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/newslist/gsdisubscribe.

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

Thanks to the GSDI Association for supporting the News Editor and GSDI listserv moderator Kate Lance; GSDI Communications & Operations Manager, Roger Longhorn; and Karen Levoleger, (Kadaster, Netherlands) for their contributions in creating, producing and disseminating the GSDI Regional Newsletter.

Message from the Editor

This month, I'm going to use this squawk box to share some additional thoughts on coordination. Back when I was working on my PhD, digging into literature for insights on coordination, I came across the 1967 book "Organizations in Action" by sociologist James D. Thompson. He defined three types of coordination which provide an interesting lens to view the interaction of organizations in SDI development. Thompson theorized that in order to get organizations to work together effectively, one needs to understand the nature of the work involved and apply different coordination methods according to the tasks being implemented. For *pooled tasks*, organizations perform completely separate functions. They may not directly interact with each other, but each organization contributes individual pieces to a common, larger puzzle, such as each organization collecting data separately which ultimately can be integrated. *Sequential tasks* occurs when one organization produces an output necessary for the performance of the next organization, such as one organization generating time series data that another organization uses in its modeling and information product development efforts. *Reciprocal tasks* are similar to sequential tasks in that the output of one organization becomes the input of another, with the addition of being cyclical. Reciprocal tasks have the highest intensity of interaction, and they are most complex and difficult to manage, such as one organization gradually eliciting user requirements that another organization translating the requirements into web application specifications. Pooled tasks often can been managed by establishing and complying with standards, while sequential tasks are managed through adaptive planning and scheduling. Reciprocal tasks rely upon constant information sharing and mutual adjustments. Each task in developing SDI, e.g., responding to data harmonization requirements, product development requirements, and user requirements, calls for diffferent coordination methods. Implementers might go on instinct when it comes to coordination, but it can be useful to assess the tasks more deeply, to avoid – in the words of Alanis Morissette – having "ten thousand spoons when all you need is a knife."

Kate Lance, News Editor

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GSDI Association News

Call for Expressions of Interest in Hosting GSDI 15 and GSDI6

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (http://gsdi.org) supports a major international geospatial conference every twelve to eighteen months. The conference is typically delivered in affiliation with another regularly held national, regional or global geospatial conference and/or with the support of a major sponsoring organization. The gathering is purposefully moved around the globe in order to accomplish the Association's purpose of promoting international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure (SDI) developments that allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance. The locations and proceedings of the past 14 world conferences, held since 1996, may be found at http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences.

The GSDI 14 World Conference was held in Africa at the UNECA Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November 4-8, 2013 (http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/). The UN Economic Commission for Africa is a member of the Association. Ideally, GSDI 15 should be held over the period May - October 2015 and GSDI 16 would be held approximately 18 months after that.

The GSDI Association is inviting expressions of interest to host either of these conferences. Affiliation with the GSDI World conference can bring international and global attention to a national or regional geospatial conference or Spatial Data Infrastructure initiatives, attract substantial international participation and sponsorship, and increase numbers of attendees overall.

Further details are available online. Please direct any questions and send your expressions of interest to mgallant@gsdi.org and dcoleman@unb.ca no later than **30 September 2014**.

Source: http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1573

Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

South Africa: South African Spatial Data Infrastructure (SASDI) implementation
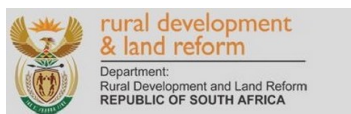
The SASDI is an initiative of the South African government. The SASDI is established by the Spatial Data Infrastructure Act (Act 54 of 2003, http://www.sasdi.gov.za/About/SDI%20Act.aspx) and consists of national technical, institutional and policy framework to facilitate the capture, management, maintenance, integration, distribution and use of spatial information in South Africa.

The SDI Act is an acknowledgement of the strategic value of spatial information for South Africa. For this, it is essential that an understanding and appreciation of the value of spatial information for planning, management and decision-making permeate all SASDI stakeholders, including SASDI users from all sectors of society. Through the promotion of efficient and effective use of state resources and the sharing of information, duplication of spatial data capture is avoided.

The Committee for Spatial Information (CSI), established by Section 5 of the SDI Act, is mandated to oversee the implementation of SASDI. The CSI consists of a principal committee, established according to the Act and six sub-committees on Data; Systems; Standards; Policy and Legislation; Education and Training; and Marketing and Communication. The following policies currently are under review:

Base Dataset Custodianship Policy final,
http://www.sasdi.gov.za/Policies(Sasdi)/Base%20Dataset%20Custodianship%20Policy%20final.pdf
Draft SASDI Compliance Guidelines
http://www.sasdi.gov.za/Policies(Sasdi)/Draft%20SASDI%20Compliance%20%20Guidelines.pdf
Policy_Pricing Spatial Data Products Services final
http://www.sasdi.gov.za/Policies(Sasdi)/Policy_PricingSpatialDataProductsServices%20final.pdf

See also: Latest issue of South African Spatial Data Infrastructure (SASDI) newsletter (March 2014). The SASDI newsletter is a free, electronic newsletter for people interested in SDI implementation. The purpose of the newsletter is to raise awareness and provide useful information to strengthen SDI efforts. The newsletter is prepared for the Geospatial community by the Directorate: National spatial Information Framework (NSIF). It can be accessed at: http://www.sasdi.gov.za/Newsroom/SASDI%20Newsletter%20%20Issue%201%2031%20March%202014.pdf

Source: http://www.sasdi.gov.za/SasdiHome.aspx

South Africa: South African Geospatial Information Management Strategy (SAGIMS)

The South African Geospatial Information Management Strategy (SAGIMS) also is being developed, owing to the fact that the SDI Act did not follow the usual predefined policy and law formulation process. The objective is to align SAGIMS to South Africa's long-term developmental agenda. Geospatial information should be viewed as a strategic resource in South Africa's long term development goals – for the country as a whole to realize its development objectives, not just for the government. SAGIMS will provide the overall context and guidance for future direction and development of the geospatial information landscape in South Africa.

Source: http://www.westerncape.gov.za/text/2014/July/south-african-spatial-data-infrastructure-provincial_forums-mimi-chauke.pdf

South Africa: National digital elevation model (DEM) user needs

A need was expressed at the 2013 National Imagery and Mapping Coordinating Meeting held in Pretoria for a national digital elevation model (DEM) for the entire South Africa at a spatial resolution higher than the 25m that the Chief Directorate: National Geo-spatial Information (CD:NGI) of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) currently provides. To better gauge what the actual national DEM needs are, including digital surface model (DSM) and digital terrain model (DTM) requirements, NGI has now commenced a consultative process.

A user requirements questionnaire was drawn up taking into account the diversity in the consumer base, as well as both current and projected needs for the future. The questionnaire being distributed to all the main end users and stakeholders oriented towards national digital elevation or related 3-D data deemed vital for their functions and operations. The combined outcome of the completed questionnaires was announced during the National DEM User Need and Strategy Workshop proposed by NGI (DRDLR), held in Pretoria on the 20th August 2014.

Source: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UZ3pnaqCNYHywegwZ8plin5k-wVAGurYVIwjHg0gphk/viewform

Liberia Geospatial Data Infrastructure (LGDI)

Liberia Geospatial Data Infrastructure (LGDI) is being designed and developed by utilizing these advanced technologies to facilitate the availability of, and access to, geospatial data for applications by all levels of government, the commercial sector, the non-profit sector, academia, and by citizens in general.

With LGDI, Liberia is embracing the use of geospatial information technology (GIT) powered by geographic information systems (GIS) in an innovative way to facilitate leap-frogging, cost-effective, and sustainable development in utilities and transportation infrastructures, land and land resources, and the general economy, beginning with the establishment of a Liberia Geospatial Reference System (LGREF) and a Liberia Geospatial Base Map (LGMAP) as foundational components towards building the Liberia Geospatial Data Infrastructure (LGDI).

Source: http://lgdi.org/about-lgdi/

Côte d'Ivoire : Cocody conjugue son développement au futur numérique

Avec la contribution du Comité national de télédétection et d'information géographique (Cntig), structure d'Etat œuvrant également dans le développement d'applications cartographiques couplées avec les technologies de l'information, Mathias N'Goan Aka, le maire de Cocody, commune huppée du district d'Abidjan, a lancé officiellement, le mardi 5 août à l'hôtel communal, le projet dénommé « E-commune ». Celui-ci va se matérialiser par le recensement des contribuables par voie électronique. Objectif : disposer d'un fichier clair, prélude à une collecte efficiente des ressources. Dans cette optique, des kits ont été remis, séances tenantes, aux 60 jeunes recrutés pour effectuer ce recensement. Leur tâche va consister à dénicher toutes les activités, notamment les restaurants, stations de carburant et de lavage d'auto, réceptifs hôteliers et bien d'autres établissements qui, par leurs contributions fiscales, permettront de financer le développement au plan local. Il faut souligner que la décision de doter les communes d'outils numériques de collecte de données et de gestion s'inscrit dans une dynamique enclenchée en début d'année par le Cntig, notamment dans la ville de Korhogo, au

nord de la Côte d'Ivoire. A en croire le secrétaire général du Cntig, Edouard Fonh Gbéi, cette initiative, visant à conjuguer le développement des collectivités locales au futur numérique, répond à une nécessité : imaginer des solutions destinées à faciliter la mobilisation des ressources financières et élargir l'assiette fiscale des collectivités locales.

Summary: ***Ivory Coast: Cocody combines efforts in its development of the digital future***
With the contribution of the National Committee for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information (CNTIG) also focusing on developing mapping applications coupled with information technology, Mathias N'Goan Aka, the Mayor of Cocody in the district of Abidjan, officially launched on August 5th the project called "E-town." A key task of E-town is to geo-locate all the town's activities, including restaurants, fuel stations and car wash, good hotels and other establishments. The decision to provide the community with digital tools for data collection and management is part of a momentum earlier this year by the CNTIG, particularly in the town of Korhogo, northern Côte d Ivory. The general secretary of CNTIG, Edward Fonh Gbéi, advocates this initiative to combine the development of local communities in the digital future, responding to a need: to imagine solutions to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources and broaden the tax base local authorities.

Source: http://cio-mag.com/cote-divoire-cocody-conjugue-son-developpement-au-futur-numerique/

Tanzania: Upgrading mining cadastre information management system

The Tanzanian Ministry of Energy and Minerals, with funding from the World Bank's International Development Association, has launched a project to upgrade its mining cadastre information management system (MCIMS). The upgrade, which is being undertaken by information technology company Spatial Dimension, will enable the existing MCIMS to support online transactions. This will result in an integrated mining cadastre geoportal for all stakeholders in the mining sector, which will enable them to inter-act with the Ministry though modern Web-based technologies, apply for mining rights and maintain their existing mining rights, as well as submit reports and production returns electronically. Online payments, including the use of mobile phone-based money transfer, such as M-Pesa, can also be made. "In addition, the geoportal will provide access to the vast geodata repositories of the Ministry and the Geological Survey of Tanzania and, where appropriate, these datasets will be available for purchase and download."

Source: http://www.miningweekly.com/article/tanzania-to-launch-integrated-mining-cadastre-geoportal-2014-07-18

Uganda: UNDP to support national consultant to strengthen climate information and early warning systems

The Ministry of Water and Environment through the Uganda National Meteorology Authority (UNMA) and the Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM) in collaboration with other partners is implementing a UNDP-GEF supported project on "Strengthening climate information and early warning systems in Africa for climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change – Uganda". The project will:

   i.   establish a functional network of meteorological and hydrological monitoring stations and associated infrastructure to better understand climatic changes;
   ii. develop and disseminate tailored weather and climate information (including colour-coded alerts – advisories, watches and warnings – for flood, drought, severe weather and agricultural stresses, integrated cost-benefit analyses and sector-specific risk and vulnerability maps) to decision makers in government, private sector, civil society, development partners and local communities in the Teso and Mt Elgon sub-region; and
   iii. integrate weather and climate information into national policies, annual work plans and local development including the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management, and district and sub-county development plans in priority districts in the Bukedi, Busoga, Elgon, Teso, Acholi, Karamoja and Lango sub-regions.

In August 2014, UNDP sought to engage a consultant to develop an M&E framework for the project as part of implementation support. The consultant will among other tools use Random Control Trials (RCTs) to analyze project impact. Although some baseline data is available in the project document that can be used for this purpose, this needs to be elaborated and mechanisms for collecting and analyzing data developed in order to be able to demonstrate results from the beginning of the project.

Source: https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=48716

Malawi and Mozambique: Mapping the border between these countries

COWI won the assignment of mapping the watershed line between the two African countries in an international tender by German Development Cooperation GIZ. The project supports the border programme of the African Union in its endeavour to demarcate all African borders by 2017. Only about a third of the boundaries between African countries are

clearly defined. The African Union (AU) states that the unclear demarcation poses great potential for conflict, especially when natural resources are discovered in the border regions. Poorly defined borders are a threat to peace and security.

The aim of the project is to re-affirm the border between Malawi and Mozambique and thereby contribute to the overall goal of conflict prevention in African border areas. In the old colonial treaty, the watershed constituted the border. Therefore, as a point of departure, the watershed line requires re-determination for future use as basis demarcation of the border. The governments in both countries are active players in the project and use the orthophotos and digital height data that COWI produces in the process.

Source: http://www.cowi.com/menu/NewsandMedia/News/GeographicalInformationandIT/Pages/COWI-assists-in-drawing-the-border-between-Malawi-and-Mozambique.aspx

Malawi: Humanitarian OpenStreet Map Team mapping for flood preparedness

From late July to late September, HOT is carrying out a project in Malawi whose main aim is to achieve a Community Mapping Exercise for the Lower Shire, the large valley in the South whose two districts, Chikwawa and Nsanje, are the most flood-prone areas of the country. This project is funded by the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), for which Malawi is one of the 9 African priority countries.

The project will complement other initiatives that have been implemented previously by GFDRR with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), the Surveys Department (the one in charge of maps and geodata) and other relevant government departments. These initiatives include an Integrated Flood Risk Management Plan for the Shire Basin, an open data, Geonode based platform called Malawi Spatial Data Portal (MASDAP, http://www.masdap.mw/) and a specific needs assessment for Nsanje (Nsanje 2012 Floods Post Disaster Needs Assessment, https://gfdrr.org/sites/gfdrr.org/files/Malawi_Nsanje_District_Disaster_Impact_Assessment_2012_Full.pdf).

Source: http://hot.openstreetmap.org/projects/osm_community_mapping_for_flood_preparedness_in_malawi

Joint Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) & GGIM-Africa, Tunis, Tunisia

The First Joint Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa)/Committee of Directors Generals of National Statistics Office (CoDG) is being prepared by the Statistics Division of AUC and the African Centre for Statistics of the ECA in collaboration with the Economic & Social Statistics Division of the African Development Bank. It will be held from 24 to 28 November 2014 in Tunis, Tunisia. The theme of the meeting is: "Agriculture and Food Security in Africa".

The Joint Session will include the inaugural meeting of the Global Geospatial Information Management in Africa (GGIM-Africa). The theme of the inaugural GGIM-Africa meeting is "Making Statistics and maps count." The United Nations Secretariat has established the Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM, http://ggim.un.org) initiative with the aim of setting up a formal mechanism under the UN auspices to discuss and coordinate GGIM activities and by involving Member States as the key players. GGIM-Africa is proposed to be a regional subset of that body and to coordinate GGIM activities in Africa. The correlation between geospatial information and statistics is very strong and the former is now acknowledged as needed (and should be incorporated) in all stages of statistical processes (e.g. in Population and Housing Census). The GGIM-Africa will discuss challenges and issues pertaining to the mainstreaming of geospatial technology into the national statistical offices.

The objectives, format, and expected outcomes of the GGIM-Africa meeting can be downloaded here: http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/document_files/2014.ggim-africa_inaugural_meeting_-_concept_note_rev.05.pdf

Source: http://www.uneca.org/statcomdodgggim-africa

Esri Eastern Africa User Conference, 5-7 November 2014, Mombasa, Kenya

For close to a decade, the Esri Eastern Africa User Conference has bought together users across Eastern Africa to learn about the latest geo-spatial technologies, share their experiences, connect and network with industry peers and Esri EA staff. First held in Nairobi in 2006, Kampala, Addis Ababa, Zanzibar, Naivasha and Jinja have played host to this unique conference. This year, the coastal town of Mombasa will be the home of the Esri Eastern Africa User Conference.

Source: http://www.esriea.co.ke/eauc/

CoastGIS 2015 Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, 22-24 April 2015

Deadline for Submission of Extended Abstracts – 30 September 2014

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

We invite you to visit the website www.coastgis2015.co.za for more details.

The Symposium theme "Monitoring and Adapting to Change on the Coast" refers to the increasing demand on decision-makers and managers to be aware of changes in the coastal and marine environment. Not only must there be a much greater emphasis on the measuring of change, but also increasing and creative options to act on the observed changes, which may have either positive or negative societal impacts. In other words, how can CoastGIS2015 contribute to the understanding of coastal change, and how can the powerful tools we use, as a scientific and management community, help us make better decisions? Can we demonstrate how the excellence, passion and creativity in the various disciplines encompassed by CoastGIS be used to improve the use of science for decision-making relating to coastal management?

Esri Eastern Africa Education User Conference, 20-21 November 2014, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

GIS in Education is increasingly playing a fundamental role in understanding, shaping and modeling our world. Through teaching, research and administrative applications within the education sphere, understanding of the impact of spatial relations opens the door to real life applications of GIS. Through the Esri Eastern Africa Education User Conference, the education community brings together its robust enthusiasm to share, connect and learn new ways of applying GIS in their different areas of applications. This year's theme of 'GIS for Everyone' recognizes that the breadth and depth in application of GIS within the education community has grown and expanded over the years. GIS is now used to teach telecommunications, logistics, public administration, project monitoring and evaluation, ICT, business and other emerging domains.
Source: http://www.esriea.co.ke/educ/

Congo Basin Forests Partnership Anchor Conference, October 8-9, 2014, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

Focusing on the theme "Opportunities and Challenges: Climate and Land Use in the Congo Basin," the Congo Basin Forests Partnership Anchor Conference will take place in Brazzaville from October 8-9, 2014 alongside related meetings. The event will be organized with the generous support of Norway, the United States, Germany, France, the Republic of Congo and IUCN. The conference will feature the distribution of the 2013 State of the Forests report, the Land Use Planning Guide (USFS-COMIFAC), the State of the Apes publication and the Validation of the Land Use Atlas for the Congo Basin. Participants wishing to organize side events at the CBFP Anchor Conference should kindly contact Dr. Pokem (dany.pokem@pfbc-cbfp.org) as soon as possible.

Source: http://pfbc-cbfp.org/events_en/events/cbfp-Anchor-conference.html

11ᵗʰ EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa, 8-12 September 2014, Johannesburg, South Africa

The next EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa will take place in Johannesburg area, South Africa from 8 to 12 September 2014. The purpose of the EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa is to sustain the well established dialogue between EUMETSAT and the African user community, in particular the National Meteorological Services and their regional centres. The overall objective is to facilitate the use of EUMETSAT satellite data throughout the continent. The Forum also provides the opportunity to identify actions and initiatives that could be taken by EUMETSAT and its partners to meet the requirements of its African users. The EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa is organised every two years.

The 11th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa is organised in collaboration with the South African Weather service (SAWS). The detailed programme is available online:
http://ufa.eumetsat.int/userfiles/file/Detailed%20Programme%20ENv1.pdf

Source: http://ufa.eumetsat.int/

Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

Chinese version of GSDI's August SDI Regional Newsletter

Thanks to Mr. Jeremy Shen, vice-Chair, Capacity Building of the GSDI Societal Impacts Committee, Chinese versions of the Asia-Pacific section of the monthly SDI Regional Newsletters are available. The August A-P information of the SDI Regional Newsletter in Chinese can be accessed at this link: http://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1570. For past and future Chinese translations of A-P news, please visit the GSDI Newsletter archive at:

China: National Geographic Information Industry Development Plan (2014-2020) released

China's National Development and Reform Commission and the National Mapping Geographic Information Bureau jointly issued its first development plan for the geographic information industry, the 'National Geographic Information Industry Development Plan (2014-2020).' It is the geographic information industry's first plan at the national level for promoting vigorous development of China's geographic information. As such, it has important guiding significance.

The plan stresses the need to focus on remote sensing data services around mapping, geographic information mapping equipment manufacturing, geographic information software, geographic information and integration of navigation and positioning services, geographic information application services and map publishing and services in six areas of focus, as well as capacity building and actively support leading enterprises, expanding the market share, and enhancing the overall competitiveness of the industry. The plan also addresses how to optimize the policy environment, create solid foundation conditions, promote innovation, strengthen personnel training, enhance service management, expand international cooperation, carry out aspects of statistical analysis, and pursue proposed policy measures to ensure the orderly and healthy development of the industry.

Source: http://en.ce.cn/Business/policy/201407/28/t20140728_3238125.shtml

Thailand: Seminar on National Geo-information Infrastructure System (NGIS) Portal

 On August 19th, Jim Mazda organized a seminar on the development of Thailand's National Geo-information Infrastructure System Portal. A prototype system was presented and WMS links tested across agencies. With a total of 120 participants from government agencies and private companies, the objective of the seminar was to advance use of the NGIS Portal.

"NGIS" is operating under the cooperation of many sectors that support the procurement and production of basic information such as, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Forestry, Department of Lands, Land Development Department, Department of Public Works. and Planning, Department of Defence, Department of Water Resources, Department of Hydrology, Water Authority, the Metropolitan Water, Electricity, Electricity Authority, the Metropolitan Electricity Authority, Department of the Interior, the Department of Mineral Resources, Department of Groundwater Resources, Irrigation Department, Marine Department. , Pollution Control, Department of Highways, Rural Roads, Ministry of Local Government, Department of Meteorology, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, CAT. Telecommunication Company Limited (Thailand), Ministry of Health or the Department of Technology. Information and Communication Care infrastructure of the entire system and Mazda's compiled and put into a single standard geospatial information infrastructure of more than 60 layers of information for services in a Web Map Service.

Thailand: Workshop on the preparation of geospatial data sets (FGDS) of the country

By the National Committee for Geographic Information and Space Technology Development Agency GIS. (ITD), the Secretariat of the National Council for Geographic Information (A. Warren.) Organized a workshop on the preparation of geospatial data sets (FGDS) of the country on August 18, 2557 from 08.30-16.30.
., Room Ballroom A Viphawadi of Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao Bangkok. Dr. Arnon Snidvongs, director of the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency. Declared the meeting open

The meeting was Has been received very well. From government agencies, public organizations, and universities. The objective is to make the preparation and use of geospatial government is to be effective. Deduplication Promote information sharing Support information access As well as enhancing the capabilities of information technology for sustainable development.

Source: http://thaisdi.gistda.or.th/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=184:180857&catid=36:latest-news

Technical Exchange Workshops Brings Indonesian and Vietnamese Stakeholders to the Table

A main challenge in any meaningful risk reduction activity is how to engage stakeholders and encourage all to remain active and institutionally share relevant information. To enhance Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) practices and as part of its planned deployment of customized multi-hazard monitoring systems, Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) works constantly with key national data providers to integrate available data and fill in data gaps.

Recently, PDC held and facilitated Technical Exchange Workshops (TEW) in Indonesia and Vietnam for supporting national disaster management agencies. During each TEW, agencies were able to discuss and learn how their information services are best integrated into early warning and decision support systems. PDC has deployed web-based early warning decision support systems, InAWARE and VinAWARE, in both countries.

During each Workshop, a summary of the nation's customized DisasterAWARE system was briefed, along with an introduction to dynamic data that will be included in the system. The events also served as unique opportunities for data providers to explain their own data and discuss the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) format. CAP is an international alerting standard that has been adopted by many government and commercial alerting services and is a preferred method for integrating dynamic hazard data into the DisasterAWARE platform.

Source: http://www.pdc.org/news-n-media/pdc-updates/Technical-Exchange-Workshops-Brings-Stakeholders-to-the-Table/

Indonesia: No Map, No Plan, No Investment

Starting off as a Mapping & Surveying agency in Indonesia, Badan Informasi Geospatial Indonesia (BIG), as it is known today, has transformed itself and become one of the most important agencies in Indonesia. Find out more from Dr Asep Karsidi, Head of BIG.

Source: Geospatial World, http://geospatialworld.net/Paper/Application/ArticleView.aspx?aid=31117

Singapore: Government partners with students to use mapping technology on urban challenges

For the first time, students taking part in the Singapore government's annual geospatial challenge worked with town leaders to solve problems such as improving mobility for the disabled, promoting healthy lifestyle among residents, and encouraging community bonding. In July, the government recognised 22 student teams from the Singapore Geospatial Challenge (http://sgeospatial.weebly.com/) for their use of mapping technology to solve such urban challenges. These student projects are great examples of being 'Smart Citizens' in preparation of Singapore's intent of becoming a Smart Nation, according to Vincent Hoong, Chief Executive, Singapore Land Authority (SLA).

Source: http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2014/jul/30/singapore-government-partners-students-use-mapping/

Japan developing satellite-based rain forest biodiversity evaluation system

Japan is developing a system to help Southeast Asian countries protect biological diversity in tropical rain forests. The Ministry of the Environment and Kyoto University plan to develop a satellite-based, low-cost system to assess biodiversity in the region over the next three years. If the project is successful, they aim to implement it worldwide.   Satellite images captured through visible or infrared rays will be used for on-site quantitative analysis of wood species distributed every 30 sq. meters under the system. Levels of biodiversity would then be indexed for overall evaluation.
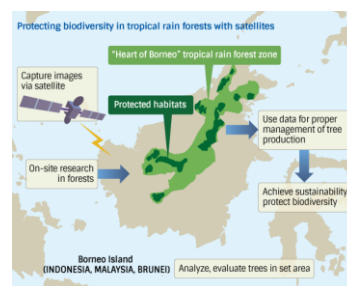
The ministry and the Kyoto school will map biodiversity data covering five locations in 1,000 sq. km of protected forests on Borneo Island, which straddles Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. Along with the construction of an evaluation system for biodiversity protection, they will establish a model to attain both wood production and forest conservation.

Source: http://asia.nikkei.com/Tech-Science/Tech/Japan-developing-rain-forest-biodiversity-evaluation-system

South Korea: Angel investment invigorated for supporting geospatial information entrepreneurs

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea (MOLIT) held its first training and mentoring session for promoting angel investment in geospatial information at Coex on August 25, 2014, in order to help entrepreneurs secure initial capital for their venture corporations that utilize geospatial information.

Although armed with ideas and technology, some entrepreneurs lack capital. Angel investment therefore provides

investment and business consulting at the beginning stage of a venture and after it becomes a well-established company, reaps the profits from its investment. Organized by the Space N (Geospatial Information Industry Promotion Institution), this event was put together in order to support geospatial information venture corporations that suffer from the lack of funding owing to such reasons as the lack of networks or business strategies at their initial business stage, in spite of the fact that geospatial information is now being viewed as a source of business opportunities through integration and provision of location finding services converged with other related information services.

This event will provide introduction on the government's policies for supporting entrepreneurs in the field of geospatial information and lectures on the government's supporting policies utilizing the V world (a geospatial open platform).

Those interested in starting up a company drawing upon geospatial information should contact Space N at www.spacen.or.kr.

Source: http://english.molit.go.kr/USR/BORD0201/m_28286/DTL.jsp?id=eng0301&cate=&mode=view&idx=2402

Philippines: How Manila is changing processes to enable better data sharing & analytics

It is difficult at the best of times to get agencies to share data, but when a natural disaster hits, this need becomes vital. FutureGov interviewed Maripin J Faulan, Director III, Office of the Assistant General Manager for Planning in the Philippine Metropolitan Manila Development Authority on how she intends to get agencies coordinating their use of location data on geospatial information systems (GIS) and combining this with other information. "Each of the 17 local government units currently owns and maintains its own data. Our vision is to create a unified platform or online portal so that every unit can upload and update their data. Data can then be accessed and shared across government units for faster and more informed decision making," she said. Faulan added that she will be exploring the possibility of using cloud technologies as MMDA is constrained by limited hardware and trained manpower. In the meantime, the MMDA has been taking steps to train the local offices on the importance of data and how best to maintain their database. The authority has also opened up its datasets to the local government units to show the benefits of sharing data.

Source: http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2014/aug/06/how-do-you-get-agencies-sharing-data-during-crisis/

2014 Philippine Esri User Conference & 2nd Philippine Esri Education GIS Conference

The 2014 Philippine Esri User Conference in Edsa Shangri-La, Manila will be held September 24-25, 2014. This year's theme is "GIS: Creating Our Future". Being part of this premier event will provide great opportunities to connect with GIS professionals from different industries.

Source: http://www.geodata.com.ph/index.php/component/content/article?id=288

India: Conference Proceedings, 1st National Conference & Exhibition on Land Survey & Mapping

Survey India 2014, first of its kind conference and exhibition on land survey and mapping, focused on the new and upcoming equipments for surveying. Initiated with the objective to bring together the government departments, PSUs and industry users of land survey and mapping, it received an overwhelming response with over three hundred delegates participating in the conference and visiting exhibition.

Source: http://www.directionsmag.com/articles/survey-india-2014-focused-on-infrastructure-development/409830

15th Esri India User Conference 2014, 9-11 December 2014, Delhi, India

Esri India invites Authors to submit abstracts for paper presentation and poster abstract for Map Galleria at 15th Esri India User Conference 2014. Abstracts invited should be original research and implementation contributions on Esri technology in the themes outlined below. Abstract submitted should not exceed 350 words. Abstract submission deadline: **25 October 2014**.

Source: http://www.esriindia.com/Events/UC2014.html

Australia: IN THE FRAME - the newsletter for the Foundation Spatial Data Framework Project (FSDF)

On 7 April 2014, ANZLIC released the second edition of the Australian and New Zealand Foundation Spatial Data Framework (the Framework, http://www.anzlic.gov.au/foundation_spatial_data_framework), its plan to make common foundation spatial data ubiquitous across Australia and New Zealand.
IN THE FRAME is published to keep the ANZLIC community up-to-date with the FSDF. The Jun 2014 Edition features:

- An update on the release of documentation for the public (comments welcome through spatial@communications.gov.au)
- Information on how the spatial industry can get involved in the FSDF
- Future FSDF activities and opportunities

The Foundation Spatial Data Framework (FSDF) provides a common reference for the assembly and maintenance of Australian and New Zealand foundation level spatial data in order to serve the widest possible variety of users. It will deliver a national coverage of the best available, most current, authoritative source of foundation spatial data which is standardised and quality controlled.
PDF: http://www.anzlic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/47334/In_the_Frame_newsletter_Jun_2014.pdf

Source: http://www.anzlic.gov.au/news/newsletters/in_the_frame_-_the_newsletter_for_the_foundation_spatial_data_framework_project_fsdf

Australia: High-tech maps give vulnerable communities a fairer share

Cutting-edge smart mapping technology is being used to pinpoint South Australia's most vulnerable communities as part of a new initiative influencing the allocation of millions of dollars' worth of services and grants programs. The Geographic Information System (GIS) platform from Esri Australia is being used by South Australia's Department of Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) to develop interactive, real-time maps layered with Census and social service data, and information about departmental resources. The solution will help deliver more targeted programs and grants to the state's homeless, people with disabilities, and disadvantaged youth and families.

The multi-dimensional maps visually represent the level of risk within communities across South Australia, as well as their current access to existing resources. This gives DCSI personnel an accurate insight into where there may be service gaps and provides evidence to support funding and grants decisions that target resources to areas with the greatest needs.

In 2013, DCSI allocated more than $500 million in grants, subsidies and client payments across the state, including water, public transport and energy concessions for South Australians.

Source: https://esriaustralia.com.au/p/news/high-tech-maps-give-vulnerable-communities-afairer-share-nar-228

Final program (and abstracts) published for GeoCart'2014

GeoCart'2014 has been organized to coincide with the 42nd ANZMapS Conference and the 3rd ICA Symposium on Cartography for Australasia and Oceania. This combined event, convening in Auckland, New Zealand, 3-5 September 2014, is jointly organised by the New Zealand Cartographic Society and Australian and New Zealand Map Society. The Conference is endorsed by the International Cartographic Association (ICA). See program: http://web.env.auckland.ac.nz/public/geocart2014/programme.htm

Source: http://web.env.auckland.ac.nz/public/geocart2014/

Kick-off Meeting of CCOP/ASEAN Harmonized Geology Project

The new initiative "CCOP-ASEAN Harmonized Geology" project was proposed and endorsed at the 62nd CCOP Steering Committee meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 4-6 March 2014 and will be implemented in a cooperating mechanism amongst CCOP, ASEAN and Geological Survey of Japan, AIST. The goals of the project are 1) standardization of geology legend; 2) compilation of 1:1 million seamless geology and 3) development of data management system using free and open sources as web-GIS. Participating countries include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Laos, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The planned activities in 3 years (2014-2016) include 1) workshops for harmonization of geologic symbols, OneGeology specification, Web GIS technology, data dissemination and analysis and 2) meetings for compilation, discussion, exchange knowledge and experience on the geological setting of the region. To facilitate the implementation of this project, CCOP TS has been forming the project's Working Group and held two technical meetings on 21 October 2013 in Sendai, Japan and 3 March 2014 in Chiang Mai, Thailand with participants from CCOP member countries, to discuss on the concept, task group and plan. Resource persons for the project are being trained in Web-GIS training courses by GSJ experts in Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar.

On 16-17 July 2014, CCOP has coordinated with the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) of Thailand in holding the kick-off meeting of the CCOP-ASEAN Harmonized Geology Project in Bangkok, Thailand with 21 participants, including 17 Web-GIS trained experts and resources persons from member countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and 4 CCOPTS staff. Presentations by resource persons from Japan on process of geological

harmonization (Digitalization, Unified legend, Connect Geological boundaries) and country reports by CCOP member countries were made at the meeting. All participants specified the possible problems, proposed the way to solve and planed future activities during the discussion.

The meeting agreed on 3 important points: 1- Work on harmonization not compilation; 2- Fix responsible persons for ASEAN & CCOP (at least 2 from each MC); 3- Start from ASEAN countries then extend to CCOP countries. The latest versions of national geological maps were recommended to MCs to be used as input maps for this project. A template worksheet of the harmonized geological legends was prepared by Dr. Yutaka Takahashi, resource person from Japan, to distribute to member countries for them to fill-up their own country's legend.

Source: http://www.ccop.or.th/article/kick-off-meeting-of-ccop-asean-harmonized-geology-project

GIS-IDEAS 2014 International Conference, 6-8 December2014, Danang, Vietnam

GIS-IDEAS 2014 International Conference is scheduled to be held in Danang, Vietnam from 6-8 December, 2014. The conference is jointly organized by Japan-Vietnam Geoinformatics Consortium (JVGC), University of Education - The Danang University (DUEd) and University of Technology - The University of Danang (DUT) and will be held at DUEd. More information about the conference is available at http://gisws.media.osaka-cu.ac.jp/gisideas14/
Abstract submission deadline extended to **September 8, 2014**.

Europe Region SDI News

Germany: Current GDI-DE news is available for download

The Spatial Data Infrastructure Germany (GDI-DE) is a project of the federal, state and local governments. In the GDI-DE geospatial data (geodata) are networked via the Internet provided. The Geoportal is the entry in the GDI-DE, to locate spatial data from federal, state and local authorities to find and use. The latest (August 2014) GDI-DE newsletter covers the following topics:

- Event notes
- Current activities of the Coordination Office GDI-DE
- INSPIRE Conference 2014 Aalborg - report
- INTERGEO 2014 - release of the GDI-DE Registry
- The GIW Commission hosted at INTERGEO 2014 in Berlin
- Municipalities in Waldeck-Frankenberg start by
- County Association NRW informed about use of geo-information
- The Federal Information Management (FIM) and its references to GDI-DE
- Buildings are more than you plan – in Germany they now can be classified automatically
- Call for participation in a OGC CityGML Data Quality Interoperability Experiment
- Gerd Groeger receives 3DIM Award of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

Source: http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/GDI-DE-Aktuelles/2014/GDI-DE_News_August_2014.html

Netherlands: How do we deal with Dutch standards profiles vs INSPIRE?

Earlier this year, GeoNovum held a meeting with data and service providers to explore how the Dutch sections relate to the INSPIRE profiles and how this leads to problems. On October 2, 2104 (10am – 12:30pm; 1:30pm – 4pm) GeoNovum will share with interested parties the next step in this exploration. In a meeting at Geonovum's offices in Amersfoort, the differences between the Dutch profiles and INSPIRE will be broken down piece by piece. In addition, GeoNovum would like to discuss the possibilities of how concerned parties can handle the differences and potential problems. Anyone who would like to contribute is welcome. You can sign up for the morning or afternoon session or both. For those who arrive throughout the day, lunch will be provided. Register for this meeting can be done via the online registration form: http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/metadata/formulieren/aanmelden-bijeenkomst-hoe-om-te-gaan-met-nl-profielen-vs-inspire

Source: http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/metadata/nieuws/hoe-gaan-we-om-met-nederlandse-profielen-op-standaarden-vs-inspire

Netherlands: 'We're now into connecting geospatial data policy and smart cities'

Geonovum has been mandated to come up with a 5-year roadmap for the Smart City requirements to the geospatial data infrastructure in Netherlands. Geospatial World talks to its Director, Rob van de Velde, to know more.

Source: Geospatial World, http://www.geospatialworld.net/Interview/ViewInterview.aspx?id=31077

France: IGNfab accelerating geoservices

IGN, in partnership with Cap Digital, has set up an accelerator mechanism for geo-digital projects, IGNfab, http://ignfab.ign.fr/), which is designed to help SMEs develop their innovative projects based on IGN data. IGNfab provides full support with a high level of technical expertise including the support of experienced GIS developers, an opening to the institutional and commercial network IGN and a provision of IGN data and a 200m2 of space at its site in St. Mande to promote the activities of co-development. The deadline for submission of applications was August 29, 2014. FAQs: http://ignfab.ign.fr/docs/140801_FAQ_A%C3%A0P_IGNfab.pdf (in French)

Source: http://www.ign.fr/institut/actualites/lancement-dignfab-laccelerateur-vos-projets-geoservices

Ireland: Sketching the Open Data Landscape

Members of the Programmable City Project have been actively engaged in the theory and practice of open data and making data accessible in both Ireland and Canada for 15 years. As part of this ERC funded Project, researchers are producing open data genealogies and data assemblages for Ireland, Canada and Boston in the US. This article is but a sketch of the open data landscape in Ireland. In the last five years, much important work has been done prior to the Department of Public Expenditures and Reform (DPER)'s launch of its first Open Data Pilot Portal (data.gov.ie), and it is important to feature some of this work as it provides context to the Irish Open Data Story. This article also presents a selection of open access, open data and transparency initiatives in Ireland.

Source: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/progcity/2014/08/sketching-the-open-data-landscape-in-ireland/

UK: Geo: The Big 5 one day event on Policy, 9 October 2014, Cardiff
Policy and legislation are heavily reliant on geographic information to improve places and the lives of the citizen. Ensuring that policy is well informed by geographical information is critical to all of us. A strategic perspective on how geographic information can drive excellent decision making is also key. In addition policy and legislation can impact the development of geospatial through initiatives such as the INSPIRE project. This event will focus on both of these issues and debate the role of and relationship between geospatial and policy.

Source: http://www.geobig5.com/events/policy/

UK: GeoCom: The Changing Face of Geo, 11-13 November 2014, Midlands

GeoCom: The Changing Face of Geo will see the culmination of the 2014 Geo: Big 5 series of events. With a new format this year, GeoCom remains the place to debate, engage with and shape the future of the geospatial industry, regardless of your sector or interest. This year's GeoCom will explore challenges and opportunities of integrating geospatial with a host of other tools, championing its wider role and value to the decision makers and policy informers.

Source: http://www.geobig5.com/events/geocom-big-5/

Spain: El geoportal de Castilla y León, la Comunidad en un clic

El portal de la Infraestructura de Datos de Castilla y León (Idecyl) ofrece la cartografía y la información cartográfica de la Comunidad para el análisis y planificación sobre el territorio, renovando y actualizando contenidos bajo los principios de reutilización, transparencia y Gobierno Abierto.
Tambien: El Geoportal de la Junta recibe más de 1.500 visitas diarias
    http://www.europapress.es/castilla-y-leon/noticia-geoportal-junta-castilla-leon-recibe-mas-1500-visitas-diarias-20140817131455.html

Fuente: http://avilared.com/not/11047/el-geoportal-de-castilla-y-leon-la-comunidad-en-un-clic

Spain: Community geolocation system for census of vacant homes

The Community, through the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Planning, and the municipalities in the region are working together to develop a computer application called Geoportal Regional Housing 'Sivmurcia' which, through the geolocation, allows a census of vacant homes in the territory of the Region.

The geoportal Sivmurcia integrated into the Land Information System (Sitmurcia), is based on the interplay of different spatial information such as the land, the availability of public housing and public protection, seniority and service consumption for status information the housing stock, in terms of aging and conservation.

Its purpose is to identify areas with surplus or deficit of housing in relation to the availability of land, the evolution of their occupation and state planning, and incorporate the information supply and demand for housing, which contributes to the writing of plans and strategies to facilitate the development of appropriate strategic planning sector.

To develop Sivmurcia, Land Information Unit of the Ministry need to interrelate geo-referenced databases of various agencies and organizations, such as the Land Registry database, the Housing Service and supply companies, among others, by downloading data or telematic connection using WMS or WFS services.

Source: http://www.murcia.com/region/noticias/2014/08/04-sistema-de-geolocalizacion-que-permita-elaborar-un-censo-de-viviendas-deso.asp

Hungary: HUNAGI Mobile Applications Content 2014

The Hungarian Association for Geo--information (HUNAGI) has announced a call for proposals for the development of mobile applications. The proposal announcement (in Hungarian) was made available for download on August 28, 2014: http://www.hunagi.hu/G/pub/HUNAGI/MobilalkalmazasiPalyazatHUNAGI2014.pdf

Source: http://hunagi8.blogspot.com/2014/08/hunagi-mobilalkalmazas-fejlesztesi.html

Macedonia: Law on National Spatial Data Infrastructure

The Law on National Spatial Data Infrastructure of Republic of Macedonia was enacted and was adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia at a session dated February 19, 2014.

Source: http://www.katastar.gov.mk/userfiles/file/zakon_za_Law_on_NSDI-2014_eng-sluzben_vesnik.pdf

Latvia: Mobile application makes cadastral data more accessible

In Latvia the State Land Service (SLS, http://www.vzd.gov.lv/) has recently launched the mobile application kadastrs.lv (Cadastre), which is one of just few mobile solutions offered by state institutions in Latvia. The SLS maintains several information systems and databases of national importance where the National Real Estate Cadastre Information System is the main data source comprising information on cadastral objects across the country (100% of all land units; 96% of all buildings).

The mobile application is designed to respond to the needs of individuals, businesses and other organizations. The unique value of the application lies in the opportunity to receive data on any property directly in customer's mobile phone or tablet. Even more, the application identifies user's geographical location (only in the territory of Latvia) and selects cadastral data for the property at the location.

The ambition of the SLS is to be a leader in e-governance in Latvia providing versatile, qualitative, user friendly and up-to-date electronic services. Read more about the new application.
http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/MobApp_Kadastrs_LV.pdf

Source: http://www.eurogeographics.org/news/mobile-application-makes-cadastral-data-more-accessible

Ukraine: Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for "Laying the Foundation for a SDI'

On April 24, 2014 in NTUU "KPI" the meeting of the Project Steering Committee "Laying the Foundation for a Spatial

Data Infrastructure: Building Capacity within the Ukrainian Government to Support Sustainable Economic Growth" funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD) and implemented by Vancouver Island University (VIU) and its partners in Ukraine: Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and National Technical University of Ukraine "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute" was held. NTUU "KPI" is represented by World Data Center for Geoinformatics and Sustainable Development.

The main goal of the project is to provide a framework for accelerated deployment of geospatial data infrastructure for the Government of Ukraine through the implementation of training programs for civil servants. The training program for civil servants working in the field of geodesy, cartography, geographic information technology, management of land and other types of natural resources should be the main application of the project results. The program consists of 6 courses, each of which is devoted to the key direction of the national spatial data infrastructure . Courses are developed by Canadian experts, being translated and adapted in Ukraine. In the course of the project it is planned to prepare 6 Ukrainian instructors and develop distance learning programme for about 100 employees of state agencies in accordance with Canadian certification requirements. Project duration is five years.

The meeting of the Steering Committee took place in the format of the webinar, which was attended by Ukrainian, Canadian and Lithuanian experts on the development of SDI. The Steering Committee members listened to and approved the report on project activities in 2013 and plans for the project implementation in 2014. During this period, the cooperation agreements with Ukrainian partners of the project were signed, 6 Ukrainian instructors were selected, relations with nearly 20 state organizations were established and the recruitment of two groups of students was performed. Prior to September 1, 2014 the development and translation of two courses must be completed and students' training should begin.

The Project Steering Committee discussed the importance of introducing training courses in Ukraine, noted the positive results of the previous year and made recommendations to improve the planning and preparation of training courses. The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for 2015.

See also: Laying the Foundation for a Spatial Data Infrastructure: Building Capacity within the Ukrainian Government to Support Sustainable Economic Growth, http://www2.viu.ca/sdi/UKROVR.asp. Six critically important SDI courses will be adapted to the Ukrainian context, translated into Ukrainian and delivered both to Ukrainian trainers in Canada (using a train-the-trainer model), and later in Ukraine, to Ukrainian civil servants who are responsible for the implementation of the NSDI. The project will continue through March 2018.

Source: http://wdc.org.ua/en/node/160002

Lithuania: Conference held on Spatial Information portal services and development

A conference on the Lithuania Spatial Information Portal (Portal LEI, www.geoportal.lt) was held on 9 June 2014 in Vilnius. The conference was part of the EU structural funds-financed project "Lithuanian spatial information infrastructure for the implementation of priority development of the INSPIRE directive." The LEI Portal is a public information system for effective exchange of different sources of geographic information.

At the conference, businesses and local organizations presented GIS Cloud tools and new interactive services for each municipality to develop and apply online maps that provide relevant and LEI official portal to gather spatial data and spatial data are processed in the municipality. These maps can identify objects in relation to the spatial data, a statistical population of the municipal area and the statistical analysis of the land, places and routes, prepare and print a map of each person selected settings.

Source: http://www.nzt.lt/go.php/lit/Teikiama-issamesne-ir-daugiau-strukturizuota-Lietuvos-geografine-informacija-/10

Lithuania: Spatial Information Portal (Portal LEI)

SE "GIS-Centras", as a manager of the Lithuanian spatial information portal (http://www.geoportal.lt), is implementing a project "Lithuanian spatial information infrastructure development by implementing priority tools of the INSPIRE directive," funded by EU structural support funds during the 2012-2014 years. The partner of the project is the National Land Service, under the ministry of Agriculture. The budget of the project is 8.6 million litas (7.3 million litas is from European Union funds). The project is being implemented under the implementation tool of "Interoperability" No. VP2-3.1-IVPK-06-V by the economic growth program "Information society for all".

The project scope is meant to:

1. According to the INSPIRE directive and the implementation regulations, achieve the interoperability of electronic services of Lithuanian spatial information portal and georeferenced public datasets (hereinafter GRPK) and other state register, cadastre information systems.
2. Expand the number of the data providers and e-services in the portal and increase spatial information portal efficient usage while creating new, interactive and public e-services in the Lithuanian spatial information portal (hereinafter LEI portal).

The solution pursued by the project involves modernization of the existing LEI portal systems, development of new components for the successful accomplishment of INSPIRE directive requirements, and efficiency in the enhancement of e-services and spatial information usage. The main objective is to create effective way to use investments and create added-value for geographic data of the state. The implemented project will reduce costs for institutions to collect, manage and provide spatial information for users. It will help with getting relevant and detail spatial information as well as manage documentation. Social economical benefits created by this project are calculated from 3.1 million litas in 2014 till around 6 million litas in each year after the project was launched.

Source:
https://www.geoportal.lt/wps/portal/!ut/p/c0/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gAQwNnc09LYwMLX28XA0eLMDNLf3MPQ29XU_3g1Dz9gmxHRODPKW3d/

Albania: UNDP to support establishment of Environmental Information Mgt & Monitoring System

According to a recent UNDP consultancy announcement which has since closed, Albania's existing Protected Areas (Biodiversity) Information System (PA-IS) is thought as the single, unique and more comprehensive national entry point for data and information on biodiversity in Albania. However, at its current scale and scope the PA-IS is limited to the protected areas network and cannot serve as a tool for informed decision making and reporting for broader natural resources management and conservation at national level and global level.

In addition, various projects carried out by many international and national agencies in the environment and natural resources management areas have generated a vast amount of data and information which are important for conservation and sustainable management of these resources within the country as well as within the region. These data and information are stored in various government and non-government agencies with no proper system established to interlink and retrieve for utilization.

Creating national wide environmental information system will therefore enable Albania monitoring and coordinating sectoral policies strategically to fulfil national obligations under global environmental agreements so that Albania can meet the requirements of the Global Environmental Conventions in a coordinated and strategic manner.

As an integral part (or the pre-requisite) of the national environmental information system establishment, the country needs to review various environmental and social economic indicators in order to create a well-integrated and manageable monitoring systems that would form the foundation of national environmental information system.

The project is a response to the need for an environmental monitoring system that is integrated throughout the related government institutions, that is well coordinated and cooperates, using international monitoring standards for the selection of monitoring indicators, the data collection processes, the processing and reporting of this information covering all three Rio Conventions. The GEF contribution will develop national capacities in Albania to align its national environmental information management and monitoring system with global environmental monitoring and reporting priorities; including the compliance with the Multilateral Environment Agreements reporting obligations.

In particular, the project will aim at:
- Development of the EIMS to enable integration of global environment commitments into planning and monitoring processes;
- Development and application of uniform indicators encompassing UNFCCC, CBD and CCD concerns and global environmental threats;
- Stakeholder's capacity for information management (collection processing) of key global environment data and utilization (interpretation and reporting) is enhanced at national and local level.

Source: http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=48695

Poland: New regulations for free and open access to data

From July 2014, new laws came into force enabling free and open access to large parts of Poland's national geodetic registers. The legislation covers data maintained by four public registers: The National Register of Borders, Areas and territorial division of the country; the Register of geographical names; the Database of the geographic objects; and the

Digital Terrain Model (low resolution). The law also allows open access to the entire digital content of the geodetic and cartographic resource for scientists and students for the purpose of research and education. In addition, it introduces a new pricing and licensing model which aims to significantly reduce fees, widen fields of possible exploitation and provide an easy and comprehensive service to commercial customers. All data from the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography is already provided free of charge to public authorities or their contractors performing public tasks. The latest regulations follow the acceptance of essential amendments to the Geodetic and Cartographic Law by Poland's Council of Ministers.

Source: EuroGeographics Messenger http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/Eurogeographics%20Messenger201402.pdf

Iceland: LISA conference 2014 - Hazards, Risks and Voluntary GI, 10 October 2014, Reykjavik

The national GI-organisation LISA in Iceland, in cooperation with GI Norden and the KRIS-GIS group, are organising LISA Conference 2014. The main focus of the conference will be Hazards, Risks and Voluntary GI. Following topics are included, but not exclusive: Environmental risk assessment; Climate changes; Natural Hazard prevention; Risk assessment; Environmental policy; Security and public safety; Spatial Data Infrastructure.
Source: http://ginorden.org/call-for-abstracts-to-conference-on-hazards-risks

Sweden: GEOINFO 2014 - National Conference in Sweden, 1-2 October 2014, Gävle

ULI Geoforum, the national GI-association in Sweden, is organising GEOINFO 2014 in Gävle 1-2 October. GEOINFO is a conference for users and producers of geographic information and GIS (geographic information science).

Source: http://uli.se/geoinfo2014

Finland: NLS to merge geographic information research and development under one roof

As of 1 January 2015, as the Finnish Geodetic Institute (FGI) and the ICT development functions of the Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Tike) merge with the National Land Survey of Finland (NLS), the NLS will have 10 new directors. The new directors have been appointed and the management composition of the new NLS now has been confirmed. The merger of the agencies combines the functions of the research and development centre for geographic information under one roof in accordance with the reform of sectoral research institutes. Regarding the merger, Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen said, "We will only be able to say that we live in an information society when we make systematic use of information, and information that has been well-researched, in decision-making. The decision now made represents a major step, for Finland, towards becoming a genuine information society. The proposed sectoral research system will anticipate society's changing information needs. It must be capable of flexibly shifting research focuses and generating information needed by decision-makers in both the public and private sectors. The goal is for research to function as a strategic resource for decision-making and societal development."
See also: Finnish Government's press release (September 2013) at
http://valtioneuvosto.fi/ajankohtaista/tiedotteet/tiedote/fi.jsp?oid=393357

Source: http://www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/en/tiedotteet/2014/08/management-composition-new-nls-confirmed

European Commission encourages re-use of Public Sector Information

On 17 July, the European Commission published guidelines to help EU Member States benefit from the revised Directive on the re-use of public sector information (PSI Directive). These guidelines explain for example how to give access to weather data, traffic data, property asset data and maps. Open data can be used as the basis for innovative value-added services and products, such as mobile apps, which encourage investment in data-driven sectors. The guidelines are based on a detailed consultation and cover issues such as:

1. Licencing: guidelines on when public bodies can allow the re-use of documents without conditions or licences; gives conditions under which the re-use of personal data is possible. For example:
   Public sector bodies should not impose licences when a simple notice is sufficient;
   Open licences available on the web, such as several "Creative Commons" licences can facilitate the re-use of public sector data without the need to develop custom-made licences;
   Attribution requirement is sufficient in most cases of PSI re-use.
2. Datasets: presents five thematic dataset categories that businesses and other potential re-users are mostly interested in and could thus be given priority for being made available for re-use. For example:
   Postcodes, national and local maps;
   Weather, land and water quality, energy consumption, emission levels and other environmental and earth data;
   Transport data: public transport timetables, road works, traffic information;
   Statistics: GDP, age, health, unemployment, income, education etc.;
   Company and business registers.

3. Cost: gives an overview on how public sector bodies, including libraries, museums and archives, should calculate the amount they should charge re-users for data. For example:
    Where digital documents are downloaded electronically a no cost policy is recommended;
    For cost-recovery charging, any income generated in the process of collecting or producing documents, e.g. from registration fees or taxes, should be subtracted from the total costs incurred so as to establish the 'net cost' of collection, production, reproduction and dissemination.

European Commission Vice President @NeelieKroesEU said: "This guidance will help all of us benefit from the wealth of information public bodies hold. Opening and re-using this data will lead to many new businesses and convenient services." An independent report carried out by the consultants McKinsey in 2013 (http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/business_technology/open_data_unlocking_innovation_and_performance_with_liquid_information) claimed that open data re-use could boost the global economy hugely; and a 2013 Spanish study (http://datos.gob.es/content/estudio-del-sector-infomediario-de-asedie) found that commercial re-users in Spain could employ around 10,000 people and reach a business volume of €900 million.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/european-legislation-reuse-public-sector-information

Call for expression of interest to facilitate INSPIRE thematic data clusters

All infrastructures, and INSPIRE is no exception, require maintenance and evolution if they want to remain relevant to their goals and stakeholders. The overall idea for setting up online collaboration platforms for the proposed clusters of themes is reflecting the fact that a number of issues that organizations are likely to face when implementing INSPIRE will be theme-specific. The collaboration platforms should become a single entry point for implementers to share experience, raise questions and resolve issues. The Call is open until **19 September 2014**.

Source: http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/241/documentid/3428

7th EuroGOOS Conference, October 28-30, 2014, Lisbon, Portugal

Every three years the EuroGOOS conference provides a forum for interaction between marine scientists and technologists that develop Operational Oceanography services, users and stakeholders, including the private sector and decision and policy makers. The key priorities of the 7th conference will be to:
*   identify new operational services and methods of interaction with users, with emphasis on sustained economic growth;
*   highlight the challenges of monitoring and forecasting the biogeochemical state of the seas and oceans and prioritize the required RTD with emphasis on the needs of relevant directives such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and its regional implementation;
*   develop new strategies and plans for key European initiatives (Copernicus Marine Service, EOOS-European Ocean Observing System) and their links to the Global programs (GOOS, GODAE – Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment).

The main themes of the conference are:
*   Meeting end-user needs and supporting Blue Growth;
*   Copernicus: Towards a European Centre for Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting;
*   Ocean modelling and forecasting: extending and improving predictability;
*   In-situ and remote sensing observations: towards a European Ocean Observing System (EOOS)

Source: http://www.ionioproject.eu/category/news

Global Workshop on Spatial Data and Map Quality, 20-21 January 2015, Valletta, Malta

Experts in spatial data and map quality are being invited to take part in an international workshop being held at the Old University, Valletta, Malta from 20 to 21 January 2015. The workshop is co-organized by EuroGeographics Quality Knowledge Exchange Group, the European Location Framework (ELF) Project, International Organization for Standardisation (ISO), OGC and EuroSDR. Papers on a range of topics including quality evaluation, certification and standards are sought by the programme committee which comprises members of the organizing organizations and other international experts. For a list of the workshop topics, more information and to submit an abstract, please Workshop website. Abstracts should be between 500 and 1000 words and submitted by **12 September 2014**.

Source: http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/international-workshopspatial-data-and-map-quality

6th International Workshop on the Foundations, Technologies and Applications of the Geospatial Web (Terra Cognita 2014), 19-23 October 2014, Trentino, Italy

The wide availability of technologies such as GPS, map services and social networks, has resulted in the proliferation of geospatial data on the Web. Similarly, the amount of geospatial data extracted from the Web and published as Linked Data is increasing. Together with the dissemination of Web-enabled mobile devices these continually growing data have given rise to a number of innovative services and applications. With the location of users being made available widely, new issues such as those pertaining to security and privacy arise. Emergency response, context sensitive user applications, and complex GIS tasks all lend themselves toward solutions that combine both the Geospatial Web and the Semantic Web. The workshop, to be held in Conjunction with the 13th International Semantic Web Conference, will bring together researchers and practitioners from various disciplines, as well as interested parties from industry and government, to advance the frontiers of this emerging research area. Bringing together Semantic Web and geospatial researchers helps encourage the use of semantics in geospatial applications and the use of spatial elements in semantic research and applications. The field continues to gain popularity, resulting in a need for a forum to discuss relevant issues.

Source: http://event.cwi.nl/terracognita2014/

Joint EuroSDR and ISPRS Workshop: Efficient Capturing of 3D Objects at a National Level

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

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

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

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

Call for abstracts: To participate in this workshop, you are invited to give a presentation or demonstration on one of the above-mentioned topics. 300-500 words abstract can be sent to j.e.stoter@tudelft.nl, by 12 noon, **30 September 2014**.

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

Agricultural Informatics 2014 Conference, 13-14 November 2014, Debrecen, Hungary

This conference provides a forum for agriculture related professionals, professors, lecturers and PhD students to exchange information on education, research, applications and developments of Information Technologies in Agriculture and Rural Development and publish the most recent results. The conference theme is "Future Internet and ICT Innovation in Agriculture, Food and the Environment." Deadline of the papers: **10 October 2014**.

Source: http://nodes.agr.unideb.hu/conferences/index.php/ai2014/ai2014

Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

Chile: Seminario internacional: "Construyendo sociedad con información geoespacial"

Seminario realizado el día jueves 10 de julio de 2014, en el cual presentaron experiencias de invitados nacionales y extranjeros acerca del desarrollo de las IDE. Se puede descargar las exposiciones realizadas en este seminario:
- Ciudades futuras y habitabilidad - el rol de las IDE y la información geoespacial, Abbas Rajabifard, Director del Centro de Administración de Tierras e IDE, Universidad de Melbourne

- Sistema de Apoyo a la Planificación y el Desarrollo Sustentable en la República de Corea, Minchul Lee, Korean Cadastral Survey Corporation (KCSC)
- Una visión acerca de la sostenibilidad de las IDE, Miguel Ángel Bernabé, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
- IDERA, una comunidad federal y participativa, Sergio-Cimbaro, Director del Instituto Geográfico Nacional de Argentina
- Sistema Integrado de Información Social con Desagregación Territorial, Veronica-Acha, Jefa del Departamento de Sistemas de Información Social, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social
- Experiencias y perspectivas en el uso de información geoespacial para la gestión del Ministerio de Salud, Alex-Alarcon, Jefe Departamento Desarrollo Estratégico, Ministerio de Salud
- Uso de la información geoespacial en el Ministerio de Educación, Gustavo-Moreira, Unidad Apoyo Municipal, Ministerio de Educación

Tambien, se puede descargar las exposiciones realizadas en estos eventos:

- **Jornada de Inducción IDE Chile / Induction Day Chile IDE**, http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/item/jornada-de-induccion-ide-chile.html. Actividad de inducción para los representantes del Comité Técnico Interministerial y los Coordinadores Regionales y de Áreas Temáticas realizado el día viernes 11 de julio de 2014.
- **Seminario "Academia: La base para una IDE Exitosa" / Seminar "Academia: The basis for a successful SDI,"** http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/item/jornada-de-induccion-ide-chile.html. Evento realizado el día miércoles 9 de julio de 2014, en el se compartieron experiencias de invitados nacionales y extranjeros en el aporte de la Academia en el uso y análisis de información geoespacial.Este seminario fue el primer paso para fortalecer los lasos entre la Academia y la IDE de Chile. Participaron profesores y alumnos de universidades pertenecientes al área de la información geoespacial.

Summary: **International Seminar "Building a geospatial information society"**. The Seminar took place July 10, 2014, during which domestic and foreign guests shared their experiences regarding the development of SDI. An Induction Day for Chile's SDI also was held on July 11, 2014 and a Seminar titled, "Academia: The basis for a successful SDI" on July 9, 2014. One can download the presentations made at these events, as well.

Fuente: http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/item/seminario-internacional-construyendo-sociedad-con-informacion-geoespacial.html

Argentina: Disponible Boletín Nro 14 de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales (IDERA) - Julio 2014

El Grupo de Difusión y Comunicación Institucional tiene el agrado de presentar la 14va edición del Boletín IDERA con importantes novedades para la comunidad IDE de Argentina. En este número se destacan artículos y recursos relacionados a metadatos y catálogos online de datos geográficos.

La Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de la República Argentina (IDERA, http://www.idera.gob.ar/) es un ámbito de trabajo colaborativo en el que participan los diferentes niveles del gobierno, el ámbito académico y de investigación. A través de su representación, la IDERA busca mantener un carácter nacional y federal.

Descargar boletín en formato pdf: http://www.idera.gob.ar/portal/sites/default/files/Boletin_IDERA_14.pdf
Visualización on line: http://www.youblisher.com/p/935255-Boletin-Nro-14-de-IDERA-Publicacion-Junio-2014/

Summary: IDERA Bulletin No. 14 - July 2014 available. The Working Group on Diffusion and Institutional Communications of Argentina's SDI is pleased to present the 14th edition of the quarterly Bulletin IDERA with important news for Argentina SDI community. This issue highlights articles and resources related to metadata and online geodata catalogs.

Colombia & República Dominicana: la firma de un convenio de cooperación internacional
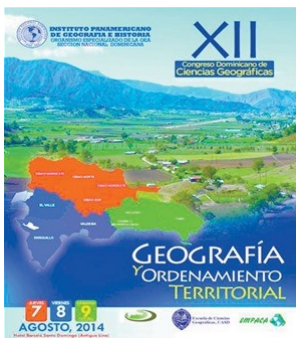
En Agosto de 2014, la firma de un convenio de cooperación internacional con República Dominicana, se viene consolidando, después de la participación del director territorial del Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi, (IGAC), Edgar Roberto Mora Gómez, en el XII Congreso Dominicano de Ciencias Geográficas (http://sdnorte.com/rd/celebraron-con-exito-xii-congreso-dominicano-de-ciencias-geograficas/), organizado por el Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia (IPGH), de la organización de Estados Americanos, (OEA).

El roll del Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi, (IGAC), como instrumento de planificación en el desarrollo nacional, fue la ponencia que realizó el director territorial del IGAC, Mora Gómez, donde se establecía todos los procedimientos, metodologías,

productos y servicios que viene adoptando la entidad, en el tema de ordenamiento territorial enfocado a la ley orgánica, creación de los comités, la expedición de normas y metodología para el desarrollo del ordenamiento.

Una de las principales conclusiones del evento, hace referencia a la adopción de una nueva ley, para la creación del instituto de geografía en República Dominicana, donde actualmente, se maneja un instituto netamente militar, con base en ese proceso, el director territorial del Agustín Codazzi, se reunió con el viceministro de planeación, economía y ordenamiento territorial, con el cual, se solicitó la firma de un convenio de cooperación, que permita el acompañamiento en la creación del instituto, pero también, en la asesoría en estudios de suelos , ordenamiento territorial y capacitación.

Summary: ***Colombia & Dominican Republic: Collaboration agreement signed***
An agreement for international cooperation, seeks to consolidate Dominican Republic, with Codazzi (IGAC) to advise it on the establishment of the institute of geography, soil surveys, land planning and training. One of the main conclusions of the event refers to the adoption of a new law for the creation of the Institute of Geography in Dominican Republic, where he is currently a purely military institute is managed, based on this process, the regional director of the Augustine Codazzi, met with the deputy minister of planning, economy and land, with which, the signing of a cooperation agreement, allowing accompaniment in the creation of the institute was requested, but also in advising on soil studies, land use and training.

Fuente: http://www.caracol.com/2014/index.php/colombia/item/451-republica-dominicana-busca-consolidar-convenio-con-el-igac

Honduras: Lanzamiento del Observatorio Univeritario de Ordenamiento Territorial (OUOT)

Las autoridades de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH) crearon el Observatorio Universitario de Ordenamiento Territorial (OUOT). La iniciativa fue de un grupo de profesores del Departamento de Ciencia y Tecnologías de la Información Geográfica de la Facultad de Ciencias Espaciales, el cual servirá como un centro especializado que recopilará, procesará, analizará, interpretará, sistematizará y divulgará información sobre la temática en ordenamiento territorial.Gracias a esa motivación y en el marco de la inauguración de la cuarta promoción de la maestría en ordenamiento y gestión del territorio, se pone en marcha el OUOT, cuya finalidad es la de apoyar el proceso de planificación y ordenamiento; analizar las características y evolución del territorio nacional; la incidencia que tienen sobre dicho territorio las políticas, planes, programas, proyectos y actuaciones de cualquier índole, así como las tendencias futuras.Según las autoridades de la UNAH, uno de los graves problemas a solucionar es la degradación de recursos naturales entre los que destacan: ocupación indiscriminada del suelo, deforestación, contaminación de aguas superficiales y subterráneas, incendios, acumulación de basuras de una manera espontánea y sin control, entre otros.

Summary: ***Launch of the University Observatory of Land Management (OUOT)***
The authorities of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) created the University Observatory of Land Management (OUOT). The initiative came from a group of professors from the Department of Science and Technology of Geographic Information, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, which will serve as a specialized center that will collect, process, analyze, interpret, collate and disseminate information on the subject in order territorial. Thanks to the motivation and within the opening of the fourth edition of expertise in planning and land management, starts the OUOT, whose purpose is to support the planning and management; analyze the characteristics and evolution of the national territory; the impact they have on that territory policies, plans, programs, projects and actions of any kind, as well as future trends. According to authorities UNAH, one of the serious problems to solve is the degradation of natural resources among them: indiscriminate land use, deforestation, pollution of surface and ground water, fire, garbage accumulation of spontaneously without control, among others. For more information, visit the website http://faces.unah.edu.hn/catedraot.

Fuente: http://faces.unah.edu.hn/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17:observatorio-universitario-de-ot&catid=6:noticias-faces&Itemid=50

El Salvador: La Alcaldía Municipal de Santa Tecla INFOMAP
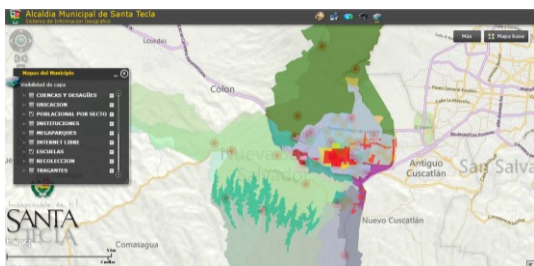
La Alcaldía Municipal de Santa Tecla tiene la vision de consolidar a Santa Tecla como la primera Ciudad Digital de el Salvador y como modelo referente de uso de tecnologías que estén al servicio de la ciudadanía, promoviendo su uso y facilitando el acceso en los espacios públicos. Hay una unidad, el Centro de Información Geográfico (CIG), encargada de implementar la estandarización de la información territorial, a fin de permitir el cruce automatizado de la información entre las diferentes unidades, departamentos y direcciones, logrando promover la mejora continua de los procesos administrativos, tributarios y la comunicación interna y externa.

La Alcaldía Municipal de Santa Tecla a través del Departamento de Ciudad Digital y la Unidad de Sistemas de Información Geográfica ha creado el proyecto repositorio llamado INFOMAP (http://amst.gob.sv:8080/sig/mapas/index.html), con diferentes mapas en donde se grafican y se representan determinados datos, elementos o fenómenos acerca de un tema en especial, ej. Turismo, Rutas de recolección de basura, Parques Municipales, Area rural, etc.

Summary: **Municipality of Santa Tecla Digital City & Geographic Information System**
The Municipality of Santa Tecla through the Department of Digital City and Unit Geographic Information Systems has created a repository called INFOMAP with different maps and plotted where certain data elements or phenomena about a topic are represented in project Special, ex. Tourism, garbage collection routes, Municipal Parks, Rural Area, etc.

Fuente: http://www.santatecladigital.gob.sv/body/ciudadDigital.php

Bahamas: SDI legislation passed

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Perry Gladstone Christie, Commonwealtth of The Bahamas and the Hon. Kenred Dorsett with responsibility for the Bahamas National GIS (BNGIS) Centre, mentioned ground breaking legislation at the 10th Anniversary of The Reactivation Bahamas National Geographic Information Systems (BNGIS) Centre, held July 21, 2014. The Bahamas Spatial Data Infrastructure Act 2014 was passed by both Houses and was published in the Official Gazette on 2nd May 2014. The Bahamas now moves to advance the establishment of a Geospatial Council and advance initiatives to implement GIS on a national platform.

The Bahamas is now embarking on another step in its journey to modernize the State. While BNGIS has an action Plan to address immediate short term needs, one of its priorities is the production of a detailed strategy/road map on the way forward for phased implementation of the BSDI System and Program in accordance with provisions of the BSDI Act 2014.

See also: PM honoured to celebrate BNGIS 10th anniversary,
http://www.bahamaislandsinfo.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18561:pm-honoured-to-celebrate-bngis-10th-anniversary&catid=34:Bahamas%20National%20News&Itemid=147

Trinidad & Tobago: National Spatial Development Strategy to Govern Physical Development

The National Spatial Development Strategy (NSDS) provides the framework for decisions about the ways in which the national space will be used and developed over the next decade and beyond. In this context, space includes all the land, water and air, for which the people and Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) are responsible: the place where we all inhabit and the environment on which we all depend. The NSDS is intended to cover the ten-year period from 2013 to 2023, working towards a vision of desired progress that could be achieved within twenty years - by 2033. The intention is to monitor progress towards that vision – the destination being aimed for - so that the Strategy can be reviewed regularly, and amended and updated as necessary.

A substantial amount of factual information was gathered and analysed during the preparation of this Strategy, providing an evidence base to inform its Vision, Objectives and Policies. This information is presented in several documents:

- Surveying the Scene
http://www.planning.gov.tt/sites/default/files/content/mediacentre/documents/Surveying%20the%20Scene.pdf
- NSDS Public Consultation Report 2013
http://www.planning.gov.tt/sites/default/files/content/mediacentre/documents/NSDS_Public_Consultation_Report_Finalised_web.pdf
- NSDS Method Statement and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
http://www.planning.gov.tt/sites/default/files/content/mediacentre/documents/Method%20Statement.pdf
- NSDS Core Strategy and Regional Guidance
http://www.planning.gov.tt/sites/default/files/content/mediacentre/documents/Core%20Strategy%20%2526%20Regional%20Guidance_0.pdf

Source: http://www.planning.gov.tt/sites/default/files/content/mediacentre/documents/Executive%20Summary_0.pdf

St. Maarten: Government may shift responsibility for Kadaster from Ministry of Finance to VROMI

Minister of Public Housing, Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (Ministry VROMI) Hon. Maurice Lake says at the moment his ministry does not have any legal responsibility over the Land Surveyor & Registry Office known as Kadaster, but he is ready to take over once given the mandate by the Council of Ministers to do so. "From a legal perspective, I have been advised that the Kadaster falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance. I however fully support and agree that it should fall under my ministry. The Minister of Finance is also the responsible entity to provide answer to Members of Parliament.

"I will approach the Council of Ministers in our next meeting about giving me the mandate to address the issues at the Kadaster. It has to be transferred under the Ordinance of Public Registers from the responsibility of Finance to the VROMI. I don't run from the issues. I don't mind my ministry taking full responsibility of the Kadaster.

"The Kadaster can then be restructured whereby it functions more efficiently and effectively for the clients that it serves. Minister Lake added that he fully supports the statement made by Member of Parliament Hon. Patrick Illidge where local professionals should be given the opportunity to be on the board and in management positions in order to better serve the people.

Source: http://www.sintmaartengov.org/PressReleases/Pages/Minister-Lake-says-his-ministry-ready-to-accept-responsibility-for-Kadaster-Organization.aspx

U.S. Virgin Islands: Citizens now enabled as The National Map Corps crowd-sourcing volunteers

Since August 2013, all 50 US states have been available for editing with the USGS The National Map Corps (TNMCorps) volunteered geographic information project. Starting this month, TNMCorps has added the United States Virgin Islands to that list. Using crowd-sourcing techniques, TNMCorps encourages citizen volunteers to collect data about manmade structures in an effort to provide accurate and authoritative spatial map data for the USGS National Geospatial Program's web-based The National Map.
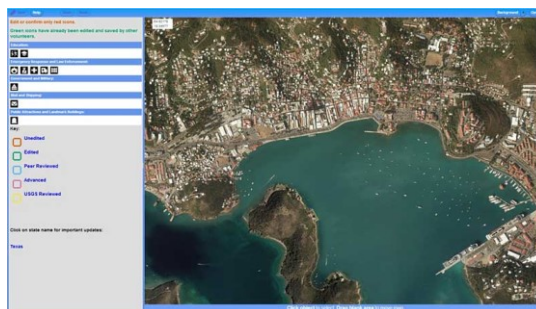
Through an online map editor, volunteers use aerial images and other resources to improve structures data by adding new features, removing obsolete points, and correcting existing data. Points available to edit include schools, hospitals, post offices, police stations and other important public buildings. Volunteers may find editing structures in the U.S. Virgin Islands quite challenging, as some source data points shown in the map editor may be out of date, and some structure types are missing entirely.

Volunteers only need access to a computer and the Internet to participate. The National Map Corps' website explains how volunteers can edit any area, regardless of their familiarity with the selected structures. Registration is simple and requires only an email address and self-selected username. Participants make a significant addition to the USGS's ability to provide accurate information to the public. Data collected by volunteers become part of The National Map structures dataset which is available to users free of charge.

Source: http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3945

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Caribbean Strategy (June 23, 2014)

The United States is one of several Caribbean nations and, as such, has a vested interest in working internally, and with its partners in the region, to ensure a healthy ecosystem that is well understood and that supports the safety and livelihoods of its inhabitants. The Caribbean Strategy (http://www.regions.noaa.gov/secar/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/NOAA-Caribbean-Strategy-Final-June-23-2014-FINAL.pdf) is the strategic approach of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to coordinate and integrate the capabilities of all NOAA staff and line offices1 to address regional issues and improve the effectiveness of its mission and international cooperation in the Caribbean region.

NOAA has many faces in the Caribbean (i.e., fisheries management, hurricane forecasting, tsunami warning, climate prediction and adaptation, coastal and marine protected area management, habitat conservation, mapping and monitoring of marine ecosystems). NOAA expertise, services, and products can be shared through training partnerships with Caribbean-based entities to support interagency cooperation and development of a wide base of technical and management knowledge in the region.

The need to increase the quality, quantity, usability, and accessibility of data is commonly identified through surveys and assessments, as is the need to better target science to address priority management challenges in the region. Better access

to current research information and addressing gaps in data management planning, collection, documentation, and sharing on a regional scale will enhance the effectiveness of many NOAA domestic missions that rely on data obtained at a broader geographical scale, such as ocean observations, climate modeling, and fishery management. Opportunities exist to share and synthesize existing data to address important emerging regional issues such as ecosystem change and ecological connectivity.

See also: Latest NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter (February 2014, Volume 2, Issue 3)
 http://www.regions.noaa.gov/secar/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/NOAA-in-the-caribbean_Vol2_Issue3.pdf

Source: http://www.regions.noaa.gov/secar/index.php/noaa-in-the-caribbean/

St. Lucia: OECS to support GIS platform for mapping of water infrastructure

The project Rallying the Region to Action on Climate Change (RRACC), led by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), will support St. Lucia in the establishment of a GIS platform that will enable the mapping of water infrastructure for improved management and delivery services to consumers. The RRACC Project is a joint effort by the OECS Secretariat and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist Eastern Caribbean States in various ways relating to climate change.

Source: http://www.caribbeanlifenews.com/stories/2014/8/2014-08-18-ips-caribbeans_climate_agenda-cl_2014_8.html

Spatial Innovision 2-Day Workshop - Mobile and Server GIS: Field to Finish
October 26-27, 2014, Curacao

Spatial Innovision is offering a 2-Day Workshop - Mobile and Server GIS: Field to Finish – which will take place on Sunday and Monday, 26-27 October 2014 in Curacao, in conjunction with the USISA's 7th Caribbean GIS Conference. This course will entail details on Mobile, Web and Server GIS technology and the integration from field to finish. The skills required to accomplish this task will be taught step by step for participants to take advantage of emerging technology to improve their process flow within their respective organization. Course outline includes:

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

Special Note: Participants will need to bring a laptop computer and smartphone with Android or iOS operating system compatible with Esri Collector for ArcGIS. Fee to attend: $300. For full details of URISA's 7th Caribbean GIS Conference, visit this link: http://www.urisa.org/education-events/caribbean-gis-conference/

Source: http://urisacaribbean2014.sched.org/event/b2a931f5fd09daaa015a4feeb0b2dd27

United Nations/Mexico Symposium on Basic Space Technology Development
20-23 October 2014, Ensenada, Mexico

The United Nations/Mexico Symposium on Basic Space Technology will focus on the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The Symposium will be hosted by the Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education (CICESE) and the Mexican Space Agency (AEM), on behalf of the Government of Mexico. The scientific meeting will be attended by institutions from over 60 countries, allowing them to strengthen strategic partnerships with the UN, Latin America, the Caribbean. The international forum aims to promote the exchange of experiences among experts to facilitate that all nations can have the elements to their participation in the peaceful use of space.

Source: http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/oosa/en/SAP/bsti/mexico2014.html

Open Government Partnership Regional Meeting for the Americas
November 17-19, 2014. San José, Costa Rica

OGP was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. Since then, OGP has grown from 8 countries to the 64 participating countries indicated on the map below. In all of these countries, government and civil society are working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms.

The Open Government Partnership Regional Meeting for the Americas will take place in San José, Costa Rica on 18-19 November 2014 preceded by a Civil Society Day, which will take place on November 17. The Open Government Partnership currently includes 17 participant countries from the Americas region that are committed to making open government reforms in close coordination with civil society. These governments, and others that are not yet part of OGP, have implemented reforms to further strengthen transparency, citizen participation, collaboration and accountability in their countries. The Regional Meeting will serve as a space to highlight good practices and successful initiatives, discuss the challenges faced, and establish support and peer exchange regional mechanisms.

All open government reformers champions in the region are welcome to attend the event, including: official delegates from Americas countries currently participating or considering future participation in OGP, public servants from all levels of government, representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations, representatives of international, regional and multilateral agencies, the business sector, and the academic community.

The broader OGP community will be responsible for the agenda for both events. In the following days, we will upload an open Call for Proposals in the event website. Participants will be responsible for bearing the costs of transport and accommodation. However, the Open Government Partnership will help broker connections between the donor community and those in need of financial assistance. Anyone who needs financial support should indicate it on the pre-registration form that will be on the OGP website shortly.

Source: http://www.opengovpartnership.org/node/5396

XV Conferencia Iberoamericana de Sistemas de Información Geográfica (CONFIBSIG)
del 9 al 11 de Septiembre de 2015, Valparaíso, Chile

Límite para envío de los resúmenes: **11 de enero de 2015**

Fuente: http://www.xvconfibsig.cl/

North America Region SDI News

Canada: Industry Minister announces $6.7 million support for developing new EO products

Canadian Industry Minister James Moore has announced support for the development of new earth observation (EO) products that will provide crucial data to better manage the natural resources. The investment of close to $6.7 million will position Canadian industry to optimally utilise the data from Canadian Space Agency-supported earth observation missions. CSA's Radarsat-2 and Radarsat-2 provides the radar imaging needed for managing natural resources and monitoring the environment in the 21st century.

"Canada has a proud history in space and has long been a leader in the important and growing field of Earth observation. The investments announced today will help provide important information so we can better understand our planet while creating jobs and contributing to the growth of Canada's reputable space industry," Moore said.

The new technologies developed will enhance radar data from EO satellites to more accurately monitor Canada's natural environment to help keep Canadians safe and grow the economy. The minister said that the information will be used to help the agricultural industry monitor crops and forecast yields; map Canada's wetlands, study river ice; monitor forest inventory; monitor pipelines and oil and gas transportation; and monitor natural disasters such as floods and landslides.

Source: http://www.geospatialworld.net/News/View.aspx?id=29588_Article

Canada: Government announces investment in a mapping system for global surface water survey

The federal government announced that Canada, through the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), is investing in Canadian innovation that will play a key role in the first-ever global survey of surface water. The resulting information could help

Canada more efficiently manage water resources, prepare for potential flooding and help avoid costly damage from flooding or drought.

Source: http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=877189

### 1st Annual Pan-Canadian Spatial Data Infrastructure Summit 2014, 17-19 September, Calgary

GeoDiscover Alberta, in conjunction with GeoConnections, is pleased to announce that registration to our 1st annual SDI Summit is now open. Being held in Calgary from September 17 to 19, 2014, this SDI Summit will showcase the best Canada has to offer in the geospatial information field and help foster the establishment of a network of spatial data infrastructures across Canada. Key topics include:

- Building a Pan-Canadian SDI network
- The importance of geospatial data and information to the Energy sector
- An overview of current Canadian spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) governance models
- Focus on Standardization and Interoperability
- The Role of SDIs in Disaster Relief – Lessons learned from the 2013 Alberta Flood
- A Geospatial Vision for the Future - Geospatial sensors – the new Electronic skin

As this event coincides with the Open GeoSpatial Consortium (OGC) annual meeting being held in Calgary from September 15th to 19th, 2014, the organizers are lucky enough to be able to take advantage of this opportunity to hold a joint event on Day One. Attendance to the conference is FREE however attendees will be expected to pay their own airfare, accommodations and any meals outside those designated as conference events. As space is limited, priority will be given to Canadian government employees - at national, provincial, territorial, and municipal levels – who are involved in establishing and promoting geospatial information sharing within their organizations and beyond.

Source: https://geodiscover.alberta.ca/geoportal/catalog/news/summit.page

Canada: Waterloo makes Antarctic map public for climate research
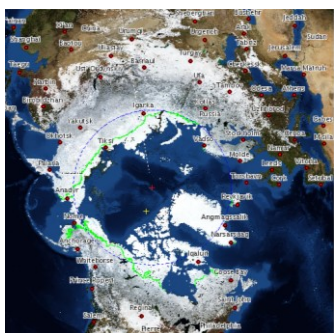
Thanks to a partnership between the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. (MDA), the prime contractor for the RADARSAT-2 program, and the Canadian Cryospheric Information Network (CCIN) at UWaterloo, a satellite image mosaic of the Antarctic is free and fully accessible to the academic world and the public. Using Synthetic Aperture Radar with multiple polarization modes aboard the RADARSAT-2 satellite, the CSA collected more than 3,150 images of the continent in the autumn of 2008, comprising a single pole-to-coast map covering all of Antarctica. This is the first such map of the area since RADARSAT-1 created one in 1997. The mosaic is the latest addition to the CCIN's Polar Data Catalogue. It is available on the Polar Data Catalogue website (https://www.polardata.ca/pdcsearch/).

"The Polar Data Catalogue's mandate is to make such information freely available to scientists, students and the public to enhance our understanding and stewardship of the polar regions," said Professor Ellsworth LeDrew, Director of the CCIN and a professor in the Faculty of Environment at Waterloo. "The mosaic provides an update on the ever-changing ice cover in this area that will be of great interest to climatologists, geologists, biologists and oceanographers." [...] "When compared to the previous Antarctic RADARSAT-1 mosaic, we can map changes in the icescape with unprecedented accuracy and confidence. The earth's polar regions are considered a bellwether for the effects of climate change." Next up for the partnership is a similar mosaic for Greenland, which will provide further crucial information about our shifting climate in the northern hemisphere. There are also plans to continue creating mosaics of Antarctica every few years to provide more data for researchers.

Source: https://uwaterloo.ca/stories/waterloo-makes-antarctic-map-public-climate-research

Content and growth of municipal open data catalogues

GoGeomatics has published an article which indicates that the open data movement has been the talk of the nation, encouraging transparency of governance and good management of data. The supply and demand sides of municipal open data have given rise to new research on the mechanisms in which it operates.

Source: http://www.gogeomatics.ca/magazine/content-and-growth-of-municipal-open-data-catalogues.htm

GeoAlberta Conference 2014, 27-29 October, Calgary

In October 2014, hundreds of Geomatics professionals will gather in Calgary to learn, share and network! There are many ways to participate: Present a paper, conduct a workshop, exhibit at the tradeshow, sponsor, submit a map/app, volunteer, or simply attend!

Source: http://www.geoalberta.com/

EnvisionGEOMATIC 2014, 12-13 November, Quebec

Le Centre de géomatique du Québec (http://www.cgq.qc.ca/) sont fiers d'annoncer VisionGéomatique 2014, une grande conférence à Québec pour l'industrie géomatique. Prévoyez d'être là le 12 et 13 Novembre 2014 au Palais des congrès de Gatineau.

The CGQ has a multidisciplinary team whose mandate is to help organizations and public and private companies in the process of spatial enablement of their activities.

Source: http://2014.visiongeomatique.com/index_en.html

Geospatial Advancement Canada 2015, March 3-5, 2015, Ottawa, Canada

Utilizing Geomatics to Bolster Canada's National Interests, Security, and Economy The Geospatial Advancement Canada conference and training course brings together Canada's leaders in Geomatics to continue the discussion on developing a National Geo strategy. You will network and learn from industry experts who will detail, through case study presentations, how you can develop your own program or improve what you've already achieved.
Day 1: Exploring the Latest Technology and Innovation to Overcome Interoperability Challenges
Day 2: Developing a National Geo Strategy through Collaboration by All Levels of Government and Private Industry
Day 3: Challenges and Opportunities Associated with GIS Governance; Policy Development, Senior-Level Buy In, Workforce

Source: http://geospatialcanada.wbresearch.com/

IDRC invites applications for its Canadian Partnerships Small Grants

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) invites organizations incorporated and headquartered in Canada to submit applications for its 2014-2015 Small Grants for Innovative Research and Knowledge Sharing under its Canadian Partnerships Program. Local, regional, national, and international organizations incorporated and headquartered in Canada that produce or share knowledge for development are eligible to apply. Individuals may not apply. The organization applying must have one Canadian partner organization and may have other partners, from Canada and/or from one or more developing countries. The small grants fund research projects up to $60,000 or events and small dissemination activities and products up to $15,000. Research projects must have at least 180 days between the call deadline date and the start date of the project. Events and small dissemination activities must have at least 140 days between the call deadline date and the event or dissemination activity. The grant duration can be anywhere up to 24 months. Applicants will be asked to provide an explanation of the likely impact of activities in Canada and in a developing country. The deadline for applications is **September 23, 2014**.

Source: http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Competitions/Pages/CompetitionDetails.aspx?CompetitionID=83

USA: National Plan for Civil Earth Observations released

The National Plan for Civil Earth Observations was released July 19th by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) as a result of a 2010 congressional order to better characterize and coordinate civil Earth observations. The U.S. government provides the largest amount of environmental and Earth system data in the world, which ultimately contributes $30 billion annually to the U.S. economy. OSTP created NEOTF (National Earth Observation Task Force) in February of 2011 to address the challenge put forth by Congress to better coordinate the operation of Earth system observations across agencies as well as address other issues such as data management.

The National Plan is a framework to establish, routinely evaluate and build a balanced Earth observations portfolio. Building upon the National Strategy released by NEOTF in April 2013, the National Plan seeks to categorize types of Earth observations, prioritize observations and outline how to support them as well as underscore agency/inter-agency responsibility for maintaining and broadening current efforts. The highest priority sustained measurements for public

service include weather and seasonal climate modelling and prediction, land surface monitoring and characterization as well as other critical long-term observation systems. In order to support these systems, the plan also describes necessary actions such as the coordination and integration of observations, improvement of data access and management and increases in efficiency and cost savings.

There are currently 12 agencies that fund and conduct Earth observations which include the Departments of Defense and the Interior as well as NASA and NOAA. The designated high impact sustained observations systems include LIDAR, stream gage networks and marine survey vessels, but the plan also emphasizes the importance of short-term experimental observations that are instrumental in improving technology. Satellite observations for public service are primarily the responsibility of NASA and NOAA, with a significant role also played by the Department of Commerce. OSTP plans to update their National Plan on a three-year cycle with input from stakeholders and the public.

Access the plan at:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/NSTC/national_plan_for_civil_earth_observations_-_july_2014.pdf

Source: http://community.geosociety.org/blogs/lindsey-bowman/2014/07/31/national-plan-for-civil-earth-observations

NASA Challenge: Build an App to Utilize OpenNEX Climate and Earth Science Data

NASA is seeking applications that utilize the Climate and Earth Science data recently made available on the Open NASA Earth Exchange (OpenNEX) platform on Amazon Web Services (AWS) in new and creative ways. This Challenge is being run in conjunction with the 2014 NEX Virtual workshop to engage and enable individuals and groups to provide new contributions and insight to address global climate change.

This Challenge has a special award structure with awards of $25,000, $15,000, and $10,000 for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, respectively. In addition, NASA plans to announce winning Solvers and submissions at the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) Fall Meeting in San Francisco December 15 – 19, 2014. Deadline: **October 21, 2014**.

Source: https://nex.nasa.gov/OpenNEX

NASA webinar series: Introduction to NASA Earth Science Data Products, Portals, and Tools

This webinar course has five one-hour sessions on 16, 23, 30 September and 7, 14 October 2014, from 12:00-13:00 GMT.
Week 1: NASA Earth Science: Research and Applications to Decision Support
Week 2: Overview of NASA Earth Science Data Products: Remote Sensing and Earth System Modeling Data
Week 3: NASA Data Centers
Week 4: NASA Data and GIS Applications: Air Quality, Water Resources
Week 5: NASA Data and GIS Applications: Disaster, Agriculture and Ecology
Register at https://meet20335591.adobeconnect.com/e6cofrjiaru/event/event_info.html.

USA: New Open Access Data Access Plan from US Department of Energy

In response to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)'s 2013 memo, "Expanding Public Access to the Results of Federally Funded Research (http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/02/22/expanding-public-access-results-federally-funded-research)," the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) has released their Public Access Plan. The DOE is one of the first federal agencies to release their new OSTP-mandated open data policy. The DOE describes their DOE Public Access Plan (http://www.energy.gov/downloads/doe-public-access-plan) as one that: "commits the Department to deploying a web-based portal, the DOE Public Access Gateway for Energy and Science (DOE PAGES, http://www.osti.gov/pages/), that will make scholarly scientific publications resulting from DOE research funding publicly accessible and searchable at no charge to readers; and to instituting data management principles and requirements that ultimately will apply to proposals for research funding submitted to all DOE program offices."

To integrate data management planning into the overall research plan, the Department will ensure that all research proposals selected for funding include a Data Management Plan (DMP). David Crotty, Senior Editor with Oxford University Press' journal publishing program, points out: "Separate from the plan for public access to research articles, the DOE has also released their requirements for the data availability portion of the OSTP memo. I'm a little surprised by the path chosen–this seems very similar to the NSF's existing policy, basically requiring grant applicants to submit a DMP which will be reviewed and approved by the agency. This approach strikes me as something of a punt, leaving responsibility in the hands of researchers rather than setting up standards and methodologies for researchers to follow. Data availability is a complex issue, and having some rules to follow might make things easier for researchers."

Read the full DOE Public Plan here:
http://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/08/f18/DOE_Public_Access%20Plan_FINAL.pdf

Source: http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2014/08/04/us-department-of-energy-announces-public-access-plan/

USA: Participants in Open Data Roundtables guide USDA on ways to provide high quality data to users

The GovLab and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) co-hosted an Open Data Roundtable on food resilience to bring together government officials, companies, and non-profits to improve the use of data on climate and agriculture. Like the Roundtable we hosted with the White House and the Department of Commerce in June, this event was designed to promote a dialogue between government agencies that supply data and the companies and organizations that use it. The ultimate goal of all our Roundtables is to make open government data more relevant, accessible, and actionable.

While it may be a few weeks before all the suggestions from last Friday's Open Data Roundtable at USDA are compiled into a report, companies and USDA officials came away with a better understanding of how public data is gathered, disseminated and processed by users. The meeting was part of a series of discussions initiated by USDA. Undersecretary and Chief Scientist Cathie Woteki, Deputy Undersecretary Ann Bartuska and Chief Information Officer (CIO) Cheryl Cook listened to and participated in discussions aimed at making it easier for crop, weather, soil and other information gathered by USDA to be provided to those who need it, here in America and abroad.

Some of the recommendations made by the group during two breakout sessions:
- Things change, so develop an ongoing dialogue between users and providers of the data. Reach out to users (customers) to determine what they value and what they use.
- Standardize data across sets so that, for example, the definition of something as simple as "corn" is universal.
- Develop a better system to enable a searcher to get what he or she wants without having to sort through reams of data first.
- Have a "crosscut" system to keep users from having to go to multiple agencies or places for portions of the data they need. Provide "one stop" service.
- Provide better service to those who request information under the Freedom of Information Act.
- Standardize tables to make it easier for business to convert raw data into information it needs.
- Create a "data concierge" to assist users, improve the search function of @data.gov.
- Set long terms improvement goals and develop a roadmap to get there. Improve geospatial data and make it the "highest quality possible."
- Build an app that provides a "real time" data alert system, which could also be employed by USDA and other government departments to share information with the public during times of crisis or disaster.
- Leverage data that is already available, such as drought monitoring and let it be used for expanded purposes, such as predictive analysis to drive efficiencies and insight to create a smarter "AgriBusiness".

Source: https://www.data.gov/food/participants-open-data-roundtables-guide-usda-ways-provide-high-quality-data-users/

USA: Coordination between departments of LA County has boosted people's confidence in geospatial data

Mark Greninger, Geographic Information Officer - County of Los Angeles, Chair - California GIS Council and Chairperson - California Geographic Information Association (CGIA) shares his views with Geospatial World on the importance of GIS data, easy accessibility to public via portal, focus on enterprise infrastructure, and advocacy efforts of CGIA and GIO in the LA County.

Source: Geospatial World, http://www.geospatialworld.net/Interview/ViewInterview.aspx?id=31124

USA: Federation for Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) 2015 Winter Meeting
January 6-8, 2015, Washington, DC

The Federation for Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP, http://www.esipfed.org/) is having their 2015 Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., January 6-8, 2015. The theme is "Earth Science and Data in Support of Food Resilience: Climate, Energy, Water Nexus" and will include a variety of activities supporting this theme for all levels of technical expertise.

Source: http://commons.esipfed.org/taxonomy/term/1482

Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

Bahrain: SCE launches GIS environmental monitoring system
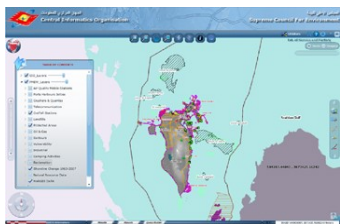
The Supreme Council for the Environment (SCE) in collaboration with Central Informatics Organization (CIO) have launched the Geographical Information System (GIS) for Environmental Monitoring. The GIS system aims to achieve the SCE's vital objectives, such as supporting planning and decision-making in the national environmental projects, integrating the environmental, natural and marine resources database, harnessing space technology to improve administrative processes and develop institutional capacity in the GIS field. The SCE and CIO agreed to continue their cooperation to increase the required details in the future and boost the accuracy level of monitoring, provide required indicators and environmental data in order to continue this highly specialised process.

Source: http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/626887

Oman: National Survey Authority moves ahead with new geodetic datum

Established by the National Survey Authority of Oman, the Oman National Geodetic Datum seeks to create a homogenous horizontal survey control for the country and provide the GPS user community with modern surveying infrastructure The National Survey Authority (NSA) of Oman has embarked on a novel project to establish the Oman National Geodetic Datum (ONGD14). The primary objective of the ONGD is to create a homogenous horizontal survey control for the country and also provide the GPS user community with modern surveying infrastructure. The project would be carried out by strengthening the existing national geodetic control through the enhancement of the old control network and further establishment of GPS Oman National CORS Network (ONCN) stations. Although the NSA has been working in this direction for a number of years now, it was realised that a new geocentric datum based on the latest global ITRF system solution was the need of the hour in the country. The existing WGS84 (ITRF89) system had to be updated so that NSA could provide the country with the latest global and accurate geocentric datum of ITRF2008 epoch 2013.

Source: http://www.geospatialworld.net/Magazine/MArticleView.aspx?aid=31053

Qatar: Digital archiving of data holdings in the Remote Sensing and GIS Unit, Center-Qatar University

The Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Unit, at the Environmental Studies Center of Center-Qatar University, has started the process of digitally archiving its entire historic collection of satellite imagery, aerial photography, bathymetric data and GIS data. This process aims to scientifically catalogue the vast amount of data holdings, as well as to provide data access to staff at the Environmental Studies Center whose work depends on these digital geospatial data. It also aims to enhance the security of the data holdings through regulating data access and carrying out regular data backup.

This work is carried out by Dr. Nadeem Hashem (Deputy Manager, Applied Research Department) and Ms. Julie Camy (GIS Specialist) who work in the aforementioned unit. These data will be hosted on a dedicated server.

Source: http://www.qu.edu.qa/offices/research/esc/rawasi-news/rs_database.php

Afghanistan: Online platform to track impact of development projects

UN-Habitat has launched an innovative online monitoring tool employing Google Maps to document the progress of community and municipal-led development projects in Afghanistan. The initiative has been undertaken as part of programming funded by the Government of Japan in the country.

Source: http://unhabitat.org/online-platform-to-track-impact-of-programming-in-afghanistan/

Jordan: How do geographic information systems inform humanitarian action?

 Using innovative surveying techniques with Geographic Information Systems technology, Al Za'atari Refugee Camp (Jordan) is one the most mapped refugee camps in the world. REACH was created in 2010 to facilitate the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted in support to, and within the framework of, inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. In 2013 an addressing system was established in the camp to facilitate access to services and create a better sense of familiarity for refugees. Maps delivered upon request also help humanitarian organizations orientate themselves within this area.

REACH maps are used to better understand the locations of important buildings, services and infrastructure such as new schools, roads or health centres and inform decisions that directly impact those living in the camp.

Information about Al Za'atari collected by REACH is available on the open geo-portal called OpenStreetMap (OSM). Due to the sensitive nature of some information not all of it is available publicly, though what is available is shared in a free map that can be downloaded.

Source: http://www.acted.org/en/how-do-geographic-information-systems-inform-humanitarian-action

Egypt (Cairo): Ecocitizen World Map Project - Imbaba, Cairo case study

Ecocitizen World Map (EWM) Project is a project of the "Eye on Earth: Community Sustainability and Resilience (CSR)" Special Initiative. This project uses new concepts of crowdsourcing and crowd mapping. It aims to calculate the ecological footprint of a typical neighbourhood (in the Imbaba zone in this case study) and encourages residents to participate in data gathering with the help of Ecocity builders and ELBalad foundation (a local CBO). This is done to:

- Gather and map data about (access, clean air, energy, food, materials, soil, water, culture, community, economy, education, life quality, biodiversity, carrying capacity, and ecological integrity)
- Reduce the residents' negative impact on environment
- Increase their consumption efficiency
- Make people aware of environmental preservation
- Analyze and share data to identify possible solutions to make their environment more sustainable

The Cairo EWM team at the architectural department of Cairo University recently completed their Ecocitizen Report of the Imbaba neighborhood. It is an insightful document, chronicling the on-the-ground surveys and findings in great detail. See: http://ecocitizenworldmap.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Imbaba-ecocitizen-report-.pdf

Morocco: Ecocitizen World Map Project - Report from Casablanca

The Ecocitizen World Map (EWM) Project has just released a report from the data collected during the "Bootcamp" in the "Roches Noires" neighborhood of the EWM pilot city Casablanca. The report presents results of the parcel audits and neighborhood archetypes, with an emphasis on water quality, food composition, and access to social services. http://ecocitizenworldmap.org/ecocitizen-report-casablanca-morocco/

Source: http://ecocitizenworldmap.org/ecocitizen-report-imbaba-cairo/

Eye on Earth Disaster Management Survey within the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region

 The Association of American Geographers (AAG) are working with the Eye on Earth program to assess geospatial data and spatial data infrastructure availability for disaster management within the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region. Eye on Earth is led by the Abu Dhabi Global Environment Data Initiative (AGEDI) in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and includes several important projects focused on and around the concept of using environmental data for sound decision making.

As a key part of our efforts, we are seeking responses to the very brief stakeholder survey that can be accessed by clicking the link below. Your responses to this short (5-10 minute) survey are a critical part of improving disaster response in the MENA region and we do hope you will take the time to respond. Please answer to the best of your knowledge and feel

free to skip any question that does not apply to your specific area of expertise. Additionally, if you are not the best respondent for your agency or organization, please share this e-mail and the survey link with an appropriate colleague.

The survey is available here: http://eoe.aag.org/falcon-survey/. If you have any questions about the Eye on Earth programs or the AAG, please contact John Wertman at jwertman@aag.org or Candice Luebbering at cluebbering@aag.org.

9th International Congress of GIS and Geospatial Applications (Geo-Tunis 2015)
1-5 April 2015, Tunis, Tunisia

The 9th edition of Geo-Tunis will be held in cooperation with the Euro Arab union of geomatics, the French Organization for scientific and cultural exchange between France and the Middle East, the center of desertification study in Iraq, the Euro Mediterranean federation of scientific research and technological innovation and many institutions.

The 9th edition of Geo-Tunis is the result of negotiation between Arab and African experts and specialists who identify the needs of the area concerning gis and geospace applications in the field of sustainable development, security, military uses, water management, desertification, agriculture, survey, archeology, politics, environment, infrastructure, urban planning, cities and networks.

The five-day Geo-Tunis congress is an occasion to be in update with the latest technological research and development in gis and geospace field. Geotunis will treat many themes. It is also an opportunity to researchers and geospacial technologies producers to present their products and meets with public and private institutions and users of these technologies. Deadline for sending abstract: **15 January 2015**.

Source: http://www.geotunis.org/

Global SDI News

3rd High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

The National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China (NASG) will host 3rd High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, October 22-24, 2014, Beijing, China.
Announcement letter: http://files.sbsm.gov.cn/en/201408/20140801155418419.pdf
Information note: http://files.sbsm.gov.cn/en/201408/20140827161150523.pdf

UN-GGIM & OGC release report "Role of Standards in Geographic Information Management"

The United Nations' Initiative on Global Geographic Information Management (UN-GGIM) has released a report (PDF) on the "Role of Standards in Geographic Information Management." The report was prepared in conjunction with the Open Geospatial Consortium, The International Organization for Standards (ISO), Technical Committee 211 Geographic information/Geomatics, and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). According to the report, the guide has three primary purposes:

- Articulate the critical role of standards in geospatial information management;
- Inform policy makers and program managers in Member States of the value in using and investing in geospatial standardization; and
- Describe the benefits of using "open" geospatial standards to achieve standardization, data sharing, and interoperability goals

Enabling a spatial data infrastructure (SDI) for an entire country is a challenge. Recognizing this undertaking, the UN GGIM recommends a "tiered" approach to developing standards and subsequent implementation of an SDI as follows:
- Tier 1: Share maps over the web,
- Tier 2: Geospatial Information sharing partnerships - share, integrate and use geospatial data from different providers,
- Tier 3: Spatially enabling the nation - large scale (typically national) efforts to develop a "full blown' SDI that provides access to multiple themes of information, applications for using the shared information, and access via a variety of environments (mobile, desktop, etc.).

Access the report:
http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM4/E-C20-2014-8_Essential%20Standards%20Guide%20for%20UNGGIM.pdf

There is also a companion document (PDF) supporting the report that describes the standards that are appropriate for each tier.
http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM4/E-C20-2014-8_Essential%20Standards%20Guide%20for%20UNGGIM.pdf

Call for papers: Specialist Meeting on Spatial Search
8-9 December 2014, University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), Santa Barbara, California USA

The overarching goal of this specialist meeting is to discuss spatial search along three complementary strands:
- Computational strand: What are the current computing challenges in spatial search? What are the limits of spatial indexing? Where are the bottlenecks? What techniques and algorithms have substantially changed the way we design search functionality in large information systems? Are reference systems and meta-data helpful? What is the future of spatial search models?
- Geospatial strand: What kinds of spatial search are utilized in the geo-spatial domain? What search functionality is missing in current Geographic Information Systems? How can Geographic Information Science interact with other domains to promote spatial thinking and education in the context of spatial search?
- Cognitive strand: What do we know about how humans conceptualize and perform information searches and how space helps? How do search technologies impact human cognition of geographic and information spaces? How do humans search memory and visual or aural stimuli? Can hypotheses and insights from the cognitive and neurosciences inform computational and geospatial search techniques?

All interested applicants are asked to provide a paragraph-form bio with a photograph and a preliminary 2-page position paper by **September 20, 2014**. A selection of position papers will be considered for expansion toward an edited book. Subject to approval, limited funding for travel and accommodation costs will be available to invited participants.

Source: http://spatial.ucsb.edu/2014/spatial-search

National Open Data Consultants sought in Bangladesh, Nepal, Panama, and Uruguay

The Division for Public Administration and Development (DPADM), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is implementing a project focusing on strengthening of capacities of developing countries to provide Access to Information for Sustainable Development through Open Government Data. The objective is to demonstrate the potential and benefits of using Open Government Data (OGD) in advancing transparency, accountability and sustainable development in selected countries of Latin America and East Asia regions, currently identified to be Bangladesh, Nepal, Panama, and Uruguay.

In partnership with the national counterparts, the project aims to develop a strategy for open data, particularly in thematic areas relevant to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs. Primarily, the government data to be shared with the wider public in open format may include public expenditure and budgeting data, environmental data, procurement data, demographic data, socio-economic indicators, healthcare data, geographical data and local transportation data.

Interested candidates can forward the completed P-11 form and resumes to Victoria Ceban ceban@un.org with copy to Arpine Korekyan at korekyan@un.org and Elvira Cachola at cachola@un.org by **September 10, 2014**.

Source:
http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/TOR_Nat''l%20Consultant_OGDDevProj_ak_FINAL_18%20July%202014.doc.pdf

100 Resilient Cities Challenge

Is Your City Ready To Become Resilient? The 100 Resilient Cities Challenge seeks to find 100 cities that are ready to build resilience to the social, economic, and physical challenges that cities face in an increasingly urbanized world.

We can't predict the next disruption or catastrophe. But we can control how we respond to these challenges. We can adapt to the shocks and stresses of our world and transform them into opportunities for growth. If your city applies for the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge, it could be one of 100 cities eligible to receive funding to hire a Chief Resilience Officer, assistance in developing a resilience strategy, access to a platform of innovative private and public sector tools to help design and implement that strategy, and membership in the 100 Resilient Cities Network.

The deadline to apply is **September 10, 2014**. Ignite the urban resilience movement.

Source: http://www.100resilientcities.org/pages/100-resilient-cities-challenge

A Meta-Analysis on the ROI of Geospatial Data and Systems: A Multi-Country Perspective

Author(s): Natalie Trapp, Uwe A. Schneider, Ian McCallum, Steffen Fritz, Christian Schill, Maria Teresa Borzacchiello, Christine Heumesser, and Max Craglia.
Transactions in GIS, Article first published online: 11 August 2014 [not an open access journal]

Abstract: The availability, quality and accessibility of Geographic Information (GI) have significant socio-economic and environmental benefits, but the collection and maintenance of GI require substantial investments. Cost-benefit assessments (CBAs) attempt to justify the costs of geospatial data investments, applying different methodologies and focusing on diverse areas. Therefore, the Returns on Investment (ROI) vary considerably across studies, regions and sectors. The objective of this study is to explain some of the variation in the average ROI of GI by conducting a meta-analysis of 82 cost-benefit assessments between 1994 and 2013. In a first step, CBAs are systematically reviewed and relevant information is extracted. Particular emphasis is given to investment conditions and study characteristics. In a second step, multivariate regression methods are used to assess the size, significance and direction of individual effects. The results suggest that regional factors have the largest impact on the profitability of GI. Returns in Australia and New Zealand, for example, are four times larger than in Europe. In addition, small-scale regional investments have a 2.5 times lower return than large-scale international investments. Overall, the expected benefits of GI investments are approximately 3.2 times larger than the costs.

Source: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tgis.12091/abstract

Analysing spatial data performance in inter-organisational processes
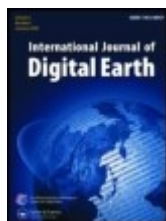
Author(s): Ezra Dessers, Glenn Vancauwenberghe, Danny Vandenbroucke, Joep Crompvoets & Geert Van Hootegem
International Journal of Digital Earth, posted online 5 August 2014 [not an open access journal]

Abstract: The use of spatial data has become a key factor in numerous public sector processes. However, recent evidence suggests that the seemingly obvious benefits of spatial data use and sharing often stay beyond reach. This paper examines whether the performance of spatial data in inter-organisational processes depends on the structural characteristics of the process involved. Process structure here refers to the way in which tasks are divided and coordinated between the organisations in a process chain, and to the allocation of the spatial data handling tasks in that process. Spatial data performance describes the level of access, use, and sharing of spatial data in the process. The paper presents the results of a comparative case study of inter-organisational public sector processes in the fields of urban planning, flood management, population registration, environmental permit delivery, and road safety monitoring. The findings suggest that spatial data performance in inter-organisational processes depends on the interplay between the structural characteristics of the process. Unfragmented processes with embedded activities that are related to spatial data are apparently linked to a high level of spatial data performance, while fragmented processes without centralised coordination, or processes in which the spatial data-related activities are separated from the actual process, seem to relate to lower levels of spatial data performance.

Keywords: spatial data, performance, public sector, coordination, task division

Source: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17538947.2014.945499

IJSDIR Call for papers: Research articles about reusable geospatial data

The International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research (IJSDIR) has just made a pre-announcement for the 1st IJSDIR Special Call for Geospatial Dataset Descriptions. In recent years e-Science and Science 2.0 have been promoting the sharing of research outputs online; to not only include research articles but also tools, models, methodologies and data. Those working with geospatial data in pure and applied research, including policy support, have the opportunity to publish their findings in a range of journals but the datasets rarely are peer-reviewed.

The IJSDIR would like to explore filling this gap in in support of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) and will shortly be inviting researchers and practitioners to submit descriptions of their datasets as short scientific papers for peer-review. Published papers will, amongst other topics, illustrate current and potential areas for reuse of the geospatial datasets. Such examples could contribute to ARE3NA's existing evidence base about the cross-cutting nature of geospatial data to support a range of public policies. Custodians and managers of INSPIRE datasets are encouraged to submit examples for this special call.

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

CGIAR Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB) Atlas
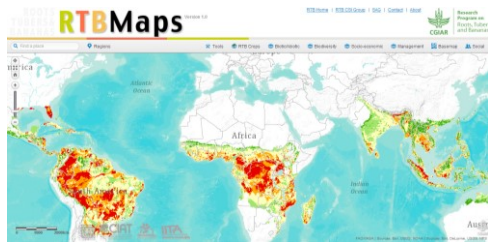
RTB Atlas (http://www.rtb.cgiar.org/RTBMaps/) is an online mapping resource for the community of people working to improve roots, tubers and banana crops across the world. The site is continually under construction, as we are adding new maps and other resources. We are trying to include any map layers that are somehow related to crop production for cassava, potato, sweet potato, yam, banana and plantain. The resource places particular emphasis on the biotic, abiotic, management and socioeconomic constraints and opportunities for growing these crops. Under the TOOLS button, you can run a weighted overlay analysis of factors that you consider important for geographic targeting of resources or technologies. We welcome your feedback and suggestions about how we can improve this online mapping resource. See also: RTB GIS initiative promotes open data http://www.cgiar-csi.org/983

Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative

GODAN (http://www.godan.info/) is an initiative that seeks to support global efforts to make agricultural and nutritional data available, accessible, and usable for unrestricted use worldwide. The initiative focuses on building high-level policy and public and private institutional support for open data and encourages collaboration and cooperation among existing agriculture and open data activities, without duplication, and brings together all stakeholders to solve long-standing global problems.

The GODAN initiative welcomes all those who share this purpose to join as members and to participate in shaping coordinated activities that can deliver on the potential of open data for agriculture and nutrition. In fact, GODAN is the first global open data initiative spanning across public and private entities including donors, international organizations and businesses. In this direction, GODAN is open to public and private entities including donors, international organizations and businesses. Contact: GODANinitiative@gmail.com.

Source: http://aims.fao.org/community/blogs/1opening-data-agriculture-and-nutrition-godan-initiative

New Landsat 7 data available for online access

The European Space Agency (ESA) recently completed reprocessing the high-quality ortho-rectified data from the Landsat 7 satellite with the latest version (3.03) of the Landsat processor. About 28,000 new products are now available for direct download, free of charge at: https://earth.esa.int/web/guest/data-access/browse-data-products/-/asset_publisher/y8Qb/content/landsat-7-etm-enhanced-thematic-mapper-plus-geolocated-terrain-corrected-systematic-processing-over-kiruna-and-masplomas. The products from the satellite's Enhanced Thematic Mapper (ETM+) instrument were acquired by the Kiruna and Maspalomas ground stations between 1999 and 2003.

Source: https://earth.esa.int/web/guest/missions/user-services-news/-/asset_publisher/lD7r/content/new-landsat-7-data-available-for-online-access

3D Mapping, Visualization and Crowdsourcing – Fragile State Contexts

Crowdsourcing is emerging as a factor leading toward better governance in fragile state conflicts – it has potential to do more. The World Bank recently-published paper 'The Role of Crowdsourcing for Better Governance in Fragile State Contexts' by Maja Bott, Björn-Sören Gigler, and Gregor Young examines the role that citizens armed with map-based tools, backed by infrastructure, can play in improved governance. The article leads the reader through the pathway that defines conflicted areas. Mapping and visualization are mentioned since they are key tools that arm interested citizens with capabilities to challenge transparency and governance issues.

Crowdsourced approaches provide the following mechanisms:
- Oversight. The various means by which citizen organizations are able to monitor and publicize the behavior of elected and appointed rulers.
- Prevention. Their capacity to mobilize resistance to or support of specific policies, either before or after they have been selected.
- Judgment. The trend toward "juridification" of politics when individuals or social groups use the courts and jury trials to bring delinquent politicians to judgment.

This paper directs attention to the leveraging of crowdsourcing across divides and conflicts. It says, "Few electronic mapping initiatives have made progress in situations of conflict between a government and rebel movements. One example is the Crisis and Recovery Mapping and Analysis (CRMA) project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sudan, which, however promising, has not yet reached the crowdsourcing stage, working instead with a "bounded crowd.""

While we are witness to plenty of crowdsourced activities today, few of them are moving from interested crowds to crossing bridges. Obviously something that, hopefully, will emerge soon.

These tools can also be used by activists to stir up conflict and as propaganda tools. Rebel advances and wide-scale, open publishing can have negative impressions too. Is it any wonder that journalists often suggest that fact checking and neutral reporting were previously 'bounded crowding' approaches, albeit on a smaller scale by professional journalists. The question remains, do you believe everything you see and learn about through crowdsourcing?

And that is where this paper is aimed. And why you ought to consider reading it.
Access report: https://wbi.worldbank.org/wbi/Data/wbi/wbicms/files/drupal-acquia/wbi/crowdsourcing_final_0.pdf

Source: http://www.3dvisworld.com/3DVW/?p=2239

International Conference of Crisis Mappers (ICCM) 2014, November 6-9, 2014, New York, NY USA

The International Conference of Crisis Mappers (ICCM) brings together key humanitarian, human rights, development and media organizations with the world's best technology companies, software developers, and academics. A neutral space where important conversations can take place between diverse actors, the annual ICCM conference leads to concrete new projects and deliverables across a variety of domains. As a community of practice, the ICCM thus helps to catalyze innovation in the area of humanitarian technology.

Source: http://crisismappers.net/

Contradictory effects in efficiency and citizens' participation when employing Geo-ICT apps

Author(s): Muhammad Kurniawan & Walter T. de Vries

Abstract: With the increasing use of web-based mapping applications, inter-mediation between public planning agencies and citizens is changing. This article investigates how one form of inter-mediation, geo-ICT-enabled apps (applications on mobile phones and/or internet that use maps or locations as basic references for any functional analysis), influences the degree of efficiency and participation in managing public space. The theoretical assumption here is that such apps encourage information disclosure and therefore have the potential to make a local government more responsive and transparent. Drawing on observation, interviews, and document and web content analysis conducted as part of a case study, this article suggests that the apps have indeed enhanced one municipality's response and have made citizens more active in uploading their complaints. However, unexpected and contradictory effects include an increase in trivial complaints, which has made the handling of reports less efficient, and the emergence of opportunistic behaviour by third parties on the basis of the complaints, which has made the services less effective. Consequently, the assumed causal relation between enhanced citizen participation and increased transparency and information disclosure requires an adaptation that incorporates such wicked effects.

Keywords: Transparency, citizens' maps, geo-ICT-enabled intermediation, public space

Source: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03003930.2014.937001

GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR

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

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS

To see the latest news from the e-mail Forums maintained by the GSDI Committees and the regional SDI news, visit the website at http://www.gsdi.org/discussionlists, choose the Forum of interest and select the 'Archives' option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above. You do not have to be a member of the GSDI Association in order to join a Forum.

The GSDI Association

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

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

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

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

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

"Advancing a Location Enabled World"