de Chile

 Durante el mes de julio, se ha publicado en el Geoportal de Chile (http://www.ide.cl/) una nueva serie de servicios de mapas para la visualización y descarga en formato shapefile. En total, son 14 nuevas capas de información referidas a las temáticas de Transporte, Turismo y Justicia.

English summary: **New information available for viewing and download at Geoportal de Chile**

During the month of July, a new series of map services for visualization and download in shapefile format has been published in the Geoportal of Chile (http://www.ide.cl/). In total, there are 14 new layers of information relating to the themes of Transport, Tourism and Justice.

Fuente: http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/item/nueva-informacion-disponible-para-la-visualizacion-y-descarga-en-geoportal-de-chile.html

Chile: Bienes Nacionales y SENAME: hacia una nueva plataforma de información territorial

 En una ceremonia conjunta, los Ministros de Justicia, Javiera Blanco, y Bienes Nacionales, Víctor Osorio, junto a la directora del Servicio Nacional de Menores (SENAME), Marcela Labraña, suscribieron un significativo convenio en materia de georreferenciación para la plena inclusión de la entidad en la plataforma de información territorial.

English summary: **National Property and SENAME: towards a new land information platform**

In a joint ceremony, the Ministers of Justice, Javiera Blanco, and National Heritage, Victor Osorio, along with the director of the National Service for Minors (SENAME), Marcela Labraña signed a significant agreement on georeferencing for the full inclusion of the agency in the territorial information platform (SNIT).

The SNIT is a program of the Government of Chile created to establish a management tool of national spatial information based on institutional cooperation, which requires that each State agency represents its work on the territory through maps digital with associated databases. The agreement aims to establish a relationship of mutual cooperation in the field of geospatial information, geomatics and geospatial data infrastructure. This agreement will allow the exchange of scientific personnel and / or technical projects for the development of geospatial information and development of spatial data infrastructure; integration and dissemination of geospatial data; and study of techniques and methods, among others.

Fuente: http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/2015/item/bienes-nacionales-y-sename-hacia-una-nueva-plataforma-de-informacion-territorial.html

GeoSUR Newsletter, numbers 5 and 6, May-Junel 2015, now available

 The GeoSUR Newsletter seeks to disseminate GeoSUR Program's achievements and characteristics as well as events, projects, and best practices for the application of geographic information into sustainable development and decision making in the region, as part of the Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas. This edition presents different approaches to regional cooperation in the production and dissemination of Geographic Information (GI). New risks and the role of national mapping agencies in the context of free data, as well as the various characters of regional / global cooperation are highlighted in the interview of the month. In the same vein, in the permanent columns are emphasized the "convergence of policies, practices and processes" as a framework for: the organizations of the Americas' shared Plan to the acceleration of SDIs; the recent joint meeting between the global and the SDI in Europe; the implementation of GI as demonstrated in thematic meetings of the Americas; and the evaluation requirements of the Pan-American Agenda promoted during meetings of PAIGH's Authorities and Commissions in June.
The Bulletin is available in two languages:

Spanish: http://www.geosur.info/geosur/contents/GeoSURv2n5_6_esp.pdf
English: http://www.geosur.info/geosur/contents/GeoSURv2n5_6_eng.pdf

Source: http://www.geosur.info/geosur/index.php/en/news

North America Region SDI News

Canada: GeoAlliance Canada officially launched

GeoAlliance Canada (http://geoalliance.ca/) is a new umbrella organization that will address sector-wide strategic priorities by pooling the energy and resources of existing business, non-profit, education and government organizations in the "geo" sector. The sector has been too fragmented for too long, rendering stakeholders unable to work together effectively. The launch of GeoAlliance Canada is the culmination of several years of hard work within the Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table (CGCRT, http://cgcrt.ca/en/). The CGCRT was a volunteer-run collaborative body which came to a close in January 2015. Through a lengthy consultation process, the CGCRT definitively identified a need for sustainable national leadership. On April 20, 2015, leaders from the geo community across Canada came together and finalizing the structure and intent of the new national umbrella organization which will allow organizations to work together toward a future where Canada's geospatial sector is among the most innovative and competitive in the world.

GeoAlliance Canada is comprised of organizations representing the public sector, the education community, non-profit organizations and the private sector. GeoAlliance Canada will work to raise the profile of geo across the country by bringing together representatives from all geomatics sectors. Together, they are working toward a future where Canada's geospatial sector is among the most innovative and competitive in the world.

See also: GeoAlliance blog:
- Interview with Prashant Shukle, Director General at the Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation (CCMEO) at NRCan, about the results of the Canadian Geomatics Environmental Scan and Value Study http://geoalliance.ca/en/blog/2015/07/interview-prashant-shukle-director-general-ccmeo/
- How can a clear identity for the geomatics sector lead to economic growth? http://geoalliance.ca/en/blog/2015/07/how-can-clear-identity-geomatics-sector-lead-economic-growth/

You can sign up to receive a monthly GeoAlliance Canada news digest. https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1791792/1754274/?v=a

Esri Canada blog: What is SDI governance and why is it so often overlooked?

Developing, implementing and operationalizing a successful multi-participant SDI project has its many challenges. Technical challenges can be difficult to overcome, but there are proven methodologies for planning, scheduling, managing and delivering your SDI project that can help you prevail over obstacles.

Implementing and operationalizing your SDI technology among the diverse and sometimes skeptical stakeholder community can also be challenging; however, getting other organizations to do things differently or even do things at all to support the SDI project requires skills and methodologies different from technical management. These other organizations have their own inertia, egos, emotions, funding and priorities that sometimes interfere with getting SDI-related things done. Most often, these non-technical SDI issues are managed through a process called governance – elaborated upon in this Esri Canada blog.

Source: http://esri.ca/en/blog/what-sdi-governance-and-why-it-so-often-overlooked

9th Symposium of the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE), 5-9 October 2015, Halifax, Canada

Registration for Digital Earth 2015 – 9th Symposium of the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) is now open (http://digitalearth2015.ca/registration/). Digital Earth 2015, with the theme "Towards a One-World Vision for the Blue Planet" will be held in Halifax, NS, Canada, October 5-9, 2015.

Digital Earth concerns the integrated use of digital technologies to monitor, map, model, and manage our planet's environments. At Digital Earth 2015 up to 1,000 scientists, engineers, technologists, and

environmental managers from around the world will meet to share concepts, research findings, technologies, and practical applications relating to the Digital Earth vision.

Source: http://digitalearth2015.ca/

9th International Conference on Geographic Information Science (GIScience 2016)
27-30 September 2016, Montreal, Canada

The 9th International Conference on Geographic Information Science (GIScience 2016) will be held in Montreal, Canada. GIScience 2016 continues a highly successful series of conferences started in 2000, highlighting cutting edge research that pushes the boundaries of geospatial analysis. Held every two years and alternating between US and Europe, this is the first time that a venue has been selected in Canada. GIScience conferences regularly brings together about 300 international participants from academia, industry, and government organizations to discuss and advance the state-of-the-art in Geographic Information Science.

The 9th conference will be held in Montreal and co-organized by McGill University, Université Laval and University of Saskatchewan, from September 27 to 30, 2016. The first day will be dedicated to workshops and tutorials and will be followed by the main conference. GIScience conference series has always had a focus on fundamental research themes and questions. GIScience 2016 will strongly welcomes articles and proposals covering emerging topics and fundamental research findings across all sectors of Geographic Information Science.

Source: http://giscience.geog.mcgill.ca/

USA: National Geospatial Advisory Committee meets in Washington, DC

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) met in Washington, DC on June 9-10, 2015. The full report of the meeting including the powerpoints from the subcommittees and lightning sessions are available on the NGAC website, https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/june-2015/index_html. The NGAC is a Federal Advisory Committee that reports to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). Its role is to provide advice and recommendations related to the national geospatial program and the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

The group started out the meeting by discussing what's trending in geospatial these days. Then, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science asked the NGAC to develop a set of recommendations that should be done by the FGDC in the next 18 months prior to the change in administration. The group recommended the following:

1. Data Initiatives
- National Address Database: Develop and implement approach for a National Address Database. Ensure governance & funding models meet needs of major stakeholders.
- 3D Elevation Program: Make significant advancements in the 3DEP initiative. Secure funding commitments for enhancement and institutionalization of the program.

2. Communications Strategy
- Finalize and implement national communications strategy for NSDI and Geospatial Platform.
- Seek input and engagement from NGAC and non-Federal partners in developing goals, messages and approaches
- Develop a variety of effective and adaptable tools - videos, social media, web presence, etc.

3. Geospatial Platform
- Make significant advancements to further develop and institutionalize the Geospatial Platform.
- Continue to collaborate with external partners on communities, shared services, etc.

4. Transition Strategy
- FGDC work with NGAC to develop options/proposals for next Administration
- May include strategic approaches - new strategic plans for NSDI, National Map, etc.
- May include new programmatic and partnership approaches.

The Crowdsourced Data Subcommittee convened a spotlight session on crowdsourced data. Several interesting projects were discussed (e.g., MapGive, TeachOSM, Nature's Notebook). The NGAC also continues to follow the Geospatial Data Reform Act in the Senate sponsored by Mark R. Warner (D-VA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) "to improve oversight and reduce duplication in the management of geospatial data." The bill is now in committee.

The next meeting of the NGAC will be in September 2015 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Source: http://library.stanford.edu/blogs/stanford-libraries-blog/2015/06/national-geospatial-advisory-committee-meets-washington

USA: A-16 NGDA Themes Crosswalk to Framework Themes

The National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Themes list has been updated to indicate Framework themes for consistency with OMB Circular A-16 Appendix E. See: A-16 National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Data Themes and Theme Lead Agencies (pdf) https://www.fgdc.gov/initiatives/resources/2013-2-1-ngda-data-themes-fgdc-sc-revised-Framework.pdf
Version/Date: Endorsed August 19, 2011, revised February 1, 2013, Framework themes indicated June 29, 2015

Source: https://www.fgdc.gov/fgdc-news/NGDA_Framework_Theme_Crosswalk

U.S. Board on Geographic Names Celebrates 125th Anniversary

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) will be observing its 125th anniversary by inviting the public to a one-day symposium on geographic names, "Traditions and Transitions". The event, at the Library of Congress, will be held on Friday, September 18, 2015 in the Mumford Room, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed by an Open House and special exhibit from the Library of Congress. No registration is required to attend. For more information, please contact Douglas.R.Caldwell@usace.army.mil.

The U.S. Board of Geographic Names was established by Executive Order from President Benjamin Harrison, on September 4, 1890, to standardize geographic names for federal government use. The BGN is a federal body comprised of ten member agencies. The BGN organization includes the Domestic and Foreign Names Committees, and three Advisory Committees. Committee meetings are held regularly, and activities are reported annually. The BGN website hosts the online domestic geographic feature names database, www.geonames.usgs.gov, with links to the foreign geographic feature names, hosted by the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/.

Source: https://www.fgdc.gov/fgdc-news/us-bgn-125th-anniversary

Final Report from the National Address Database Summit

The National Address Database Summit was held at The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD on April 8-9, 2015. The Summit was sponsored by the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) and facilitated by Applied Geographics, Inc. and LEAD Alliance. The Summit provided a specialized forum for generating ideas and gathering input on the feasibility and format of a shared address database for the nation. The summit was attended by 58 participants and an additional 25 observers from across the federal, state, local government, tribal, non-profit and private sector stakeholders.

The final report from the National Address Database Summit meeting is now available at this link, http://www.nsgic.org/public_resources/NAD_Summit_Final_Report_070815.pdf. You can also find more information on the Summit Meeting, including the presentations, at this link, https://sites.google.com/a/appgeo.com/nationaladdressdatasummit/home.

Source: http://www.nsgic.org/blog/final-report-from-the-national-address-database-summit-is-available/

USA: HUD releases geospatial storefront

The first iteration of HUD's Geospatial Storefront, released on June 9th, 2015 is an easy-to-use portal where users can search for and discover the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) geospatial datasets, application programming interfaces (APIs), web-based mapping applications, and other eGIS initiatives. The Storefront unifies public access to HUD's portfolio of applications and geospatial data resources, including the 11 National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) data sets that HUD is currently contributing to the Federal geospatial data portfolio. The initial build of the

Storefront is focused on HUD's core geospatial data sets, but will soon include all of HUD's published geospatial data. Following iterations will also include expanded documentation including developer guidance for the APIs, on-line training resources for HUD mapping applications, and tighter coordination with data.gov and GeoPlatform.gov.

Visit HUD's Geospatial Storefront: http://www.huduser.org/portal/egis/index.html

Source: https://www.fgdc.gov/fgdc-news/hud-geospatial-storefront-released

USA: topoView launched

What was your neighborhood like in the 1900s? The USGS National Map program (http://nationalmap.gov/index.html), working with the National Geologic Map Database (NGMDB, http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html) project, has launched a new version of the beta application, topoView for exploring, viewing and downloading the more than 178,000 USGS digitized legacy topographic maps from the USGS Historical Topographic Map Collection (HTMC, http://nationalmap.gov/historical/index.html). These scanned quadrangles, georeferenced at various scales, date from the late 1880's to 2010. http://on.doi.gov/1NOEJB2.

Source: http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/a-new-way-to-find-old-maps/

USA: NOAA forms National Centers for Environmental Information

The demand for high-value environmental data and information has dramatically increased in recent years. To improve our ability to meet that demand, NOAA's existing three National Data Centers—the National Climatic Data Center, the National Geophysical Data Center, and the National Oceanographic Data Center, which includes the National Coastal Data Development Center, have merged into the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

NCEI is responsible for hosting and providing access to one of the most significant archives on Earth, with comprehensive oceanic, atmospheric, and geophysical data. From the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun and from million-year-old sediment records to near real-time satellite images, NCEI will be the Nation's leading authority for environmental information. This merger will allow for all of NOAA's ocean and coastal data to be archived and managed with consistent data stewardship tools. For more information, visit www.ncei.noaa.gov.

Source: TsuInfo Alert, Volume 17, Number 3 (June 2015)

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/researchscience/topics/geologypublicationslibrary/pages/tsuinfo.aspx

USA: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) public engagement website and online GeoPortal

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has published a public engagement website and online GeoPortal associated with the preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program (www.BOEMoceaninfo.com). BOEM's vision for the Programmatic EIS scoping process is to engage a wide range of stakeholders and promote a dynamic stakeholder interaction that will comprehensively capture relevant and diverse input as it relates to local expertise and perspectives. The primary website

provides access to information regarding the public involvement process, Programmatic EIS education, GeoPortal access, and best practices for formulating comments.
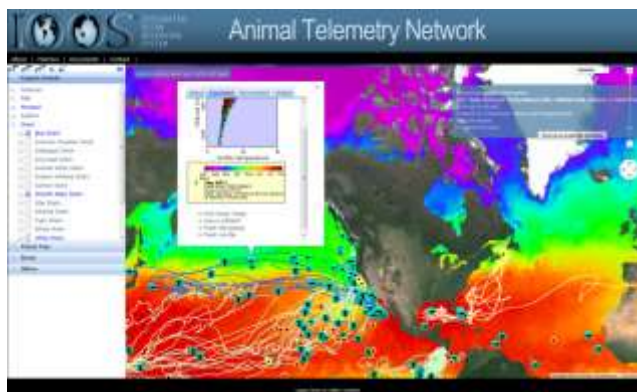
Users of the website and GeoPortal (https://www.csawebmap.com/boemoceaninfo/) are encouraged to provide comments that are specific, geographically-focused, concise, and supported by scientific evidence or sound reasoning. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the process by submitting comments online, creating maps on the GeoPortal site to support their comments, or uploading relevant geospatial datasets. Utilizing new web development toolsets, BOEM will be able to capture a broader, national range of stakeholder feedback while funneling comments and suggestions through an evaluation process aimed at collecting those most relevant to the scoping of the Programmatic EIS.

Understanding the need for insightful visualizations, BOEM commissioned CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. to design, develop, and construct a GeoPortal built around spatial data focused on the conditions and features of the OCS within the areas under possible consideration of potential new leases in Alaska, the Gulf of Mexico, and Mid- and South Atlantic. Stakeholders will be able to investigate areas being considered, identify data gaps, create maps to submit with comments, and enhance their knowledge of resources that may be affected. The GeoPortal provides a variety of data sets that range from bathymetry contours and commercial fishing areas to critical habitats for protected species and managed areas. Interactive features such as drawing, measurement, and identification tools allow users to create customized maps to support their comments or suggestions.

Source: https://www.csaocean.com/press-releases/csa-supports-boem-launch-of-programmatic-eis-public-engagement-website

USA: National marine Animal Telemetry Network Data Assembly Center (ATN DAC) launched

United States Integrated Ocean Observing System (U.S. IOOS) and the Office of Naval Research (ONR) working with Stanford University, University of California in Santa Cruz (UCSC), and the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center Environmental Research Division (NOAA/SWFSC) have launched the national Marine Animal Telemetry Network Data Assembly Center (ATN DAC) to provide reliable and accurate biological and physical observations data. The development of this network began in 2011 and the result is a portal providing data that can be used in modeling ocean dynamics, defining critical ocean habitats, and forecasting marine ecosystem features to support US IOOS societal benefits needs, particularly to improve predictions of climate change, more effectively protect and restore healthy coastal ecosystems and enable the sustained use of ocean and coastal resources.

The ATN DAC in its current version provides access to 48 different species such as sharks, sea turtles, seals, whales, tuna and squid, with deployment dates ranging from 2000-2014. Animal telemetry technology is leading to profound advancements in understanding animals and how they interact with their environment. For more information on the important work being done in the area of animal telemetry visit: http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/observing/animal_telemetry/welcome.html and for questions about the US IOOS ATN DAC, please contact: Hassan Moustahfid at hassan.moustahfid@noaa.gov or Randy Kochevar at kochevar@stanford.edu

Source: http://geobon.org/ioos-atn-dac-launched/

USA: Open-Sourcing Geospatial Intelligence - Hootenanny crowdsources geospatial data analysis

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency has publicly released Hootenanny, a software toolkit designed to harness the power of crowdsourced mapping for geospatial big data analytics. Posted on GitHub, the open source project provides a scalable processing engine and interactive editing interface to help users rapidly conflate, or reconcile, map features generated from satellite imagery, unmanned aerial vehicles and mobile devices, NGA said.

NGA worked with DigitalGlobe – a private company that provides public imaging and mapping services to the public – to build Hootenanny. It leverages the open architecture of OpenStreetMap – a collaborative project to create a free and editable map of the world that, along with other crowdsourced mapping communities, has attracted over 2.5 million

volunteers – to easily integrate diverse geospatial datasets into common data structures. According to NGA, conflated datasets can be exported in several GIS formats.

Source: http://gcn.com/articles/2015/07/14/nga-hootenanny.aspx

USA (Virginia): Development of a regional GIS portal with transit data
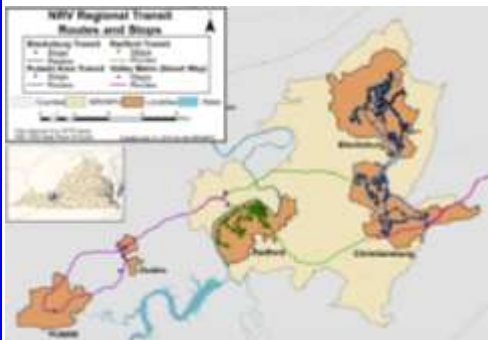
Author(s): ECB Olsen, CM Howey, GM Owen
Compendium of papers from 94th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board (2015)

Abstract: The New River Valley (NRV) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) recently launched a project creating a regional GIS portal in support of transit planning initiatives. The purpose of the project is to improve connections between transit providers and other modes of transportation, and to assist on-going and future transportation planning efforts at the local and regional scale.

The project was conducted in two phases. Phase I included meetings with stakeholders to assess regional needs and to discuss transit-planning processes, GIS technologies, and existing data sources. Several stakeholder agencies collaborated to share transit-related data, which was catalogued and edited for public consumption. Phase II made transit data available to the public.

The MPO partnered with the NRV Planning District Commission (PDC) to host the transit data on a FTP site. Using ArcGIS Online, an interactive web map was created featuring route and stop layers for the four fixed-route providers in the region. The project provided an outlet for important discussions between regional transit stakeholders and led to increased communication and collaboration between agencies. A regional transit GIS portal was created to share transit data featuring links to the FTP site, web map and additional resources regarding the MPO project.

Source: http://trid.trb.org/view.aspx?id=1336782

Economic Assessment of the Use Value of Geospatial Information

Author(s): Richard Bernknopf and Carl Shapiro
ISPRS Int. J. Geo-Inf. 2015, 4(3), 1142-1165

Abstract: Geospatial data inform decision makers. An economic model that involves application of spatial and temporal scientific, technical, and economic data in decision making is described. The value of information (VOI) contained in geospatial data is the difference between the net benefits (in present value terms) of a decision with and without the information. A range of technologies is used to collect and distribute geospatial data. These technical activities are linked to examples that show how the data can be applied in decision making, which is a cultural activity. The economic model for assessing the VOI in geospatial data for decision making is applied to three examples: (1) a retrospective model about environmental regulation of agrochemicals; (2) a prospective model about the impact and mitigation of earthquakes in urban areas; and (3) a prospective model about developing private–public geospatial information for an ecosystem services market. Each example demonstrates the potential value of geospatial information in a decision with uncertain information.

Keywords: geospatial information; economics; economic impacts; open access; value of information; technological innovation; benefits and costs

Source: http://www.mdpi.com/2220-9964/4/3/1142/htm

Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

UAE: Abu Dhabi Systems & Information Centre wins inaugural "Smart Government Award" from Esri

The Abu Dhabi Systems & Information Centre (ADSIC, https://adsic.abudhabi.ae/adsic/) was selected as the winner of Esri's inaugural Smart Government award for ADSIC's work for co-operative use of geospatial data through the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) initiative. With the increasing use of geographic information systems (GIS) in the country, the ADSIC launched the Abu Dhabi Spatial Data Infrastructure (AD-SDI,

https://sdi.abudhabi.ae/Sites/SDI/Navigation/EN/root.html) initiative in 2007. Today, the initiative includes more than 70 government and quasi-government agencies. Sectors include urban planning, local government, utilities, infrastructure, safety, security, environment, cultural heritage, public health, business, and education. Initiative members are required to share their spatial data with one another to facilitate the use of geospatial data among government agencies and other stakeholders.

Incorporated into the AD-SDI is a data clearinghouse, geospatial portal (http://geoportal.abudhabi.ae/geoportal/), and website as well as a framework for community engagement and formal agreements for data provision and sharing. The SDI is transforming government services to support inter-government and multi-stakeholder collaboration for better planning, analysis, and decision making. This has resulted in a real return on investment through social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Source: http://www.itp.net/604045-adsic-wins-award-for-geospatial-data-sharing

Oman: National Multi Hazard Early Warning System: Addressing natural disasters in Oman (video)

This video, by the Public Authority for Civil Aviation, presents natural disaster related risks and the system designed to address them in Oman. The National Multi Hazard Early Warning System (NMHEWS) was launched by the Sultanate of Oman in March 2015. This system, implemented with the technical support of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, is designed to respond to natural hazards, including tsunamis, cyclones and flash floods.

The system is the result of acollaboration between IOC-UNESCO and Oman that began in 2009. It will support monitoring, data processing and Standard Operating Procedures, as well as training of personnel and the operation of sea-level stations. Since 2010, IOC-UNESCO and the Omani government have also been collaborating in the development of a Tsunami Early Warning System as part of the over-all multi-hazard early warning system.

See also: Oman launches an early warning system to address natural disasters, http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/oman_launches_an_early_warning_system_to_address_natural_disasters/

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHokavThAfE

Kuwait: Deploying an Interactive GIS System for Facility and Asset Management, Ministry of Education
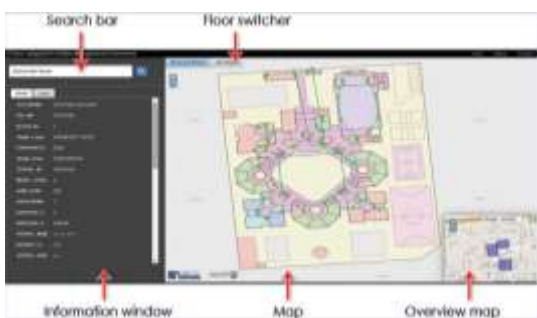
Author(s): Hamdy Ibrahim El-Gamily, Khalid Al-Rasheed
Journal of Geographic Information System, Vol. 7, No. 2 (2015)

Abstract: Geographical Information System (GIS) can be considered the core of the Interactive Facilities Management Environment (iFaME) framework in managing different facilities on the building bases. This study aims at building a comprehensive geodatabase for different elements of infrastructure facilities and services on the building bases for a selected number of schools and developing a GIS-based iFaME interactive application to manage different facilities at the school level in Kuwait. The iFaME is a two-dimensional/three-dimensional (2D/3D) desktop application. It is intended to take planners, decision makers, and maintenance experts inside the building to provide an interactive GIS platform to manage, visualize, query, maintain, and update the database related to school assets and facilities. The Autodesk Revit software was used to produce 3D building information models (BIM) for the selected schools. It provides accurate geometrical representation of the school building elements in an integrated data environment. The iFaME application is integrated with the Revit BIM models and the STAR-APIC Elyx 3D software solution. With the development of the iFaME applications, the facility managers in the MoE could establish greater control over the space allocation and management, asset management, emergency planning, and other areas of facility management. The school managers and maintenance engineers are considered among the most beneficiaries from this application. The school managers will monitor the maintenance activities all the time, while the maintenance engineers will use the application as a container for maintenance orders, and on the same time to document what they accomplished on daily basis. The iFaME application will reduce the maintenance cost of school assets and facilities in addition to increase their

efficiency.

Source: http://file.scirp.org/Html/10-8401461_55678.htm

United Nations High Level Forum: Space as a driver for socio-economic sustainable development
15-17 November 2015, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

In recent years, the world has been witnessing space activities flourish with an impact on the local, regional, continental and global markets. In resolution 66/288, entitled "The future we want", the United Nations General Assembly highlighted in 2012 the importance of space technology in contributing to a more solid basis for informed sustainable policy decision-making. In the same Resolution, the need to strengthen science-policy interfaces to facilitate decision-making on sustainable development and the need for enhanced capacity-building for sustainable development were clearly spelled out.

For more effective and strengthened implementation in line with the Millennium Declaration, the post-2015 development agenda will require advanced tools with transformative power. Such tools should not only have the highest transformative potential, but should also be universally applicable to all areas of development in the post-2015 framework. Space technology provides the means that can transform traditional approaches in virtually any sector of the economy. The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution (A/RES/69/85) the International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, recognised that the fundamental significance of space science technology, and their applications for global, regional, national and local sustainable development processes should be promoted in the formulation of policies and programmes of action and their implementation.

The United Nations High Level Forum is a three-year series of fora aimed at driving a debate on the role of space science and technology in fostering global development, while at the same time providing a framework for development cooperation. The High Level Forum represents, therefore, a unique opportunity for the collective space community to provide guidance and recommendations, which will shape and position space activities as drivers for innovation, socio-economic development and diplomacy for a sustainable future and address the future global space governance leading up to "UNISPACE+50" in 2018.

Announcement (PDF format, in English only) http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/sap/2015/HLF/HLF-announcement.pdf
Opportunities for Co-Sponsorship (PDF format, in English only) http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/sap/2015/HLF/HLF-Sponsorship.pdf

For participants, who are self-funded or are being funded by their own organziations, please use this ONLINE APPLICATION FORM (self-funded) and submit all required supporting documents to be considered for participation in the High Level Forum by **30 September 2015**. https://register.unoosa.org/civicrm/event/info?id=45&reset=1

Source: http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/events/high-level-forum.html

3rd Annual Geo-Empower Middle East, 7-8 December 2015, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The 3rd Annual Geo-Empower Middle East will provide a platform for the big leaders to come together and discuss the geospatial strategies for sustainable development. Key topics will include:

- Harnessing from Geospatial Technologies and Building Capacity for effective Decision making and regional development
- Potential impact of ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) in the Middle East.
- Handling Real-time Spatial Data
- Next-Gen Standards & Interoperability
- Securing Communications
- Governance and Future directions of National Spatial Data infrastructure
- Real-time geoinformatics
- Regional SDI for developmental planning
- Capacity building and mapping the direction of Geospatial industry for future Developments
- Requirements for the education sector in the region to meet the future demand of the geospatial industry

Advisory Panel includes GSDI member - Eng. Khalid A. Hameed Al Hammadi, Director GIS Directorate, Central Informatics Organization, Kingdom of Bahrain

Source: http://itc.fleminggulf.com/geo-empower-middle-east
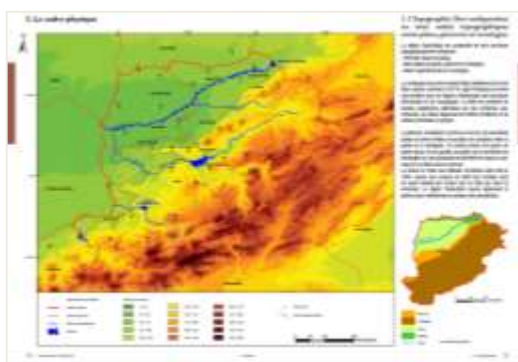
Morocco: Downloadable publication: Regional Atlas of the Tadla-Azilal Region 2015

The digital publication of the "Regional Atlas of the Tadla-Azilal region (Morocco)" is freely downloadable at: http://okina.univ-angers.fr/publications/ua9275

The Regional Atlas was developed through a Volubilis "Programme d'Action Intégrée" funded by the "Comité Mixte Inter-universitaire Franco-Marocain" involving ESO-Angers (UMR CNRS 6590) of Angers University (France), Sultan Moulay Slimane University of Beni Mellal (Morocco), and EHESS Paris LATES (France).

The Atlas puts into perspective the different regional elements to highlight or to preserve, and participates in providing tangible answers to the development and planning of this region. After a historical, physical and human overview, the specific dynamics and issues of the three regional units (mountain, piedmont, plain) are outlined, and the cross-cutting issues about water, migratory question, risks and potential and recognized heritage are explored.

Produced using a GIS, the Atlas is the first step that is part of a perspective of regular updating and expansion to new "themes" and scales of approach. At the time the Atlas was first published, the results of the 6th General Census of Population and Housing of Morocco had begun to be disseminated. However, at this point, they have not yet been incorporated into the mapping.

Source: Aude TAIBI audenousia.taibi@univ-angers.fr

Egypt: Cooperative Spatial Decision Support System for Controlling Animal Diseases Outbreaks

Author(s): M Bakr, M Nasr, M Hazman

Figure 13 map of affected animals' counts/village for each disease

Abstract: Decision Support System (DSS) aims to help decision maker in the process of making decision, a Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) is a DSS deals with spatial problem or use spatial data in solving a problem. Animal Diseases Spatial Decision Support System (ADSDSS) utilizes the capabilities of Data warehouse, Online Analytical Processing (OLAP), Geographic Information System (GIS), data mining techniques and knowledge base systems to provide decision makers with their needed information about the infected animals, infected places and diseases outbreaks. This information is displayed as reports or charts or allocated on a map which illustrates the most and the least affected places in an easy and fast way. So decision makers can take the right decision to control the spread of diseases outbreaks. For building ADSDSS the following steps are done (a) Animal diagnosis data from different data bases with climate database collected into a repository data warehouse for generating diagnosis data mart, (b) OLAP capabilities integrated with the diagnosis data mart for analysis and aggregation of data, (c) One of data mining techniques was applied and integrated into the system (association rules) to discover the relationships between different data items, (d) GIS spatial analysis and visualization capabilities integrated with the system to analyze diagnosis data and generate maps of diseases and outbreaks, (e) decisions suggestion capability integrated into the system to provide decision makers with suggestions and solutions to deal with diseases outbreaks. The experimental results show that the proposed system can provide the decision makers with their needed information in a fast and easy way.

Keywords - Animal Diseases, Data mining, Data warehouse, Decision suggestion, Geographic Information System (GIS), Online Analytical Processing (OLAP), Spatial Analysis, Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS).

Source: http://www.ijana.in/papers/V6I6-4.pdf

Medina Marine Ecosystem Dynamics and Indicators for North Africa

Medina project aimed to enhance the capacities of Mediterranean Northern African Countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt) to monitor their coastal and marine ecosystems through the development of indicators and the integration of coastal monitoring tools into GEOSS. The Medina e-infrastructure (MeI) was developed in line with SDI concepts, constructed as a compound of web services (OGC standards) that allow end users to visualize, query maps and analyse coastal data. Its design and capacities supports collaborative decision-making and marine ecosystem management. The MeI contains 80 indicators that correspond to 395 maps (37 DPSIR indicators and Ecological objectives, 10 indicators of Earth Observation and 33 indicators from Modelling). The URL to access this service from another SDI o GIS application is: http://www.medinageoportal.eu/.

Source: http://www.medinaproject.eu/puplic/home.php

Global SDI News

Call for applications: World Social Science Fellows, social scientists interested in urban big data

The International Social Science Council (ISSC) invites applications from outstanding early career social scientists around the world to become World Social Science Fellows and participate in the seminar, Big Data in an Urban Context, November 30–December 4, 2015, in Xiamen, China. The deadline for applications is August 24. The seminar will be hosted by the International Council of Science (ICSU) International Programme Office on Urban Health and Wellbeing at the Institute of Urban Environment (IUE), and is being organized in partnership with the ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA). Call for applications http://www.worldsocialscience.org/documents/call-applications-world-social-science-fellows-seminar-

Source: http://www.worldsocialscience.org/activities/world-social-science-fellows-programme/seminars/big-data-urban-context/

Call for proposals: Cities and Climate Change initiative

Deadline: September 18, 2015 by 12:00 (12:00 PM) (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Duration: Up to 36 months
Budget: Six (6) research projects of up to CA$1,000,000 each

The Cities and Climate Change initiative will support high quality, demand driven, policy relevant action research that engages local authorities, communities, and the private sector. Research will help to meet the adaptation deficit in small to medium sized cities or well defined subdivisions of large cities, where demographic pressure and environmental stresses are particularly acute. Proposed solutions should address climate risk and uncertainty, and inspire innovation in adaptation strategies and technologies.

Proposed research must be gender-sensitive and target one or more of the following themes:
- "Hard solutions," for example, developing, protecting, and adapting climate-ready infrastructure; innovative WASH systems; the development and application of adaptation technologies.
- "Soft solutions," for example, innovative governance systems and planning approaches, fees for intensive resource use; collaborative management of water resources and associated infrastructure, services, and industries.
- Research addressing climate and population thresholds that threaten the sustainability of communities and industries, influence behavioral change, and/or address barriers to adoption of adaptation strategies and technologies.

The proposed research must take place in one or more of the following countries: Bangladesh, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mali, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The proposed research must be led by a research-oriented organization from academia, government, the private sector, or civil society and be based in one of the eligible countries listed above. Organizations from the United Nations system, members of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), or multilateral agencies are not eligible as lead organizations for the proposed research, even when operating in a developing country, but can be included as partners provided their budget share does not exceed 20%.

Source: http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Grants/Pages/GrantsDetails.aspx?CallID=21; http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Documents/Call-for-Research-Proposals_Cities-and-Climate-Change.pdf

Background documents: 5th Session of the UN-GGIM, 3-7 August 2015, New York, NY

The 5th Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held from 3-7 August 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. UN-GGIM welcomes the participation of Member States and relevant international organisations to the 5th Session as it continues to move forward in fulfilling its mandate to enhance collaboration and support the use of geospatial information to promote sustainable development globally.

- Background document: Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management, http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM5/NIA%20WG%20report_v2.pdf
- Background document: Future Trends Report: Second Edition 2015, http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM5/Future%20Trends%20in%20Geospatial%20Information%20Management%20%20the%20five%20to%20ten%20year%20vision.pdf

Source: http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html

2015 Esri User Conference papers and plenary videos available online

Approximately 16,000 people from 120 countries around the world converged in San Diego, California, to discuss the power of maps and applying geography. The Esri User Conference is the world's biggest GIS event. The venerable GIS company touted its wares in the form of customer success stories. Proceedings of the 2015 Conference, held July 20-24, are available online:
Papers: http://proceedings.esri.com/library/userconf/proc15/index.html
Plenary videos: http://video.esri.com/series/250/2015-esri-user-conference-plenary-_dash_-watch-the-entire-day

International Open Data Conference: showcasing the social and economic promise of open data

More than 1,000 people attended the 3rd International Open Data Conference (IODC 2015), held in May 2015 in Ottawa, Canada, helping to illustrate how far the open data revolution has advanced in recent years. At least 1,300 others watched conference webcasts, and a much larger audience took part through Twitter and other social media.

Webcast recordings, session descriptions and presentations, as well as a wealth of guest blog posts reflecting on IODC15 key themes are now available online at http://opendatacon.org/webcast/.

The conference — hosted by IDRC in partnership with the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, and the World Bank — followed smaller gatherings of open data advocates in Washington, D.C., in 2010 and 2012. Through the breadth of its content, the 2015 edition of the conference also demonstrated that open data has moved from being a mere concept to a practical tool that has started to produce concrete results. Open data refers to the release of machine-readable datasets, licensed for reuse. For citizens everywhere, freer access to data holds the promise of opening a new frontier of enhanced efficiency, empowerment, and opportunities.

Conference sessions exploring the impacts of open data in areas as diverse as education, elections, agriculture, health services, and the environment show its potential to bring sweeping changes across multiple sectors. And Canada's

embrace of open data — domestically and in its development assistance — points to the usefulness of open data in both developed- and developing-world contexts.

Source: http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Resources/Publications/Pages/ArticleDetails.aspx?PublicationID=1400

Blue Growth: Motivating Innovations in Aquatic Information Mgt, 7-11 September 2015, Rome, Italy 41st IAMSLIC Annual Conference & 16th EURASLIC Biennial Meeting

The planning committee of the 41st Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) along with the European Regional Group of IAMSLIC (EURASLIC) invite you to join us in Rome, Italy, 7-11 September 2015. The conference will be hosted and co-sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Organized in cooperation with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the 41st Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) will create a forum for discussion and exchange of knowledge and information on the Blue Growth Initiative as well as to share the best practices and innovative ideas in fisheries and aquatic information management.

The FAO Global Initiative on Blue Growth (BGI) in Support of Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and the Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resources, defines "Blue Growth" as "Sustainable growth and development emanating from economic activities in the oceans, wetlands and coastal zones, that minimize environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable use of living aquatic resources, and maximize economic and social benefits". More information about the Blue Growth Initiative can be found here: http://www.fao.org/zhc/detail-events/en/c/233765/

Source: http://www.iamslic.org/conf2015/

Valuing Weather and Climate: Economic Assessment of Meteorological and Hydrological Services
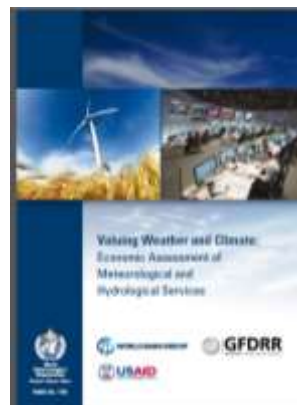
How can we establish that weather services indeed generate benefits for service users? How can the benefits and related costs be quantified? National hydro-meteorological institutes, both in developed and developing countries are facing a growing need to assess and prove their societal benefits. To support the assessment, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its partners have published a handbook.

The book entitled: "Valuing Weather and Climate: Economic Assessment of Meteorological and Hydrological Services" was launched on May 28, 2015 at the World Meteorological Congress in Geneva, Switzerland. The book, prepared with financial support from USAID, WMO and the World Bank, is structured around a 10-step process describing the design, implementation and dissemination of the results of economic valuation studies. The presentation of economic concepts and methods for estimating and comparing benefits and costs has been designed for general audiences. The books appendices include a glossary of terms, background on meteorological and hydrological services production, a brief history of benefits studies, a survey of social sciences methods other than economic ones that may be used in benefits studies, and summaries of nine benefits studies.

Source: https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/documents/wmo_1153_en.pdf

Rescue of Millennium Ecosystem Assessment data completed

From 2001 to 2005, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) brought together more than 1,300 experts worldwide to assess the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being. The MA provided a comprehensive scientific appraisal of the condition and trends in the world's ecosystems and associated services at that time, and articulated the scientific basis for action to conserve and use these ecosystems sustainably. The core data used and developed by the MA had been maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey's National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) program, but unfortunately when this program was terminated in January 2012, access to the data ended.

To remedy this situation and to ensure long-term preservation of and access to these important data, the NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC) operated by CIESIN obtained copies of the original data and has recently released them as the
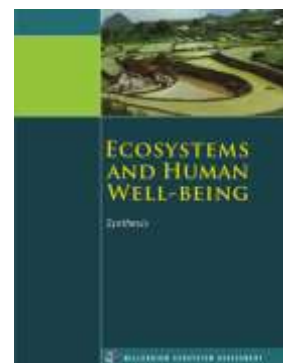
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Collection. The original data consisted of many files that were not well documented or organized, so SEDAC has grouped the data into six separate data sets: population; scenarios; biodiversity; climate and land cover; ecosystems; and rapid land cover change. Although most of the data in the collection have been superseded by newer versions, the data may still be of interest from both scientific and historical perspectives since they reflect the state of knowledge at the time the assessment was completed.

In preparing the collection, SEDAC has sought to provide access to the data in their original formats with basic documentation. Users will need to refer directly to the MA reports for details on sources, methods, and interpretation of the data.

See: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Collection, http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/ma

Source: http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/news/

New IRENA app delivers global renewable energy data straight to your pocket

Smartphone users can now access the most reliable data on global renewable energy potential, for free, thanks to an application launched today by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The Global Atlas pocket, now available on all platforms including BlackBerry® 10, iOS, Android™ and Windows Phone®, is the only global tool of its kind, combining 1,000 maps from 67 governments and 50 data centres to provide information on renewable energy resources anywhere in the world.

The app turns mobile devices into renewable energy prospectors and can help answer questions like, can renewable energy power 100 per cent of this island? What percentage of this city can be powered by solar energy? If I want to invest in a wind power project, where are the highest potential locations?

It allows user to screen renewable energy project sites before making investment decision, create content on clean energy potentials in areas of interest and access images of growth areas for renewable energy infrastructure opportunities. It also comes with a powerful combination of search functionalities including geolocation services, personalized search categories, map views and sharing capabilities. The Global Atlas pocket is the mobile version of the online Global Atlas portal, which aims to provide access to the necessary datasets, expertise and financial support to help countries evaluate their national renewable energy potential.

Source: http://www.irena.org/News/Description.aspx?NType=A&mnu=cat&PriMenuID=16&CatID=84&News_ID=415

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 e-mail Forums maintained by the GSDI Committees and the regional SDI news, visit the website 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. You do not have to be a member of the GSDI Association in order to join a Forum.

The GSDI Association

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.

For more information, visit the GSDI Association website at http://www.gsdi.org

The GSDI Regional Newsletter is edited by Kate Lance, GSDI News Editor, and published by the GSDI Association. The Editor may be contacted at newseditor@gsdi.org. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to SDI initiatives at any level, or send e-mail announcement to news@gsdi.org.

"Advancing a Location Enabled World"