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.

You can subscribe or unsubscribe to the regional newsletter or change your email address online at http://gsdi.org.

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: National Geomatics Plan, an essential tool for PSE (Plan Senegal Emergent)

The Inter-institutional Group for Consultation and Coordination (IGCC) for the National Geomatics Plan (PNG) held on 17 September 2015 an *Open Data Workshop on Access to Geospatial Data on Basic Social Services*.

The workshop, chaired by Gnagna Diop Sow, Technical Advisor to the Minister of Economy, Finance, and Planning, convened experts in the fields of statistics, health, social action, ICT, land, and, obviously, geomatics. The discussions revolved mainly around access to geospatial data and the GéoSSB portal (geospatial data on basic social services), produced by the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD) under the Canadian Support Project (http://geossb.gouv.sn).

Ms. Sow identified the Geomatics Plan of Senegal (PNG), which is part of the objectives of the Emerging Senegal Plan or Plan Senegal Emergent (PSE, http://pse-officiel.com/le-pse/), as "the mastery of the territory and its resources and their optimal use, making it an essential tool for efficient implementation of Act III of decentralization" and PSE generally.

Source: http://adie.sn/fr/le-plan-national-g%C3%A9omatique-un-outil-essentiel-pour-le-pse

Gabon: Inauguration of Gabonese Agency for Space Studies and Observations (AGEOS) by President

On 29 August 2015, in Nkok, the President of the Gabonese Republic, Ali Bongo Ondimba, inaugurated the Gabonese Agency for Space Studies and Observations (AGEOS), incorporating in particular operational facilities for the environmental monitoring centre EarthLab Gabon.

The new centre is located right in the heart of the Gabonese forest, 20 km east of Libreville. It includes not only a new building, able to accommodate teams from AGEOS, EarthLab Gabon and their respective partners, but also AGEOS's reception infrastructure. This infrastructure is connected to an antenna with a receiving area of 2,800 kms, encompassing more than 20 of Africa's sub-Saharan countries plus the Gulf of Guinea. Two Landsat and COSMO-SkyMed receivers enable almost real-time acquisition of both optical and radar images that are then analysed or even combined by EarthLab Gabon. Maritime surveillance services are already being provided, with land monitoring services due to follow in 2016.

Source: http://www.ageos.ga

Liberia: smartphone app to combat illegal logging, challenge powerful industry vying for resources
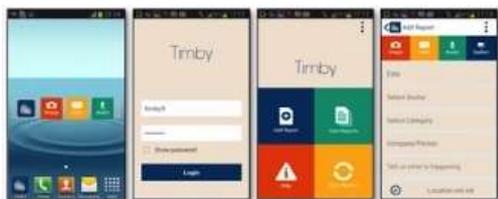
TIMBY ('This Is My Backyard') is a new smartphone app that helps citizens monitor and report illegal logging and destructive oil palm plantation expansion in Liberia. The aim of the app is to deliver actionable reports of illegal or destructive forestry activities, triggering action from government and policymakers to address the reported issues. Users can report illegal logging by uploading images, video or audio to the app. Real-time reporting means users can prevent illegal logging before the first tree is felled.

The app is already achieving results. During the first TIMBY training workshop, local activists noticed that while a logging company had been granted a permit to start logging in Sinoe County, a senior government official had issued the permit without due process, in violation of the law. The team reported the violation, and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) revoked the permit before the company could start cutting down any trees.

Source: http://www.goldmanprize.org/blog/an-app-to-combat-illegal-logging/

Liberia: National Bureau of Concessions, USAID launch software for monitoring concessions
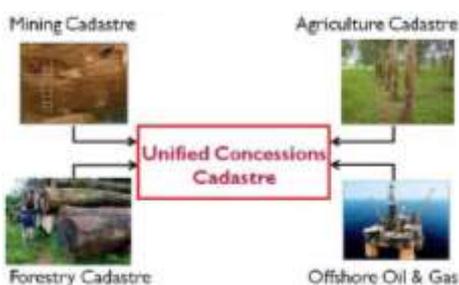
National Bureau of Concessions (NBC, http://www.nbcliberia.org/) in collaboration with USAID Governance and Economic Management Support Project (USAID-GEMS) officially launched new concession monitoring and reporting software aimed at assuring concessions integrity through compliance monitoring and evaluation. The Concessions Information Management System (CIMS) includes geographic data of concession areas by category, list and contact information of Concessionaires, copies of the Concession Agreements, as well as PDF Reporting Templates (CRT).

The CIMS incorporates the National Concessions Cadastral (NCC) which is a national registry of real assets (land) and the custodian of the natural resource information of Liberia including Mining, Forestry, the Public-Private Partnership (PPPs), Agriculture and off-shore oil and gas. The system will enable the effective and accurate storage and access of documents, reminders on activities and gives reports indicating land areas occupied by concessions and overlaps in concession lands.

The government of Liberia recognized the pressing need to harmonize concession information to inform concession planning, avoid ownership conflicts, and monitor compliance in the concession sector more easily, transparently, and effectively.

See also: Liberia: Extending FlexiCadastreto Concession Management in Natural Resource Sector (February 2015) http://www.spatialdimension.com/Portals/0/Downloads/UserConference/2015/RUC-Cape-Town/04%20Jaco%20Crafford%20-%20Spatial%20Dimension%20-%20Liberia%20Concession%20Management.pdf

Source: http://allafrica.com/stories/201509181723.html; http://allafrica.com/stories/201509171253.html; http://www.ibi-usa.com/StivaBlogDev/frontend/index.php?ac=post&id=10&p=2

Niger: Genesis of OpenStreetMap Niger (OSM Niger)

Mapping For Niger (https://mappingforniger.wordpress.com/), a community mapping the micro-project, has evolved into what is now the OpenStreetMap Niger Community (OSM Niger, http://cartographie-numerique-osm-niger.blogspot.com/). The aim of OSM Niger is to develop a free and collaborative digital map of Niger: digitalization, producing, making accessible a cartographic database of Niger using the OpenStreetMap server. The OSM Niger community seeks to make more visible the digital world 2.0. It engages in the update dynamics OpenData data for all in Niger through the free OpenStreetMap mapping.

Mapping For Niger originated as a result of an international competition organized by Global Voices (international organization that supports micro-projects for young volunteers in order to engage their communities in the digital world).

Source: http://cartographie-numerique-osm-niger.blogspot.com/2015/08/genese-de-openstreetmap-niger-osm-niger.html

Vacancies at Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), N'Djaména, Chad

The Lake Chad Basin Commission (http://www.cblt.org/) has vacancies for:

- Head of Division, Basin Observatory
- Head of Division, Natural Resources Management
- Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing Expert.
- Modeler Officer
- Statistician Officer
- Environment and Climate Change Expert
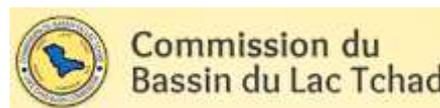
See details at http://www.cblt.org/sites/default/files/advertisement.pdf. Applications should be sent directly to LCBC Executive Secretariat, PO Box: 727, N'Djamena (Chad) or by mail: vacancy@cblt.org. The deadline for submission of application is **12 October 2015** at 4:00 pm.

The mandate of the Commission is to sustainably and equitably manage the Lake Chad and other shared water resources of the Lake Chad Basin, to preserve the ecosystems of the Lake Chad Conventional Basin, to promote regional integration, peace and security across the Basin.

Source: http://www.cblt.org/en/vacancies-notice-0

South Sudan: Three-day National Geoportal Technical Training workshop held

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) held a three-day National Geoportal technical training workshop from 25th – 27th August, 2015 in Juba, South Sudan. The aim of the workshop was to train participants from the South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on the use and administration of the South Sudan geoportal. In 2014, RCMRD and SERVIR-Eastern & Southern Africa partnered with the South Sudan NBS to develop and implement the geoportal. As a component of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, the goal of the geoportal is to enhance the capacity of South Sudan government agencies and non-governmental institutions in collaborative geospatial data creation, sharing and management.

Professionals from the GIS, Remote Sensing and Cartography department of the NBS, who are the custodians of the geoportal were taken through different modules including web-based spatial data management, interactive mapping,

metadata editing, and geoportal administration. Discussions were also held on core aspects of the geoportal including security, scalability, standards and spatial data policies.

Source: http://www.rcmrd.org/rcmrd-holds-a-three-day-south-sudan-national-geoportal-technical-training-workshop/

Kenya: What can other African cities learn from Nairobi's matatu map?

Most cities in the developing world rely on informal networks of minivans and buses to bring laborers to work and goods to market. Yet little information or data are available about these networks, where bus stops can change by the minute and fares can quadruple when it rains. In cities from Bogotá to Addis Ababa, commuters and suppliers can only find their way through word of mouth. And these informal but essential networks are almost invisible to planners who pilot urban expansion and development.

Now this may change, thanks to Digital Matatus, a novel research project in Nairobi, Kenya. A joint effort involving MIT, Columbia University, the University of Nairobi, and Groupshot Design Consultancy, Digital Matatus deployed Kenyan researchers equipped with smartphones to collect and analyze data from the network of matatus — privately owned minivans — that services the Kenyan capital.

The open-source data (http://www.digitalmatatus.com/map.html), which were initially transformed into a popular paper map, are now searchable in Google Maps as a transit option, making it possible for anyone with a smartphone to navigate the city using a matatu.

Source: https://agenda.weforum.org/2015/09/what-can-other-african-cities-learn-from-nairobis-matatu-map/

Report on coastal environmental data in Tanzania – towards a NDSI in Tanzania
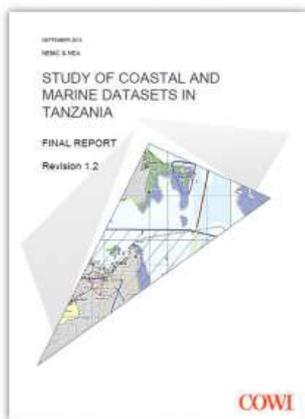
Together with the Norwegian Environmental Agency (NEA), Tanzania's National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has taken initiative to assess resources available for establishing a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for coastal and marine data in Tanzania. Such an infrastructure could open new possibilities for good governance and data sharing on the national arena. This report presents the initial assessment of such a project and has been prepared for the coastal data stakeholders by COWI Tanzania.

Contact was established with 40 institutions, most of which were physically visited over a three month period.

Source: http://www.mindland.com/wp/report-coastal-environmental-data-in-tanzania/

Tanzania: Smartphone apps to create maps and usable addresses for Dar es Salaam business & dwellers

Dar es Salaam, the fastest growing city in Africa, according to the African Development Bank, has become something of a playground for new technology, such as drones and smartphone apps, as people try to map and track the urban expansion.

Dar Ramani Huria (http://www.ramanihuria.org/), a World Bank-funded community mapping project, aims to create an open-source map of the city. Its main purpose is to flag areas of Dar es Salaam that are prone to flooding during the rainy season. Drones are used to criss-cross an area of the city, taking a series of aerial photos that are used to map the dwellings, businesses and roads below. The imagery captured by the drone, which costs about $16,000 including software, is used by students who divide the map into different squares before visiting them on foot. They then return to a computer to verify the exact location of buildings, roads and key infrastructure with OpenStreetMap. The data Dar Ramani Huria gathers is freely available online, meaning it could be used in any future efforts.

Another app is What3words (http://what3words.com/), which records GPS coordinates to nine square metres and simplifies them into a three-word combination. The app provides a universal addressing system by breaking the world into 57 trillion squares and assigning each one a three-word combination, making it easier to remember than long GPS coordinates. The creation of national addressing systems in developing countries would allow more people to access

government services, such as welfare and pension payments, and to register with utility companies, financial institutions and health services, the UN's Universal Postal Union (UPU) says. Addresses are also critical to allow governments to collect taxes efficiently, and help businesses target new markets. What3words is in talks with four African governments to use their app for official addressing purposes. "They are very quick to recognise the benefits," says Chris Sheldrick, one of the app's creators, listing e-commerce and microfinance as sectors that are in dire need of addresses. "There's a sense in these countries now that they've got a problem, and addresses do matter.

Source: http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/sep/22/tanzania-smartphone-apps-africa-fastest-growing-city-dar-es-salaam-map

Zimbabwe: AusAID and GIZ enabling GIS use by medium-sized local authorities

Dr Gary Hunter from Australia recently spent three months in Zimbabwe assisting medium-sized local authorities to implement Geographic information Systems (GIS). Following his successful six-month deployment with the City of Bulawayo in 2014 on behalf of Australian Aid and GIZ, in 2015 he was supported by GIZ to return to Zimbabwe to work with the local authorities in the towns of Gweru, Kadoma, Chinhoyi and Kariba.

Following initial assessments of the capacity of the councils to maintain their own independent GIS mapping sections, 26 council staff were trained in GIS in Harare and computer equipment was procured for each of the councils. A highlight of the training program was the presentation by Mrs Sibusisiwe Sibanda, GIS Officer at the City of Bulawayo who worked with Dr Hunter in 2014, who gave examples of the benefits of GIS for local government.

Dr Hunter spent several weeks with each council installing the GIS equipment and mentoring the staff in its use. Council staff were keen to use the new technology and their enthusiasm for GIS was best expressed by the Assistant Director of Engineering Services at Kariba, Eng. Gangata, when he stated "It is long overdue."

See also: Bulawayo residents benefit from Australian and German GIS support at:
http://zimbabwe.embassy.gov.au/hare/hare-news_cityofbyo.html

Source: http://zimbabwe.embassy.gov.au/hare/hare-news_GISarticle.html

Launch of the Food Security Portal for Africa South of the Sahara

The Food Security Portal for Africa South of the Sahara (http://ssa.foodsecurityportal.org/regional-sub-portal/sub-saharan-africa) was officially launched in Brussels on 16 September 2015. The website, developed by the International Food Policy Research institute (IFPRI) and financed by the European Commission, is part of a project designed to collect information for use by farmers, farmers' organisations, policy-makers, researchers and investors. The launch also served as the starting point to discuss how the new data revolution can benefit smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Read more about data-driven farming in Africa, http://brusselsbriefings.net/past-briefings/40-data-the-next-revolution-for-agriculture-in-acp-countries/data-driven-farming-in-africa/

Source: http://www.cta.int/en/article/2015-09-22/launch-of-the-food-security-portal-for-africa-south-of-the-sahara.html

YALI East Africa - Young African Leadership Initiative - Cohort 4&5 application

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) was launched by President of the United States Barack Obama as a signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders.

The YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa is looking for young men and women between the ages of 18 and 35 from Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, DRC, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda who are ready to embrace leadership and work hard to transform their countries.

The YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa is a diverse and dynamic learning environment that will provide the training, networking, business and entrepreneurial skills to enhance your ability to lead.

Application dates for 4th cohort of the YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa are from October 6 – **October 20, 2015**, and the cohort starts on January 11, 2016 – March 24, 2016. Application dates for 5th cohort of the YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa also are from October 6 – **October 20, 2015**, and the cohort starts on February 8, 2016 – April 29, 2016.

Selection for participation in the YALI Regional Leadership Center East Africa will be conducted as a merit-based, open competition. Apply now: https://www.yalieastafrica.org/registration/public/index.php/user/signup

Cohort 4 06-10-2015	20-10-2015	11-01-2016	24-03-2016
Cohort 5 06-10-2015	20-10-2015	08-02-2016	29-04-2016
Cohort 6 16-11-2015	30-11-2015	29-02-2016	20-05-2016
Cohort 7 11-01-2016	25-01-2016	04-04-2016	24-06-2016

Source: https://www.yalieastafrica.org/

ECOWAS Fellowship Programme for Masters & PhD – 2015 Competition

The Association of African Universities (AAU) has announced the 2015 maiden edition of the ECOWAS Fellowship Programme for Masters and PhD (EFP) under the sponsorship of the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS). The Programme seeks to promote capacity building within the ECOWAS 15-member countries by providing full fellowships for training and education for nationals of ECOWAS member states in higher education institutions of ECOWAS. The Programme is open to qualified nationals (including graduate students, researchers, lecturers, and staff) of ECOWAS member states who will be admitted for Masters or PhD degree programme at any one of the following three universities:
(a) University of Lagos, Nigeria
(b) University of Ibadan, Nigeria
(c) Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal

A good first degree (at least second class upper division or its equivalent) is required for Masters degree programme. An MPhil degree or its equivalent is required for PhD programme. Priority will be given to Anglophone nationals who want admission into Francophone institutions, as well as to Francophone nationals who want admission into Anglophone institutions. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications are invited from all disciplines linked to the fields of strategic importance to the West African region such as:
1. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM);
2. Earth and Life Sciences;
3. Health including maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, etc.;
4. Agriculture, Food Security and related disciplines
5. History of Africa
6. Information technology; and
7. Gender issues.

The 2015 Applications are accepted before **15 October 2015** from eligible students from ECOWAS member institutions.

Source: https://aaublog67.wordpress.com/2015/09/10/ecowas-fellowship-programme-2015-call/

Call for proposals (from Africa): Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) Programme 2015

GBIF, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, is now inviting submissions of proposals for funding from sub-Saharan Africa for the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme. You can read call, in English, at http://www.gbif.org/programme/bid/africa-call-2015. The version in French will be available soon. Initial concept notes, using the provided templates, must be submitted by **20 November 2015**.

Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

Nepal: Pre-Workshop Tutorial Session on SDI for Disaster Management, 24 November 2015, Kathmandu

In conjunction with the International Workshop on the Role of Land Professionals and SDI in Disaster Risk Reduction: in the Context of Post 2015 Nepal Earthquake, 25-27 November 2015, Kathmandu, Nepal, there will be a pre-conference tutorial session on SDI for Disaster Management on 24 November 2015, co-sponsored by the GSDI Association, NICS, NRSPS, Survey Department of Nepal, Kathmandu University and the Land Management Training Center. The Tutorial Session will take place at Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel Kavre, and transportation will be provided to the event from Kathmandu.

The main objective of the International Workshop is to exploit the international expertise for enhancing professional capacity to contribute in the effort of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the situation like currently in Nepal. The event further aims to explore opportunities for strengthening and promoting good practices in professional geospatial education and advancing SDI concepts and spatially enabled societies.

Source: *http://www.gsdi.org/node/1700*

Australia: National data to be a model of efficiency

CSIRO and Sparx Systems have developed and deployed a model registry for open access to Foundation Spatial Data Framework (FSDF,

http://www.anzlic.gov.au/foundation_spatial_data_framework) information models by modellers and other users. Also available is a published methodology (http://www.anzlic.gov.au/foundation_spatial_data_framework/fsdf_modelling) from CSIRO to support the use and development of FSDF information models for foundation data products. The Spatial Information Council (ANZLIC) is seeking industry engagement and comment on the functionality of these resources.

Source: *http://www.anzlic.gov.au/news/news/national_data_to_be_a_model_of_efficiency*

Australia: VicRoads Open Data Site features high quality and publicly available datasets.

Previously unreleased transport data, now available via a new innovative open data platform, is helping to make future transport solutions safer, easier and more efficient. Developed by VicRoads, on the world's leading smart mapping technology – Esri's ArcGIS Platform – the VicRoads Open Data Site features more than 50 high quality and publicly available datasets.

The Open Data Site forms part of the Victorian Government's DataVic Access Policy (https://www.data.vic.gov.au/policy-and-standards) and in conjunction with http://data.vic.gov.au, provides greater access to open data to benefit road users, increase mobility and provide better transport options for citizens. Visit the VicRoads Open Data Portal at: http://vicroadsopendata.vicroadsmaps.opendata.arcgis.com/

Source: *https://esriaustralia.com.au/p/news/open-data-apps-could-clear-the-road-for-safer-travel-nar-278*

A new quality validation of global digital elevation models freely available in China
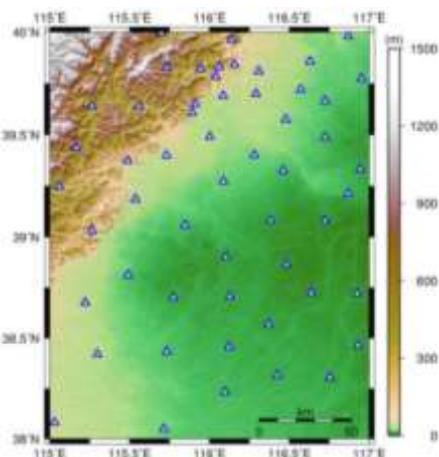
Author(s): P. Li,Z. Li,J.-P. Muller,C. Shi,J. Liu

Abstract: Global Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) are widely used in the study of natural hazards and environmental change on a global scale. This paper focuses on validation of the most widely used and newly released global DEMs (SRTM v4.1, NASA SRTM v3, SRTMX and ASTER GDEM v2) in China. Authors use independent and precise ground GPS observations to assess their absolute accuracies. The SRTMX DEM performs best with a height RMSE of 9.7 m, while the RMSE of the ASTER GDEM2 is slightly better than that of the SRTM v4.1, and SRTM v3 in these regions have the largest RMSE of 16.6 m. However, systematic negative bias still exists in all the global DEMs. Results of the raster-based comparisons between the DEMs are dependent on the knowledge of vegetation type, density and structure to a large extent as well as accurate co-registration. Slope comparisons exhibit a hierarchical slope difference of about 2° between the SRTMX DEM, ASTER GDEM2 and SRTM C-band DEM (v4.1 and v3). This paper provides the first direct evidence and measurement of the product quality of SRTMX and SRTM v3 DEM in China and also offers a benchmark for the future evaluation of following global DEM products.

Keywords: Global DEM, CGIAR-CSI SRTM v4.1, NASA SRTM v3, ASTER GDEM v2, SRTM X-SAR DEM, DEM Interoperability

Source: http://www.maneyonline.com/doi/abs/10.1179/1752270615Y.0000000039; http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Peng_Li_Wuhan_University/publication/278019943_A_new_quality_validation_of_global_digital_elevation_models_freely_available_in_China/links/5578b1e708aeacff200287e3.pdf

India: Online GIS Wind Resource Atlas (at 100m level) launched

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, through National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE, http://mnre.gov.in/centers/cwet/), an autonomous institute of MNRE, announced the "Indian Wind Resource Atlas: Online GIS", using scientific combination of satellite and one of the world's largest number of measured ground data (1300 locations). Under the direction of MNRE, NIWE (formerly C-WET) has created an online GIS based wind resource atlas at 100m hub height with scientific rigor and based on authentic latest available data-sets of wind as well as land geographically spread across India. NIWE had already performed the potential estimation study corroborating meso-scale derived wind maps and micro-scale measurements and released Indian Wind Atlas at 50m and indicative values at 80m hub heights with 5km resolution in April 2010 in collaboration with RISO-DTU, Denmark. The potential assessment presently has been carried out at a very high (10times finer than 5km) resolution of 500m, using the advanced meso-micro coupled numerical wind flow model and with the corroboration of almost 1300 actual measurements spread all over India. The land information has been taken through land availability estimation using authentic data sources of Land Use Land Cover (LULC) in GIS format with detailed information available from Bhuvan Atlas (http://bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in) maintained by the Department of land Resources in collaboration with the National remote Sensing Agency.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=126570

6th International Conference on HealthGIS 2015, 19-21 November 2015, Mysore, India

The 6th International Conference on Health GIS will be held in JSS University Mysuru, India. Health GIS centres on the theme "Geo ICT to Modernization- Epidemic Control and Healthcare." This conference aims to explore emerging trends in Health GIS and to identify new opportunities and possibilities for integrating non-clinical health tools to improve health care. The Conference will cover themes related to health care using GIS. Deadline for abstracts & full paper submissions: **15 October 2015**.

Source: http://www.healthgis.net/

Vu Gia Thu Bon RBIS - An information system for environmental data in central Vietnam
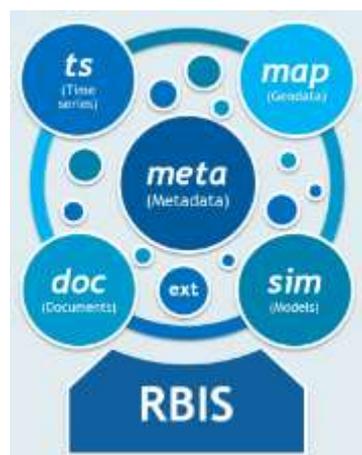
Author(s): Franziska Zander, Sven Kralisch
Adjunct Proceedings of the 29th EnviroInfo and 3rd ICT4S Conference 2015
Copenhagen, Denmark September 7-9, 2015

Sustainable land and resource management is gaining more and more attention. Therefore strategies should be developed to deal with related problems such as climate change or land use changes. A lot of research in this field is going on and often many different disciplines are involved. In order to store, describe, analyze and disseminate their data, integrated data management systems are needed. One of these kinds of systems has been set up as the Vu Gia Thu Bon RBIS within the research project LUCCi (Land Use and Climate Change interactions in central Vietnam; founded by BMBF 2011-2015; http://www.lucci-vietnam.info/) as a project database and information system to support scientists and scientific workflows within the project. It also serves as an information and dissemination platform containing project results and collected base data for local stakeholders and other scientists. The Vu Gia Thu Bon RBIS (http://leutra.geogr.uni-jena.de/vgtbRBIS/) is built on the modular structured software platform RBIS (River Basin Information System).

RBIS has been applied in several research projects worldwide [e.g. OBIS – Okavango Basin Information System, Centro-Norte-Chile RBIS, Jakarta RBIS, or Oti RBIS (Togo)]. The system is web based, has full read/write access, a fine grained user and permission management, is built on open source software and has a strong focus on the management of metadata together with the data itself and spatial relation. Additional functions are provided such as for handling time series data

(e.g. rule based gap filling toolbox, direct access from modeling tools), and searching metadata datasets via CSW from other applications. RBIS also has multilingualism support (currently English, Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese and German) to reach a wider range of users.

One of the recent developments deals with the provenance of stored datasets. To describe in- and output data (e.g. for complex physically based environmental models) can be quiet challenging, as you have to link and describe different types of data sources (e.g. time series data, geodata, soil samples, simulated data). These data sources are stored in RBIS or not, with a different level of available details and has been passed several processing steps using different tools (e.g. global climate model, hydrological model on basin scale, data extraction, unit conversion and aggregation functions). Elements of the ISO 19115-1/2 standard were used and extended to describe lineage information within RBIS. The MetaViz tool for the visualization of metadata and lineage information provided by GLUES (scientific coordination project for all regional projects within the same funding measure as LUCCi) was tested. The information was encoded with the ISO 19115 compliant XML format and transferred using a CSW service. Via CSW only datasets and information are exposed, which are readable for a normal guest account.

Keywords: Environmental information system, time series data, ISO 19115, lineage information, CSW

Source: http://enviroinfo.eu/sites/default/files/pdfs/vol9073/0204.pdf

Russia: Mainstreaming Open Data in Transport Projects in St. Petersburg

Residents of Russian cities have been facing increasing urban transport challenges. Rapid growth of cars, an outdated public transport system, and poor traffic management have made the situation much worse, with the speed of surface transit averaging 8-9 kilometres an hour at best.

St. Petersburg is facing an especially daunting challenge. The unique urban layout, multiple canals and bridges — so attractive to tourists— exacerbate the current traffic management challenges. The task at hand for the city is to improve transport infrastructure, upgrade public transport and its accessibility to increase population's mobility.

Delivering timely information on the flow of urban traffic, providing instant access to information on traffic congestion, the availability and cost of parking spaces, and current public transit routes could go a long way towards addressing a whole range of issues. The World Bank has prepared a report titled 'Opportunities and Strategies for Mainstreaming Open Data in Transport Projects in St. Petersburg' which suggests that the socio-economic and environmental impact of the new program to improve the urban transport could be enhanced through the use of open data when designing new information systems. Access the report:
http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/07/07/090224b082c25b1c/1_0/Rendered/PDF/Opportunities000ICT0global0practice.pdf

Source: http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2015/09/04/open-data-to-address-urban-transport-challenges-in-russia

Int'l Workshop held on Northeast Asia–Central Asia Regional Resources and Environment Data Sharing

Twenty-nine trainees from 9 countries (Russian Fed., Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Thailand) attended a 20-day training workshop entitled: 'International Workshop on Northeast Asia–Central Asia Regional Resources and Environment Data Sharing,' 10–29 August 2015, in Beijing, China. The training was set in a multidisciplinary context and addressed a broad range of issues related to scientific data sharing, including policies, standards, technologies, methods, and good practices from the national, regional and international perspectives.

The workshop was hosted by the Institute of Geographic Science and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) of the Chinese Academy of Science and co-sponsored by ICSU-WDS and its Member hosted by IGSNRR: the World Data Centre for Renewable Resources and Environment. The World Data System (WDS) is an Interdisciplinary Body of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

Source: https://www.icsu-wds.org/news/news-archive/wds-co-sponsor-data-sharing-workshop

A needs assessment of geospatial data and technologies in the Lower Mekong Region
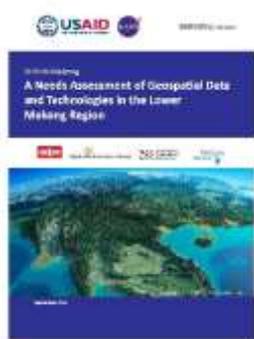
SERVIR-Mekong, the latest addition to a USAID and NASA-initiated global network of hubs supporting the application of geospatial data and technologies for decision making, carried out a needs assessment in late 2014 and early 2015 to inform the program's strategic focus as well as provide a resource for other stakeholders seeking to improve the effective application of geospatial data and technologies in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR). This report is the result of that assessment. Full report: http://servir.adpc.net/sites/default/files/know/SERVIR-Mekong_RegionalNeedsAssessment%282015%29_DRAFT_20150831.pdf

Download the executive summary here: http://servir.adpc.net/knowledge-products/executive-summary-needs-assessment-geospatial-data-and-technologies-lower-mekong

Source: http://servir.adpc.net/knowledge-products/needs-assessment-geospatial-data-and-technologies-lower-mekong-region

Pacific: SPC supports maritime boundary progress in the North Pacific

In September 2015, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC GeoScience Division, http://gsd.spc.int/) responded to requests from the Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to assist these countries to formalise their maritime boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs).

Under international law, a country has the right and responsibility to delineate and map its own maritime boundaries. "In the Pacific, due to the close proximity of islands, Exclusive Economic Zones often overlap," explained SPC's Maritime Boundaries Technical Officer, Emily Artack. "Thus, there's a need for countries to negotiate maritime boundary agreements. Once an agreement or treaty is formalised and signed by the leaders, then the countries know exactly the limits of their own extended maritime areas," Ms Artack said. This is particularly important when it comes to the management of resources within those EEZs, including fisheries and deep sea minerals.

See also: Papua New Guinea completes mapping of its maritime boundaries, http://gsd.spc.int/component/content/article/631-papua-new-guinea-completes-mapping-of-its-maritime-boundaries

Source: http://gsd.spc.int/component/content/article/627-spc-supports-maritime-boundary-progress-in-the-north-pacific

Development and deployment of climate data mgt system for western Pacific small island developing states

Author(s): David J. Martin, Andrew Howard, Rod Hutchinson, Simon McGree and David A. Jones
Meteorological Applications , Volume 22, Issue 2, pages 273–287, April 2015

This study describes the development and deployment of a new climate data management system aimed at improving climate data management and associated climate services in Pacific island countries and East Timor. The system is called Climate Data for the Environment (CliDE, http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/pacific/about-clide.shtml). Installed locally, it provides each country with a central relational database and web-based user interface that includes customizable key entry forms, quality control tools, station maintenance forms, meteorological and climate reports, and data file extracts. It has been deployed as free and open source software in 15 countries (East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Niue and Cook Islands).

In developing CliDE, the project team sought to develop a database capable of providing a robust method of managing an individual country's meteorological observations from networks typically consisting of several to hundreds of stations. In many Pacific countries significant data remain only in paper form; therefore, a key consideration was in providing a secure and efficient means for digitizing paper records. As CliDE has developed, it has become the central hub of a multitude of climate and meteorological services of benefit to small national meteorological services, such as statistical reports, graphical analyses, data extractions, climate summaries, and products that can provide input to public works planning, agriculture and health sectors. It has helped

improve significantly the work flow, data integrity and consistency beyond previous practices in the western Pacific. Keywords: climate data management system; Pacific region; data rescue; data management; climate record

Source: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/met.1461/full

Geospatial Information and the Data Revolution: "A Quick Win" for Sustainable Dev't in Asia-Pacific

The side event to the fourth session of the Committee on "Statistics on Geospatial Information and the Data Revolution: "A Quick Win" for Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific" took place in Bangkok on 27 March 2015. The objective of this side event was to illustrate ways in which geo-spatial information is being used around the region to promote better evidence for improved policy implementation, and to discuss in detail how this tool can be used effectively for measuring and monitoring the progress of the SDGs. Presentations and documents are from the side event are available online, including a Report on the meeting, http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report_Geo-Spatial-side-event_27Mar15.pdf

Source: http://www.unescap.org/events/geospatial-information-and-data-revolution-%E2%80%9C-quick-win%E2%80%9D-sustainable-development-asia-pacific

Presentations from 8th Asia-Pacific GEOSS Symposium, Beijing

Around 220 participants from 27 countries attended the 8th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium, held in Beijing 9-11 September 2015. Those who attended contributed to discussions around the theme "Towards the next decade of GEOSS in the Asia Pacific Region".

Plenary presentations were made by 15 countries and international organizations on recent national and regional GEO activities. Six parallel sessions addressed ideas regarding future collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region over the next decade. Panel discussions looked at challenges and potential solutions of data sharing in their domains, reporting on substantial contributions to the GEO Work Programme in 2017 and beyond, as well as ideas on GEO participation in the Global Agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals, the UNFCCC Framework and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. Presentations can be access from the Symposium website, http://www.sasmac.cn/AP-GEOSS8/Agenda.html

The Symposium included a session on GEOSS Asian-Pacific Data Sharing and GCI Development
The mechanism that facilitates GEOSS data sharing is realized by the implemented components of GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI). Through the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI), GEOSS resources, including Earth observation data (satellite, airborne, in situ, models), information services, standards and best practices, can be searched, discovered and accessed by scientists, policy leaders, decision makers, and those who develop and provide information services across the entire spectrum of users.

- GEOSS Infrastructure, http://www.sasmac.cn/AP-GEOSS8/PDFversion/DAY2/WG2/3.1AP%20Symposium%20Nativi%20Presentation-forpublication.pdf
- National Spatial Data Infrastructure of Indonesia, http://www.sasmac.cn/AP-GEOSS8/PDFversion/DAY2/WG2/4.5AGUNG%20INDRAJIT_INDONESIA_BIG_BEIJING_2015.pdf
- Data sharing/GCI discussion summary, http://www.sasmac.cn/AP-GEOSS8/PDFversion/DAY2/WG2/6.GEOSS_WG2_DataSharing_Summary20150909.pdf

Source: https://www.earthobservations.org/articles_news.php?id=124

Europe Region SDI News

Italy: New report on the statistics of National Repository of Spatial Data

A new report has been published by the Italian government on the statistics related to data supply in the National Repository of Spatial Data (RNDT, Repertorio Nazionale dei Dati Territoriali, http://www.rndt.gov.it/RNDT/home/index.php). Over 17,500 resources documented by the central authorities, regions, local authorities and territorial split into dataset (15,841) , series of datasets (175) and services (1,498). As usual, the report outlines data in reference to Administrations, INSPIRE themes, ISO categories, type of services, and also includes some graphics that provide an instant indication of the quantity and quality of the information. A Statistics page also is available, updated more frequently, providing information such as number of documented resources relative to all regions. The data are aggregated at the regional level and include those pertaining to the central government.

Italy: Petition to have National Directory of spatial data (RNDT) in INSPIRE Registry

Italy's National Repository of Spatial Data (RNDT, Repertorio Nazionale dei Dati Territoriali, http://www.rndt.gov.it/RNDT/home/index.php) is the tool to search through the metadata, spatial data - and related services - available from the Public Administrations, to evaluate the data and services fitness for purpose, and to obtain the necessary information on the conditions of access and use. Yet, apparently, the RNDT is has not been registered in the INSPIRE Registry. A petition has been set up questioning this predicament, which is confounding both individuals and associations and communities within the geomatics sector who have signed the petition.

See: "We want Italy in the INSPIRE Registry" http://aborruso.github.io/it4insp/

Italy: Lombardy Region updates its Geoportal

The geographic portal of the Lombardy Region (www.geoportale.regione.lombardia.it) has been updated: enriched with new functions, services and tools, reorganized content, and open to the world of social networks. The new Geoportal of the Lombardy Region contains 187 databases and above 150 maps of our region, divided by topic area. It is a useful service to professionals and technicians, but also to all citizens who can discover previously unpublished aspects of the Lombardy region. In addition to maps of the regional land registry, there also are maps related to farms, cultural heritage, protected areas, and use of agricultural areas. A database search is facilitated by specific thematic channels divided by subject.

The services featured on the home page will help visitors make better use of the functions of the Geoportal: the Viewer, Downloads, Web Services Map Service, the coordinate transformation, the Land Registry, the state of the topographic database. For professionals there are also specific map services (Convergo, WMS), technical documents, digital mapping products such as Advanced Database topographic and online courses to better use all the information.

During the Conference ASITA 2015, held in Lecco from 29 September to 1 October, a special session was organized on "multitask infrastructure for land management in Lombardy" by the Geographic Information System Structure of the Lombardy Region, during which various activities undertaken in the last two years were presented.

Italy: FLOODIS (flood information service) tested on the sensitive Livenza river
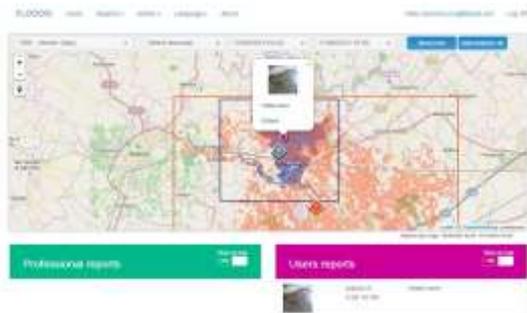
The FLOODIS system was demonstrated to end-users near the Livenza river in the Veneto region of Italy on Friday 11th September. The town of Motta di Livenza is one of the most sensitive urban spots on the river, and the area has been under frequent and increasing flood risk from the historical floods of 2010 until the last serious event recorded in February 2014. The demonstration was carried out by the FLOODIS team and was attended by the Civil Protection Department of Regione Veneto and the Alto Adriatic Water Authority.

FLOODIS (http://www.floodis.eu/) is a collaborative European Community project, funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7-SPACE-2013-1), to provide a flood information service that aims at better addressing and mitigating crisis situations arising before, during and after heavy flooding. FLOODIS utilizes services like GIO-EMS (GMES/Copernicus European Emergency Service) and EFAS (European Flood Awareness Service), to produce alerting and management information on the occurring flood events with high-accuracy, location-based information from the Disaster Management teams, Civil Protection Agencies and citizens, acting as "human

sensors". The FLOODIS solution aims to close a critical gap for Disaster Management teams and Emergency Response Units by providing a centralized comprehensive platform to collect, store and elaborate the information related to the emergency events coming from different sources, including user generated content and social networks analysis.

Source: http://www.floodis.eu/news/64-second-in-field-tests; http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/about-us/single-view/news/floodis_tests_capacity_of_flood_information_service_on_the_sensitive_livenza_river_in_italy/

Spain: SDI Gran Canaria update includes switch to open software and new 3-D module

Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDE) Gran Canaria reports (Las Palmas, Spain) the publication of a new display in the portal Gran Canaria IDE, which replaces the previous proprietary technology for open developments based on OpenLayers. This beta version (v4 OL) integrates all the existing functionality in the current 2D display module; and among other innovations includes a new 3D module which allows viewing the entire content directory published by IDE Gran Canaria.

The interest of this 3D display availability for the entire catalog of published content territorial motivates the advancement of this version (v4OL), to be updated with further evolved versions. IDE Gran Canaria apologizes upfront for any instability that may be experienced with some functions.

Source: http://www.idegrancanaria.es/noticias/2015/09/noticia-ide-nuevo-visor-visualizacion-servicios-3-dimensiones-gran-canaria-cabildo

The Netherlands: Call for tender for testbed for the integration of spatial data in the web

Geonovum (http://www.geonovum.nl/) sees the web as an important dissemination channel and wants geospatial data to be accessible to web developers with no specific geospatial expertise. That's why Geonovum is organizing a testbed to explore the possibilities of making spatial data a useful, integral and common part of the web. Geonovum seeks to involve the market to answer four research questions as part of this testbed.

Research topic #1: Modern ways of spatial data publication
Research topic #2: A usable spatial data publication platform
Research topic #3: Crawlable spatial data using the ecosystem of the Web and Linked Data
Research topic #4: Spatial data on the web using the current SDI

For each research topic a budget of € 25.000 excluding 21% VAT is available. The deadline for submitting a tender is **October 7, 2015**. Questions about the tender can only be asked by sending an e-mail to info@geonovum.nl, addressed to Linda van den Brink, coordinator of the testbed. The call for tender is available online at:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LQQ0JObMxICpMALg46UuWFnJAfKRcNJED0fpx8utKsg/edit?usp=sharing&pli=1 ; http://www.geonovum.nl/sites/default/files/Invitationtotender-SDWtestbed.pdf

Source: http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/geo-standaarden/nieuws/aanbesteding-testbed-locatie-data-als-integraal-onderdeel-van-het-web

Germany: Regional GIS Conference, 25 November 2015, Heidelberg

Once again, the "Fachaustausch Geoinformation" will be organized by the Geo-Network of the Metropolitain Region Rhine-Neckar GeoNet.MRN" (http://www.geonet-mrn.de/) in Heidelberg on 11/25/2015. The event serves the networking and exchange of experience between interested parties, experts, users and decision-makers from business, science, politics and government on applications and current issues of regional data and geographic information systems.

Morning program:
- Keynote speeches and panel discussion on current topics (regional data for the infrastructure planning, Open Data, INSPIRE etc.)
- Award Baden-Württemberg Challenge 2015 as part of the European Satellite Navigation Competition

Afternoon program with three parallel lecture and discussion sessions:

- Session 1 "Virtual Building"
- Session 2 "Energy and energy storage"
- Session 3 "Microscale statistics for local and regional planning"

Source: http://www.geonet-mrn.de/

Germany: 52°North Sensor Workshop, 23-24 November 2015, Muenster

52°North invites Sensor Web enthusiasts to join the Sensor Web Workshop 2015. The 2 day workshop takes place in Muenster on November 23 & 24, 2015 and focuses on establishing an overview of current and planned Sensor Web projects and activities. Participants meet to share their experience gained from Sensor Web activities and to identify next research and development steps.

52°North's Sensor Web Community (http://52north.org/communities/sensorweb/) holds a yearly workshop to streamline the focus of the community. During the first day of the workshop, participants get an overview of the Sensor Web community activities. They present current work, achievements, requirements, needs, or plans concerning sensor web technology. The second day focuses on selected Sensor Web topics, discussions of plans for 2016 and the revision of the existing road map.

Source: http://52north.org/425-spinning-the-sensor-web-52-north-sensor-web-workshop-2015

Berlin Workshop: Maximising interoperability — core vocabularies, location-aware data and more
25-26 November 2015, Berlin, Germany

Plenary submission deadline: **17 October 2015**
Session submission deadline: **25 October 2015**

The fifth and final workshop in the Share-PSI series will address the topic of maximising interoperability: core vocabularies, location-aware data and more. The workshop is explicitly interested in ideas, concepts and solutions that directly or indirectly address the interoperability of open data and PSI. As with all Share-PSI workshops, the aim is to identify best practices in these areas with a focus on Public Sector Information, although cultural heritage, commercial and scientific data are also relevant.

The successful usage of open data depends on its availability and, in many cases, on the degree of its interoperability. The following crucial factors have to be met:
- staff at public authorities with different technical experience have to be able to increase the discoverability and interoperability of their datasets;
- public authorities should make it easy to combine datasets from different sources, different member states or different domains;
- public authorities should be aware of the tools in most common use to import, process and visualise data;
- public authorities should refer to locations in a consistent manner to enable the combination of multiple datasets that refer to the same place.

The aim of Share-PSI is to identify good practice in open data/PSI, providing public authorities and others with a set of best practices that can be incorporated into their own guidelines. This workshop will focus particularly on questions related to technical implementation, with this in mind, these are the questions and topics we would like to see addressed during presentations and workshop sessions. The list is not exhaustive but should give a clearer idea about the workshops aims:
- How can existing vocabularies be used to provide semantic interoperability?
- How can data publishers be supported in maximising the interoperability of their data sets within and across domains?
- As location is often the common point between different datasets, how should location be represented?
- How can public authorities support multilingualism?
- How can the technical interoperability of datasets be maximised?
- How can public authorities publish data that will be persistent, i.e. still be available after the particular project or department that created it has ceased to exist?

Source: http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/workshop/berlin/

Germany: Position paper of German Association of Cities on use of geospatial information in cities

The current position paper of the German Association of Cities' use of geoinformation in the cities (http://www.staedtetag.de/imperia/md/content/dst/presse/2015/einsatz_geoinformationen_staedte_positionspapier_dst_2

015.pdf) is the logical continuation of the efforts of municipal associations, demonstrate the potential of geo-information for modern governance, which - with the nationwide municipal survey into the use of geo-information in the municipalities (GDI survey) their early taken -2013 had the goal to get an overview of the state of development of geoinformation at the municipal level in Germany.

The paper once again illustrates the benefits and added value of geoinformation as action and decision basis for local policy objectives, permitting and planning processes, as well as preparation of strategic decisions in administration and politics. In the summary, it is recommended that:
- the continuation of the process begun in the support of administrative action by geographic information in order to achieve the greatest possible synergies;
- the consistent expansion of e-government with geospatial information;
- the opening and provision of municipal spatial data within the meaning of Open Data for releasing the potential multiple benefits;
- expand citizens' participation (participation) and transparency with geigneten methods geoinformation and
- to step up cooperation between local authorities and thus integrated to drive developments forward.

Source: https://www.geonet-mrn.de/portal/fep/de/dt.jsp?setCursor=1_458953&cursorPath=%7C458953%7C459923

Finland: Open Finland Challenge 2015
Submission deadline: **November 9, 2015**.

Open Finland Challenge (previously known as Apps4Finland) is arranged now for the 7th consecutive year and is possibly the largest "digital openness innovation contest" in the Nordic region. Open Finland Challenge produces and empowers innovations that enhance an open society, and supports individuals, collectives, organizations and companies that develop these innovations. In the previous years, the competition has spawned hundreds of applications, visualizations and concepts, tens of companies, and has grown the Finnish Open Data community into a network of several thousand people.

This year's challenge includes the following categories for awards: Mobility and daily travel; Utilizing open resources; Improving accessibility; Predictive traffic analytics; Crowdsourcing the production of geo-information; Combining web discussions and location data; Personal wellness – regional comparisons; Smart city and citizens – what's happending in Helsinki – how can I take part in it?; Harvesting new data sources for the national open data catalog

Source: http://openfinlandchallenge.fi/en/competition/

Croatia: SDI Days, 15-16 October 2015, Zagreb

The State Geodetic Administration traditionally organizes an annual conference devoted to spatial data infrastructure - Days of SDI. The conference is an ideal venue to review the status of SDI development, new projects and knowledge, as well as place for the exchange of experiences between public authorities and all other stakeholders who participate in the establishment, maintenance and development of NSDI (http://www.nipp.hr).

SDI Days in 2015 and this year will be held in Zagreb on 15-16 October in the great hall of the Faculty of Geodesy, a co-organizer of this year's conference. Topics for this year's conference are:

- The implementation of INSPIRE and NSDI
- Legislation in the function of the NSDI
- Subjects and data NSDI
- Linking the NSDI and Digital Agenda 2020
- Thematic Infrastructure
- Services e-government
- Risk management
- Environmental protection
- Environmental impact
- Integrated spatial analysis
- Open data initiatives
- Other SDI and INSPIRE themes

Note also: Updated NSDI register of spatial data subjects and sources, http://www.nipp.hr/default.aspx?id=697; with the most recent update to Croatia's register, 38 NSDI subjects (public authorities) and 175 sources of spatial data are reported.

Source: http://www.event.nipp.hr/

Poland: Open government data review of Poland: Unlocking the value of government data

This review analyses progress and challenges of open government data in the Polish national context. It is based on existing OECD methodology and formulates recommendations that aim to help Poland improve open government data efforts and achieve impacts. The recommendations take into account the departing level of the Polish context and focus on priority needs, which in the case of Poland is the establishment of an "infrastructure" to support coherent and sustainable efforts across the administration: creation of an ecosystem of related and co-operating actors, establishment of a supportive governance framework, development of the needed skills and culture among civil servants.

Source: http://www.oecd.org/governance/open-government-data-review-of-poland-9789264241787-en.htm

Bulgaria: Road Infrastructure Agency unveils new app providing free updated road traffic information

Bulgaria's Road Infrastructure Agency launched said on September 30 that it was launching software that would enable users to monitor online and through an app on their smartphones the country's traffic situation, with information on closed roads and alternative routes in real time.

The software will provide the latest information on the state of the roads, whether there are closures for maintenance or due to accident, and road conditions during the winter season, for example.

The system, called LIMA (lima.api.bg/about/index), will enable users to send information on traffic problems to the Road Infrastructure Agency's situation room. Information on road accidents would be sent to the Road Infrastructure Agency's situation room to alert the 112 emergency number service. Plans are to develop the system further so that there would be a link to emergency medical services. The app is free and can be used on mobile phones and tablets with OS Android, IOS and Windows Mobile, personal or portable computers with a web browser. Approval from Apple is pending, and was expected in a few days, a news conference was told.

Regional Development and Public Works Minister Lilyana Pavlova said that there was connectivity between the ministry, the Road Infrastructure Agency and all regional road offices covering not only 20 000 km of national roads, but also main and municipal roads.

Source: http://sofiaglobe.com/2015/09/30/bulgaria-unveils-new-app-providing-free-updated-road-traffic-information/

Slovakia: Danube Open (Geo) Data Hackathon & Developers' Workshops, Bratislava

Join the first Open (Geo) Data Hackathon developer's workshop, organised by the SDI4Apps consortium, in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 15-17 October 2015 at ImpacHub Bratislava.
Theme: When location matters in everyday life of the Danube Region. For registration and more details, visit http://www.danubehack.eu/.

Source: http://sdi4apps.eu/2015/09/danube-open-geo-data-hackathon-developers-workshops/

UK: Laser surveys light up open data

For the last 17 years the Environment Agency has used lasers to map and scan the English landscape from above to help carry out work such as flood modelling and tracking changing coastal habitats. This month, for the first time, we are making our LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data available for everyone to use for free. The aim is to help organisations, businesses, and individuals to do everything from manage forests, discover hidden archaeological features, and even create virtual reality worlds for gaming.

Source: https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2015/09/18/laser-surveys-light-up-open-data/

Vacancy: Earth Observation Projects Specialist, European Space Agency, Washington, DC

The Earth Observation Projects Specialist, seconded from ESA to the World Bank Group (Social, Urban, Rural & Resilience Global Practice), will be responsible for promoting increased awareness of and for the operational use of Earth Observation (EO) information services within the World Bank. This will involve working in close cooperation with both bank staff and end-users in client states (developing countries) in support of demonstration projects with specialist EO service providers. The long-term objective is to achieve widespread acceptance and sustainability of EO-based products and services within Bank operations. The closing date for applications is **14 October 2015**.

Source: http://www.esa.int/hr/PDF/ESA-VN-HO-2015-019.pdf

2016 Understanding Risk (UR2016) Forum, 16-20 May 2016, Istanbul, Turkey

The 2016 Understanding Risk (UR2016) Forum will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from May 16-20, 2016. This is the fourth biennial conference of the Understanding Risk Community. UR2016 will provide a forum for partners / organizations / individuals to showcase emerging best practices in disaster risk identification, form new partnerships, and learn about the latest innovations in the field. This year's UR Forum will be co-organized by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the Governorship of Istanbul. Deadline for proposals for sessions and side events: **15 October 2015**.

Source: https://www.understandrisk.org/ur2016

European i-SCOPE project

i-SCOPE project www.iscopeproject.net started on 15 January 2012 and closed on 15 September 2015. It was a European project with a total budget of 4M€ supported by the European Union within the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme CIP-ICT-PSP.2011-5 for Open Innovation for Internet-enabled Services in "smart" Cities (Theme 5.1).

The project addressed critical issues connected to the quality of life and economic performances of cities. In order to make available new services in the field of mobility, energy saving and noise pollution, the project aimed to create an open source platform for three-dimensional representation of the territory. The project was based on the use of CityGML Urban Information Model, official OGC Standard. The latest generation of 3D Urban Information Models (UIM), created from accurate urban-scale geospatial information, can be used to create smart web services based on geometric, semantic, morphological and structural information at urban scale level. These smart services were put at the disposal to the local governments to improve decision making on issues related to urban planning, city management, environmental protection and energy consumption, to promote inclusion among various user groups, and involve citizens by collecting geo-referenced information based on location based services at urban scale.

Source: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/i-scope-raffaele-de-amicis

EULIS, EuroGeographics, and PCC plenary meeting, 12-14 November 2015, Luxembourg

The European Land Information Service, EULIS, will host a half-day conference on Thursday afternoon, November 12th 2015 in Luxembourg. It will be followed by a joint reception in the evening together with EuroGeographics and the Permanent Committee on Cadastre (PCC) members. On November 13th the EuroGeographics Cadastre& Land Registry Knowledge Exchange Network and PCC will hold a workshop. On November 14th, the PCC plenary meeting will take place.

The EULIS conference will focus on the interconnection of European Land Registers. There will also be sufficient time allotted for questions, comments and discussions. The three day joint event will be hosted by the Luxemburg Administration of the Cadastre and Topography. It will be held at the European Convention Center in Luxemburg. All interested persons are welcome to attend. There is no conference fee to attend these events. All attendants are expected to fund their own travel and hotel expenses.

Source: http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/eulis-conference-12-november-2015-luxembourg

Call for papers: 1st International Conference on Smart Data and Smart Cities
September 7-9, 2016, University of Split, Croatia

A smart city can be defined as a city overlaid by a digital layer, which is used not only for storing city information but overall for its governance. This conference will present novel research concerning the use of information and communication technologies in Smart Cities, and will also provide a forum for senior researchers to establish collaborations on new research projects in this domain. A smart city cannot be defined without a better involvement of citizens (smart people). This conference will be organized as a collaboration between the Urban Data Management Society (http://www.udms.net/), ISPRS and the University of Split, Croatia. The UDM Society has been a pioneer in promoting information technologies in cities from since the early 1970s, and this conference will be its 30th event. Deadline for full papers: **October 15, 2015**.

Source: http://www.udms.net/uploads/download/CFP_split.pdf

EARSC Earth Observation Industry Survey Report 2015

The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC) is pleased to share the results of the survey it conducted into the state and health of the European Earth observation (EO) services industry. EARSC is grateful to all companies that spent their time responding to the survey questions.

This is the second survey performed by EARSC. This brochure is a summary of the survey results; and full report will be soon available at EARSC website: http://earsc.org/file_download/264/EARSC+EO+Industry+Survey+September+2015.pdf

The survey was conducted between December 2014 and May 2015. A total of 548 companies were contacted with useful responses coming from 152 of them via an on-line questionnaire which was focused on financial and numerical data. The responses show that the EO services industry is employing over 6800 highly skilled staff and turns over some 900m Euro per annum. These and many more results are explained in the documents. EARSC plans to revisit the industry facts and figures every two years. Regular survey will be essential to develop a full understanding of the impact that policy decisions are having on the industry.

Source: http://earsc.org/news/earsc-eo-industry-survey

UN-GGIM-Europe Report on Priority User Needs, version 1.0

The objective for this report is to provide priority user needs relevant for policy makers and politicians and show how evidence based decision making can benefit from geospatial information in combination with other information on different levels. The report is on a strategic, non-technical level reflecting the UN and the European goals (e.g. UN Sustainable Development Goals and European Union Top 10 political priorities and challenges). It consists of a number of use cases showing the benefits and needs for policy makers and politicians.

Source: http://un-ggim-europe.org/content/wg-b-data-integration

Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

Uruguay: Geoportal IDE, el Ministerio de Transporte y Obras Públicas (MTOP)

El Ministerio de Transporte y Obras Públicas (MTOP) pone a disposición de los usuarios la aplicación Geoportal IDE. La información contenida podrá ser visualizada con Google Earth y permitirá realizar búsquedas por números de padrón o de rutas, así como intersecciones de rutas o balnearios

En su comunicado, el MTOP recuerda que en el Geoportal están todos los geoservicios de la información publicada además de los geoservicios de los vuelos fotogrametricos de Piriapolis, Puerto de Aguas Profundas, Puntas de Sayago y Hervidero. También se cuenta con un geoservicio para trabajar

con segmentación dinámica en las rutas nacional junto con un instructivo.

Cabe destacar la georreferenciación de los planos de mensura y la de los planos de balnearios. Al igual que en el visualizador la búsqueda de los planos de balneario se hace por el nombre de balneario y la de los demás planos a partir del número de padrón vigente.

English summary: ***SDI Geoportal of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MTOPS)***
The Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MTOPS) makes available to users the SDI Geoportal application. The information contained may be displayed with Google Earth and will allow users to search in various ways.

Fuente: Sergio Acosta y Lara, http://geoportal.mtop.gub.uy

Argentina: Boletín IDERA #18 (Septiembre de 2015)

El Boletín IDERA es un medio de comunicación para la difusión de novedades y contenidos de interés para la comunidad IDE en Argentina. Informa sobre temas relacionados con SIG, IDE, teledetección y gestión de datos geoespaciales del ámbito global, regional, nacional y local.

En este número encontrará noticias sobre los eventos organizados por IDERA y avances de grupos de trabajo, datos geográficos disponibles gratuitamente a nivel de radios censales, nuevas IDE, visores de mapas, entre muchas de gran interés.

La Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de la República Argentina (IDERA, http://www.idera.gob.ar/) es una comunidad de información geoespacial que tiene como objetivo propiciar la publicación de datos, productos y servicios, de manera eficiente y oportuna como un aporte fundamental a la democratización del acceso de la información producida por el Estado y diversos actores, y al apoyo en la toma de decisiones en las diferentes actividades de los ámbitos público, privado, académico, no gubernamental y sociedad civil. A través de su representación, IDERA busca mantener un carácter nacional y federal.

Nota tambien:
- Nuevos instructivos para la instalación de un nodo IDE
  http://www.idera.gob.ar/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=348:nuevos-instructivos-para-la-instalacion-de-un-nodo-ide&catid=89:00-noticias&Itemid=108
- Lineamientos para el acceso, difusión, uso e interoperabilidad de la información geoespacial
  http://www.idera.gob.ar/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=345:nuevo-documento-sobre-lineamientos-para-el-acceso-difusion-uso-e-interoperabilidad-de-la-informacion-geoespacial&catid=89:00-noticias&Itemid=108
- Presentaciones de las X Jornadas
  http://www.idera.gob.ar/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=334:x-idera-mendoza-2015-todas-las-ponencias&catid=89:00-noticias&Itemid=108

Fuente: http://www.idera.gob.ar/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=350:fue-publicado-el-boletin-18&catid=89:00-noticias&Itemid=108

Chile: Portal GEO-CGR Control Ciudadano de Obras, Contraloría General de la República

Mediante esta aplicación web, usted podrá visualizar y descargar información relacionada con la inversión en obra pública que se está ejecutando en el territorio nacional. Adicionalmente, en caso de detectar alguna irregularidad, usted podrá realizar una denuncia o sugerencia de fiscalización sobre obras específicas presentes en este visor de mapas web.

El portal GEO-CGR (http://www.contraloria.cl/geocgrappcgr/GEOCGR/index.jsp) da la posibilidad de aproximarse a la información a través de un mapa, de tal forma que, fácilmente, se pueda obtener un panorama de la distribución territorial de la inversión en obras públicas en todo el territorio nacional, considerando nuestra división político-administrativa (Regional, Provincial y Comunal). Asimismo, usted podrá visualizar mapas con mayor detalle que le permitan identificar la ubicación exacta de nuevas obras que se estén desarrollando en los alrededores de su barrio u otros sectores de su interés.

Ver videos:
Infórmese acerca del Portal GEO-CGR, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m86ZYlDakOo&feature=youtu.be
Colaboración entre Entidades Públicas, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK6_BgEIoG4&feature=youtu.be

Participación ciudadana y control social, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWlw39x5-GU&feature=youtu.be

English summary: **Portal GEO-CGR Citizen Control Works, Comptroller General of the Republic**

Using this Web application, you can view and download information related to investment in public works being executed in the country. Additionally, if it detects any irregularities, you can make a complaint or suggestion supervision over specific works presented in this web viewer maps.

The GEO-CGR website gives the possibility to approach the information through a map, so that easily can get an overview of the territorial distribution of investment in public works throughout the country, considering our division political and administrative (Regional, Provincial and Community). Also, you can view maps in more detail allowing him to identify the exact location of new works that are being developed around your neighborhood and other areas of interest. See http://www.contraloria.cl/geocgrappcgr/GEOCGR/index.jsp

See videos:
Learn about the GEO-CGR Portal, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m86ZYlDakOo&feature=youtu.be
Collaboration between public entities, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK6_BgEIoG4&feature=youtu.be
Citizen participation and social control, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWlw39x5-GU&feature=youtu.be

Fuente: http://www.ide.cl/noticias/noticias/item/portal-geo-cgr-control-ciudadano-de-obras-contraloria-general-de-la-republica.html

Peru: Evento internacional, experiencias para la construcción de la IDE de las Regiones Amazónicas
1 de octubre 2015, Loreto

Uno de las actividades que se viene promoviendo en el marco del proceso de modernización los gobiernos regionales amazónicos, es la implementación de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de las Regiones Amazónicas (IDERA), con el objetivo de articular y disponer de información georreferenciada de manera ordenada, estandarizada, actualizada e interoperable, que permita mejorar la toma de decisiones para una adecuada gestión del territorio, así como contribuir a la gobernabilidad y transparencia de la gestión pública.

En ese sentido, gracias a la articulación entre el Gobierno Regional de Loreto, el Consejo Interregional Amazónico (CIAM) del Perú, que agrupa a los Gobiernos Regionales de Amazonas, San Martín, Ucayali, Huánuco, Madre de Dios y Loreto, y la ONG Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, se ha programado el Evento Internacional: "Integrando el Uso de la Información Espacial en la Gestión del Territorio: Intercambio de Experiencias para la Construcción de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de las Regiones Amazónicas", que tiene el objetivo de incorporar los aprendizajes de las experiencias internacionales de implementación de Infraestructuras de Datos Espaciales en el diseño de la institucionalidad de la IDERA. El evento se desarrollará en la ciudad de Iquitos, departamento de Loreto, Perú, el día 01 de octubre del presente año.

English summary: **Integrating the use of spatial information in land management: experiences for building spatial data infrastructure of the Amazon region**

One of the activities is being promoted as part of the modernization process Amazonian regional governments, is the implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Amazon region (IDERA), in order to articulate and provide geo-referenced information in an orderly manner, standardized, updated and interoperable, allowing for better decision-making for proper management of the territory and contribute to the governance and transparency of governance.

In this regard, thanks to the joint between the Regional Government of Loreto, the Inter-regional Amazon Council (CIAM) of Peru, which groups the regional governments of Amazonas, San Martin, Ucayali, Huanuco, Loreto and Madre de Dios, and NGOs Law, Environment and Natural Resources, has scheduled the International Event "Integrating the Use of Spatial Information in Land Management: Exchange Construction experiences of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Amazon region" , which aims to incorporate the lessons learned from international experiences in implementing spatial data infrastructures in the design of the institutional framework of IDERA. The event will be held in Iquitos, Loreto, Peru, on 01 October this year.

Fuente: http://www.regionloreto.gob.pe/evento-internacional-integrando-el-uso-de-la-informacion-espacial-en-la-gestion-del-territorio-intercambio-de-experiencias-para-la-construccion-de-la-infraestructura-de-datos-espaciales-de/

### *Quality control of the Costa Rican cadastral map using open source GIS*

Abstract: This article presents a methodology for quality control of the cadastral map based on the tools provided by Open Source Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Errors in the cadastral map have a direct impact on information systems that may lead to wrong decision-making, increase cost of maintenance and updating of the spatial data. The developed methodology was used and validated by the Costa Rican Cadastre and Register Regularization Program. As a product of this program, a continuous cadastral map of Costa Rica was created to be used for the cadastral and registry transactions within the National Registry. The methodology allows the detection, location and classification of errors in the cadastral map in order to be fixed to ensure that the map is a correct representation of the parcels.

Source: http://revistas.una.ac.cr/index.php/geografica/article/view/6619

Guyana: Inter-agency geoportal demonstrated during Software Freedom Day

Guyana's inter-agency Geoportal (http://www.geoserver.ggmc.gov.gy/) was one of the open source efforts demonstrated during Software Freedom Day, held in Georgetown on 19 September 2015. The collaborative project in Guyana's national resources sector (GLSC, GGMC, GFC and EPA) uses a series of free and open source software tools to deliver geospatial data, maps and documents to users. The presentation during the event
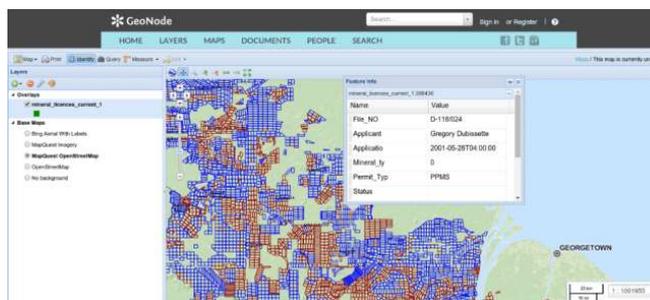
(https://www.dropbox.com/s/ktncsqjokuajtcz/The%20GeoNode%20Project.pptx?dl=0) looked at the structure of the platform, and the functionality and extensive features for users. The portal has road, drainage, administrative, mining, forestry and samples of various layers from agencies. The intention is to allow agencies and individuals to add geospatial data they may wish to share or make available to third party applications, such as Google Earth or even display it as a live map on their own website. The data is owned and managed based on the security settings set by the person uploading the data, but uses the Open Data Model. The sharing is governed by Guyana's Policy for Geospatial Information for 2013 – 2018 (http://www.geoserver.ggmc.gov.gy/documents/95/download). Many of the persons who were at the gathering were surprised that such a portal had been formed.

See also: Commentary on 'Hacking vs. Open Source', http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2015/09/27/hacking-vs-open-source/

Source: http://churchroadman.blogspot.com/2015/09/it-in-education-house-lot-utilization.html;
http://newsnow.gy/technology/guyanese-demonstrate-free-and-open-source-software-foss-solutions/

The Caribbean Gateway, a free and open access data management tool
– presented to Caribbean stakeholders during IUCN Regional Conservation Forum in Panama

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and The University of the West Indies (UWI) launched the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (Caribbean Gateway)" on September 2, 2015, during the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum in Panama City, Panama. The Caribbean Gateway, which serves to integrate a diverse range of relevant protected areas and biodiversity data and information across the region, is a joint undertaking between the European Union- funded Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA, http://www.biopama.org) Programme in the Caribbean and UWI's Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), an IUCN Member, at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados.

Source: http://www.biopama.org/learn_more/?21845/Caribbean-Gateaway-free-open-tool-Caribbean-Regional-Conservation-Forum-Panama

Jamaica: Geospatial Technologies Paving the Way for Smarter Cities, 12-21 November 2015, Kingston
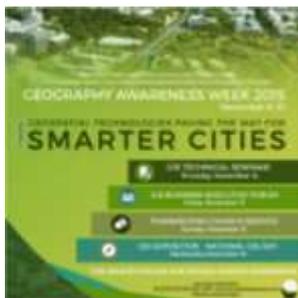
For Geography Awareness Week 2015, the Land Information Council of Jamaica (LICJ, http://licj.org.jm) is exploring a trending topic, Smart Cities, under the theme 'Geospatial Technologies Paving the Way for Smarter Cities'.

Source: https://www.facebook.com/GIS.Jamaica

Climate Change in the Caribbean Conference 2015: Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands
17-18 November 2015, San Juan Puerto Rico

The overall objectives of the conference are to:
- Provide attendees with an understanding of the "climate challenge" that exists in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and the broader Caribbean
- Highlight new (since 2011's first conference) and recent success stories in responding to, and preparing for, the effects of climate variability and change in the Caribbean focusing a good deal, but not exclusively, on PR and USVI
- Review new advances in Caribbean climate science
- Promote tools and strategies that support climate adaptation and mitigation activities
- Serve as an information transfer mechanism among a diverse set of attendees
- Inspire attendees to continue responding to the "climate challenge" after the conference

Agenda: http://caribbeanlcc.org/agenda-climate-change-in-the-caribbean-conference-2015-puerto-rico-us-virgin-islands/

Source: http://caribbeanlcc.org/climate-change-in-the-caribbean-2015-puerto-rico-the-u-s-virgin-islands/
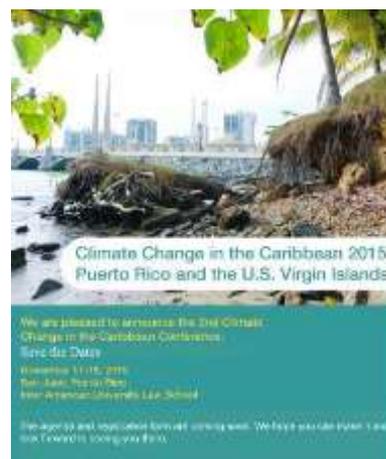
IX Congreso Internacional Geomática 2016, 14-18 Marzo de 2016, Havana, Cuba

El IX Congreso Internacional Geomática 2016 se llevará a cabo en el marco de la XVI Convención y Feria Internacional Informática 2016, en el Palacio de las Convenciones de La Habana, Cuba, entre el 14 y el 18 de marzo de 2016, bajo el lema "Conectando sociedades".

Temáticas
- Educación y entrenamiento en Geomática
- Geodesia y Topografía Aplicada
- Catastro, Sistemas de Información Catastral
- Cartografía y Bases de Datos Espaciales
- Percepción Remota y Fotogrametría
- Estudios Marinos
- Infraestructuras de Datos Espaciales y SIG
- Geomática en función del Medio Ambiente y el Turismo

Fechas límites: Presentación de resúmenes y ponencias: **20 de octubre de 2015**. Contacto: geomaticahabana@geocuba.cu, geomaticahabana@gmail.com

Fuente: http://www.informaticahabana.cu/

Geospatial organizations combine efforts to support Pan-American SDI development

A Joint Action Plan to Accelerate the Development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas has been established, which includes among its members:
- PAIGH (IPGH);
- Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS);
- United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; and
- The GeoSUR Program, led by CAF The Latin American Development Bank and PAIGH, and seed-funded by Eye on Earth.

These organizations have an integrated vision regarding each of their roles:

- PAIGH is working to improve coordination and collaboration processes in order to develop spatial information, especially in developing countries which require technical assistance;
- SIRGAS will cement its role as the sole Geospatial Reference System for the region;
- The UN-GGIM: Americas and its expert group will contribute to proposed policies for developing regional geospatial data infrastructure for the Americas. This partnership will also seek to cooperate on linking information and alphanumeric data — censuses, statistics, etc.— with geospatial data to help with the creation of indicators and information in benefit of regional sustainable development; and
- The CAF-PAIGH GeoSUR Program will serve as the instrument to develop applications.

The Joint Action Plan also aims to consolidate the geospatial information network of North, South, and Central Americas and the Caribbean. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the sustainable development of the region by providing a better understanding of the territory. Geospatial and statistical data is vital for underpinning indicators properly, highlighting gaps and unmet basic needs of the population, and providing indicators that measure the situation of both the natural and cultural landscapes. The subjects established in the Pan-American Agenda are vital for sustainable development, especially because they illustrate the relationships between the natural and anthropic aspects of the region.

Source: http://www.directionsmag.com/entry/geospatial-orgs-combine-efforts-to-support-pan-american-development/452342

Publication of the 7/8th edition of the GeoSUR newsletter

 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. The Bulletin is available in two languages:

Spanish: http://www.ipgh.org/GeoSUR/boletin/GeoSURv2n7_8_esp.pdf
English: http://www.ipgh.org/GeoSUR/newsletter/GeoSURv2n7_8_eng.pdf

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

Launch of JRC Soil Atlas of Latin America and the Caribbean in English & Portuguese
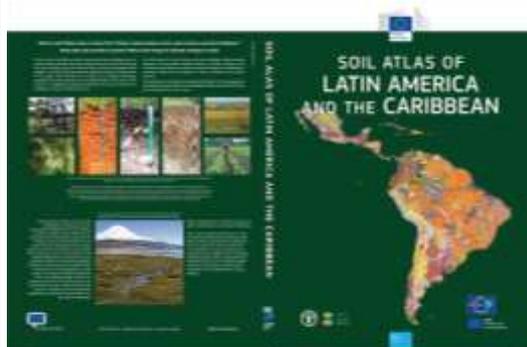
 On 10-11 June 2015, the EU held a high level summit with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) under the title "Shaping our common future: working for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens". On this occasion, the English and Portuguese versions of the JRC Soil Atlas of Latin America and the Caribbean were launched. This publication was offered by the Commission President to the 61 heads of delegation, including more than 40 heads of state or government from CELAC and EU Member States taking part in the summit.

The Soil Atlas of Latin America and the Caribbean was developed in close partnership with the Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) as part of EUROCLIMA, a regional cooperation programme between the European Union and Latin America, focused on climate change. Contributions were provided by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as well as scientific partners from across the CELAC region and Europe. The atlas, published in 2014 in Spanish, highlights the importance of soil, a precious non-renewable resource which provides food, fodder and fuel for more than 500 million people.
http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/library/maps/LatinAmerica_Atlas/index.html
https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/eu-celac-summit-launch-jrc-soil-atlas-latin-america-and-caribbean

Call for presentations: 8th URISA Caribbean GIS Conference, September 5-8, 2016, Barbados
Abstract deadline: **December 1, 2015**

 The Conference Program is developed through a Call for Presentation Proposals. The Committee welcomes the submission of individual papers, complete sessions, panel discussions and lightning talks. Consider the following list of suggested topics for consideration (note that all abstracts received will be reviewed and considered for the conference program regardless of the list below):

- National SDI implementation
- Mobile technology and field data collection
- Climate change
- Collaboration, coordination and cooperation across departments, agencies, ministries, regions
- GIS management challenges and best practices
- Sustainable capacity building
- Water resources
- Standards, Policy
- Modern Geodetic Framework
- Big data to support planning and development
- Web solutions
- Business intelligence and analytics
- GIS in support of economic development
- GIS in public safety, emergency response and disaster management
- Improving addressing
- Land use planning
- Coastal and marine spatial planning
- Environmental monitoring and analysis
- Commercial applications including retail, insurance, manufacturing, financial services
- The use of location technology
- Land/Parcel management
- GIS in the 'Cloud'
- How to prepare/use Census GIS
- Citizen's use of GIS - web access
- Aerial imagery and LiDAR
- Use of drones/UAVs for collecting imagery
- Innovative health GIS applications
- Crowdsourcing
- Oil and gas
- Enterprise GIS trends
- Open Source GIS
- PPGIS - community participation
- Developing GIS leaders in your organization
- Data management challenges
- Standards implementation issues and experiences
- Data sharing, open data
- Creative funding solutions
- Other topics

URISA's Caribbean Chapter (https://www.facebook.com/URISACaribbeanChapter/) strives to be the leading medium of The Caribbean Geospatial Community providing geospatial professionals with opportunities for educational development, networking, leadership, coordination and representation.

Source: http://www.urisa.org/education-events/urisa-s-caribbean-gis-conference/ ; http://www.urisa.org/news/2015/09/11/press-release/presentation-proposals-invited-for-2016-urisa-caribbean-gis-conference/

North America Region SDI News

Canada: GeoAlliance Canada invites organizations to join / get involved

GeoAlliance Canada (http://geoalliance.ca) is a new umbrella organization that will provide leadership to fuse together the energy and resources of existing geospatial business, non-profit, education and government organizations. The organization will create a neutral platform for members of the geo community to network and collaborate on projects of mutual interest. Together, members will measure, monitor and promote our value both within and outside the geo community in order to improve opportunities, awareness and understanding of the community's role in the Canadian economy. GeoAlliance Canada activities will elevate public awareness of the value of the geospatial information supply chain.

Registration will be open this fall for groups and organizations who wish to join GeoAlliance Canada. The membership rate is a flat fee of $1000/year, regardless of the size or mandate of your organization. Because the year-end date is March 31, a pro-rated membership for 1.5 years will be offered (until March 31, 2017) for $1500. There is no individual membership option, as GeoAlliance Canada does not wish to compete with other regional professional associations. If you are a member of another group or association, GeoAlliance Canada hopes you will encourage and support their involvement with GeoAlliance Canada.

Source: http://geoalliance.ca

Canada: Online tools make it easier to access BC data, maps

Now it is easier to access provincial information thanks to the iMapBC 4 Mobile application that helps British Columbians create customizable maps on tablets, phones and laptops. As well, the BC Physical Address Geocoder Web service makes it easy to locate and standardize BC civic addresses within Web pages and applications.

Source: http://esri.ca/en/blog/sdi-snapshot-september; https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015AVED0061-001518
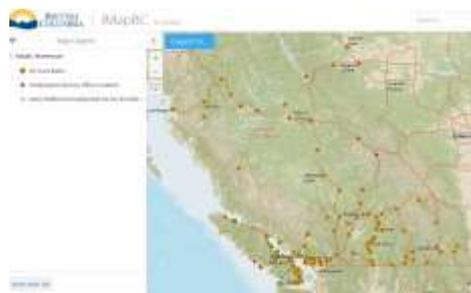
Canada: MEOPAR call for proposals for marine response research

The Marine Environmental Observation Prediction and Response (MEOPAR) Network has issued a Call for Proposals for their new Response Research Grant program. The Call will allocate $250,000 to approximately five projects starting in January 2016 and ending in March 2017.

Following the success of its Observation and Prediction Cores, MEOPAR is looking to fund projects to expand research capacity in our Response Core. This Call aims to support social science investigations and strengthen the integration of social science and natural science research within the Network.

MEOPAR's use of the term 'response' is broader than 'emergency response' and refers to aspects such as decision-making, solutions and impacts. The scope of the Call encompasses investigations of vulnerability, preparedness, consequence analysis, prevention, mitigation, resilience, recovery, community planning, policy, and regulation.
The deadline for applications is **October 16, 2015** at 4:00 p.m. (ADT)

Source: http://meopar.ca/news/entry/meopar-announces-call-for-proposals-for-marine-response-research

OGC North American Forum to demo results of major interoperability testbed

On October 14th, the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) will demonstrate the results of the eleventh OGC Interoperability Testbed. The demonstration is being organized by the OGC North American Forum. The US Geological Survey (USGS) is hosting the event, which will take place from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the USGS Auditorium in Reston, Virginia.

Testbed 11 supports national climate-change preparedness by focusing on ways in which open standards support cross-community interoperability, urban-climate resilience (preparation for impacts of climate change), and secure exchange of spatial information in the context of the US National Information Exchange Model NIEM.

Source: http://www.opengeospatial.org/pressroom/pressreleases/2295

Crowdsourcing The National Map
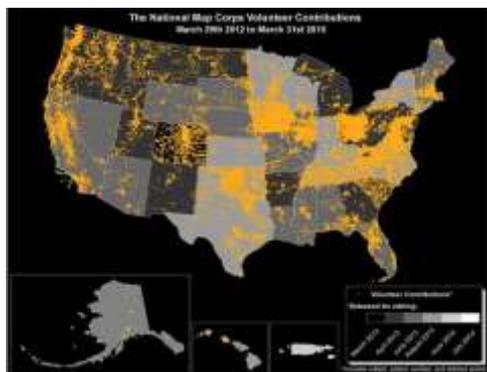
Author(s): Elizabeth A. McCartney, Kari J. Craun, Erin Korris, David A. Brostuen & Laurence R. Moore
Cartography and Geographic Information Science, Volume 42, Supplement 1, 2015

Abstract: Using crowdsourcing techniques, the US Geological Survey's (USGS) Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) project known as "The National Map Corps (TNMCorps)" encourages citizen scientists to collect and edit data about man-made structures in an effort to provide accurate and authoritative map data for the USGS National Geospatial Program's web-based The National Map. VGI is not new to the USGS, but past efforts have been hampered by available technologies. Building on lessons learned, TNMCorps volunteers are successfully editing 10 different structure types in all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

USA: Interagency elevation inventory data

The USGS liaisons are updating the United States Interagency Elevation Inventory (https://coast.noaa.gov/inventory/#). This resource also provides a wealth of information and data. The project is a collaborative effort of NOAA and the U.S. Geological Survey, with contributions from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
This web service provides users with access to data including: topo LiDAR, shoreline data, bathymetric LiDAR, hydrographic surveys and much more.

Source: http://blog.gisuser.com/2015/09/15/united-states-interagency-elevation-inventory-data/
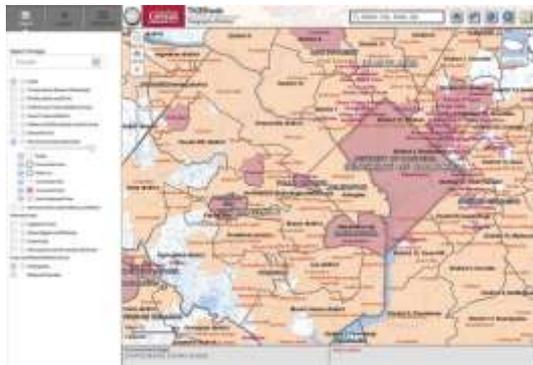
USA: Data visualization at the US census bureau – an American tradition

Author(s): Dierdre Bevington-Attardi and Michael Ratcliffe

Abstract: Recent developments in data visualization, developer Application Program Interfaces (APIs), and web services reinforce a long American tradition of statistical mapping and innovation at the US Census Bureau. Consistent with other international statistical agencies, the Census Bureau has used contemporary innovations in statistical mapping and data visualization to disseminate national census results for over 14 decades. The US Census Bureau's data products and analyses have enabled decision makers and the public to access census results quickly and easily. The new information technology environment requires the Census Bureau to more rapidly expedite these results and deliver mapping products to new customers as well as to its traditional data consumers. The Census API has empowered developers and commercial companies to test the limits of a new emerging world of big data solutions. This article presents some of the most recent data visualization products from the Census Bureau, including an expanding Data Visualization Gallery to merge geospatial information and statistics on the map.

USA: Census Bureau launches new Web application to transform how small businesses access data
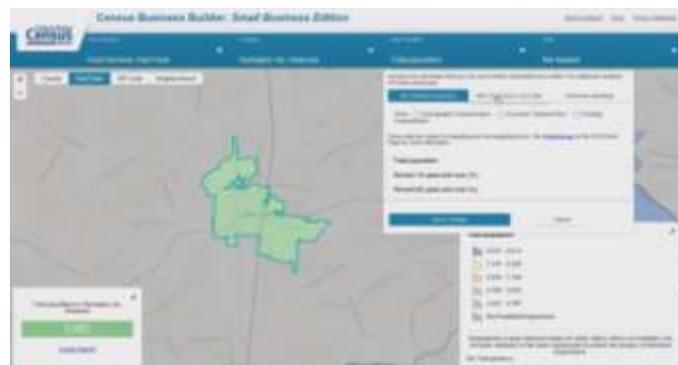
The U.S. Census Bureau released Census Business Builder: Small Business Edition, a new Web tool that allows business owners and entrepreneurs to easily navigate and use key demographic and economic data to help guide their research into opening a new business or adding to an existing one.

The Census Business Builder (http://www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html) was developed with user-centered design at its core and incorporated feedback from customers and stakeholders, including small business owners, trade associations and other government agencies.

The tool combines data from the American Community Survey, the economic census, County Business Patterns and other economic surveys to provide a complete business profile of an area. Business statistics include the number of establishments, employment, payroll and sales. American Community Survey statistics include population characteristics,

economic characteristics and housing characteristics. The new tool also combines third-party consumer spending data with the Census Bureau economic and demographic data.

Source: http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-156.html

USA: Using new elevation data to explore the Arctic

The Obama Administration announced that the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the University of Minnesota's Polar Geospatial Center (PGC), were collaborating to use high-resolution satellite imagery from DigitalGlobe, processed with NSF-supported advanced computing resources Blue Waters and the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE), to produce improved, publicly available Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) of Alaska by mid-2016, and of the entire Arctic by the end of next year.

This effort will complement the on-going Alaska Mapping Initiative, led by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)'s 3D Elevation Program with support from the State of Alaska and other Federal agencies to acquire high-resolution elevation data from interferometric synthetic aperture radar (ifsar), data that will be used to update topographic mapping in Alaska.

This announcement, which directly supports President Obama's Executive Order calling for enhanced coordination of National efforts in the Arctic, marks a significant achievement in the world of geospatial mapping.

As part of a supporting commitment to help users discover and engage with the new elevation data, Esri is developing new interactive resources. As the new DEMs become available, they will be publicly accessible through NGA's public website www.nga.mil or directly at http://nga.maps.arcgis.com. This portal already contains other Arctic geospatial information products, including a Pan-Arctic Map that includes multiple layers of downloadable information and data.

Source: https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/09/02/using-new-elevation-data-explore-arctic;
http://nga.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicGallery/index.html?appid=dc06e1570de14885bb6c7adbaa5bfec5

USA: Coming soon, an open database of every U.S. address

The Transportation Department is in the very early stages of trying to build the first publicly accessible database of the geographical location of every address in the country. Currently, agencies like the Census Bureau and the U.S. Postal Service have databases filled with residential and business addresses, but that information is protected by various privacy laws. DOT is trying to find a way to corroborate the information the federal government has on file, work with state and local governments to collect information that hasn't been gathered yet, and determine the best way to easily present it to the public.

Source: http://fedscoop.com/national-address-database

USA: FGDC releases ISO Geospatial Metadata Editors Registry

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has released the ISO Geospatial Metadata Editors Registry application to share information across the NSDI community about tools that can be used to create ISO compliant metadata. This online Registry provides comparative descriptions about the editor features, functionality, supported standards, and points of contact. The Registry is available at: http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/iso-metadata-editor-review-v2

Software developers are encouraged to provide input about their applications and expand the number of available ISO Geospatial Metadata Editors in the Registry. Another Registry feature allows users to provide individual reviews of different tools. User reviews may be submitted by FGDC Metadata Working Group (MWG) members only.

If you are interesting in submitting a user review and would like to join the MWG, please email a request to fgdc@fgdc.gov with your name, organization, and email address. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Carlino, FGDC Metadata Coordinator, jcarlino@usgs.gov.

Source: http://www.fgdc.gov/fgdc-news/fgdc-releases-iso-geospatial-metadata-editors-registry

USA: Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Data Sets Catalog available through GeoPlatform.gov

BLM Cadastral Survey, the FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee, Premier Data Services, and Fairview Industries, have teamed over the past four years to complete the standardized PLSS data for nearly all of the 30 Public Domain states. Oklahoma is the only state waiting to be completed and it is in process. These data sets represent about 40 million parcels that provide the basis for parcel mapping, land governance decisions, and navigation of cadastral data in Public Domain states.

The catalog listing the location of available **GEOPLATFORM.gov** standardized PLSS data sets which are hosted by BLM and states is available through the Geospatial Platform. The catalog can be accessed at: http://www.geoplatform.gov/node/243/84324aed-78c1-4801-99e3-1ac6c00a3a84

Source: https://www.fgdc.gov/fgdc-news/plss-datasets-available-on-platform

USA: FGDC Metadata Working Group webinar: State Experiences with ISO Metadata, 14 October 2015

As part of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)'s ISO Metadata Implementation Forum series, a webinar is being held on October 14th that will cover ISO Profiles, Implementation of ISO in State Clearinghouses, and potential application of ISO metadata standards and next generation 911 emergency system in progress at State agencies.
Date/time: October 14, 2015, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (EDT)
Phone: 703.648.4848 / Toll Free: 855.547.8255; Code: 26246184#
Webex: http://usgs.webex.com; Select "(50) FGDC ISO Implementation Forum/Metadata Working Group"

- North Carolina GIS Metadata Profile Implementation Effort
  Sarah Wray, North Carolina Department of Transportation
- ISO Metadata Standards and Next Generation 911 Emergency Services
  Lyle Hornbaker, Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA)
- ISO Metadata for New Mexico Clearinghouse
  Laura Gleasner, University of New Mexico (invited)

The Forum is intended for the community to share experiences, strategies, topics, and resources related to ISO metadata implementation. The general format will be a webinar that includes a 60 minute presentation by various members of the community, followed by a 30 minute facilitated discussion.

Source: http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/events/iso-geospatial-metadata-implementation-forum/index_html

Spatial Unconference on Spatial Information for Human Health (SPATIAL 2015)
9-11 December 2015, Santa Barbara, CA, USA

The Center for Spatial Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is launching a new biennial series of unconferences, entitled SPATIAL. Its main goal is to reach out to domain specialists to inspire and guide research on spatial information. Each edition will focus on applications of spatial information as a primary force to push the frontiers of Geographic Information Science, Spatial Cognition, and related fields. Rather than spending the bulk of their time listening to paper presentations, attendees will debate new ideas, address challenges, and discuss how to improve solutions.

The inaugural SPATIAL 2015 will be dedicated to applying spatial information to human health. It will challenge the state-of-the-art in research on spatial information by discussing spatial approaches to problems and opportunities around human health. Attendees will share and develop bold visions, new insights, and best practices in applications of spatial information to the study of epidemics, nutrition, aging, health psychology, and other aspects of human health. The objective is to advance our understanding of how spatial information needs to evolve in order to better support such studies. Thus, insights are sought on research questions around spatial information more so than on health itself. The innovation is to pursue such insights through real-world problems in a close dialogue between health and spatial experts.

Conference on Big Data and Decision-Making: The future of the water space
8-9 December 2015, Gainesville, Florida USA

The term "big data" has clearly come into the limelight recently as the capacity of organizations that collect water-related data grows at an exponential rate. This conference looks at efforts, both nationally and internationally, to harness the mass of information collected in the water space and convert it to tools useful to make decisions that can efficiently manage systems, especially those that are coastal, that interconnect ecology, water resources and society. The interdisciplinary nature of this conference is intended to engage many areas of expertise as we grapple with mountains of information we are now capable of generating.

USDA/Microsoft "Innovation Challenge" Offers $60K in Prizes to Software Developers

USDA's Innovation Challenge is asking software developers to create applications using USDA data to achieve better resilience in food systems. It is hoped that this will help meet the challenge of climate change, based on agricultural datasets collected over more than a century. The datasets will be hosted by Microsoft Azure, allowing remote access and the development of complex models.

USDA has been compiling data for more than a century on the health of crops around the country. This information, taken from economic reports, farm production surveys, satellite imagery, and remote sensors, covers the full spectrum of factors faced by farmers, businesses, communities and individuals. Working with Microsoft, USDA is for the first time placing key datasets in the hands of people who can help us find new ways to address factors that threaten our ability to feed a growing global population.

The challenge offers $60,000 in prizes and cloud computing awards for researchers. The deadline for entries is **October 27, 2015.** Full details can be found at http://usdaapps.challengepost.com.

USA: Congressional App Challenge (for U.S. high school students)

Recognizing how essential STEM skills are for economic growth and innovation, the Congressional App Challenge was established by Members of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2013. The Challenge is a nationwide event that allows U.S. high school students to compete against their peers by creating and exhibiting their software application, or "app," for mobile, tablet, or computer devices on a platform of their choice. This competition is intended to promote student engagement in STEM fields and to encourage them to pursue skills that will serve them throughout their careers.

The Congressional App Challenge is a competition aimed at encouraging U.S. high school students to learn how to code by creating their own applications. The Challenge is intended to highlight the value of computer science and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education and encourage students to engage in these fields. By encouraging and recognizing our nation's young programming talent, Congress hopes to shine a light on the growing importance of these skills.

The Congressional App Challenge will last from October 26, 2015 through **January 15, 2016**, and is open to all U.S. high school students in participating districts. Challenge participants are invited, either as individuals or as teams, to create and submit their own software application ("app") for mobile, tablet, or other computing devices on a platform of their choice. A panel of local computer science professionals and congressional representatives will judge the apps, and the winners in each district will have the honor of being recognized by their Congressional representative.

Council for Big Data, Ethics, and Society call for case studies on data ethics

The Council for Big Data, Ethics, and Society is seeking researchers, practitioners, and educators to write case studies based on real-world examples that examine complex issues of data ethics. A case study should describe a situation in which an ethical conundrum arose, and how responding to that situation introduced conflicting ethical duties, responsibilities, or principles. Situations used for case studies may involve data collection, publishing, aggregation, or analytics, and illustrate topics such as privacy, de/re-identification, accuracy and quality control, cultural representation, oversight and accountability, or social outcomes of research. Examples from industry, government, and academia are welcome. Potential topics include, for example:

- privacy of geotagged big data, such as mobile phone, social media, and GPS data
- how to use scientific data that is viewed differently in different cultural contexts;
- how scientists should navigate disciplinary norms for when to make data public.

Proposals will be evaluated on a rolling basis.

Source: http://bdes.datasociety.net/2015/09/call-for-case-studies/

Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

Workshop in Oman to unlock biodiversity data from environmental impact assessments

A workshop held in Muscat, Oman sought to unlock vital information about the ecosystems of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) / West Asia region, in order to improve knowledge about the impacts of development and improve decision-making.

The two-day event, which took place from 15-16 September 2015, brought together the region's government regulators and environmental consultants to discuss the benefits of sharing species data collected through environmental impact assessments (EIAs) more widely.

Entitled 'Unlocking biodiversity data from environmental impact assessments', the workshop was jointly organized by GBIF (the Global Biodiversity Information Facility), the United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs (MECA), Sultanate of Oman.

The event was part of a GBIF-led project funded by the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) through the Eye on Earth Initiative. The overall aim is to encourage the use of tools that enable sharing and reuse of digitized data that EIAs capture about the distribution of plants, animals and other species. EIAs commissioned by private corporations are used during the planning of projects both on land and in the ocean, and often include surveys of species found in proposed areas of development. However, even when reports associated with EIAs are made public, the underlying data are rarely redistributed in standard, reusable formats.

Source: http://www.gbif.org/newsroom/news/eia-workshop-oman; http://www.eoesummit.org/news/private-sector-holds-key-data-to-help-preserve-gulfwest-asia-ecosystems/

4th International Geoscience & Geomatics Conference, 23-25 November 2015, Manama, Bahrain

In Collaboration with the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain, the Arab Remote Sensing and GIS Organisation (ARGISO, http://arsgiso.org/) is pleased to announce the 4th International Geoscience and Geomatics Conference. Internationally renowned keynote speakers in the field of remote sensing will be holding discussion on several topics, namely, Professor Alfredo Huete (University of Technology, Sydney) and Professor Mazlan Hashim (University of Technology Malaysia). The Conference provides a platform for professionals, researchers and student from all over the world to exchange new findings and advances in this field. It aims to cover all aspects on scientific and technical advances in the field of Geoscience and Geomatics ranging from the integration of instruments, methodologies and technologies to their use in environmental sciences, engineering and other natural sciences.

Source: http://arabgeomatics.com/

Iran: 1ˢᵗ National Conference on Geospatial Information Technology, 29-30 January 2016, Tehran

The Faculty of Engineering Surveying at K.N. Toosi University of Technology is hosting the 1ˢᵗ National Conference on Geospatial Information Technology. The deadline for registration for the workshop and exhibition is **October 20, 2015**. Contact: ncegit@kntu.ac.ir

Source: http://ncegit2016.kntu.ac.ir/fa/

The imperative of influencing (Jordanian) citizen attitude toward e-government adoption and use
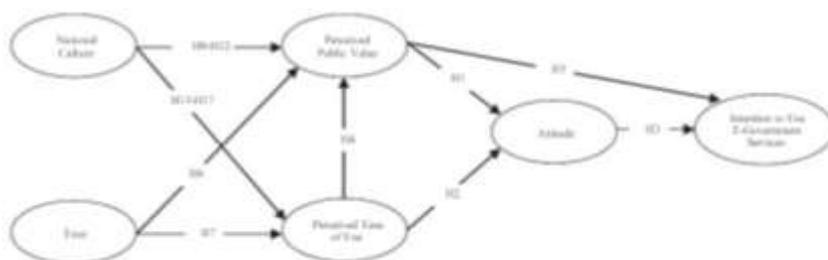

Fig. 1. The study model.

Author(s): Omar Al-Hujran, Mutaz M. Al-Debei, Akemi Chatfield, Mahmoud Migdadi
Computers in Human Behavior, Volume 53, December 2015, Pages 189–203 [not an open access journal]

Abstract: With the imperative of e-government for better transparency, accountability and public services, the problem of low-level citizen adoption of e-government services has been recognized in developed and developing countries. This pressing problem needs socio-technological, political, and cultural perspectives. In this study we develop an integrative research model by extending extant Technology Acceptance Model through the incorporation of a set of social, political, and cultural constructs: trust, perceived public value, and national culture. The model is then tested using a large-scale, multi-site survey research of 413 Jordanian citizens. Our results find strong evidence that citizen attitude toward using e-government services is the most significant determinant of citizen intention to adopt and use e-government services. Citizen attitude, in turn, is jointly determined by perceived public value and perceived ease of use. These results have managerial implications that the government needs to pay closer attention to influencing citizen attitude toward using e-government services.

Keywords: E-government adoption; Attitude; Technology Acceptance Model (TAM); Culture; Trust; Perceived public value

Source: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0747563215004653; https://www.academia.edu/14188026/The_imperative_of_influencing_citizen_attitude_toward_e-government_adoption_and_use

Morocco: A sensor Web for real-time groundwater data monitoring
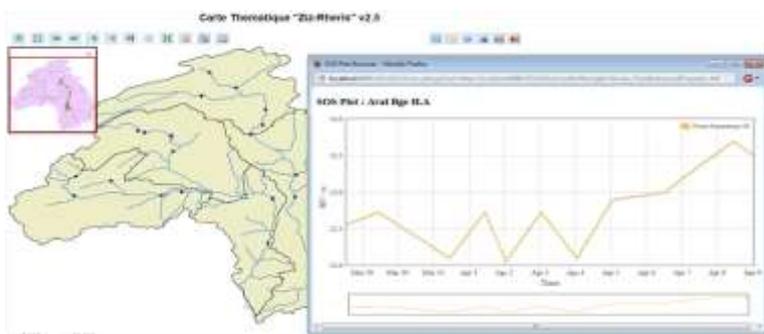
Author(s): Aniss Moumen, Hassane Jarar Oulidi, Meryem Agadi, Mohamed Nehmadou, Mohamed Ben-Daoud, Amel Barich, Abdelaziz Mridekh, Bouabid El Mansouri, Said Boutaleb, Karim Ben Hachmi Mohammed, Ali Essahlaoui, Samir Eljaafari
Journal of Geographic Information System, 2014, 6, 613-623

Abstract: This article presents research and development of an interoperable platform to facilitate, monitor and coordinate groundwater data sharing. This system was orchestrated by a number of services described by Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) such as Sensor Observation Service (SOS) and other services for the use of mapping data, Web Feature Services (WFS), Web Map Service (WMS), and catalogue services (CSW). An important activity for our project was the establishment of a portal for geographic data and services. Geoportal developed for this project will promote and facilitate access to groundwater data and share theme more openly. Otherwise our system has been designed to provide a powerful tool that enhances the ability of regional staff to monitor near real-time groundwater data (i.e. piezometric level) and as a result will help provide a more effective response to environmental upsets.

Keywords: Sensor Web, OGC, Geoportal, Geocatalog, Monitoring, Groundwater, Morocco

Source: http://file.scirp.org/Html/4-8401402_52156.htm

Tunisia: 'Apps for Democracy' Competition

At a time when Tunisia is experiencing momentum in data-opening resulting from an article in the Tunisian constitution and from joining the Open Government Partnership, the Carthage Business Angels Association, in partnership with the OpenGov Tunisia and the SPIRIT School e.Governance Society, has organized the "Apps for Democracy" competition from June 17 to **November 20, 2015**. The competition encourages the development of open data applications for Tunisia and its people and, in doing so, will to boost the Tunisian digital ecosystem. Students, private, independent young companies or associations are invited to develop useful services and innovative practices using open public data released come from State agencies, local authorities or public companies under contract.

Source: http://appsfordemocracy.tn/

Arab Mobile Challenge 2015 (AMC)

The Arab Mobile Challenge 2015 (AMC) is an opportunity to enhance your entrepreneurial skills, showcase your unique and innovative thinking! This challenge is not only for people with technical skills, but for people with great ideas that can translate into viable solutions.

Source: http://www.arabmobilechallenge.com/

Esri Middle East and North Africa User Conference, 17-19 November 2015, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Join the Middle East and North African geospatial communities in Abu Dhabi to celebrate geographic information system (GIS) technology. The Esri Middle East and North Africa User Conference (MENAUC) will bring the best of the annual Esri User Conference in San Diego to the U.A.E. Spend two days sharpening your GIS skills while networking with Esri staff and users from across the region.

Source: http://www.esri.com/events/menauc

Global SDI News

Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data officially launched

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, launched on 28 September 2015 on the sidelines of the 70th United Nations General Assembly, is mobilizing a range of data producers and users—including governments, companies, civil society, data scientists, and international organizations—to harness the data revolution to achieve and measure the Global Goals. Working together, signatories to the Global Data Partnership will address the barriers to accessing and using development data, delivering outcomes that no single stakeholder can achieve working alone.

Note also: ***In search of a more artisanal Data Revolution***, http://www.r4d.org/blog/2015-10-01/search-more-artisanal-data-revolution

Source: http://www.data4sdgs.org/

Call for papers: Esri User Conference 2016
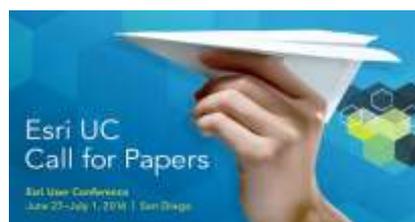
Submissions are open for Esri User Conference 2016. The 2016 call for papers covers 60+ session topics highlighting the GIS solutions today and in the future. The user sessions combined with the UC plenary and lightning talk presentations will bring more than 900 speakers together covering more than 260 sessions dedicated to the success and advancement of geospatial technology. As an Esri UC presenter you will gain recognition and exposure to over 16,000 Esri users who represent over 26 unique and diverse fields. Coming together with the common goal of answering today's challenges with tomorrow's GIS to create a better world. The submission deadline is **October 30, 2015**.

Source: http://www.esri.com/events/user-conference/papers

Architecture of open data

Esri's Andrew Turner shares how ArcGIS Open Data (http://opendata.arcgis.com/) – a new capability of ArcGIS – was launched with the explicit goal of making it easy and efficient for government to make authoritative data discoverable and accessible. Included for any organization to use without additional cost, Esri's hope was that by removing the technical and acquisition barriers to open data initiatives, users could focus as a community on appropriate experiences and capabilities that deliver meaningful impact.

Source: http://esri.ca/en/blog/sdi-snapshot-september; http://blogs.esri.com/esri/arcgis/2015/09/02/architecture-of-open-data/

Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure – Arctic SDI

GEOSPATIAL DATA - A TOOL FOR BETTER
INFORMATION DECISIONS AND MORE EFFICIENT
ADMINISTRATION THE ARTIC

The Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure – Arctic SDI – is cooperation between the 8 National Mapping Agencies of Canada, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, USA and Denmark (including the administrations of the Faroe Islands Home Rule and the Greenland Self-Government). The aim of the Arctic SDI is to provide politicians, governments, policy makers, scientists, private enterprises and citizens in the Arctic with access to geographically related Arctic data, digital maps and tools to facilitate monitoring and decision making.

The foundation for the Arctic SDI is the legally non-binding "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU). In 2015 the Arctic SDI Strategy 2015 – 2020 has been adopted by the Arctic SDI Board.

The Arctic SDI will be developed over several phases. The establishing phase includes these components:

- The Arctic SDI Geoportal (Visit: http://geoportal.arctic-sdi.org) providing a web map viewer for use by any interested user to access the Reference Map Service covering the Arctic Region and its Metadata Catalouge Service.
- The Reference Web Map Services – one of the cornerstones in the infrastructure – providing access to a coherent and authoritative Arctic reference map brought together from the Naitonal Mapping Agency data – nominally 1:250,000-scale
- The searchable Metadata Catalogue of mapable data resources (base maps and other geo-referenced thematic data and services)
- Operational policies on standards and best practices guiding any data producers and distributors to develop the datapolicy for their data be interoperable and accessible being part of the Arctic Spatial Data infrastructure.

Arctic SDI Fact Sheet (September 2015)
http://arctic-sdi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Arctic-SDI-faktaark_tryksep15_2_low.pdf
Signed Memorandum of Understanding – English, French, and Russian version
http://arctic-sdi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Appendix1_Signed-ALL-Lang-MOU_5-29-14.pdf
Arctic SDI-Strategic Plan 2015-2020 (June 2015)
http://arctic-sdi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Arctic-SDI-Strategic-Plan-2015-2020_June-2015.pdf
Arctic SDI-Implementation Plan (June 2015)
http://arctic-sdi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Arctic-SDI-Implementation-Plan_June-20125.pdf
Arctic SDI-Roadmap (June 2015)
http://arctic-sdi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Arctic-SDI-Roadmap_June-2015.pdf
Arctic SDI-Governance (June 2015)
http://arctic-sdi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Arctic-SDI-Governance_v1.pdf
Arctic SDI-Framework Document (June 2015)
http://arctic-sdi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Arctic-SDI-Framework-Document_June-2015.pdf

Source: http://arctic-sdi.org/

7th IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group Meeting, 27-29 January 2016, Tokyo, Japan

The Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures SDI Working Group (MSDIWG) seeks to identify the hydrographic community inputs to National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI). This group is open to representatives of International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Member States' Hydrographic Offices and, as expert contributors, to entities and organisations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the WG. The 7th MSDIWG Meeting will be held 27-29 Janauary 2016, in Tokyo Japan. There will also be an MSDI Demonstration Workshop and Open Forum, on 25-26 January 2016, in conjunction with MSDIWG7.
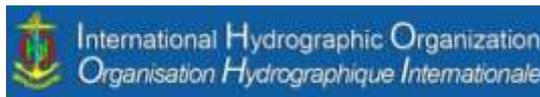
Source: http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=483&Itemid=370&lang=en

SDI-Open 2015: Proceedings

Download the proceedings as single PDF or as ZIP container with front matter and individual chapters.
http://sdistandards.icaci.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SDI-Open2015_Proceedings.pdf
http://sdistandards.icaci.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SDi-Open2015_Proceedings_IndividualChapters.zip

For this pre-conference workshop, SDI researchers and practitioners were invited to submit extended abstracts that describe SDI case studies where:

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

Programme: http://sdistandards.icaci.org/2015/08/sdi-open-2015-final-programme/
The proceedings of this workshop represent a variety of SDIs: there are examples of national and international SDI initiatives; of an SDI in the hydrographic domain and SDI initiatives in academia. Finally, several authors focus on technical solutions in the SDI context.

Source: http://sdistandards.icaci.org/2015/09/sdi-open-2015-proceedings/

3rd International Open Data Conference Final Report

OD4D is proud to launch 3rd International Open Data Conference Final Report, which draws upon the discussions that took place in Ottawa in May 2015. With over 1000 participants, 58 panels and workshops, ten parallel tracks, over 200 speakers, and more than 29 fringe events over 9 days, the IODC was truly a global gathering. The Roadmap is supported by a full online archive of conference content at www.opendatacon.org which includes archived webcasts of conference speakers, blog posts, and more. You are encouraged to follow-up on the website to learn about how you can continue to build the IODC Roadmap in preparation for the 4th International Open Data Conference in Spain, Madrid, October 6-7, 2016.

Source: http://www.opendatacon.org/report

OpenCon 2015, 14-16 November 2016, Brussels, Belgium

OpenCon 2015 is the student and early career academic professional conference on Open Access, Open Education, and Open Data. The conference will be held on November 14-16, 2015 in Brussels, Belgium.

Source: http://www.opencon2015.org/

Call for applications: Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Fellowships 2016-2017

The Faculty for the Future program awards fellowships to women from developing and emerging economies to pursue PhD or Post-doctorate studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines at leading universities worldwide. The long-term goal of the program

is to generate conditions that result in more women pursuing academic careers in STEM disciplines thus contributing to the socio-economic development of their home countries and regions. Deadline: **November 13, 2015**.

Source: http://www.facultyforthefuture.net/

TNC NatureNet Science Fellows Program: seeking innovators for nature and development
Deadline: **October 31, 2015**.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has established the NatureNet Science Fellows Program in partnership with a rotating set of the world's leading universities to create a reservoir of new interdisciplinary science talent that will carry out the new work of conservation. Applications are now open for 2016 NatureNet Science Fellows. Ideal candidates for NatureNet Science Fellowships are outstanding early-career (post-doc) scientists and engineers who seek to improve and expand their research skills while directing their efforts toward problems at the interface of climate, conservation, business and technology. The program drives research to tackle the two overarching challenges of climate change: 1) Halting climate change and 2) Adapting to the change that is already underway. Applicants must identify one of the participation U.S. universities (listed here: http://www.nature.org/science-in-action/naturenet-science-fellowship-application-guidelines.xml) as their home institution, but are encouraged to suggest collaborations with additional universities and institutions if those collaborations will greatly enhance the research. Each fellow will receive a non-negotiable annual salary of $50,000 plus benefits, with the postdoctoral position expected to run for two consecutive years. In addition to the stipend, each fellow receives an annual travel budget of approximately $5,000 and an annual research fund of approximately $20,000.
Source: http://www.nature.org/science-in-action/naturenet-science-fellowship.xml

UNESCO MAB Young Scientists Award
Deadline**: October 31, 2015**.

Since 1989 MAB has been providing 10 young researchers (not older than 40 years of age) each year with awards of up to US$ 5,000 in support of their research on ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity. Through the MAB Young Scientists Awards, MAB is investing in a new generation of scientists worldwide because well-trained and committed young people are key to addressing ecological and sustainability issues.

The objectives of the MAB Young Scientists Award Scheme are to:
- encourage young scientists, in particular those from developing countries, to use MAB research, project sites and biosphere reserves (http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/) in their research;
- encourage young scientists who already use such sites to undertake comparative studies in other sites in or outside their own country;
- assist exchange of information and experience among a new generation of scientists.

The deadline for submission of application forms for the 2016 MAB Young Scientists Awards is 31 October 2015.
How to apply (English, http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/images/Form_MAB-YSA-2016_en.doc, French, http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/images/Form_MAB-YSA-2016_fr.doc)

Source: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/awards-and-prizes/mab-young-scientists-awards/

Map of Life: Putting biodiversity on the map

The Map of Life – a phone app that helps track wildlife -was first launched in 2012 as a web-based platform for compiling maps of all living plant and animal species. It draws on global data sets from a range of different sources and is funded in part by NASA and the National Science Foundation in the US. Earlier this year, the Map was launched as an iOS and Android application available in six different languages. The app combines the data sets from the Map with the user's mobile phone GPS to generate a list of species likely to be found near to them.
See: Map of Life: A phone app that helps track wildlife, http://www.aljazeera.com/blogs/europe/2015/08/map-life-phone-app-helps-track-wildlife-150807183731039.html
Global Biodiversity Monitoring, Prediction & Reporting, http://www.futureearth.org/global-biodiversity-monitoring-prediction-reporting

Source: https://mol.org/

GLOBE is hosting a new data entry challenge from 11-17 October 2015

Data collection is at the heart of The GLOBE Program – and it takes a world to contribute the scientific and environmental measurements that help GLOBE fulfill its vision of a worldwide community of students, teachers, scientists, and citizens working together to better understand, sustain, and improve Earth's environment at local, regional, and global scales.

During the past twenty years, students have submitted nearly 130 million measurements to the GLOBE database and this number continues to grow! The GLOBE Implementation Office (GIO) applauds students for their extraordinary efforts in reporting the data they gather for research and understanding.

Source: http://www.globe.gov/news-events/globe-news/newsdetail/globe/globe-hosts-new-data-entry-challenge-11-17-october

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Agriculture (UAV4Ag) discussion list

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones for management of crops, livestock, fisheries, forests and other natural resource-based activities represents a new technological frontier and opens up a range of exciting opportunities. UAVs offer also opportunities for grassroots' involvement in monitoring use of and access to the resources their livelihoods depend on.

Members of this community share their experiences in developing UAV technologies and related software applications and more importantly in making use of small UAVs to improve the management of crops, fishing grounds and other resource-based activities. Relevant events, capacity building opportunities and other resources are signalled as soon as these are known by members of the community.

The use of UAVs for agricultural purposes is a recent phenomenon, and national aviation authorities are facing new challenges linked to the use of UAVs within their skies. Hence this Community focuses also on existing and forthcoming policies, laws and regulations governing the use of UAVs.

Source: Giacomo Rambaldi, IAPAD, https://dgroups.org/groups/uav4ag

New Hazards Mapper tool from SEDAC

A new Hazards Mapper tool from Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC) combines layers from various sources to enable users to visualize data and maps related to socioeconomic, infrastructure, natural disasters, and environment topics, as well as analyze potential impacts and exposure.

More information on point features such as power plants can be obtained by simply clicking on them, where—in this instance—the outputs for the past 10 years are depicted using a line graph. Users can also define an area of interest on a map by drawing a circle or polygon around it to obtain an estimate of the total population and land area enclosed within the boundary.

Source: http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/mapping/hazards/

National mapping agencies look to new business models

The inexorable rush of technology affects all organizations and national mapping agencies (NMAs) at times feel overwhelmed by this rush. As the demand for geospatial content went up significantly, NMAs had to quickly change strategies to stay relevant. There was a greater rush for accurate maps, regulations on what is being mapped by private players and how, and more user-friendly applications. NMAs have no choice, but to adopt and adapt to technology in their fields of work.

Source: http://geospatialworld.net/Magazine/MArticleView.aspx?aid=31604

2nds Meeting of Coalition for Publishing Data in the Earth and Space Sciences
20-21 October 2015, Oxford, UK

The newly formed Coalition for Data Publication in the Earth and Space Sciences (COPDESS, http://www.copdess.org) intends to provide an organizational framework for Earth and space science publishers and data facilities to jointly implement and promote common policies and procedures for the publication and citation of data across Earth Science journals. The 2nd COPDESS meeting will bring together publishers and data repositories and other interested parties to continue working on open data availability and action items in the COPDESS Statement of Commitment (http://www.copdess.org/statement-of-commitment/), launched 15 January 2015. COPDESS launch was also announced in an article in *Earth and Space Science News* (https://eos.org/agu-news/committing-publishing-data-earth-space-sciences). One of the meeting's goals is to extend participation of non-US data repositories. See tentative agenda: http://www.copdess.org/copdess-2nd-working-meeting/2nd-conference-agenda/.

Source: http://www.copdess.org/copdess-2nd-working-meeting/

Upcoming (free) World Bank e-Institute courses

The e-Institute was launched as a virtual learning classroom to provide convenient, easy, and reliable access to cutting edge knowledge and communities of practice. More than forty-five e-Learning courses address complex real-world problems in priority areas such as governance, health, cities, climate change, and public private partnerships. Learners also have access to free monthly podcasts and webinars, video success stories, multimedia toolkits, and other resources.

- Sustainable Urban Land Use Planning, October 28 - December 15, 2015. Deadline: **October 14, 2015**
  http://einstitute.worldbank.org/ei/course/sustainable-urban-land-use-planning
- Street Addressing and Management of Cities, November 10 - December 14, 2015. Deadline: **October 27, 2015**
  http://einstitute.worldbank.org/ei/course/street-addressing-and-management-cities
- Forest Governance Assessment and Monitoring, November 4 - December 2, 2015. Deadline: **October 21, 2015**
  http://einstitute.worldbank.org/ei/course/forest-governance-assessment-and-monitoring
- Innovative Business Models for Better Impact, November 10 - December 7, 2015. Deadline: **October 27, 2015**
  http://einstitute.worldbank.org/ei/course/innovative-business-models-better-impact

Source (Calendar): http://einstitute.worldbank.org/ei/CourseCalendarCurrent

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GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR

GSDI's calendar of upcoming international events 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.

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"