Global Spatial Data Infrastructure
Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

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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.

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/events/upcnf.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. 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
Editor, Nancy Aguirre, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), http://www.ipgh.org, cnaguirre@ipgh.org

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GSDI11 highlights

Developing Nation Fund Auction at GSDI-11
Source: Sponsored Projects Committee, GSDI Association - GSDI News
Attendees of the GSDI-11 Conference in Rotterdam, The Netherlands (15-19 June 2009) have the opportunity to share a little and make a big positive impact! The GSDI Sponsored Projects Committee will organize a Silent Auction in Rotterdam in order to raise money for the GSDI Developing Nation Fund. This fund is used to support human capacity building in developing nations such as by covering travel expenses of representatives of national organizations from developing countries to attend important SDI-related conferences and workshops. Please bring an item identifiable with your nation or region of the world to donate to the auction. Items might include books, maps, rugs, handicrafts, jewelry, carvings, baskets, hats, pottery, pillows, artwork, musical instruments, software, hardware, training, a vacation house for a period of time, etc. Donated items will be exhibited during the conference. Attendees may bid on items throughout the week. The highest written bid for each item (as of Thursday at the end of the afternoon coffee break) wins the bid and the right to take the item home – upon payment in US dollars or Euros. A few selected items will be withheld and sold through a live auction at the Geo Gala dinner on Thursday Evening. We have nearly 700 registrants to date for the conference coming from all across the globe so we look forward to a highly successful auction in support of the SDI community in developing nations!

GSDI-11 Highlights
Besides Plenary sessions highlighted each day for GSDI-11 World Conference below are selected from de Program Details of GSDI-11 some specially relevant sessions and presentations to the LAC region, namely GSDI retrospective; GSDI Regional Newsletters Open Meeting; Global, Multi-National, State and Local Experiences; Societal Impacts Open Roundtable; Session 6.1 on National Experiences of Latin America; Marine Data SDIs; and Session 7.5 on Complementary Activities among GEOSS, OGC and GSDI. Please find all Program Details at http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi11/prog_details.html

GSDI Retrospective: Progress to Date
Parallel Session 1.5 (Tuesday 16 June 2009 2:30 to 4:00 pm)
Moderator: John McLaughlin, President, University of New Brunswick
Speakers and participants in the first GSDI global meeting that occurred in Bonn Germany in 1996 and other early GSDI conferences are being invited to provide short responses to the following three questions: (1) As envisioned in the mid 1990's, what were the primary objectives to be achieved through the global development of spatial data infrastructure? (2) To what extent have those original visions been achieved, fallen short, or been exceeded? (3) Based on successes and mistakes from the past as well as emerging trends and knowledge advancements, what core principles or directions would you now urge for consideration by those continuing to advance and develop SDI? After the panelists each address a question, comments will be solicited from the audience on the same question.

GSDI Regional Newsletters Open Meeting
Parallel Session 2.10 (Wednesday 17 June 2009, 2:00 to 3:30 pm)
Moderators: Santiago Borrero, Abbas Rajabifard, Hussein Farah and Al Stevens
This meeting is hosted by the editors of the monthly regional SDI newsletters. Goals, purposes and plans for the newsletters will be covered and the editors will solicit suggestions for improving or expanding the newsletters and related services. Volunteers are needed to help as contributing editors. Organizations from poor and very poor nations may be official members of the GSDI Association by providing services rather than dues and one way to provide services of value is to provide reporters for one or more of the regional newsletters. Applications for membership will be provided at the meeting for those who might be interested.

Global, Multi-National, State and Local Experiences
Parallel Session 5.4 (Thursday 18 June 2009 4:00 to 5:30 pm)
5.4e Integration of Vector Datasets From Central And South American Nations (147)
Edwin Hunt, Armando Lobos, Military Geographic Institute of Chile
This paper describes a technique that is part of a larger project for international cooperation in the field of small scale digital mapping, involving an interaction between technical challenges with issues of trans-national coordination. The context is an initiative dependant on the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) and its cooperation with the program of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM). The Americas Global Map (MGA) is the PAIGH project arising from that cooperation. Among the objectives of the MGA is the creation of a continuous map of the Americas made up mostly of the existing contributions from individual nations in the Americas to the ISCGM project. The union and harmonization of widely differing datasets presents special challenges; at the same time the special requirements of most participating nations and of their cartographic agencies requires special care to be taken with the harmonization solutions chosen.

Societal Impacts Open Roundtable
Parallel Session 5.10 (Thursday 18 June 2009 4:00 to 5:30 pm)
Moderator: Carmelle Terborgh, ESRI, and Al Stevens, FGDC
This roundtable is being hosted and organized by the GSDI Sponsored Projects Committee that will review progress made to date through the GSDI Association Small Grants Program and solicit input from the community on this

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program as well as the broader work of the committee. Potential improvements and expansion of the grant program will be discussed and a work plan will be developed for upcoming years. Among additional items to be addressed in the work plan are likely to include the potential development of workshops and teaching materials (written, videos, etc.). All interested parties are invited to join the committee and contribute to achieving work plan tasks to be itemized at this meeting.

National Experiences: Latin America
Parallel Session 6.1 (Friday 19 June 2009, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm)
6.1a Basis for the National SDI (Chile) (57)
Maria-Loreto Advis, Military Geographic Institute of Chile, Chile
For several years, specifically from the year 2000, in Chile efforts are being made to make progress in the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, achieving in the year 2006 a Decree Law that created the National Territorial Information Coordination System (SNIT), the Chilean SDI. Currently there is an organizational structure for the SNIT. The Ministry, where its Executive Secretariat is located, has state finance for it to function. This situation is not repeated at the other state organizations that make up the SNIT; these must all finance this work with their own resources. While the SNIT has made systematic progress in its mission, it has not been an easy task and Chile is still only on the threshold of an SDI. Considering the fact that the information and knowledge of the territory makes up the basis for that which sustains the SDIs, the Military Geographic Institute, as official organization representing the state in issues of portraying national territorial information and as an active member of the SNIT, and being aware of this reality, has been working on a project to create what has been called 'Basic Territorial Information' (ITB in Spanish initials) with the level of detail suitable for the real needs of those organizations requiring genuine knowledge of the territory as part of its mission and decision-making.

6.1b Spatial Data Infrastructure: From National to Local Level (376)
Tatiana Delgado, National Office of Hydrography and Geodesy, Rafael Cruz, Cuba
The status of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Republic of Cuba (IDERC) is presented by means of eleven main projects undertaken by the National Commission of IDERC. One of these projects is aimed to strengthen the capacity of provincial and municipality levels in order to underpin their local SDIs. In this work is presented methodological issues to build local SDI in the Cuban context, showing a first scenario like case study with the first steps of the building of the SDI of Villa Clara (a central province in Cuba). Finally, a future vision of more participative SDI based on Web 2.0 oriented to local levels is projected.

6.1c Data Spatial Infrastructure (DSI) for the Analysis and Study of Environmental Risks: An Experience in Southern Ecuador (363)
Victor Gonzalez, Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja, Fernando Onate, Ecuador
In this work, we apply the concept of Data Spatial Infrastructure (DSI) in order to create a tool to study and analyze environmental variables. This system will also support decision making for a sustainable environmental management in southern Ecuador. To develop this system, we used Open Source tools such as: Apache Server, MapServer 4.6 and OpenGis standards for publishing georeferenced information on the Internet. The thematic information has been collected from different development organizations. Most of this information is derived from satellite images such as , NOAA, ASTER, LANDSAT; and MODIS. The system also allows for the display of geographical information, associated thematic data query and download of different thematic layers.

6.1d The Spatial Data Infrastructure of Mexico and the New Law of the National System of Statistical and Geographical Information (475)
Mario Alberto Reyes Ibarra, National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Mexico
Since 2004, Mexico has promoted the concept as well as the building of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Mexico (IDEMex, Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de México), in charge of the generation of geographical and statistical data and information. Nevertheless, the "Law of the Statistical and Geographical Information", in force from 1985 to

2008, did not include the IDEMex concept nor its building and implementation considerations. The new Law of the National System of Statistical and Geographical Information for Mexico (SNIEG, Sistema Nacional de Información Estadística y Geográfica), released on April 15, 2008 and in force on July 15, 2008, states the existence of the IDEMex which shall generate a minimum of seven data groups: geodetic reference framework; coastal, international, state and municipality boundaries; continental, insular and submarine relief data; cadastre, topographical and natural resources and climate data, as well as geographical names. The IDEMex is the geographical component of the National Geographical and Environmental Information Subsystem, that along with the National Subsystems of Demographic and Social Information and of Economic Information constitute the SNIEG. As long the Law of the SNIEG is a national mandate for the statistical and geographical data and information producers, the convergence of efforts of the three government levels -federal, state and municipality- will make possible to generate information based on the data groups specified by the Law. The Law of the SNIEG considers the INEGI as the coordinating instance of the Units of the State that generate spatial data and information and bestows to the Institute the relevant role of the development of technical standards.

6.1e Case for Establishing a National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Trinidad and Tobago (197)
Lisa Ramoutar, The Univ. of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Rehanna Jadoo, Carlene Boodoo, Trinidad and Tobago
Trinidad and Tobago today is poised on the brink of a Spatial Data Sharing revolution. The data resources, technology, analytical and technical skills required for successful data sharing are available on the Twin Islands. However, views on this issue are segregated as data producers are not yet convinced as to how sharing data would benefit themselves, their organizations, and the country as a whole. Therefore data production continues to be done in isolation with a great potential for data duplication and repetition of errors. Some of the major challenges faced by the spatial community in Trinidad and Tobago today are as follows: limited, incomplete and/or dated spatial data; lack of spatial data availability; lack of data standards; ownership, law and policy issues; and the reluctance to share data. This report seeks to investigate the development of a NSDI as a solution to these and other challenges. It addresses the issues by extensively reviewing NSDI literature, by discussing the components of a NSDI, by looking at the NSDI implementation experiences of other countries regionally and internationally, by assessing the readiness of Trinidad and Tobago for a NSDI and assessing the cost-benefits of implementing such a NSDI.

Marine Data SDIs
Parallel Session 6.3 (Friday 19 June 200911:30 to 1:00 PM)
6.3a The International Coastal Atlas Network: An Emerging Spatial Data Infrastructure Initiative (77)
Dawn Wright, Oregon State University, USA; Ned Dwyer, Ireland; Yassine Lassoued, Ireland; Luis Bermudez, USA; Omar Boucelma, France; Roger Longhorn, Belgium
The International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN) is a newly-founded initiative comprised of a partnership of over 30 organizations from more than a dozen nations. It aims to be a global reference for the development of Coastal Web Atlases (CWAs), which are defined as collections of digital, web-enabled maps and datasets with supplementary tables, illustrations, and information that systematically illustrate the coast, oftentimes with cartographic and decision support tools. These atlases are playing an increasingly important role as elements of spatial data infrastructures at state and national scales, and in assisting regional decision- and policy-making across numerous themes including coastal vulnerability to climate change impacts and population presssures, coastal governance (boundaries, protected areas, etc.), coastal hazards mitigation, marine spatial planning, resource availability and exploitation,. Many of these atlases offer discovery, view and download services in line with the INSPIRE Directive. Another strategic aim of ICAN is to take advantage of the expertise of its members to find common solutions to CWA development, and to encourage and facilitate global operational interoperability between CWAs for enhanced data sharing, and the translation of coastal science to coastal decision-making. The paper describes the rationale and development of several products that ICAN has been developing for this purpose, such as user and developer guides, handbooks and articles on best practices, information on standards and web services, expertise and technical support directories, education, outreach materials, and workshops.

Complementary Activities among GEOSS, OGC and GSDI
Parallel Session 7.5 (Friday 19 June 2009 2:00 to 3:30 pm)
This session will address progress and updates in services and facilities being provided by GEOSS, OGC and GSDI to serve professional constituencies and will explain how these organizations are pursuing complementary approaches in serving geospatial specialist communities.

The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS): An Update
Douglas Nebert, Federal Geographic Data Committee, USA
The Group on Earth Observation (GEO) has been developing a collaborative "system-of-systems" concept called Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) to facilitate access to and use of Earth observation data of all types in support of integrated analysis and decision support. Although the focus was initially on providing access to satellite or aerial remotely-sensed data, land/water-based sensor networks and terrestrial data and maps are considered within the scope of this effort. Based on most of the same standards embraced by the GSDI and SDIs, GEOSS has defined and deployed core resources (a standards registry, registration of system resources and services, a Best Practices wiki, and a common search facility across all registered catalogs), exposed through standardized GEO Web Portal solutions. This presentation provides updates on the status of GEOSS core capabilities, the results of the most recent Architecture Implementation Pilot, and identifies how national and regional SDIs can participate in the effort.

The OGC Registry and Services: An Update
Mark Reichardt, President, Open Geospatial Consortium, USA
The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) is a not for profit international voluntary standards development organization dedicated to the development, testing, and implementation of open standards that make is easier to publish, discover, access, fuse and use geospatial information. Government agencies, businesses, consumers and citizens from across the globe use OGC standards to improve the use of location based information to make better decisions. OGC standards have been widely deployed in the marketplace and are a underpinning of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) best practice worldwide. OGC standards are also increasingly being defined in organizational, national and regional policy and programs to assure interoperability of geospatial information contributed by a variety of public and private sources. This session provides an overview of the interoperability "architecture" enabled by OGC Standards, and includes examples of implementations, policy positions and associated benefits of using OGC standards. Current areas of OGC standards development will also be discussed with emphasis on the implications of this work to SDI goals and objectives.

The SDI Best Practices Implementation Designation Program
Harlan Onsrud, Executive Director, GSDI Association
The GSDI Association in cooperation with OGC and GEOSS has developed a set of Requirements for Best Practice Implementations and has established a process by which this designation may be acquired by agencies and other organizations implementing spatial data infrastructure. This presentation will discuss the requirements as established to date, illustrate the process for initially assessing an implementation through the GIK Network form filling process, and discuss the potential value of acquiring the designation.

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SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

SDI Prototype Geoportal, Guatemala
Source: Jean-Roch Lebeau

Prototipo de Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales para Guatemala.

Secretaria General de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia.
SEGEPLAN

SINIT

SEGEPLAN pretende impulsar el desarrollo de Infraestruturas de Datos Espaciales en Guatemala, y lo hace por medio de apostar al Software Libre. Este Prototipo Utiliza, Postgres (Modulo geografico POSTGIS), GVSIG para la generacion de scripts de servicios espaciales, Apache para el servidor WEB, Mapserver como servidor de Mapas y Mapbender como cliente ligero. PROXIMAMENTE Publicacion del Modulo de Metadatos GEONETWORK .

Los Servicios **WMS** (**Web Map Service**) de las capas presentadas las puede conectar a (click para ver video de conexión) *ARCGIS 8.x 9.x*, *GVSIG*, *Quantum GIS*,*Google Earth*,ArcView 3.x, Udig o cualquier cliente que soporte servicios WMS, o **WFS** (**Web Feature Service**). Video de Navegacion aqui.

Usuario: ide

Password: ide

SECRETARIA
PLANIFICACION Y PROGRAMACION
S E G E P L A N

By logging in to http://ide.segeplan.gob.gt you may access the first version of SDI Geoportal of Guatemala, developed by the Directorate of Planning Secretariat, of the Presidency of Guatemala (in Spanish SEGEPLAN). This prototype is based on open source standards and programs, and allows integration of Web Mapping Services from different institutions. The Geoportal aims to further developing a better customization and fostering other services, as well as incorporating more information as institutional arrangements are put forward for underpinning the SDI. Your comments and suggestions are welcome, in order to improve our proposal. We are thankful to colleagues in ITC, UPM, and National Geographic Institute (in Spanish IGN) of Spain who have been key to supporting this initiative. SEGEPLAN promotes the development of spatial data infrastructure in Guatemala, and does so by selecting Free Software. This prototype uses Postgres (Geographic Module PostGIS), gvSIG for generating spatial services scripts, Apache Web server, Mapserver, and Mapbender as a light client. Forthcoming: GEONETWORK Metadata Module publication.

CONPES approved $2.700 million pesos to organize geographic information in Colombia
Source: Dora Rey by way of Santiago Borrero

The National Economic and Social Policy Council (in Spanish CONPES) of Colombia, approved the allocation of two million 700 thousand pesos for organizing the country's geographic information, which will facilitate unification of standards for Colombian cartography. The Deputy Director of the National Planning Department, Andrés Escobar, explained that the project strengthens the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ICDE). He added that now with Conpes 3585, the goal is to better use topographic maps produced by the Geographic Institute "Agustin Codazzi" (in Spanish IGAC). Conpes Summary (only in Spanish). For more information please log on to the complete document CONPES 3585.

Investing in ITC way for Caribbean Region to Go
Source: http://www.trinidadexpress.com/
During the 20th anniversary gala of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) in Trinidad and Tobago, Prime Minister Patrick Manning said that was is needed now in the Caribbean is "the fullest possible deployment" of

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the provision of goods and services in the public and private sectors, and he called the governments, especially of developing countries to "lead the way by establishing and implementing a comprehensive national ICT plan" including e-government systems.

Geospatial Framework Development - The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Source: http://caribbean-gis.blogspot.com/

The Government of Puerto Rico in partnership with NOAA's National Geodetic Survey is currently conducting a Geodetic Reference Framework Project on the island of Puerto Rico. This, in part, involves the improvement of the Vertical and Horizontal framework which form the foundation for Geospatial products and services, Land Surveying, and Geodesy. The article entitled "Coordenadas en NAD83 y PRVD02 y la Ley" by Dr. Linda L. Vélez Rodríguez, MS, PE, PLS describes the project, legal implications, and the challenges involved. The article can be found at http://cms.ciapr2.org/templates/CIAPR/tecnomundo/Tecnomundo%20mar-abr%2009.pdf For further information regarding Land Surveying and Geodesy in Puerto Rico visit http://cms.ciapr2.org/ (Please note - the article is in Spanish)

Territorial Information Ministers Council, Chile – First Year's Meeting

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

In May 2009 took place the first year's meeting of the Ministers for Territorial Information Council, chaired by the Minister of National Property, Romy Schmidt. On this occasion, Minister Schmidt reported progresses of the work plan started in 2007, which includes a calendar of activities and intensive work in Chilean regions for information exchange and capacity building for implementing territorial information systems. Minister Romy Schmidt appreciated the work done by the National Territorial Information System of Chile (in Spanish SNIT) stressing that while there are still goals to meet, there have been important advances with regard to information supplied by regional coordinators and state agencies on the Metadata Catalog. It was also emphasized the need to integrate more effectively the work and information generated by the National Statistics Institute (in Spanish INE) in SNIT coordination, given the forthcoming Population and Housing Census 2012. The Executive Secretary of SNIT, Cristian Aqueveque, reported on the joint work done by the National Institute for Normalization (in Spanish INN) on drafting official standards for cartographic information production and the approval of ISO standards in the areas of geographic information and geoinformatics.

Presentations - OSGIS 2009   Now Available

Source: Suchith Anand by way of Santiago Borrero

First Open Source GIS UK Conference 2009, 22 June 2009, Centre for Geospatial Science, University of Nottingham. The excellent line up of accepted presentations for The First OpenSource GIS UK Conference is now published at http://www.opensourcegis.org.uk. The key aims of OSGIS 2009 are:

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1. To hear presentations from government, academic, industry and policymakers on open source geospatial technologies
2. To provide platform to network and develop ideas for future collaborative work in open source GIS
3. To understand current developments in open source GIS.

GBIF Content Needs Assessment Survey Launched
Source: Vishwas Chavan by way of Santiago Borrero

The GBIF Secretariat is pleased to announce the launch of the Content Needs Assessment Survey prepared by the GBIF Content Needs Assessment Task Group. The Survey in English, Spanish and French will be open for respondents until 12th June 2009. Please click on the link below to see details of the survey announcement in
Spanish: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=0if6UAmPkGpjVb_2feIOHV0w_3d_3d
French: http://www.gbif.org/News/NEWS1241701184
English: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XWXP0hKQSbFwb4fgn5uZ_2bQ_3d_3d
Through this announcement we request stakeholders and users of primary biodiversity data to participate in the Survey. We further request scientific institutions, multi-lateral organizations, national, regional and global funding agencies, academicians, and citizen scientists to participate in the Survey. Please share this announcement to all potential respondents.

Consultation on EMODNET – building a European marine data infrastructure
Source: http://ec.europa.eu/
There is a general consensus that marine data collected with public funding are not being exploited to their full potential. A number of reasons for this have been identified – poor knowledge of what is available, difficult access conditions, limitations on re-use, high costs, little coherence, unknown quality and insufficient spatial or temporal resolution. The EU's Maritime Policy Blue Book, welcomed by the European Council in December 2007, undertook to take steps towards a European Marine Observation and Data Network that would progressively improve matters. Steps taken since then include the launching of preparatory actions, the setting up of a Marine Observation and Data Expert Group, the formulation of broad principles for marine data management and the preparation of a roadmap. These initiatives cover all marine data – hydrographic, geological, physical, chemical, biological - as well as human activity that impacts on the marine environment. Socio-economic data of coastal communities and maritime industries have not been included; not because the Commission does not feel that they are important. Rather they are the subject of a separate parallel initiative led by Eurostat - the Statistical Office of the European Communities. All stakeholders are now invited to provide their opinion as to the state of Europe's marine knowledge infrastructure and what steps are appropriate to be taken at an EU level. The results of the consultation will be published and fed into the process for determining what action at an EU level is appropriate to create a marine knowledge infrastructure that is fit for purpose; that improves our knowledge of the planet, that enables all stakeholders to contribute towards the debate as to how its oceans should be managed, that helps authorities meet regulatory requirements and that stimulates the development of an innovative value-added industry. Personal opinions as well as those of organizations and administrations are sought. Summary of replies received by 20 May 2009

AEGOS strengthens GEOSS coverage of georesources

Source: GEO News (Issue #3, 18 May 2009)

Although georesources do not constitute a GEO Societal Benefit Area (SBA), their inclusion in GEOSS is essential. Not only is the Earth's sub-surface an integral part of the Earth system, but georesources – which range from minerals to underground water supplies to geothermal energy – are relevant to several existing SBAs and thus demonstrate the cross-cutting nature of GEOSS. The recent launch of the African European Georesources Observation System (AEGOS), therefore, promises to both broaden and strengthen GEOSS.

OGC 3D Fusion Summit

Source: Arturo Brun-Martinez

The summit will take place at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on June 23. The 3D Information Management (3DIM) Working Group (http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/groups/3dimwg) is facilitating the creation of new software solutions that enable infrastructure owners, builders, emergency responders, community planners, and the traveling public to better manage and navigate complex built environments. The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) 3D Fusion Summit will provide an opportunity to learn about and discuss the activities of this working group, the alliances that OGC has with other organizations concerned with Building Information Models, and the results of the recent AECOO-1 (Architecture, Engineering, Construction, Owner and Operator) Phase 1 Testbed, a 9-month effort to increase interoperability among software used by architects, construction companies, cost estimators and building energy analysts.

OGC Geospatial Rights Management Summit

Source: Arturo Brun-Martínez

The summit will take place at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on June 22. Geospatial data and services -- Earth images, GIS, map browsers, location services, navigation, etc. -- have become an integral part of our information environment. But this progress raises issues of security, public access, intellectual property, and emergency use of geospatial information. The issues are complex because geospatial data products are often composed of data from multiple sources which may have different rights and restrictions associated with them. Thus, business and policy issues, not technical issues, are now the industry bottleneck. This summit provides an opportunity to learn about and discuss the Geospatial Digital Rights Management Reference Model (GeoDRM RM) that has been developed by the GeoRM Working Group (http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/groups/geormwg) of the OGC Technical Committee.

Interview with Pedro Duque on geospatial sector developments

Source: *Directions Magazine Español* http://www.directionsmag.es/ by way of Alberto Santos

The online publication of geospatial technologies Directions Magazine publishes an interview with Pedro Duque that may be of interest. "Spain must invest heavily in the most intensive technology transfer." Through this extensive interview, Pedro Duque, a former astronaut and current Director General of the firm Deimos Imaging, SL, reviews with Directions Magazine the latest of geospatial industry.

Article of the Month

Reassuring End Users Of Open Source: The OSGeo Example

By Tyler Mitchell, OSGeo

The Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo) seeks to address the challenges of making open source geospatial software a valid option in the marketplace. The organization works to promote the software that is available and provide a model where businesses can join in promotion and development. This article discusses the factors needed to get open source geospatial products into the hands of those users willing to test, use and eventually admire them as their favorites, or to go one step further and recommend them as a corporate solution. We examine the advantages provided by using marketing to help promote open source projects and then consider how this can boost business confidence in the use of the software. The article closes with a look at how a natural ecosystem of open source users is able to create something bigger and more consequential than each project could attain on its own.

Summary

Coupling the development of a social ecosystem with the general goals of providing stability, marketing, and shared resources has helped make OSGeo an open source development success story. It brings together code, users and funding in a way that encourages further growth of solid products in an increasingly competitive business environment. Removing barriers and finding common goals has helped to move forward not just geospatial technologies, but open source products in general. This provides more options to global organizations, helping them to avoid the risks of proprietary lock-in and black-box business services [the complete article may be found at: http://www.directionsmag.com/article.php?article_id=3140].

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Geospatial Research and Applications

Ministry of Health publishes interactive atlas with information on human influenza

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

Complete information regarding the virus AH1N1 (originally called swine influenza) in the world and in Chile, published in his Interactive Atlas, the Department of Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health in Chile. That information is updated on an ongoing basis is shown on the website of the public distribution http://epi.minsal.cl and it is possible to see not only a report of the global situation of countries with the number of cases but also practical information on how to prevent it. The information is based on updates made by the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the status of this virus that has sparked a global alert. Website: http://epi.minsal.cl/epi/html/AtlasInteractivos/Atlas_Gripe_Porcina/atlas.html

You can access this atlas and the other countries on the same topic at the following link: http://www.instantatlas.com/h1n1-swineflu/

Hernando de Soto to Keynote ESRI User Conference

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

Hernando de Soto, a celebrated Peruvian economist and author and president of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy (ILD), a nonprofit organization based in Lima, Peru, will speak at the 2009 ESRI International User Conference (ESRI UC) in July 2009. De Soto will share how Geographic Information System (GIS) technology is being used to formalize landownership-an approach he feels is helping the poor take a crucial first step away from poverty.

De Soto says that for some living in poverty, the land they occupy may be their only asset. Without legal recognition of landownership, the owner cannot leverage the land as collateral. This prevents the owner from accessing loans to possibly start a business or improve the property. Along with earning many awards and accolades, de Soto was selected by *Time* magazine in 1999 as one of the five leading Latin American innovators of the century. The magazine also included him among the 100 most influential people in the world in 2004.

Hydrological Information System of the Spanish Ministry of Environment
Source: *Directions Magazine in Spanish* http://www.directionsmag.es/ by way of Alberto Santos
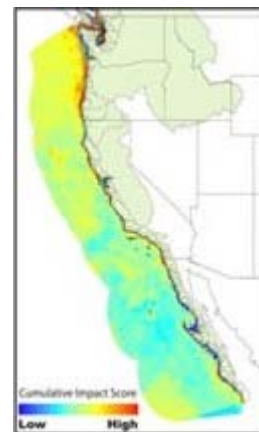
This system is highly relevant for managing one of most important resources in Spain, water. The system allows improving relationships between different agencies involved in water management, to enable much more cooperative and transparent ways of working for sharing information, and to making available to all a common, homogeneous, and integrated repository of environmental information. This system represents a quantum leap in efficiency levels, service availability and quality, within the General Directorate of Water. It integrates data from many different organizations and serves varied OGC Services; as such it is a system that responds very clearly to SDI philosophy. An interview with the project leader, Miguel Angel Bordás is also published. More information: Integrated Water Information System / Interview with Miguel Angel Bordás

High Human Impact Ocean Areas Along U.S. West Coast Revealed
Source: http://www.nsf.gov/ by way of Dawn Wright

Climate change, fishing and commercial shipping top the list of threats to the ocean off the West Coast of the United States. "Every single spot of the ocean along the West Coast," said Ben Halpern, a marine ecologist at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) at the University of California at Santa Barbara, "is affected by 10 to 15 different human activities annually." In a two-year study to document the way humans are affecting the oceans in this region, Halpern and colleagues overlaid data on the location and intensity of 25 human-derived sources of ecological stress, including climate change, commercial and recreational fishing, land-based sources of pollution and ocean-based commercial activities. With the information, they produced a composite map of the status of West Coast marine ecosystems. The work was published online today in the journal *Conservation Letters,* and was conducted at NCEAS. NCEAS is primarily funded by (the National Science Foundation) NSF's Division of Environmental Biology. "This important analysis of the geography and magnitude of land-based stressors should help focus attention on the hot-spots where coordinated management of land and ocean activities is needed," said Phillip Taylor, section head in NSF's Division of Ocean Sciences.

Islands Top a Global List of Places to Protect
Source: http://www.terradaily.com/

Rare and unique ecological communities will be lost if oceanic islands aren't adequately considered in a global conservation plan, a new study has found. Although islands tend to harbor fewer species than continental lands of

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure
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similar size, plants and animals found on islands often live only there, making protection of their isolated habitats our sole chance to preserve them. Many conservation strategies focus on regions with the greatest biodiversity, measured by counting the number of different plants and animals. "Normally you want to focus on the most diverse places to protect a maximum number of species," said Holger Kreft, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of California, San Diego and one of the two main authors of the study, "but you also want to focus on unique species which occur nowhere else." Their results, plotted on global maps, will be reported in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.*

Geospatial Data Research Think Tank
Source: http://www.gim-international.com/

The Ordnance Survey has awarded a research contract to the Centre of Geospatial Science (CGS) to investigate future data and data management developments that might impact on Ordnance Survey's operations and services. In part fulfillment of this contract, CGS are organizing a series of Think Tank events to explore relevant technology developments and to better understand how these developments might influence and impact on spatial data capture and usage in the future. Think Tank Outcomes:
• Identify key research trends and developments in this theme
• Identify mid-term (2-5 years) and long-term (6-10 years) research challenges in this theme
• Produce report on the Think Tank findings.
Website: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cgs/projects_os.html

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GIS Tools, Software, Data

New version of CatMDEdit now available
Source: GeoSpatiumLab and the Advanced Information Systems Group of the University of Zaragoza by way of Javier Zarazaga-Soria

CatMDEdit 4.5 has been uploaded to the open source project web site (http://catmdedit.sourceforge.net/). CatMDEdit is a metadata editor tool that facilitates the documentation of resources, with special focus on the description of geographic information resources. The new features provided by version 4.5 are:
- Graphical definition of geographic extent by means of a polygon
- Geographic display of resources on a map
- Integration of a tool that enables the creation of feature catalogues following the ISO 19110 specification
- Export of a metadata repository in a geoRSS file
- Connection to gvSIG in order to open the resources documented previously with CatMDEdit
- Improvement of application usability and user interface.

SDI Portal of IGM Ecuador now includes aerial photography
Source: http://www.geoportaligm.gov.ec/

Aerial color photographs at scale 1:5000 of the Yantzaza_2008 project in Ecuador are now available in the Geoportal of the Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador (in Spanish IGM) at: http://www.geoportaligm.gov.ec/ These are part of newly added spatial information to this site including: topographic charts, maps of different localities and infrastructure, gravimetric network and digital photo indexes at different scales, among others.

High-resolution Earth Observation Data for Universities
Source: http://www.gim-international.com/

ScanEx Center offers to the international education community the possibility to get the universal small-aperture ground station UniScan with licenses to receive 100 scenes of EROS A, 600 minutes of IRS-1D and the unlimited access to SPOT 4 images within the first year of station operations. Initial inclusion of the license into the functionality of the UniScan station (as per the agreement with Operators of the respective RS programs) will enable to significantly decrease the total cost of the ground station and of space images for the universities and to make telemetry license prices affordable. ScanEx R&D Center has been realizing the possibilities of fitting up Russian and foreign higher education institutions with the real-time high resolution (up to 1.8 m) remote sensing data reception technology in 2009. In such a way universities may efficiently use modern space technologies in education, research and development processes, applying up-to-date satellite data, received to own ground stations with the footprint of up to a radius of 2,500 kilometers. Selection of specific satellite programs for UniScan station depends on the university specialization.

Protected Areas Database for the United States Now Available
Source: Access Newsletter, Spring 2009, Volume 12, Number 2

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) NBII Gap Analysis Program (GAP) and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) have joined forces to design the most collaborative and current protected areas database of the USA (PAD-US). The vision of this group, the PAD-US Partnership, is to provide guidance and resources to maintain protected lands data with greater accuracy and detail than was previously possible. To fulfill the NBII mission to facilitate the widest possible access to and use of biological data and information, GAP worked with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) to link PAD-US to the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). In addition, the PAD-US database will be submitted annually to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC.org) for integration into the North American Environmental Atlas. PAD-US is a geodatabase that combines administrative boundaries with attributes of ownership, management, and conservation measures. Available information includes: geographic boundaries of public land ownership and voluntarily provided private conservation lands (e.g., TNC preserves); a combination of land owner, manager, management designation, parcel name, and source of geographic information of each mapped land unit; International Union for Conservation of Nature category (http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/categories/index.html); and GAP Status Codes intended to provide a measurement of management commitment for long term biodiversity protection. GAP categorizes protected areas. For more information, see http://gapanalysis.nbii.gov/PADUS or contact John Mosesso, Gap Analysis Program Manager, at john_mosesso@usgs.gov

Comprehensive Land Surface Imagery now available via GEOSS
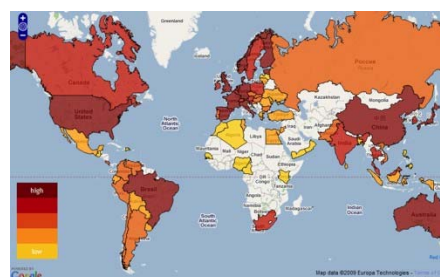Source: GEO News (Issue #3, 18 May 2009)

In an exciting advance for the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), ten leading space-related agencies collaborating through the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), its Land Surface Imaging Constellation Study Team, and its Working Group on Information System and Services (WGISS) have developed a portal that collects and distributes satellite imagery of the Earth's land surface. Users can now access images from all ten partners via a single web portal. This new portal is a gateway to the world's largest collection of Land Surface Imagery and data (LSI) taken from space. The LSI portal is intended to serve as an invaluable tool for predicting and managing natural disasters, monitoring climate change, studying ecosystems and biodiversity, and addressing many other scientific and policy challenges.

Map of employment rates of OpenSource Software
Source: http://www.directionsmag.es/

RedHat Company and Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) have presented a study that shows the Open Software Source extent activity by country. We can see the results at this link: http://www.redhat.com/about/where-is-open-source/activity/. The indices are calculated from normative standards implemented in each country, tales como number of Open Source users, among others.

Google Maps now on Twitter!
Source: http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/

Want to know what's on our minds or what we're up to at any given moment? Google Maps is now talking on Twitter under the name GoogleMaps. Twitter and GoogleMaps will share information on cool uses and product tips for Google Maps, behind-the-scenes musings from Googlers and general goings-on in the mapping world.

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Training Opportunities

U.N. announces first free e-university

Source: http://www.upi.com/

The first-ever, tuition-free online university opened its virtual doors to a worldwide student population, the United Nations said from its New York offices. "This year the Global Alliance has focused its attention on education (and) how ICT can advance education goals around the world," a spokesperson for the U.N. agency said during a news conference. Shai Reshef, founder of the University of the People, said the online university is geared to students who are constrained by finances, the lack of institutions in their region or unable to leave home to study at a university. Reshef said University of the People uses open-source technology, open course materials, e-learning methods and peer-to-peer teaching. Class size is limited to 20 students, who can log one for a weekly lecture, conduct discussions with peers and take tests. Students are charged a US$15 to US$50 admission fee, depending on their country of origin, and a test processing fee, ranging from US$10 to US$100. About 200 students from 52 countries were admitted to the university just through word-of-mouth, the organization said. Entry requirements are a high school diploma and a sufficient knowledge of English.

New MA programme in Digital Anthropology at University College London
Source: Lane DeNicola by way of Air-I list;

Application deadline: **30 June** 2009 http://www.ucl.ac.uk/anthropology/digital-anthropology/ Digital technologies have become ubiquitous. From Facebook, YouTube and Flickr to PowerPoint, Google Earth and Second Life. Museum displays migrate to the internet, family communication in the Diaspora is dominated by new media, and artists work with digital films and images. Anthropology and ethnographic research is fundamental to understanding the local consequences of these innovations, and to create theories that help us acknowledge, understand and engage with them. Today's students need to become proficient with digital technologies as research and communication tools. Through combining technical skills with appreciation of social effects, students will be trained for further research and involvement in this emergent world. This MA brings together three key components in the study of digital culture: 1. Skills training in digital technologies, including our own Digital Lab, from internet and digital film editing to e-curation and digital ethnography. 2. Anthropological theories of virtualism, materiality/immateriality and digitization. 3. Understanding the consequences of digital culture through the ethnographic study of its social and regional impact. There is a £5,000 annual bursary specifically for this and the MA in Material and Visual Culture, as well as 3 x £1,000 bursaries for all anthropology MA programmes. All those who have submitted an application by **30 June 2009** will automatically be considered and no additional application form is necessary. In order to ensure your application is received we recommend that you download the application form from: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/application-admission/downloadable-applications And send this directly to: Prof. Daniel Miller, Department of Anthropology, University College London,14 Taviton Street, London WC1H OBW

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Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

GEOSS in the Americas

Source: The GEOSS Secretariat by way of Santiago Borrero

Building on the recent GEOSS in the Americas Symposium in Panama in September, 2008, we want to inform you of a new opportunity available through the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) which has issued a Call for Proposals (CFP) for organizations to propose projects that apply Earth observations in decision making. This CFP seeks to promote practical applications of Earth observations to improve decision making and to highlight specific examples in which Earth observations provide societal benefit. The CFP has a strong interest to support end users in developing countries. This CFP requests projects for the following GEO Societal Benefit Areas (SBA): Agriculture (including forests), Energy, Health (including air quality), and Water. In the first stage, project teams submit brief Concept Proposals (5 pages maximum). The Concept Proposals are due **June 4**, 2009. GEO will review these Concept Proposals and determine which projects to connect with resource-providing organizations and experts in Earth observations. The GEO Call for Proposals is available through website: http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss_call_dsp.shtml

GEO will soon hold an international teleconference to explain the Call for Proposals and answer questions. We strongly encourage you to read the CFP and submit proposals. For questions, contact: Fernando Ramos and Imraan Saloojee, secretariat@geosec.org

AECID Courses 2009 on SDI, GPS and Remote Sensing

Source: iabinfriends list

Call for three courses for Latin American students on SDI, GPS and Remote Sensing, organized by the Spanish Agency of International Development Cooperation (in Spanish AECID), in collaboration with the University "Politecnica de Madrid" (in Spanish UPM) and the National Geographic Institute (in Spanish IGN). Terms and conditions may be found here. This year there are 20 seats for the course on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI only in Spanish) to be held during November in Madrid, Spain. Applications must be submitted electronically at http://www.aecid.es/pifte by **July 18**. For more information, please contact the AECI Office in your country.

3rd Conservation Biology Refresher Course at Santiago de Chile

Source: Rita Besana by way of Santiago Borrero

Launched call for the 3rd Regional Refresher Course in Conservation Biology that will take place in the National Reserve "Rio Clarillo" in Santiago, Chile on November 10 and 21, 2009 (funding by OAS FEMCIDI). More information is available at www.rlb-botanica.org. Deadline for applying to a scholarship to attend the course is **September 15**, 2009.

The Latin American and the Caribbean Water Prizes PLACA 5th edition
Source: PLACA, CATHALAC

The Latin American and Caribbean Water Awards (PLACA) recognize and share innovative solutions in themes related to integrated water resource management in the Latin-American and Caribbean region. The PLACA Awards are a regional initiative that promotes the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015, proclaimed by the United Nations. PLACA's main objective is to recognize efforts to find solutions to issues related to integrated management of water resources. The awards seek to honor outstanding local, national, and regional efforts, as well as best practices of communities, community-based groups, non-governmental organizations, businesses, schools, youth movements, journalists, and individuals that strive to half, by 2015, the world wide proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. PLACA 2009 Categories are: Community Award, Entrepreneurial Award, Youth Award, Academic Award, Journalism Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award. The winners will be chosen by an International Qualifier Committee and the general public through online voting. PLACA winners receive a certificate and a sculpture designed by renowned international artist Olga Sinclair, and a cash prize, honored at the awards ceremony under the Inter-American Water Day. All nominations must be submitted online and received by **August 31**, 2009. For more information on PLACA 2009, please visit: www.premiosdelagua.org. Questions or inquiries can be directed to: placa@cathalac.org or phone (507) 317-3200 / 3245.

Request for Proposals - WHMSI Capacity Building training
Source: Brian Hayum by way of IABIN list

Please find a request for proposals and documentation on Annex1 and Annex 2 for a second round of training workshops under The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), funded by the Organization of American States FEMCIDI Program. Proposals are due by **June 15th**, 2009. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Brian Hayum (Brian_Hayum@fws.gov) or Richard Huber (rhuber@oas.org).

PhD Studentships- The Horizon Doctoral Training Centre for the Digital Society, University of Nottingham
Source: Suchith Anand by way of GSDI technical list

There is one international studentship available. Location-aware Ubiquitous Computing, which takes advantage of knowing the geographical position of the millions of fixed and mobile computing and communications devices embedded into the world around us - is the most exciting and significant technology to emerge since the Internet. It promises to transform the ways in which we work, shop, travel, learn, socialize and play. Would you like to be at the heart of this revolution, exploring new uses of ubiquitous computing, creating new location-aware technologies, or studying their impact on people's lives? This new Doctoral Training Centre at the University of Nottingham is recruiting on to a unique and major new PhD program in Location-aware

Ubiquitous Computing. Students will benefit from a fully-funded four-year PhD program that integrates a leading-edge research project with research training in interdisciplinary skills. Informal enquiries may be addressed to Professor Mike Jackson, e-mail: Mike.Jackson@nottingham.ac.uk or Dr H Glover, tel.: 0115 846 6780 e-mail: Hazel@cs.nott.ac.uk For an application form, please e-mail Samantha Stapleford, ssx@cs.nott.ac.uk, telephone 0115 951 4225 or write to Samantha Stapleford, School of Computer Science, The University of Nottingham, Jubilee Campus, Wollaton Road, Nottingham, NG8 1BB. Please quote ref. The closing date for this round of applications is Monday **15 June** 2009.

University of Iowa Graduate Student Research Positions
Source: USGIS list
The Department of Geography at the University of Iowa is accepting applications for graduate student research positions. These positions are available beginning as early as the Fall of 2009 and offer a unique opportunity to participate in large interdisciplinary NSF funded projects focused on the application of agent-based models to land use decision-making. Skills in geographic information science and computer programming are required. Research assistantship stipends start at >$19K for a 12 month appointment, with health benefits and tuition scholarships. For more information please contact, David Bennett, david-bennett@uiowa.edu, Department of Geography, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA.

UN/Austria/ESA Symposium, Graz: Information Note and Application Form now Online
Source: Levent Canturk by way of Santiago Borrero

The United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on "Small Satellite Programs for Sustainable Development" will be held in Graz, Austria from 8 to 11 September 2009. The Symposium is part of a series of annual symposia held in Graz since 2003 concerned with the use of space applications for sustainable development to support the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It will be hosted and co-sponsored by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology of the Government of Austria, the State of Styria, and the City of Graz and by the European Space Agency (ESA). Detailed information on the Symposium, including the application form, is available online at http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/SAP/act2009/graz/index.html. Within the limited funds available to the co-sponsors, a number of selected participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, will be offered financial support to attend the Symposium. Applicants fulfilling the conditions and seeking financial support are invited to fill out and return the application form by mail, no later than Monday, **06 July** 2009.

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Employment Opportunities

GIS Position at Louisiana Tech University
Source: Taylor E. Mack by way of Leo Zonn
The Department of Social Sciences of the Louisiana Tech University invites applications for a tenure-track position in Geographic Information Science at the Assistant Professor level, beginning September 2009. A PhD in Geography or Geographic Information Science, or related disciplines of Social Sciences and/or Resource Management, with a specialization in GIS, is required by this date. Successful classroom teaching experience is a plus, as is evidence of research/scholarship ability. The successful candidate will become part of a small, collegial department, and will be expected to contribute to both an interdisciplinary GIS program and the related Geography program. Apply: Please

send letter of application, curriculum vitae, unofficial transcripts, and three current letters of recommendation to: Dr. Jason Pigg, Head, Department of Social Sciences, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA 71272. Review of applicants began on May 18 and continue until the position is filled. Louisiana Tech University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. Louisiana Tech University is a member of the University of Louisiana system. Contact: Taylor E. Mack, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of Geography tmack@latech.edu

CLME Project Officially Started
Source: Martin Johnston by way of Bruce Potter

Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project

The Caribbean Large Marine ecosystem Project (CLME) has now officially started. The Project Coordination Unit (PCU), opened on 4 May in Cartagena, Colombia,. Currently there is a team of two people comprising Ivan Soto, Senior Project Officer, and Martin Johnston, Regional Project Coordinator. During these first weeks activities are concentrating on preparing the first budget and work plan, getting the communications systems operational, initiating the Project subcontracts, and recruiting the rest of the CLME team.
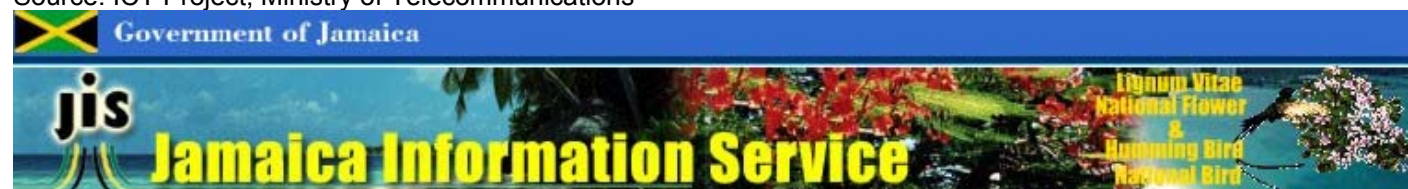
Plans for the first Steering Committee Meeting is for the week of 28 September in Cartagena. The CLME team would like to know what your priorities and expectations for the Project are. Contact: Martin Johnston (PhD), CLME Regional Project Coordinator, E-mail MartinJ@UNOPS.org Cel (57) 301 725 6616, Skype martinj64; Ivan Soto, CLME Senior Project Officer, E-mail IvanS@UNOPS.org Cel (57) 301 725 6643 Skype ivansc1 Address/Dirección c/o IOCARIBE IOC (UNESCO), Calle de la Factoria, Casa del Marques de Valdehoyos, Cartagena Centro, COLOMBIA, Tel (57) 5 664 0955 Fax (57) 5 664 0288.

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Other

Twelve Community ICT Projects in Jamaica Boosted
Source: ICT Project, Ministry of Telecommunications

Community Access Points (CAPs) enable low-income citizens to gain access to information and services that are available online, such as employment exchange, market information, distance learning and technical assistance. The project worked with the communities to outfit 12 CAP sites at: Eastern Peace Centre - Windward Road; Olympic Gardens Community Centre; Santa Cruz Branch Library; Community Organizations for Management and Sustainable Development (COMAND); Jeffery Town Farmers' Association; Scientific Research Council; Annotto Bay High Vocational Training School; Geddes Mountain and Hamilton Mountain; Bath - St. Thomas; Hills United Development Organization (HUDO); Lucea Skill Training Centre and Ewarton Action Development Committee (ECODAC). The project is embarking on establishing an additional 16 CAP sites in the current fiscal year.

Call for ICT in Education and Health

Source: http://insidecostarica.com/

Electronic public health and education systems represent the most efficient, effective and equal form of services, pointed out here the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). In an official statement on the World Day of the Telecommunications and the Information Society, the United Nations organization highlights its potential to improve the coverage, to save costs, to broadcast medical alerts, distance-teaching and speed up diagnoses. It also insists on the need to increase the use and access to the Information and the Communications Technologies (ICT), to qualify the users and generate applications and contents.

Google, IICA and CATIE join forces to promote agricultural knowledge

Source: Kate Lance

Thanks to new agreements signed by Google, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), people around the world are just a click away from accessing nearly 9000 books on agriculture. And the figure is set to rise to over 20,000 books in the near future. The texts form part of the collections of the Venezuela Library, at IICA Headquarters, and the Orton Commemorative Library, located on the campus of CATIE. Both are situated in Costa Rica. The collection of books includes unique materials dating from as far back as 1942 and from as recently as this year. The Google/IICA partnership, with CATIE now on board as well, aims to share with the world knowledge and information about agriculture, a sector whose importance the Institute believes needs to be reassessed. IICA is Google's first partner in Latin America to digitize its entire archive, one of the largest in the region. The Web company and the specialized agency of the inter-American system took the first step in 2006, when they incorporated the databases of the Agricultural Information Service of the Americas (SIDALC) into Google's search engine. For more information, contact federico.sancho@iica.int

Landsat archive downloads hit 500,000 mark

Source: http://www.earthobservations.org/ ; http://www.earthobservations.org/pr_gnl.shtml

On 2 April, the US Geological Survey announced that the number of remotely-sensed images downloaded free-of-charge from the Landsat archive had already reached 500,000. This compares with the previous record of 25,000 paid downloads for an entire year. The new policy of granting unrestricted access to Landsat archival images was announced by the US at the GEO-V Plenary meeting in November 2008. Together with the free data policy of Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE), the new US approach to satellite data marks a major advance for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles.

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Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

Users downloaded 100 million images for Canary mapping
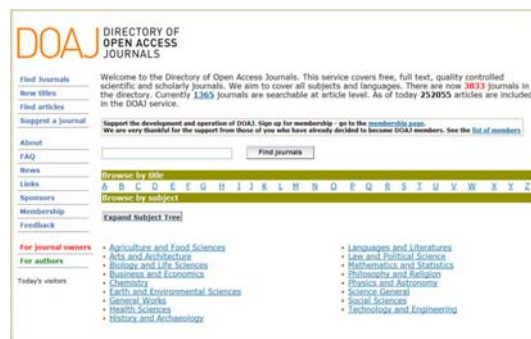Source: http://canarias24horas.com/
More than one hundred million images on the territory of the Canary Islands have been downloaded by Internet users on the free page of Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Canary Islands (IDECanarias), a service promoted by the regional government through the company Public Cartographic Canarias (GRAFCAN). The Department of Environment and Spatial Planning reported that this service has been operating for a year and includes orthophotos, basic cartography, thematic maps and data on the occupation of land in the islands. GRAFCAN also provides an archive of aerial imagery of the Canary Islands on the Internet, which allows reaching 140,000 photographs in their original resolution of the archipelago collected since 1961.

Free Online Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
Source: The Publisher http://free-gis-data.blogspot.com by way of Carib-GIS-users list
This excellent online Directory contains free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals. There are now 3,833 journals in the directory. Currently 1,365 journals are searchable at article level. As of today 252,055 articles are included in the Directory of Open Access Journals service. Visit below for full details:
http://free-gis-data.blogspot.com/2009/01/directory-of-open-access-journals-doaj.html

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Americas: Conferences, SDI Events – Year 2009

JUNE 2009		
1-2	Houston TX, USA	**GIS: Real Business Value** Details: www.euci.com/conferences/0609-gis/
1-4	Vancouver, Canada	**GeoTec 2009** E-mail: khastings@geoplace.com
1-4	Sheboygan WI, USA	**Midwest Infrastructure & GIS Technical Conference**
2 *NEW*	Belo Horizonte / MG, Brazil	**1st Brazilian Congress on Energetic Forest**
2	Albany NY, USA	**Creating Effective Web Maps- Free ESRI Seminar**
2 *NEW*	Eugene OR, USA	**Mapping Oregon Communities - An Intro to GIS**
2-3	Prince George BC, Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference**

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2-4	Novi MI, USA	**Telematics Updates Detroit** Details: www.telematicsdetroit.com/register
2-5	Belo Horizonte MG, Brazil	**First Brazilian Congress on Energetic Woodland** E-mail: florestasenergeticas@fbeventos.com
2-5	San Francisco CA, USA	**2009 JavaOne Conference**
3 ***NEW***	USA	**Webinar: What Is Radar Data?**
3-4	Washington DC, USA	**Opportunities In Transportation Infrastructure 2009**
3-5	Orlando FL, USA	**Pitney Bowes Business Insight User Conference**
4	Danvers MA, USA	**Creating Effective Web Maps- Free ESRI Seminar**
4-5 ***NEW***	Portland OR, USA	**Mapping Oregon Communities Workshop - Intro to GIS**
5-8	Providence RI, USA	**Second GIS in Public Health Conference: "Putting Health in Place with GIS"**
6 ***NEW***	Heredia, Costa Rica	**ERDAS Users Annual Meeting**
8-9	Estes Park CO, USA	**GeoGathering 2009**
8-12	Dallas TX, USA	**Defense Installation Geospatial Information & Services (IGI&S) Conference & Exposition 2009**
11-12	Whistler BC, Canada	**2009 FME International User Conference**
13-16	Green Bay WI, USA	**2009 Indigenous Mapping Network Conference**
15-18	Washington DC, USA	**Intergraph 2009**
15-19	Rotterdam, The Netherlands	**GSDI - 11 Conference** Theme: "SDI convergence on global level: Bridging the SDI's in Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa" Contact: Harlan Onsrud / E-mail: onsrud@gsdi.org
17-19	Heredia, Costa Rica	**XII Ibero-American Conference on Geographic Information Systems** / E-mail: sibsig@una.ac.cr
17-19 ***NEW***	Heredia, Costa Rica	**XII Ibero American Conference on GIS and Remote Sensing**

18 *NEW*	Raleigh NC, USA	**Mapping North Carolina Communities Workshop - Intro to GIS**
21-24	Toronto, Canada	**19th World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM)** E-mail: cwright@divcomevents.com / Web: http://www.wcdm.org
21-27	Ciudad de Loja, Ecuador	**PARAMUNDÍ, Bleak Plateau, 2nd World Congress**
22-24	São José dos Campos, Brazil	**2nd Advanced Course on Remote Sensing for Environmental Study** Further information: Elisabete Caria de Moraes - E-mail: bete@dsr.inpe.br
22-25	Bridgeport CT, EUA	**Sixth International Conference on Remote Engineering and Virtual Instrumentation (REV 2009)**
22-26 *NEW*	Cambridge MA, USA	**OGC Technical Committee Meeting**
23 *NEW*	Cambridge MA, USA	**OGC 3D Fusion Summit**
24-26	Toronto, Canada	**Innovative Lidar Solutions Conference**
25-26 *NEW*	Carmel IN, USA	**Mapping Indiana Communities Workshop - Intro to GIS**
25-29	Brewster MA, USA	**MAPPS Summer Conference**
28 *NEW*	Providence RI, USA	**GIS in Public Health Conference**
To be determined	São José dos Campos, Brazil	**First Workshop of the Brazilian Oceanographic Spatial Mission** Further Information: Milton Kampel y João Antonio Lorenzetti E-mail: milton@dsr.inpe.br / loren@dsr.inpe.br

JULY 2009		
2-15	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	**XXVII General Assembly IAU** Web: www.iau.org
5-8	St. John's (Newfoundland), Canada	**6th International Symposium on Spatial Data Quality (ISSDQ 2009),** "Quality: From Process to Decisions" Contact: Rodolphe Devillers / E-mail: issdq2009@mun.ca

6-10	Viçosa, MG, Brazil	**13th Brazilian Symposium on Applied Physical Geography** E-mail: 13sbgfa@ufv.br
6-10	Havana, Cuba	**7th International Convention on Environment and Development;** 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: convencion@ama.cu
6-26 ***NEW***	Los Angles CA, USA	**UCLA Certificate Program in Geospatial Information Systems & Technology**
7-10 ***NEW***	Hunt Valley MD, USA	**Mapping Maryland Communities Workshop - Intro to GIS**
8-9	São José dos Campos, Brazil	**SICINPE 2009** Contact: José Carlos Becceneri - becce@lac.inpe.br
9-10 ***NEW***	Washington DC, USA	**Mapping MDC Communities Workshop - Intro to GIS**
10-13	Orlando FL, USA	**The 2nd International Symposium on Academic Globalization: AG 2009 Jointly with the 13th Multi-conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics: WMSCI 2009** E-mail: ag@mail.iiis2009.org
10-13	Orlando FL, USA	**IMETI 2009, Engineering and Technological Innovation (IMETI)** E-mail: imeti@mail.iiis2009.org
10-13	Orlando FL, USA	**AG 2009 Academic Globalization (AG)** E-mail: ag@mail.2009iiisconferences.org
10-13	Orlando FL, USA	**CCCT 2009 Computing, Communications and Control Technologies (CCCT),** E-mail: ccct@mail.2009iiisconferences.org
10-13	Orlando FL, USA	**KGCM 2009 Knowledge Generation Communications Management (KGCM)** E-mail: kgcm@mail.2009iiisconferences.org
11-14	San Diego CA, USA	**2009 ESRI Survey & Engineering GIS Summit**
11-14	San Diego CA, USA	**2009 ESRI Education User Conference**
11-14	San Diego CA, USA	**2009 ESRI Homeland Security GIS Summit**
12-15	San Diego CA, USA	**2009 ESRI Business GIS Summit**
13-17	San Diego CA, USA	**29th ESRI International User Conference**

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14-16	São Paulo, Brazil	**GEOBrasil Summit 2009** 10° International Geoinformation Congress and Exhibition Brazil Contact: info@geobr.com.br
15-16 *NEW*	Olympia WA, USA	**Mapping Washington Communities Workshop - Intro to GIS**
17 *NEW*	Kirkland WA, USA	**Mapping Washington Communities Workshop - Intro to GIS**
18-21	Big Bear Lake CA, USA	**2009 Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS)**
19-29	Montreal, Canada	**iaMas-iapsO-iaCs-Assembly-2009 (MOCA-09)** Web: http://iamas-iapso-iacs-2009-montreal.ca/
20-24 *UPDATED*	São José dos Campos, Brazil	**12th Course of Scholarly Use of Remote Sensing for Environmental Study** / Further information: Elisabete Caria de Moraes / E-mail: bete@dsr.inpe.br
21-22	Arlington VA, USA	**Geospatial Analysis and Intelligence for Homeland Security Workshop**
21-23	São Paulo, Brazil	**2nd Expo GPS - 2009**
21-23	São Paulo, Brazil	**Geosummit Latin-American 2009** Web Site: http://www.geobr.com.br
21-24	Presidente Prudente, Brazil	**6th International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology - MMT'09** E-mail: mmt2009@fct.unesp.br
22 *NEW*	Nashville TN, USA	**Mapping Tennessee Communities Workshop - Intro to GIS**
22-24	São José dos Campos, Brazil	**9th Meeting of Scholarly Use on Remote Sensing** Information: Elisabete Caria de Moraes Correo electrónico: bete@dsr.inpe.br
24 *NEW*	Memphis TN, USA	**Mapping Tennessee Communities Workshop - Intro to GIS**
27-31	Vancouver BC, Canada	**GeoWeb 2009** E-mail: info@geowebconference.org chiebert@galdosinc.com
28-30	Bogotá D.C, Colombia	**First National Congress on Protected Areas** Contact: Fanny Suarez V E-mail: lcano@parquesnacionales.gov.co

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AUGUST 2009		
2-6 ***NEW***	San Diego CA, USA	**SPIE Conference "Videometrics X"** Dr. Fabio Remondino, E-mail: fabio@geod.baug.ethz.ch
2-15	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	**XXVII General Assembly International Astronomical Union (IAU)** Web: www.iau.org
3-7	New Orleans LA, USA	**SIGGRAPH 2009**
4-6	Fairbanks AK, USA	**Circumpolar Conference on Geospatial Sciences and Applications**
4-6	Providence RI, USA	**2009 URISA/NENA Addressing Conference**
6-7 ***NEW***	Guatemala City, Guatemala	**2009 ESRI Central America User Conference**
10-12	Raleigh NC, USA	**3rd Annual HAZUS Conference**
10-13	Washington DC, USA	**AUVSI's Unmanned Systems North America 2009**
12-14	Fairfax VA, USA	**The 17th International Conference on Geoinformatics (Geoinformatics 2009)** Contact: info@geoinformatics2009.org
24-28	Salvador Bahia, Brazil	**11th International Congress of the Brazilian Geophysical Society (SBGf)** E-mail: salvador2009@sbgf.org.br Web: http://congresso.sbgf.org.br
August 31 – September 4	Buenos Aires, Argentina	**SIRGAS Meeting 2009** In the framework of the International Association of Geodesy Scientific Assembly IAG 2009
August 31 – September 4	Buenos Aires, Argentina	**International Association of Geodesy Scientific Assembly IAG 2009 "Geodesy for Planet Earth"** Contact: Dr. Charles K Toth- /, E-mail: toth@cfm.ohio-state.edu

SEPTEMBER 2009		
2-3	Sao Paulo, Brazil	**Interop**
10-11	Regina SK, Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference**
13-16	Columbus OH, USA	**APWA's 2009 International Public Works Congress and Expo**

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13-17	Houston TX, USA	**GIS for Oil & Gas Conference and Exhibition**
14-16 ***NEW***	National Harbor, MD, USA	**25th Annual Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition** Details: www.afa.org/events/conference/2009
15-17	Loveland CO, USA	**GIS in the Rockies**
16-18 ***NEW***	Denver CO, USA	**GIS in the Rockies**
17-18	Edmonton AB, Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference**
21-23	Nashville TN, USA	**2009 ESRI Health GIS Conference**
22-23	Montréal QC, Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference**
22-23	Plymouth MI, USA	**PLM Road Map 2009**
September 27 - October 4 ***NEW***	Morelia, Michoacán, México	**Multidisciplinary International Volcanology Congress to Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of Volcán Jorullo's Birth in Michoacán, México** E-mail: csiebe@geofisica.unam.mx / m.guilbaud@geofisica.unam.mx / gbocco@ciga.unam.mx / mtramirez@berkley.edu / vgmonroy@zeus.umich.mx
28-29	Vancouver BC, Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference**
September 29 - October 2	Anaheim CA, USA	**URISA's 47th Annual Conference & Exposition**
September 30 - October 1	Penticton BC, Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference**
September 30 - October 2	Santa Catarina, Brazil	**CoastGIS 2009** Contact: contato@coastgis.com.br

OCTOBER 2009		
4-7	Campos Do Jordão, São Paulo, Brazil	**Latin American Conference IALE 2009** **"Landscape Ecology in Latin America: Challenges and Perspectives"** Contact: Congress Secretariat and Information E-mail: ialebr2009@eventus.com.br
5-7	Curitiba, Brazil	**Meeting of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity**

5-7	Westin Westminster CO, USA	**Location Intelligence 2009**
5-9	Antigua, Guatemala	**Iberoamerican Workshop on Geographic Information Systems applied on Renewable Energies**
6-7	Toronto, Ontario Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference** Details: www.procalculoprosis.com/lauc09/
6-9	Santa Maria RS, Brazil	**7th Working day on Remote Sensing Education in the frame of Mercosur**, Web Page: http://www.ltid.inpe.br/selper E-mail: tania@ltid.inpe.br
7-9	Bogotá, Colombia	**ESRI Latin American User Conference** Details: www.procalculoprosis.com/lauc09/
8-25	Buenos Aires, Argentina	**13th World Forestry Congress**
11-14	Atlanta GA, USA	**2009 Electric & Gas User Group (EGUG) Conference** Details: www.esri.com/egug
11-15	San Francisco CA, USA	**Oracle Open World**
13-16	SJ Campos-SP, Brazil	**Workshop on Space Weather** Information: Hisao Takahashi / E-mail: hisaotak@laser.inpe.br
15-16	Winnipeg MB, Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference**
16-17	Miami FL, USA	**Mapping Florida Communities: An Introduction to GIS & Community Analysis - One Day Workshops**
16-19	San Antonio TX, USA	**ASPRS/MAPPS 2009 Fall Conference** E-mail: asprs@asprs.org
18-21	San Antonio TX, USA	**GEOINT 2009**
20-21	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference**
21	São Paulo, Brazil	**InfoGEO and InfoGPS Seminar – Transportation Management** Web page: http://www.mundogeo.com/seminarios/GF/ E-mail: seminario@mundogeo.com
21-23	Pueblo CO, EUA	**ESRI Southwest User's Group Conference - 2009**
23-24	Tallahassee FL, USA	**Mapping Florida Communities: An Introduction to GIS & Community Analysis - One Day Workshops**

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27-30 ***NEW***	Popayán, Colombia	**XVIII Colombian Congress of Geography** Contact: Martha Martínez Rubiano E-mail: ccgeografia2009@unicauca.edu.co, ccgeografia2009@gmail.com .
27-30	Quito, Ecuador	**19th General Assembly and Consultative Technical Meetings of the Commissions of PAIGH**
28-29	Halifax NS, Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference**
28-31	Chihuahua, Mexico	**I6th Symposium on Geography Teaching in Mexico, Chihuahua 2009** Contact: Álvaro Sanchez Crispin - asc@igg.unam.mx

NOVEMBER 2009		
3-4 ***NEW***	Calgary, Alberta, Canada	**2009 GIS for Oil & Gas Calgary Conference** Details: gita.org/events/ogca/2009/index.asp
3-4	St. John's NL, Canada	**ESRI Regional User Conference**
4-6	Seattle WA, USA	**17th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems (ACM GIS 2009)** Abstract Submission: June 18, 2009
5	Orlando FL, USA	**Mapping Florida Communities: An Introduction to GIS & Community Analysis - One Day Workshops**
7	Jacksonville FL, USA	**Mapping Florida Communities: An Introduction to GIS & Community Analysis - One Day Workshops**
7-11	Corumbá MS, Brazil	**2º GeoPantanal – Symposium on Swamp Geo-technologies**
9-12	Gramado, Brazil	**3rd International Workshop on Semantic & Conceptual Issues in GIS (SeCoGIS2009) in conjunction with the 28th International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER2009)** Contact: Prof. Esteban Zimanyi E-mail: estebanzimanyi@gmail.com
10-12	St. Petersburg FL, USA	**2009 GIS in Transit Conference**
14-19	San Antonio TX, USA	**MAPPS/ASPRS Joint Specialty Conference**
15-21	Santiago, Chile	**ICC2009- 24th International Cartographic Conference 2009** http://www.icc2009.cl/

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15-21 *NEW*	Kingston, Jamaica	**Geography Awareness Week**
16-19	San Antonio TX, USA	**ASPRS/MAPPS 2009 Fall Conference**
16-20	New York NY, USA	**Interop New York**

DECEMBER 2009		
1-4	Las Vegas NV, USA	**Autodesk University**
7-11 *NEW*	Mountainview CA, USA	**OGC Technical and Planning Committee Meeting**
14-18	San Francisco CA, USA	**Fall Meeting AGU** Web: http://www.agu.org/meetings.shtml

YEAR 2010

JANUARY 2010		
5-7 *NEW*	Cuenca, Ecuador	**Sixth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability**
23-28 *NEW*	San Francisco CA, USA	**SPIE Photonics West** Contact: peterb@spie.org

FEBRUARY 2010		
10-15 *NEW*	St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles	**2nd International Conference on Advanced Geographic Information Systems, Applications, and Services GEOProcessing 2010**

MARCH 2010		
23-25	Tampa FL, USA	**DistribuTECH 2010 Conference & Exhibition**

APRIL 2010		
18-22	Kansas City MO, USA	**MAGIC 2010 Symposium**

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25-29 *NEW*	Phoenix AZ, USA	**GITA's 2010 Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference**
26-30	San Diego CA, USA	**ASPRS Annual Conference** E-mail: asprs@asprs.org

JULY 2010		
26-30	Los Angeles CA, USA	**SIGGRAPH 2010**

SEPTEMBER 2010		
19-24	Montreal, Canada	**IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition**

NOVEMBER 2010		
16-18 *NEW*	Orlando FL, USA	**Commission IV Symposium "Geodatabases & Digital Mapping"** Marguerite Madden (President Commission IV) E-mail: mmadden@uga.edu

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