

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

SDI-LAC

April 2009

Vol. 6, No. 4

Spatial Data Infrastructure-Latin America and the Caribbean (SDI-LAC) is a regional, monthly, and free, electronic newsletter from the [Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association](#) (GSDI). It focuses on aspects related with Spatial Data Infrastructure, and on GIS, remote sensing, and data management issues, related with SDI in Latin America and the Caribbean. It aims to raise awareness, provide useful information to strengthen national SDI initiatives, and support synchronization of regional efforts.



[GSDI Definition](#)

The [Pan-American Institute of Geography and History](#) (PAIGH), member organization of GSDI, and the [Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas](#) (PC-IDEA), promote SDI development in the region. The newsletter is prepared by PAIGH for GSDI.

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## Message from the Editor

Now, SDI-LAC Newsletter is available in Portuguese! Portuguese Translation of SDI-LAC is possible thanks to Eduardo Freitas-Oliveira, a cartographic engineer, MSc in GIS, editor of MundoGEO Web Portal and InfoGEO Magazine; and Silvana Camboim, a cartographic engineer, MSc in GIS, from GeoPlus Tecnologia e Informatica.

Due to an increasing volume of information on events, the respective section will be restricted to those events taking place in the Americas. However, for "The Rest of the World: Conferences, SDI Events", please find a link to upcoming events of global or major international interest in GSDI webpage at: <http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters.asp>

We kindly inform that SDI-LAC Newsletter is taking correspondent members in each country of the LAC region. Next issues will include their contributions. If you would like to become a correspondent for your country please contact Nancy Aguirre [cnaguirre@ipgh.org](mailto:cnaguirre@ipgh.org). In principle the only requirement is that you are an active member in the Spatial Data Infrastructure activities of your country.

If you have news or information related to GIS, remote sensing, and spatial data infrastructure that you would like to highlight (e.g., projects, conferences, workshop announcements, publications, reports, websites of interest, etc.), kindly send them in. We would be happy to include them in the newsletter. We also encourage you to send to the editor your comments and suggestions for the continuous improvement of SDI-LAC Newsletter. **PLEASE share this newsletter with colleagues who may find the information useful, and ideally they will subscribe themselves.**

Back issues of the newsletter are at the GSDI website: <http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters.asp>

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## Input to this Issue

### Thank you for their contributions to this issue of the SDI-LAC newsletter to:

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Dagmar Baumgartner	Event Management, Z_GIS Centre for Geoinformatics, University of Salzburg, Austria
Santiago Borrero	Secretary General, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, PAIGH, Mexico
Wang Changlin	ISDE6 Secretariat, 6th International Symposium on Digital Earth, Beijing, China
Tania L. Cobos	Content Analyst, Universia Portal, Colombia
Vijay Datadin	Caribbean GIS, Guyana
Glenn Hyman	Agricultural Geographer, People and Agroecosystems, CIAT, Colombia
Petra Jenewein	Event Management, Z_GIS Centre for Geoinformatics, University of Salzburg, Austria
Kate Lance	National Space Science and Technology Center (NSSTC), Huntsville, AL, USA
John Musinsky	Senior Director, Center for Applied Biodiversity Science, Conservation International, Arlington, VA, USA
Harlan Onsrud	Interim Executive Director, GSDI Association, Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, University of Maine, USA
Karen Payne	University of Georgia, Information Technology Outreach Services, Athens, GA, USA
Steven D. Prager	Chairperson, UCGIS Education Committee, USA
Alberto Santos	Editor <i>Directions Magazine</i> in Spanish, Spain
Jochen Scholl	E-Government Track at the 43rd Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS-43), USA
Leslie B. Smith	Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief, Marine Geodesy, The Ohio State University, USA

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## SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

### [Lunchtime seminar: Perspectives on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure](#)

Source: Harlan Onsrud by way of Santiago Borrero

25 February 2009, 1:45 - 2:45 pm, Conference Room 3, United Nations, New York, Organizer: UNSD, IBGE, WHO

This lunchtime seminar provided perspectives on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI). National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) is a combination of technology, policies, standards and human resources necessary to acquire, process, store, distribute, and improve utilization of geospatial data at the country level. Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) supports ready global access to geographic information; it is built on national SDIs operated by member states and other constituent information-sharing communities. More specifically, administrative boundaries, population distribution as well as geographic features' names are fundamental components of any national spatial data infrastructure. The United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI) promotes the creation of these core layers, at least two of which are commonly under the authority of the National Statistical Offices. Two presentations were given: [National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Brazil](#) by Luiz Paulo Souto Fortes, Director of Geosciences, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (in Portuguese IBGE); and [Global Spatial Data Infrastructure \(GSDI\): from the national to the global level](#) by Steeve Ebner, World Health Organization.



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## [Platinum Sponsor for GSDI World Conference](#)

Source: <http://www.gim-international.com/>

Autodesk will be supporting this year's GSDI World Conference to be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands on 15th to 19th June 2009. The theme is "Spatial Data Infrastructure Convergence: Building SDI Bridges to Address Global Challenges" and Autodesk is supporting the event as a Platinum sponsor. Autodesk's investment in the conference demonstrates its strengthening role in the geospatial business area -in particular, supporting local governments manage their meta-data to meet INSPIRE directives and using its technology and experience to help them integrate GIS and CAD into a single source of centralized information. Autodesk is also currently extending its partnerships in this area to help further build on its expertise and knowledge to help customers move from theory to practice and so take advantage of current opportunities.

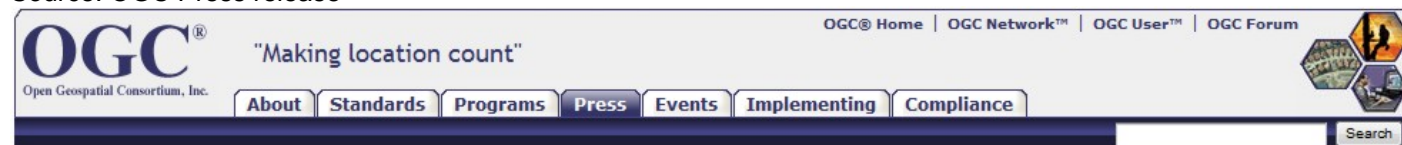
## **UNGIWG/GSDI and UNGIWG Chairmanship hand-over**

Source: Harlan Onsrud by way of Santiago Borrero

The United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) has formed a new partners list for its UN-SDI and related initiatives. GSDI is a formal partner. The UNGIWG Secretariat has now moved to Bonn and is supported by Lóránt Czárán (Head, United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER Bonn Office, [Czaran@unoosa.org](mailto:Czaran@unoosa.org)). The new co-chairs are Mr. David Stevens (Programme Coordinator, UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER, [David.Stevens@unoosa.org](mailto:David.Stevens@unoosa.org)), Andre Nonguierma, (Senior GIS Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa – Programme on ICT and Science and Technology UNECA/ICTSTD, [nonguierma@un.org](mailto:nonguierma@un.org)). Dozie Ezigbalike [ezigbalike.uneca@un.org](mailto:ezigbalike.uneca@un.org) has been promoted to a position at the African Centre for Statistics but will continue in a supporting role.

## [OGC forms Spatial Law and Policy Committee](#)

Source: OGC Press release



The Board of Directors of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) has chartered a committee of the Board to specifically address the "spatial law and policy issues" which will influence development requirements of the Consortium's technology process. The Spatial Law and Policy Committee (SLPC) will be chaired by OGC director and Executive Committee member, Kevin Pomfret, and will be organized under board leadership as an educational forum to include both select member and community participation. In the past, legal issues associated with spatial data and technology were primarily a concern for lawyers that worked with or for the government. Now, both public sector and private sector users and providers of geospatial data and technologies face a wide range of legal issues associated with growth in consumer and business applications for spatial technology. Such applications include Earth browsers, satellite navigation devices in cars and PDA's, location-based services associated with cell phones, business intelligence, social networking and satellite tracking of vehicles and equipment. All of these applications raise issues that involve intellectual property rights, liability, privacy, and national security. In many cases, the existing legal and policy framework is inadequate to provide governments, businesses and consumers clear guidance on these issues.

## **Conservation International (CI) announces release of Version 2.0 of the Fire Alert System (FAS)**

Source: John Musinsky

Conservation International (CI) is pleased to announce the release of Version 2.0 of the Fire Alert System (FAS), which provides near real-time delivery of active fire data from NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites for Bolivia, Peru, Indonesia and Madagascar. FAS users can subscribe to receive reports, maps, and email notifications with custom jpeg images, text files, ArcGIS shapefiles and GoogleEarth KML files of fires occurring within user-defined areas of interest. For a no-cost subscription, please visit: <http://firealerts.conservation.org>

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Fire Alert System Release 2.0 contains the following enhancements:

- Complete redesign of the subscription website
- Automated daily or weekly alerts for three new countries: Indonesia, Bolivia and Peru, in addition to Madagascar
- Two new languages: Spanish and Indonesian, in addition to English and French
- Incorporation of country-specific “areas of interest”, including protected areas, key biodiversity areas, indigenous areas, vegetation and forest cover types, administrative boundaries, and forest concessions
- Ability to select multiple areas of interest to better target alerts
- On-line access to monthly and multi-year reports and maps
- Links to CI’s Fire Risk website

The Fire Alert System was developed in collaboration with the University of Maryland’s Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS <http://maps.geog.umd.edu/firms/>), NASA’s MODIS Rapid Response System <http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/>, International Resources Group (IRG <http://www.irgltd.com/index.php>), Madagascar’s Ministry of Environment, Forests and Tourism (MEFT <http://www.meeft.gov.mg/>) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID <http://www.usaid.gov/>). For more information, please contact John Musinsky, [j.musinsky@conservation.org](mailto:j.musinsky@conservation.org)

### **GIST repository and data in support of humanitarian relief operations**

Source: Karen Payne

The Geographic Information Support Team (GIST) is an inter-agency initiative that promotes the use of geographic data standards and geographical information systems in support of humanitarian relief operations. In support of their global data management and integration needs, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) funds the GIST Data Repository hosted by Information Technology Outreach Services (ITOS) of the University of Georgia. The GIST website (<https://gist.itos.uga.edu/>) provides a data exchange platform where the registered users can download data. Data contributions are also welcome; individuals wishing to distribute data through the GIST portal should contact the administrator Karen Payne, [kpayne@itos.uga.edu](mailto:kpayne@itos.uga.edu).

### **A Multi-View Framework to Asses Spatial Data Infrastructures**

Source: <http://unsdihu.blogspot.com/>



The book entitled A Multi-View Framework to Asses Spatial Data Infrastructures was recently published by the University of Melbourne. Editors: Joep Crompvoets (Wageningen University), Abbas Rajabifard (GSDI Vice-President, Melbourne University), Bastiaan van Loenen (ITC) and Tatiana Delgado Fernández (Cuba).

### **Interactive Forum on Next Generation Digital Earth**

Source: <http://forums.ec.europa.eu/>



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An interactive Forum on Next Generation Digital Earth has been opened. The forum has been created to allow views to be shared on the paper "Next-Generation Digital Earth: A position paper from the Vespucci Initiative for the Advancement of Geographic Information Science" (<http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/article/viewFile/119/99>), and is separated into two parts with associated headings: one for **the vision of the paper** relating to "next-generation Digital Earth", the other for **the priority research areas** needed to achieve the vision and tackle its challenges. More information on the paper and the forum is found [here](#).

### [Annual Meeting of the Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

Source: <http://www.redgealc.net/>



The annual meeting of the Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean, RED GEALC, was held in Montevideo, Uruguay on March 5-6, with presence of e-government managers in the region, and -for the first time- of ministers of the area. In addition, the meeting included speakers such as former Costa Rican President José María Figueres, the digital media consultant for the campaign of U.S. President Barak Obama, Joe Rospars, the Minister of Communications of Colombia, María del Rosario Guerra; the Executive Director of Leadership for a Networked World, of Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Zachary Tumino, and the Minister of Telecommunications, Science, Technology and Industry of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Jerol Thompson, among other distinguished panelists.

### [SIRGAS 2009 General Meeting](#)

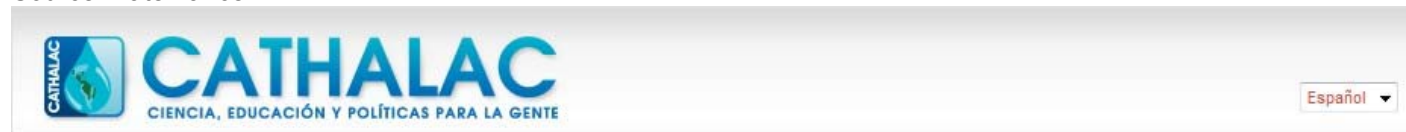
Source: <http://www.sirgas.org/>

The SIRGAS 2009 General Meeting will be held between August 31 to September 4, in Buenos Aires, Argentina within the International Association of Geodesy Scientific Assembly (IAG). More information on the meeting at: <http://www.sirgas.org/>



### [Mesoamerican Coordination System for Territorial Information](#)

Source: Kate Lance



Following the Declaration of the Tenth Presidential Summit of the Dialogue Mechanism of Tuxtla, regarding the Mesoamerica Project, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) signed a major agreement for the establishment of the Mesoamerican Territorial Information System for Reducing Natural Disaster's Risk, a project funded for US\$1.2 million, with a contribution from IDB for US\$800 thousand and a regional contribution of US\$400 thousand. This project, funded under the Program of Regional Public Goods IDB aims to strengthen capacities in the region on Sustainable Development and Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Territorial Information Management. With this system, participating countries will have accurate and updated information for disasters' prevention and management due to

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natural phenomena occurring in the region. Soon a workshop will be held in Panama regarding initial implementation and development of the Mesoamerican Territorial Information System for Reduction of Disasters' Risks with participation of civil protection institutions in the region.

### [Survey of ICT and Education in the Caribbean](#)

Source: Kate Lance



infoDev has released a new study that reviews and surveys the state of ICT and Education in the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean. The Survey of ICT and Education in the Caribbean comprises 16 country reports that provide an overview of the current activities and developments related to ICT use in education in each country.

### [Update on UNIGIS program in Latin America](#)

Source: Karl Atzmanstorfer



The UNIGIS program for Latin America had not only renewed its website (<http://www.unigis.edu.ec/>) but also expanded the UNIGIS network in different regions of the continent through learning centers that support the program's management at a regional level (on May 2009, our study center in Cali, Colombia will start working, for example). Next course begins in October, and more information on it will be posted soon.

### [ONE introduces its new institutional portal, Dominican Republic](#)

Source: <http://www.one.gob.do/>



Aimed at providing users with a mechanism for easy access to quality statistical information, the National Statistics Office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic, launched its new official website. The design of this site was carried out in accordance with the requirements of electronic government, supervised and regulated in the country by the Presidential Office of Information and Communication Technology (in Spanish OPTIC). The site includes information on the National School of Statistics, which offers technical and methodological information for ONE's staff and the National Statistical System; the Unit of Gender and Statistics, which aims to ensure gender analyses and approaches in statistical production; and Provincial Profiles, which include statistical information available at the provincial level, both from the ONE and other institutions.

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## [CONCAR prepares Deployment Plan of National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(NSDI\), Brazil](http://www.concar.ibge.gov.br/)

Fuente: <http://www.concar.ibge.gov.br/>



CONCAR prepares Deployment Plan of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), to be submitted soon to the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management. The deployment of NSDI Plan should contain:

- Time for deployment of physical and virtual structures of the Brazilian Directory of Geospatial Data (in Spanish DBDG) and GIS Brazil (the NSDI portal);
- Deadline for CONCAR's establishment of approved standards for geospatial data metadata;
- Deadline for the organs and entities of the federal executive power to submit to CONCAR and to store inside systems of their responsibility, its collection's geospatial data metadata;
- Deadline for early disclosure of metadata of geospatial data and the provision of related services, by GIS Brazil;
- Rules for the provision of NSDI metadata by new projects or acquisitions of geospatial data; and
- Financial resources for NSDI implementation after the IBGE, including DBDG and GIS Brazil requirements, as well as financial resources for developing NSDI standards for diffusion, human resource training, and promotion of partnerships with public, federal, state, district and municipal institutions and agencies.

Accordingly, CONCAR is developing a proposal that is being conducted by expert committees, coordinated in turn by the Planning Committee of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (CINDE), which involves over 100 experts indicated by contracting States of CONCAR.

## [Colombian Space Commission held 6th Meeting](http://www.igac.gov.co/)

Source: <http://www.igac.gov.co/>

Major Working Groups' progresses, next steps to be followed, and priority projects for ensuring further consolidation of the Colombian Space Commission (in Spanish CCE), were presented during this 6th plenary meeting. A document on Guidelines for Strengthening the National Policy on Geographic Information (in Spanish PNIG) and the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure (in Spanish ICDE), was also presented for approval within the framework established by the National Development Plan 2006- 2010. The PNIG is a set of guidelines and standards designed to coordinate and regulate the production, acquisition, access and use of geospatial data owned by public entities in the country.



## [Snit Held first National Coordination Workshop 2009, Chile](http://www.snit.cl/)

Source: <http://www.snit.cl/>

On March 26, 2009, the first National Coordination Workshop on SNIT (National Territorial Information System of Chile) 2009 was held. Under this working and planning meeting, were summoned all regional SNIT responsible persons, thematic areas coordinators, and members of the Inter-ministerial Coordination Technical Committee. This conference aimed to analyze the strategic situation of the national coordination, framed within the Work Plan 2007-2010 (specified

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by the Council of Ministers of Territorial Information). Activities to be undertaken during 2009 at different levels of coordination were also identified, and important decisions were taken to advancing geospatial data and standards' technological progress in the country. Among other topics covered the following were included: definition of a strategic framework 2009-2010; Presentation of "Geonodo" functionalities and formal launch of this application; and, identification of actions towards consolidation of territorial information systems in each of the country's regions.

### [Chilean Snit in Web 2.0](http://www.snit.cl/)

Source: <http://www.snit.cl/>



Recent creation of the National Territorial Information Community, poses conditions for a new phase of the system's development to extend its territorial Information coordination efforts to all organizations and institutions of the civil society. Here we explore this scenario, supported by Web 2.0 tools and a public site created ad hoc.

### [Territorial System's Management, El Salvador](http://www.cnr.gov.sv/)

Source: <http://www.cnr.gov.sv/>



The National Registration Center (in Spanish CNR) of El Salvador, Department of the Geographic Institute and National Cadastre (in Spanish DIGN) by way of the Institutional Strategic Plan, has begun a modernization process for development of new digital products, namely Topographic Maps at Scale 1:25,000 and 1:50,000, and the Official Map of the Republic of El Salvador at scale 1:200,000. The Direction of Territorial Systems as part of its mission creates, maintains and updates national data as a basis for creating maps feeding Geographic Information Systems, and other publications. More information at: [http://www.cnr.gov.sv/igcn\\_sistemas\\_territoriales.aspx](http://www.cnr.gov.sv/igcn_sistemas_territoriales.aspx)

### [PROSIGA-IDERA Portal, Argentina Updated](http://www.prosiga.gov.ar/)

Source: <http://www.prosiga.gov.ar/>



Portal of the Project National Geographic Information System of the Republic of Argentina -Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Republic of Argentina (PROSIGA-IDERA) has been updated and is now available in English and Spanish. It includes, among other items: Map Viewer, Toponyms Finder, Metadata and Catalog. More information at: <http://www.prosiga.gov.ar/>



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## [REGME \(GNSS Network for Continuous Monitoring of Ecuador\):](#)

Source: <http://www.geoportaligm.gov.ec:8080/>

The Military Geographical Institute (in Spanish IGM), as lead mapping agency in Ecuador has the purpose of establishing and maintaining a modern Geodetic Reference Framework that is compatible with measurement techniques available today, such as satellite Global Positioning Systems (GPS, GLONASS and Galileo in the near future). Upon this objective, IGM with support of public and private institutions in the country has established REGME, which currently consists of 7 stations distributed throughout the national territory: S061, Riópar, GLPS, PTEC, GYEC, CUEC, and LJEC.



## [Experimental SIRGAS Processing Center](#)

Source: <http://www.geoportaligm.gov.ec:8080/>

The Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador began activities in the Experimental SIRGAS Processing Center as of January 2009. Main features of the new Experimental Center are:

Name: Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador

Abbreviation: ECU

Stations: Processed initially: AMHU, ARCA, AREQ, BANS, BRAZ, CALI, CRO1, CRUZ, CUEC (Cuenca), FLOR, GLPS (Galápagos), GYEC (Guayaquil), IQQE, KOUR, LJEC (Loja), MANA, MEDE, POVE, PSTO, PTEC (Portoviejo), RIOB, RIOP (Riobamba), ROGM, S061 (Quito), SAGA, SAMA, TUNA, UNSA, VALL and VIVI.

Software: Bernese 5.0, Windows

Coordinators: César Leiva, Miguel Bayas

Links: <http://www.sirgas.org/>

## [Kadaster en Openbares Registers Curacao Selects Mapsuite](#)

Source: <http://www.gim-international.com/>

Kadaster en Openbares registers Curacao handles all the Islands documents regarding new parcels, cadastre and permissions for new constructions. It is more than 2,000 errands per year. The last years they have gone through a long process digitizing all the cadastre registrations the past 50 years and the map has been digitized. To complete the chain from survey to map and also to have a tool for map editing the Kadaster in Curacao did evaluate several applications

## [Barcelona will host FOSS4G 2010](#)

Source: Alberto Santos Estévez



One of most important news of the 3rd Working Days "SIG Libre", held in Girona, Spain on March 11-13, 2009, was the announcement by the Director of GIS and Remote Sensing at the University of Girona, Irene Compte, of the FOSS4G 2010 (Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial) to take place in Barcelona. In 2008 the [event](#) took place in Cape Town (South Africa) and this year, the [FOSS4G](#) promoted by OSGeo, will be held in Sydney (Australia) from October 23. Barcelona city competed with sites such as Utrecht, Beijing and Denver, but the thrust of the free software

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community in Spain and Europe added to the undoubted charisma of one of its promoters, Lorenzo Bechi among others, have made it possible for the event to move to Spain.

### [Report on National Infrastructure Data Model Project of Canada Now Available](#)

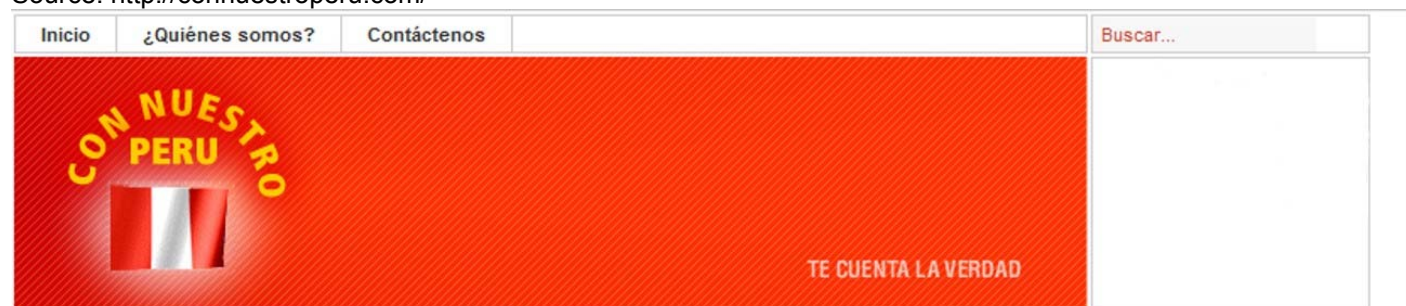
Source: <http://www.cgdi.gc.ca/>



GeoConnections has issued a project report about the newly created National Infrastructure Data Model of Canada (NIDM), and you can access this report online. Launched by GeoConnections with input from emergency managers and infrastructure owners and operators, the NIDM provides a basis for a common operational picture of infrastructure assets. For example, an emergency management organization and the military would have the same information about, say, an oil refinery-its location, proximity to populated areas, capacity, and so on. In addition to describing the NIDM, the report contains information on authoritative sources of geospatial infrastructure data and recommends how jurisdictions can exchange infrastructure data using the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure. To read the report, go to: <http://www.geoconnections.org/en/resourcelibrary/keyStudiesReports>

### [Concytec \(Peru\) signs first agreement with Korean company Safi Global SAC](#)

Source: <http://connuestroperu.com/>



The aim is to present and disseminate the technology of Korean companies through the demonstration center at Concytec (National Council of Science, Technology and Technological Innovation). Signing this important agreement provides for mutual cooperation activities between the two institutions for implementing e-government in Peru. Dr. Jaime Valencia Cabrera, General Secretary (e) CONCYTEC, representing the President of the Institution, stressed the importance of the Convention and the commitment of the CONCYTEC by driving a culture of technology recovery and generation, "there is a serious commitment to strengthening Science and Technology and this needs an articulated work that leads to social improvement and overcoming poverty in the country."

### [Call for Research Papers to HICSS-43](#)

Source: Jochen Scholl

This is an invitation to submit a research paper to one of the mini tracks of the E-Government Track at the 43rd Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS-43). HICSS-43 (2010) will be held from January 5-8, 2010 at Koloa, Kauai, HI/USA. The e-Government Track will host eight mini tracks: Development Methods for Electronic Government, Emerging Topics, e-Participation, e-Citizenship, and Digital Democracy, e-Policy, e-Governance, Ethics, and Law, e-Services and Information, Information Security, Infrastructure and Interoperability and Organization and

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Management. Submission deadline: **June 15, 2009** For details please see <http://faculty.washington.edu/jscholl/hicss43/> Among e-Government scholars the HICSS e-Government Track has an excellent reputation. Several times it has been ranked the academically most rigorous research conference on e-Government in the world.

### [FIG/ World Bank Conference "Land Governance in Support of the Millennium Development Goals: Responding to New Challenges" - Washington DC, USA 9-10 March 2009](#)

Source: FIG e-Newsletter - March 2009



#### FIG – World Bank Conference, Washington D.C., USA, 9–10 March 2009

The FIG – World Bank (WB) Conference "Land Governance in Support of the Millennium Development Goals: Responding to New Challenges" took place at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington D.C., on 9-10 March 2009. The conference was organized by FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) and the World Bank. The general aim was to emphasize the important role of Land Governance in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to show how FIG and the WB work in parallel in this regard. The Conference was attended by about 200 invited international experts representing governments, UN agencies, development agencies, professionals, academia and private sector. Read more: [www.fig.net/news/news\\_2009/fig\\_wb\\_march\\_2009.htm](http://www.fig.net/news/news_2009/fig_wb_march_2009.htm); Proceedings on FIG web site: [www.fig.net/pub/fig\\_wb\\_2009](http://www.fig.net/pub/fig_wb_2009)

### **Geoinformatics Forum Salzburg (GI\_Forum2009)**

Source: Dagmar Baumgartner and Petra Jenewein



7-10 July, 2009, Salzburg, Austria [www.gi-forum.org](http://www.gi-forum.org)

The Geoinformatics Forum Salzburg 2009 focuses on an international GIScience audience, communicating in English and sharing an interest in translating new methods and techniques into a broad range of application domains in geoinformatics. Researchers find a vibrant GI community from academia, industry, and government to analyze progress and to explore new research directions. The symposium runs concurrently with the highly regarded German language conference on Applied Geoinformatics (AGIT [www.agit.at](http://www.agit.at)), sharing the innovative EXPO exhibit. Submission deadline for poster presentation is **June 5, 2009**. More information: [www.gi-forum.org](http://www.gi-forum.org), Contact: [office@gi-forum.org](mailto:office@gi-forum.org)

### **Call for Abstracts for the "JBGIS Best Practices Booklet on Geo-information for Risk and Disaster Management"**

Source: UN SPIDER by way of Santiago Borrero

Each year, disasters such as storms, floods, volcano outbreaks and earthquakes cause thousands of deaths and tremendous damage to property around the world, displacing tens of thousands of people from their homes and destroying their livelihoods. Many of these deaths and losses could be prevented if better information were available

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regarding the onset and course of such disasters. Several technologies offer the potential to improve prediction and monitoring of hazards, risk mitigation and Disaster Management, such as meteorological and Earth observation satellites, communication satellites and satellite-based positioning. Helpful application of these technologies requires a solid base of political support, legal frameworks, administrative regulations, institutional responsibility and capacity, and technical training. Early warning systems have to be part of disaster management plans and policies. Preparedness to respond is to be engrained into public awareness.

Therefore, the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS, <http://www.fig.net/jbgis/>) and UN-SPIDER jointly invite to contribute to a "Best Practices Booklet on Geo-information for Risk and Disaster Management" that will create a decision support forum based on the knowledge and experience of experts and will outline the potential uses of the Geo-Information Technologies to governmental, institutional and operative decision makers all over the world. So the articles should be no lengthy scientific publications but short enough to be read during a coffee break. They should address one or more of the pertinent disaster types and technologies.

The Abstracts should not exceed 400 words and should outline a successful application, including data acquisition, information extraction and dissemination, and a clear statement of the benefits and further potential of the practice described as compared to classical methods.

The deadline for submitting the abstracts is **30 April** 2009. The abstracts should be submitted as an email attachment to Prof. Piero Boccoardo ([piero.boccoardo@polito.it](mailto:piero.boccoardo@polito.it)).

The Committee will select a certain number of abstracts and inform the potential authors of full papers on **30 May** 2009. The abstracts which are not selected for the "Best Practices Booklet" will be evaluated for the Gi4DM to be organized early 2010 in Turin Italy. The deadline for submission of the selected full papers is **30 September** 2009.

Publication and worldwide announcement of the "Best Practices Booklet" is planned on **2 July 2010** in Vienna at UNOOSA (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs).



Joint Board of  
**Geospatial Information Societies**

### [Call for Paper - The 6th International Symposium on Digital Earth](#)

Source: Wang Changlin



We are very pleased to invite your submission of a contribution to the 6th International Symposium on Digital Earth, which will be held from 9-12 September, 2009 in Beijing, China. Digital Earth is a virtual representation of our planet and a global initiative aimed at harnessing the world's data and information resources to develop a virtual 3-D model of the Earth in order to monitor, measure, and forecast natural and human activities on the planet. It has a broad domain related to earth observation, geographic information system, global positioning system, virtual reality, computer technology, geosciences and social sciences etc. The abstract submission is due on **April 30**. Please make an online submission of your abstract, and for more information about the symposium, please visit [www.isde6.org](http://www.isde6.org). Besides, the *International Journal of Digital Earth* (IJDE), which is an official journal of the International Society for Digital Earth published by Taylor & Francis welcomes the submission of your original research paper to the journal. For online submission please visit <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijde>.

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## Articles of the Month

### **Building Institutional and Organisational Capacity for Land Administration**

By Iain Greenway, United Kingdom (Article presented to the [FIG - World Bank Conference on Land Governance in Support of the Millennium Development Goals: Responding to New Challenges](#), Washington D.C., USA, 9-10 March 2009)

#### Summary by the author:

A key component of a land administration system is to put in place organisations that are sufficiently robust to develop, enable and ensure the effective operation of surveying and land administration activities. The relevant organisations include the professional surveying associations and private surveying companies, as well as the government agencies such as mapping organisations and the organisations with land registration and land administration responsibilities. The current FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) Council has made Building the Capacity its key priority for its term of office, and the FIG General Assembly in 2007 established a Task Force on Institutional and Organisational Development. This paper describes how the Task Force has developed a capacity assessment model into an assessment template which can be used by organizations and nations to highlight their strengths and weaknesses. The paper also presents, as a basis for further discussion and refinement, a series of key organisational elements which the Task Force believes need to be in place for organisations forming part of land administration systems to work effectively [The complete article may be found at: [http://www.fig.net/pub/fig\\_wb\\_2009/papers/sys/sys\\_1\\_greenway.pdf](http://www.fig.net/pub/fig_wb_2009/papers/sys/sys_1_greenway.pdf)]

### **Beyond SDI: Integrating Science and Communities to Create Environmental Policies for the Sustainability of the Amazon**

By Clodoveu A. Davis Jr., Frederico T. Fonseca, and Gilberto Câmara (Article under Review for the International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures, Research IJSDIR)

#### Abstract by the authors:

In this paper will explore ways to go beyond the traditional SDI (spatial data infrastructures) in the direction of the Digital Earth, with the objective of supporting environmental policies that will lead to sustainability. We use the Amazon region as a starting point for the discussion. Environmental policy making for a place such as the Amazon has to take into account that phenomena occur and are modeled in various geographic scales, ranging from microbiology to planetary climate impacts. There are also multiple and sometimes conflicting views on the same reality, including the many scientific disciplines, governmental and non-governmental views, and the view of the local populations. Currently, the combination of technologies, people, and policies that defines an SDI is probably the best approximation we have to solve these problems, but some important elements are missing. A broader SDI would be an enabler for understanding space, not only delivering general-purpose maps, but disseminating spatial data to support policies for sustainable development. We think it is necessary to go beyond SDI to integrate science and communities in the effort of creating, enforcing, assessing, and revising environmental policies. We discuss the limitations of current SDIs with regards to data and information flow, semantics, and community building. We also review the information needs and modeling challenges for SDIs when used as a support for environmental policy making. [The complete article may be found at: <http://ijmdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijmdir/article/viewFile/130/120>]

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## Geospatial Research and Applications

### Andes Basins Project

Source: Glenn Hyman



We would like to invite you to visit the website (<http://www.bfpandes.org/>) of the "Andes Basins" Project, a research project that investigates issues related to poverty, agriculture and water within the Andean region. We focus our work on three major river basins in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, centering on themes such as water availability, institutional analysis, water productivity, and poverty analysis. The ultimate goal of the project is to provide knowledge that will be useful for planning and development agencies in the formulation and implementation of agricultural programs on water management in the Andean region. Our blog is regularly updated with the latest events, workshops, interviews, and is linked to an online photo gallery, and an extensive list of links.

#### The Policy Support System (P.S.S)

The P.S.S is an innovative online tool that consolidates the research outputs of the Andes Basin Focal Project with the purpose of facilitating better land and water resource management. The data and analysis that is generated by the Andes Basin Focal Project will be the basis of an extensive spatial database with process based models for hydrology, crop production and socio-economic processes. This database will allow analysts and decision makers to theoretically test policy interventions as well as conduct explorative analyses of the region. A pilot version of the P.S.S can be found at: <http://www.bfpandes.org/>

### **Creative Ways to Use the NBII Metadata Clearinghouse: RSS Feeds**

Source: Access Winter 2009 (Vol. 12, No. 1)

Users of the NBII Metadata Clearinghouse can now use RSS to create queries against metadata records of interest, and stay updated on newly added records in the Clearinghouse. These feeds may be used on public Web pages, or in personal RSS feed readers. More information at: <http://www.nbii.gov/>

### [New GIS field guide](#)

Source: Vijay Datadin



MapAction has published the first edition of its Field Guide to Humanitarian Mapping. The guide, which is downloadable free, will help aid organizations to use geospatial tools and methods in their work in emergencies. There are tutorials for Google Earth and open-source GIS software. The guide was written to meet the need for practical, step-by-step advice for aid workers who wish to use free and open-source resources to produce maps both at field and headquarters levels. The first edition contains an introduction to the topic of GIS, followed by chapters focused on the use of two recommended free software tools: Google Earth, and MapWindow. However much of the guidance is also relevant for users of other software. In addition there is a chapter on using GPS to collect data during humanitarian emergencies.

Download the Field Guide to Humanitarian mapping at: <http://www.mapaction.org/content/view/183/59/>

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### [Mapping the country's changing biomass](#)

Source: <http://gcn.com/>

Researchers at the Woods Hole Research Center, through the National Biomass and Carbon Dataset project, are using data gathered on space shuttle missions and satellites to produce a map of the country's biomass. The project's baseline is the National Elevation Dataset compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey, which records ground elevations for the continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii. The team at Woods Hole overlaid that information with data gathered during a space shuttle flight in 2000, which used radar to record the topography of the continental United States. "It was the first radar mission and used two antennae, one inside the shuttle bay and one deployed 60 meters outside the shuttle bay on a boom," said Josef Kellndorfer, the team's leader and an associate scientist at Woods Hole. "From that mission, we got an interferometric signal that would allow us to retrieve topographical information." Kellndorfer said creating the National Biomass and Carbon Dataset was simply a matter of lining up the other two datasets and subtracting one from the other.

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### GIS Tools, Software, Data

#### Now Available Version 0.2 of gvSIG Mobile Pilot

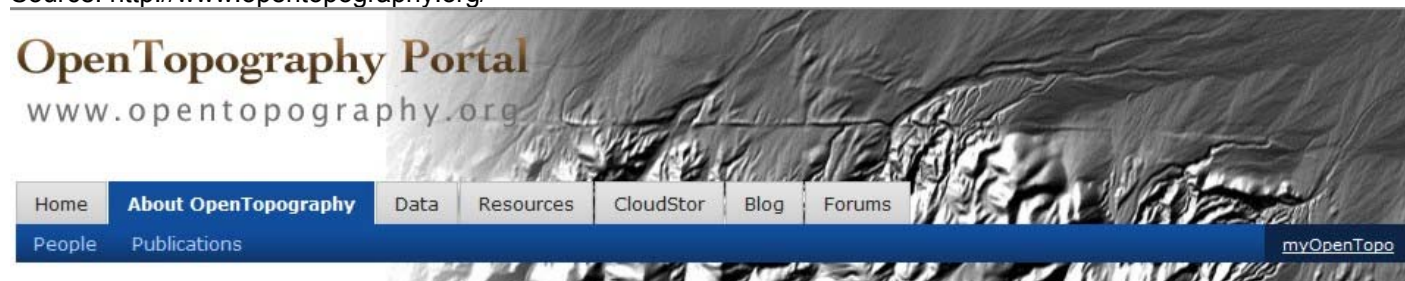
Source: Office of Communication Project gvSIG



A new version of gvSIG Mobile has been released. This version's main adding includes an alphanumeric and graphic CAD type edition, and that the installation can be performed on the PhoneME virtual machine. It is available in the gvSIG Mobile downloads section at (<http://www.gvsig.gva.es/index.php?id=2125&L=0>). The new version includes features that are available under 'gvSIG Mobile News' (<http://www.gvsig.gva.es/index.php?id=2131&L=0>).

### [OpenTopography, new portal on open geospatial data](#)

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



The OpenTopography Portal is a [GEON Project](#) initiative to build an online system that provides integrated access to high-resolution topographic data, web-based processing tools, and enables the user community to share knowledge, experiences and resources. The OpenTopography Portal incorporates the GEON LiDAR Workflow (GLW) system for LiDAR point cloud access and processing and adds mechanisms for access to other data types. The goal of OpenTopography is to provide a portal where access to various public domain airborne and terrestrial LiDAR, bathymetry, and other topographic data can be centralized. We are currently seeking collaborations and partnerships that enable us to make more of these valuable data sets available online.

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## [The Avilés topography network exemplifies good work for accuracy](#)

Source: <http://www.lne.es/>

David Hernández López, an engineer with a doctorate in Geodesy and Cartography, works as a professor at the University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, and has developed geodesic tools with open source software. Avilés, days ago participated in a round table with his colleague Francisco J. Gonzalez Matesanz, and explained characteristics of the European Terrestrial Reference System 1989 (ETRS89), a geodetic reference system that Avilés pioneered in the region.

- For non experts in cartography. What is ETRS89?  
It is a new geodetic reference system where we have moved all the information for future cartographic, geodetic and positioning actions taking place in Europe.
- What are the benefits?  
Most important is the accuracy, uniformity and reliability of data. The avilesinos can use directly the coordinates given by their GPS, to locate their position on new maps without greater error than that of their receiver.
- Is it also related to Google Earth?  
Yes, there are some applications that you can see in this tool. 'Google Earth' works in this system.

## [NASA Launches Eyes On The Earth 3-D](#)

Source: <http://www.spacemart.com/>

New interactive features on NASA's Global Climate Change Web site give the public the opportunity to "fly along" with NASA's fleet of Earth science missions and observe Earth from a global perspective in an immersive, 3-D environment.

Developed using a state-of-the-art, browser-based visualization technology, "Eyes on the Earth 3-D" displays the location of all of NASA's 15 currently operating Earth-observing missions in real time. These missions constantly monitor our planet's vital signs, such as sea level height, concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, global temperatures and extent of sea ice in the Arctic, to name a few.



## [WorldView-2 Successful Instrument Integration](#)

Source: <http://www.gim-international.com/>

DigitalGlobe has announced that the WorldView-2 remote sensing instrument has been integrated by Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. into the WorldView-2 spacecraft and system-level testing has commenced. The third in DigitalGlobe's constellation of commercial remote sensing satellites, WorldView-2's advanced agility and high orbit will expand DigitalGlobe's image collection capabilities to nearly two million square kilometres per day, and enable faster collection of the world's geography with multiple daily revisits to a single location.

## [Mapping a New, Mobile Internet](#)

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/>

A nascent industry involving the likes of Google and Nokia is pinpointing the movements and behaviors of millions of cell-phone users. On a snowy winter evening in New York's SoHo neighborhood, a small team of analysts at a startup called Sense Networks is poring over the movements of nearly 4 million cell-phone users over the course of a year. They have been tracked by global positioning systems, by cell towers that catch their signals, or by local Wi-Fi networks that detect their presence. As far as the Sense analysts can see, these people have no names: They are simply dots moving across the maps on Sense's computers.

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## Training Opportunities

### [Diploma Course on Geoinformation Science, Chile](#)

Source: <http://www.snit.cl/>

Several faculties of the University of Chile joined for a second year to teach this Diploma Course in Geoinformation Science, with a technical and scientific orientation. The program also has partnerships with the Military Geographic Institute of Chile (in Spanish IGM) and the Fach Aerial-Photogrammetric Service (in Spanish SAF). Registration is opened until April, and classes will run between June and December at the Department of Geophysics' Geoinformatics and Modeling Laboratory, of the Faculty of Physical Sciences and Mathematics. More information at: <http://www.forestal.uchile.cl/diplomados/geomatica/>

### **GIS Graduate Programs in Spain**

Source: Alberto Santos

*Directions Magazine* in Spanish, last month issued detailed studies on the GIS graduate programs in Spain. Future editions will try to cover both Latin American public and private institutions:

[GIS Graduate Programs of Public Universities in Spain](#)

### [Cyberinfrastructure Course at Summer Institute 2009 for Geoscientists](#)

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



The Cyberinfrastructure Summer Institute for Geoscientists (CSIG) course series is designed to introduce geoscientists to commonly-used as well as emergent Information Technology (IT) tools. Topics covered include Data Modeling, Web Services, and Geographic Information Systems as well as a brief introduction to key concepts in Grid Computing, Parallel Programming, and Scientific Workflows. Courses will be held on August 10-14 at the San Diego Super Computer Center (SDSC), California.

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## Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

### [Now in Cartagena Latin-American Complutense School](#)

Source: Tania L. Cobos



In late February, the Technological University of Bolivar, and the University of Cartagena, Colombia, refined terms of an academic-administrative agreement with the University Complutense of Madrid (in Spanish UCM) which allows them to host between June 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> a new edition of the Latin American Complutense School (in Spanish Escuela

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Complutense Latinoamericana) in Cartagena (Colombia). Thanks to the sponsors' funding, as was the case in all previous versions of the School, three types of grants will be offered: tuition assistance for students and faculty members of the three above mentioned universities; and travel and lodging support for non-residents in the city. It is worth clarifying that all interested parties may apply to only one type of aid. The courses, which will last 60 hours, are offered in many diverse areas, including communication sciences. It is expected that this version will mobilize around 600 students and 60 teachers across Latin America. For more information visit the official website of the [Latin-American Complutense School](#)

### [Tropenbos International in Latin America](#)

Source: <http://www.unsdi.nl/>

Tropenbos International has renewed its website [www.tropenbos.org](http://www.tropenbos.org). The site contains up-to-date information on forest financing in Latin America. Not only news on forest financing is part of the new site, you can also find information on co-management of protected areas, and the latest information on the projects, results and publications of Tropenbos International. Different forest-related subjects will be given attention on a rotating basis.



### [Ecosystems Call for Proposals](#)

Source: Rita Besana

Is now open the fifth IABIN Ecosystems Thematic Network (ETN) Request for Proposals to digitize data on Terrestrial, Marine or Fresh Water Ecosystems. Please note that the deadline for submitting proposals is **April 24, 2009**. We would appreciate your sending the Request for Proposals to interested organizations in your country. For questions, please contact Rita Besana ([rbesana@iabin.net](mailto:rbesana@iabin.net)) or Vincent Abreu ([abreu@umich.edu](mailto:abreu@umich.edu)).

### **Call for Nominations! 2009 UCGIS Education Award**

Source: Steven D. Prager

The UCGIS Education Committee is pleased to invite nominations for the 2009 University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) Education Award. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to GIScience education. Announcements of previous awards are published at <http://www.ucgis.org/ucgisawards.htm>. The award is intended to recognize continuing professional contributions of both national and international significance to GIScience education. All GIScience educators worldwide are eligible for the award, except for previous awardees and current members of the Education Award Subcommittee. However on for a list of institutional members. Nominations should be forwarded in PDF format to Steve Prager, Chairperson, UCGIS Education Committee, by **April 30, 2009**, via electronic mail ([sdprager@uwyo.edu](mailto:sdprager@uwyo.edu)). Supporting letters should be sent to the same address. The award will be presented at the UCGIS Summer Assembly June 22-23, 2009, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



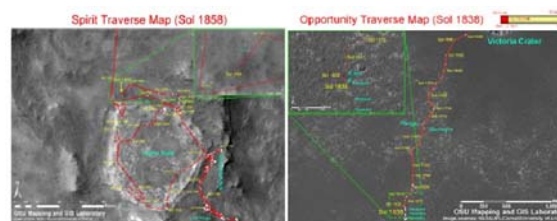
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## Employment Opportunities

### **Geospatial Information - Post Doctoral Researcher Opportunity at the Ohio State University**

Source: Leslie B. Smith

A Post Doctoral Researcher position is open at the Mapping and GIS Laboratory of The Ohio State University (OSU), starting **April 2009** or a later date. The successful candidate will work on one or more research projects related to geospatial information, photogrammetry, planetary mapping, or coastal GIS. Applicants should have a recent Ph.D. degree in Geoinformation and Geodetic Sciences or a related field. Knowledge and experiences



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in remote sensing/photogrammetry, vision, GIS, and/or coastal environmental research are desirable. The successful candidate will conduct research and coordinate with government agencies involved. Stipend depends on qualifications. The original appointment is for one year. Extension after the first year depends on availability of funding and performance. More information about the OSU Mapping and GIS Laboratory can be found at <http://shoreline.ceegs.ohio-state.edu/>. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please send application, resume, and two letters of reference via e-mail to Program Assistant Leslie Smith ([smith.2942@osu.edu](mailto:smith.2942@osu.edu)) with a copy to Professor Ron Li ([li.282@osu.edu](mailto:li.282@osu.edu)).

### Internships Ads on Young Geo Professional

Source: <http://www.gim-international.com/>



Young Geo Professional is opening up its job board for free advertisements for interns. This way companies may be able to reach the right scholar with the right aptitude for the profession. Such young people may have new insights and ideas to offer in return for an internship to exercise their skills. The internships can be added by the companies themselves using the job submission page. Website: <http://www.younggeopro.com/jobs/>

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### Other

### [Claudia Bauzer Medeiros receives the Google award that highlights women in computing](#)

Fuente: <http://www.unicamp.br/>



The teacher Claudia Bauzer Medeiros, from the Institute of Computing (IC) de la Universidad Estatal de Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil, received the Google Technology award for Women, for having helped to stimulate the activities of women in computing in Brazil. This Google initiative is one of a series of activities to attract more women to the area. Claudia Bauzer Medeiros received the good news and that is still uncommon to have women in the area of computing. According to her, indeed, this is an issue that has deserved attention of the public policies of countries like United States, Germany and England. A number of incentives have been given to address the lack of women in the profession. There are incentives in schools for the inclusion of women without the wage differential.

### [Geospatial: An Open Source Microcosm](#)

Source: <http://www.directionsmag.com/>

The world is well acquainted with big open source projects -the Apaches and Linuxes and MySQLs of the world. But how do smaller projects aimed at defined vertical markets fare? Paul Ramsey, who's been involved in open source technology for some time, takes a look at just that question in the context of the geospatial marketplace. While he notes that "the smaller markets mean fewer users, fewer developers, and fewer resources for open source," he describes geospatial as "one of the niche fields that is being slowly colonized by open source."

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### [Antarctic expedition of the Spanish Army, on the 20th Anniversary of this Mission](#)

Source: <http://ecodiario.eleconomista.es/>

The Spanish base in this campaign hosted 47 researchers from 7 different nationalities, who have developed a total of 12 scientific projects in biology, geology, seismology, volcanology, geodesy and climate change, among other topics. For its part, the vessel "Las Palmas" has contributed to the completion of 22 research programs, 40 percent more than in previous years, and has received or transported scientists from 21 different nationalities. Participants in these campaigns now complete two decades of Spain's presence in Antarctic lands fostering many scientific projects.

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### Americas: Conferences, SDI Events – Year 2009

[Year 2009](#) January February March [April](#) [May](#) [June](#) [July](#) [August](#) [September](#) [October](#) [November](#) [December](#)  
[Year 2010](#) January February [March](#) [April](#) May June [July](#) August [September](#) October November December

APRIL 2009		
<b>March 6 – April 3</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Avatech Office, USA	<a href="#">AutoCAD Civil 3D and Roadway Design – Transportation for a New Age</a>
<b>March 24 - April 8</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	USA	<a href="#">Webcast: What's New in AutoCAD 2010</a>
<b>1-3</b>	Las Vegas NV, USA	<a href="#">CTIA Wireless 2009</a>
<b>2-3</b>	Calgary, Canada	<a href="#">ESRI Regional User Conference</a>
<b>3-7</b>	Montevideo, Uruguay	<a href="#">12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Latin American Geographers “Walking through Latin America in Transformation”</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:info@egal2009.com">info@egal2009.com</a>
<b>5-8</b>	Oklahoma City OK, USA	<a href="#">GeoSpatial Information Systems for Transportation - GIST 2009</a>
<b>6-8</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Alagoas, Brazil	<b>Alagoas Digital 2009</b> Further Information: Web page: <a href="http://www.alagoasdigital.com.br/alagoas-digital-2009">http://www.alagoasdigital.com.br/alagoas-digital-2009</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:mep@mepeventos.com.br">mep@mepeventos.com.br</a>
<b>6-9</b>	Sacramento CA, USA	<a href="#">15th Annual CalGIS Conference</a>
<b>8-9</b>	Ontario, Canada	<a href="#">Expedition 2009 – DMTI's Annual Customer and Partner Conference</a>
<b>8-10</b>	Monterey CA, USA	<b>2009 SSA Annual Meeting</b> Web: <a href="http://www.seismosoc.org/meetings/index.php#2009">http://www.seismosoc.org/meetings/index.php#2009</a>
<b>13-17</b>	Cholula, Puebla, Mexico	<b>International Conference on Water, Environment and Health Sciences: The Challenges of Climate Change</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:icwehs@yahoo.com">icwehs@yahoo.com</a> / Web: <a href="http://www.udlap.mx/ICWEHS">www.udlap.mx/ICWEHS</a>

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<b>14-17</b> <b>*UPDATED*</b>	Mendoza, Argentina	<a href="#"><u>Meeting of the Argentinean Scientist Association of Geophysics and Geodesy</u></a> Web Page: <a href="http://www.aagg2009.org/espanol/home">http://www.aagg2009.org/espanol/home</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:nora@fcaglp.unlp.edu.ar">nora@fcaglp.unlp.edu.ar</a>
<b>14-17</b>	Malargüe, Argentina	<b>3rd. International Maar Conference</b> Email: <a href="mailto:info@3imc.org">info@3imc.org</a> / Web: <a href="http://www.3imc.org/">http://www.3imc.org/</a>
<b>15</b>	São Paulo, Brazil	<a href="#"><u>Infogeo and InfoGPS – GeoWeb &amp; GPS Seminary</u></a>
<b>19-22</b>	Tampa FL, USA	<a href="#"><u>GITA's Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference 32</u></a>
<b>20-24</b>	Montreal, Canada	<b>Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</b> Further information: <a href="http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/">http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/</a>
<b>21-22</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Quebec, Canada	<a href="#"><u>ESRI Regional User Conference</u></a>
<b>21-23</b>	Kearney NE, USA	<a href="#"><u>2009 Nebraska GIS/LIS Association Symposium</u></a>
<b>23</b>	Tampa FL, USA	<a href="#"><u>Oracle Spatial User's Conference</u></a>
<b>25-30</b>	Natal, Brazil	<a href="#"><u>14th SBSR - Brazilian Symposium on Remote Sensing</u></a> Contact: <a href="mailto:sbsr@dsr.inpe.br">sbsr@dsr.inpe.br</a>
<b>27-29</b>	Houston, Texas	<a href="#"><u>7th Annual Latin American Leadership Forum</u></a>
<b>27-29</b>	Jacksonville FL, USA	<a href="#"><u>2009 Southeast Regional User Group (SERUG) Conference</u></a>
<b>27-30</b>	Palm Desert CA, USA	<a href="#"><u>Field Service 2009</u></a>
<b>28-29</b>	Ontario, Canada	<a href="#"><u>ESRI Regional User Conference</u></a>

### MAY 2009

<b>4-6</b>	Denver CO, USA	<a href="#"><u>2009 ESRI Business GIS Summit</u></a>
<b>May 4 – June 5</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Bogotá, Colombia	<a href="#"><u>Introductory Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Modeling</u></a> Contact: Gustavo Adolfo Mora Rodríguez E-mail: <a href="mailto:ideade@javeriana.edu.co">ideade@javeriana.edu.co</a>
<b>6-8</b>	Los Polvorines, Argentina	<a href="#"><u>First National Congress on Ecology and Soils Biology: CONEBIOS2009</u></a> Contact: Dr. Fernando Momo E-mail: <a href="mailto:conebios2009@ungs.edu.ar">conebios2009@ungs.edu.ar</a>

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<b>6-8</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Cuiabá MT, Brazil	<a href="#"><u>II CONBRAGEO – Second Brazilian Congress on Geo-processing and Geo-referencing</u></a> Web page: <a href="http://www.abrageo.com.br/conbrageo">http://www.abrageo.com.br/conbrageo</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:marciontunes@brturbo.com.br">marciontunes@brturbo.com.br</a>
<b>10-14</b>	Montreal, Canada	<a href="#"><u>5th World Conference on Environmental Education</u></a>
<b>11-14</b>	Charlotte NC, USA	<a href="#"><u>BE Conference 2009</u></a>
<b>12-14</b>	Arlington VA , USA	<a href="#"><u>First Joint Aeronautical Information Exchange Model (AIXM) and Weather Information Exchange Model (WXXM) Conference - Integrating Information for the Future</u></a>
<b>13-15</b> Tentative	Montreal, Canada	<a href="#"><u>Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Cooperation</u></a>
<b>13-15</b>	Santiago de Cuba, Cuba	<a href="#"><u>4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Integrated Management of Coastal Zones, CARICOSTAS 2009</u></a> Contact E-mail: <a href="mailto:ofelia_haydee@yahoo.es">ofelia_haydee@yahoo.es</a> / <a href="mailto:ofelia@csh.uo.edu.cu">ofelia@csh.uo.edu.cu</a> / <a href="mailto:caricostas@cemzc.uo.edu.cu">caricostas@cemzc.uo.edu.cu</a>
<b>14-15</b>	Botucatu SP, Brazil	<a href="#"><u>Symposium on Agricultural Sciences Geostatistics</u></a>
<b>19-20</b>	Grantville PA, USA	<a href="#"><u>Seventeenth Annual Pennsylvania GIS Conference Announced</u></a>
<b>19-21</b>	Burlingame CA, USA	<a href="#"><u>Where 2.0</u></a>
<b>19-22</b>	Quebec, Canada	<a href="#"><u>IUFRO Conference on Extending Forest Inventory &amp; Monitoring Over Space &amp; Time</u></a> Contact: Dr. Ronald E. McRoberts / E-mail: <a href="mailto:rmcroberts@fs.fed.us">rmcroberts@fs.fed.us</a>
<b>19-24</b>	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#"><u>International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC)</u></a>
<b>20-21</b>	Victoria BC, Canada	<a href="#"><u>ESRI Regional User Conference</u></a>
<b>20-22</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Quebec City, Canada	<a href="#"><u>IUFRO Division 4 Meeting</u></a>
<b>20-24</b>	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#"><u>International Congress on Marine Conservation</u></a> Contact: <a href="mailto:IMCCprogram@conbio.org">IMCCprogram@conbio.org</a>
<b>22</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Multiple Venues	<b>International Day for Biological Diversity</b> Web Page: <a href="http://www.cbd.int/idb">www.cbd.int/idb</a>
<b>24-27</b>	Toronto, Canada	<b>Joint Assembly AGU 2009</b> Web: <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings.shtml">http://www.agu.org/meetings.shtml</a>

## Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

<b>25</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Sao Paulo, Brazil	<b><u><a href="#">IV FENAFEG – National Business Fair and Geology Suppliers</a></u></b> Web Page: <a href="http://www.fenafeg.com.br">http://www.fenafeg.com.br</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:geojunior@usp.br">geojunior@usp.br</a>
<b>25-27</b>	Baton Rouge LA, USA	<b><u><a href="#">CGGM 2009</a></u></b> Contact: <a href="mailto:iglesias@unican.es">iglesias@unican.es</a>
<b>26-29</b>	Victoria, Canada	<b><u><a href="#">CGI 2009</a></u></b> Contact: <a href="mailto:blob@cs.uvic.ca">blob@cs.uvic.ca</a>
<b>27-30</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Paraná, Brazil	<b><u><a href="#">4<sup>th</sup> State Seminar on Territorial Studies and 2<sup>nd</sup> National Seminar on Multiple Territories</a></u></b>
<b>28</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Webcast, USA	<b><u><a href="#">GO! Sync Mobile GIS in Action at Truckee Donner PUD</a></u></b>
<b>28-30</b>	Victoria, Canada	<b><u><a href="#">CAe 2009</a></u></b> Contact: <a href="mailto:pmh@cs.bath.ac.uk">pmh@cs.bath.ac.uk</a>

### JUNE 2009

<b>1-4</b>	Vancouver, Canada	<b><u><a href="#">GeoTec 2009</a></u></b>
<b>2-3</b>	Prince George BC, Canada	<b><u><a href="#">ESRI Regional User Conference</a></u></b>
<b>2-4</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Novi MI, USA	<b><u><a href="#">Telematics Updates Detroit</a></u></b>
<b>2-5</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Belo Horizonte MG, Brazil	<b><u><a href="#">First Brazilian Congress on Energetic Woodland</a></u></b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:florestasenergeticas@fbeatos.com">florestasenergeticas@fbeatos.com</a>
<b>3-5</b>	Orlando FL, USA	<b><u><a href="#">Pitney Bowes Business Insight User Conference</a></u></b>
<b>5-8</b>	Providence RI, USA	<b><u><a href="#">Second GIS in Public Health Conference: “Putting Health in Place with GIS”</a></u></b>
<b>8-9</b>	Estes Park CO, USA	<b><u><a href="#">GeoGathering 2009</a></u></b>
<b>11-12</b>	Whistler BC, Canada	<b><u><a href="#">2009 FME International User Conference</a></u></b>
<b>13-16</b>	Green Bay WI, USA	<b><u><a href="#">2009 Indigenous Mapping Network Conference</a></u></b>
<b>15-18</b>	Washington DC, USA	<b><u><a href="#">Intergraph 2009</a></u></b>
<b>15-19</b>	Rotterdam, The Netherlands	<b><u><a href="#">GSDI - 11 Conference</a></u></b> Theme: “SDI convergence on global level: Bridging the SDI’s in Europe, the America’s, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa” Contact: Harlan Onsrud, e-mail: <a href="mailto:onsrud@gsdi.org">onsrud@gsdi.org</a>

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17-19	Heredia, Costa Rica	<a href="#">XII Ibero-American Conference on Geographic Information Systems</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:sibsig@una.ac.cr">sibsig@una.ac.cr</a>
21-27	Ciudad de Loja, Ecuador	<a href="#">PARAMUNDÍ, Bleak Plateau, 2nd World Congress</a>
25-29	Brewster MA, USA	<a href="#">MAPPS Summer Conference</a>

### JULY 2009

2-15	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<b>XXVII General Assembly IAU</b> Web: <a href="http://www.iau.org">www.iau.org</a>
5-8	St. John's (Newfoundland), Canada	<b>6th International Symposium on Spatial Data Quality (ISSDQ 2009)</b> , "Quality: From Process to Decisions" Contact: Rodolphe Devillers / E-mail: <a href="mailto:issdq2009@mun.ca">issdq2009@mun.ca</a>
6-10	Viçosa, MG, Brazil	<a href="#">13<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Symposium on Applied Physical Geography</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:13sbqfa@ufv.br">13sbqfa@ufv.br</a>
6-10 <b>*UPDATED*</b>	Havana, Cuba	<a href="#">7th International Convention on Environment and Development</a> ; The following congresses will be part of: VII Congress on Environmental Educational, VI Congress on Protected Areas, IV Congress on Environmental Management, I Congress on Climate Change, and II Congress on Ecosystems and Biodiversity Management. Contact: MsC. Isabel Torna Falco / E-mail: <a href="mailto:convencion@ama.cu">convencion@ama.cu</a>
10-13	Orlando FL, USA	<a href="#">The 2nd International Symposium on Academic Globalization: AG 2009 Jointly with the 13th Multi-conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics: WMSCI 2009</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:ag@mail.iiis2009.org">ag@mail.iiis2009.org</a>
10-13	Orlando FL, USA	<a href="#">IMETI 2009, Engineering and Technological Innovation (IMETI)</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:imeti@mail.iiis2009.org">imeti@mail.iiis2009.org</a>
10-13	Orlando FL, USA	<a href="#">AG 2009 Academic Globalization (AG)</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:ag@mail.2009iiisconferences.org">ag@mail.2009iiisconferences.org</a>
10-13	Orlando FL, USA	<a href="#">CCCT 2009 Computing, Communications and Control Technologies (CCCT)</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:ccct@mail.2009iiisconferences.org">ccct@mail.2009iiisconferences.org</a>
10-13	Orlando FL, USA	<a href="#">KGCM 2009 Knowledge Generation Communications Management (KGCM)</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:kgcm@mail.2009iiisconferences.org">kgcm@mail.2009iiisconferences.org</a>



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11-14	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">2009 ESRI Survey &amp; Engineering GIS Summit</a>
11-14	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">2009 ESRI Education User Conference</a>
11-14	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">2009 ESRI Homeland Security GIS Summit</a>
13-17	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">29th ESRI International User Conference</a>
14-16	São Paulo, Brazil	<a href="#">GEOBrasil Summit 2009</a> 10° International Geoinformation Congress and Exhibition Brazil Contact: <a href="mailto:info@geobr.com.br">info@geobr.com.br</a>
18-21 <b>*NEW*</b>	Big Bear Lake CA, USA	<a href="#">2009 Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS)</a>
19-29	Montreal, Canada	<a href="#">iaMas-iapsO-iaCs-Assembly-2009 (MOCA-09)</a> Web: <a href="http://iamas-iapso-iacs-2009-montreal.ca/">http://iamas-iapso-iacs-2009-montreal.ca/</a>
21-23	São Paulo, Brazil	<a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> Expo GPS - 2009</a>
21-23	São Paulo, Brazil	<a href="#">Geosummit Latin-American 2009</a> Web Site: <a href="http://www.geobr.com.br">http://www.geobr.com.br</a>
21-24	Presidente Prudente, Brazil	<a href="#">6th International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology - MMT'09</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:mmt2009@fct.unesp.br">mmt2009@fct.unesp.br</a>
27-31	Vancouver BC, Canada	<a href="#">GeoWeb 2009</a>
28-30 <b>*NEW*</b>	Bogotá D.C, Colombia	<a href="#">First National Congress on Protected Areas</a> Contact: Fanny Suarez V Email: <a href="mailto:lcano@parquesnacionales.gov.co">lcano@parquesnacionales.gov.co</a>

### AUGUST 2009

4-6	Providence RI, USA	<a href="#">2009 URISA/NENA Addressing Conference</a>
4-6 <b>*NEW*</b>	Fairbanks AK, USA	<a href="#">Circumpolar Conference on Geospatial Sciences and Applications</a>

## Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

<b>2-15</b>	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<b>XXVII General Assembly International Astronomical Union (IAU)</b> Web: <a href="http://www.iau.org">www.iau.org</a>
<b>3-7</b>	New Orleans, Louisiana	<a href="#"><u>SIGGRAPH 2009</u></a>
<b>12-14</b>	Fairfax VA, USA	<a href="#"><u>The 17th International Conference on Geoinformatics (Geoinformatics 2009)</u></a> Contact: <a href="mailto:info@geoinformatics2009.org">info@geoinformatics2009.org</a>
<b>August 31 – September 4</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#"><u>SIRGAS Meeting 2009</u></a> In the framework of the International Association of Geodesy Scientific Assembly IAG 2009
<b>August 31 – September 4</b>	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#"><u>International Association of Geodesy Scientific Assembly IAG 2009 "Geodesy for Planet Earth"</u></a> Contact: Dr. Charles K Toth, E-mail : <a href="mailto:toth@cfm.ohio-state.edu">toth@cfm.ohio-state.edu</a>

### SEPTEMBER 2009

<b>10-11</b>	Regina SK, Canada	<a href="#"><u>ESRI Regional User Conference</u></a>
<b>13-16</b>	Columbus OH, USA	<a href="#"><u>APWA's 2009 International Public Works Congress and Expo</u></a>
<b>13-17</b>	Houston TX, USA	<a href="#"><u>GIS for Oil &amp; Gas Conference and Exhibition</u></a>
<b>15-17</b>	Loveland CO, USA	<a href="#"><u>GIS in the Rockies</u></a>
<b>17-18</b>	Edmonton AB, Canada	<a href="#"><u>ESRI Regional User Conference</u></a>
<b>21-23</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Nashville TN, USA	<a href="#"><u>2009 ESRI Health GIS Conference</u></a>
<b>22-23</b>	Montréal QC, Canada	<a href="#"><u>ESRI Regional User Conference</u></a>
<b>22-23</b>	Plymouth MI, USA	<a href="#"><u>PLM Road Map 2009</u></a>
<b>28-29</b>	Vancouver BC, Canada	<a href="#"><u>ESRI Regional User Conference</u></a>
<b>September 29 - October 2</b>	Anaheim CA, USA	<a href="#"><u>URISA's 47th Annual Conference &amp; Exposition</u></a>
<b>September 30 - October 1</b>	Penticton BC, Canada	<a href="#"><u>ESRI Regional User Conference</u></a>

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<b>September 30 - October 2</b>	Santa Catarina, Brazil	<a href="#">CoastGIS 2009</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:contato@coastgis.com.br">contato@coastgis.com.br</a>
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## OCTOBER 2009

<b>4-7</b>	Campos Do Jordão, São Paulo, Brazil	<a href="#">Latin American Conference IALE 2009</a> “Landscape Ecology in Latin America: Challenges and Perspectives” Contact: Congress Secretariat and Information E-mail: <a href="mailto:ialebr2009@eventus.com.br">ialebr2009@eventus.com.br</a>
<b>5-7</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Curitiba, Brazil	<a href="#">Meeting of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity</a>
<b>5-7</b>	Westin Westminster CO, USA	<a href="#">Location Intelligence 2009</a>
<b>6-7</b>	Toronto, Ontario Canada	<a href="#">ESRI Regional User Conference</a>
<b>6-9</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Santa Maria RS, Brazil	<a href="#">7<sup>th</sup> Working day on Remote Sensing Education in the frame of Mercosur</a> Web Page: <a href="http://www.ltid.inpe.br/selper">http://www.ltid.inpe.br/selper</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:tania@ltid.inpe.br">tania@ltid.inpe.br</a>
<b>8-25</b>	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">13<sup>th</sup> World Forestry Congress</a>
<b>15-16</b>	Winnipeg MB, Canada	<a href="#">ESRI Regional User Conference</a>
<b>16-17</b>	Miami FL, USA	<a href="#">Mapping Florida Communities: An Introduction to GIS &amp; Community Analysis - One Day Workshops</a>
<b>18-21</b>	San Antonio TX, USA	<a href="#">GEOINT 2009</a>
<b>20-21</b>	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	<a href="#">ESRI Regional User Conference</a>
<b>21</b> <b>*UPDATED*</b>	São Paulo, Brazil	<a href="#">InfoGEO and InfoGPS Seminar – Transportation Management</a> Web page: <a href="http://www.mundogeo.com/seminarios/GF/">http://www.mundogeo.com/seminarios/GF/</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:seminario@mundogeo.com">seminario@mundogeo.com</a>
<b>21-23</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Pueblo CO, EUA	<a href="#">ESRI Southwest User's Group Conference - 2009</a>
<b>23-24</b>	Tallahassee FL, USA	<a href="#">Mapping Florida Communities: An Introduction to GIS &amp; Community Analysis - One Day Workshops</a>

## Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

<b>28-29</b>	Halifax NS, Canada	<a href="#"><u>ESRI Regional User Conference</u></a>
<b>28-31</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Chihuahua, Mexico	<a href="#"><u>16th Symposium on Geography Teaching in Mexico, Chihuahua 2009</u></a> Abstract deadline: 1 de junio de 2009 Contact: Álvaro Sanchez Crispin <a href="mailto:asc@igg.unam.mx">asc@igg.unam.mx</a>

### NOVEMBER 2009

<b>3-4</b>	St. John's NL, Canada	<a href="#"><u>ESRI Regional User Conference</u></a>
<b>5</b>	Orlando FL, USA	<a href="#"><u>Mapping Florida Communities: An Introduction to GIS &amp; Community Analysis - One Day Workshops</u></a>
<b>7</b>	Jacksonville FL, USA	<a href="#"><u>Mapping Florida Communities: An Introduction to GIS &amp; Community Analysis - One Day Workshops</u></a>
<b>7-11</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Corumbá MS, Brazil	<a href="#"><u>2º GeoPantanal – Symposium on Swamp Geo-technologies</u></a>
<b>9-12</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Gramado, Brazil	<a href="#"><u>3rd International Workshop on Semantic &amp; Conceptual Issues in GIS(SeCoGIS2009) in conjunction with the 28th International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER2009)</u></a> Contact: Prof. Esteban Zimanyi E-mail: <a href="mailto:estebanzimanyi@gmail.com">estebanzimanyi@gmail.com</a>
<b>10-12</b>	St. Petersburg FL, USA	<a href="#"><u>2009 GIS in Transit Conference</u></a>
<b>14-19</b>	San Antonio TX, USA	<a href="#"><u>MAPPS/ASPRS Joint Specialty Conference</u></a>
<b>15-21</b>	Santiago, Chile	<a href="#"><u>ICC2009- 24th International Cartographic Conference 2009</u></a> <a href="http://www.icc2009.cl/">http://www.icc2009.cl/</a>

### DECEMBER 2009

<b>1-4</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Las Vegas NV, USA	<a href="#"><u>Autodesk University</u></a>
<b>14-18</b>	San Francisco, California, USA	<b>Fall Meeting AGU</b> Web: <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings.shtml">http://www.agu.org/meetings.shtml</a>

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## YEAR 2010

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### MARCH 2010

<b>23-25</b>	Tampa FL, USA	<a href="#">DistribuTECH 2010 Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>
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### APRIL 2010

<b>18-22</b>	Kansas City MO, USA	<a href="#">MAGIC 2010 Symposium</a>
<b>26-30</b>	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">ASPRS Annual Conference</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:asprs@asprs.org">asprs@asprs.org</a>

### JULY 2010

<b>26-30</b>	Los Angeles CA, USA	<a href="#">SIGGRAPH 2010</a>
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### SEPTEMBER 2010

<b>19-24</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Montreal, Canada	<a href="#">IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition</a>
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