GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS
News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society
Vol. 3, No. 4, 2013

"The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association - Advancing a Location Enabled World"

ASSOCIATION NEWS

GSDI 14/AfricaGIS Conference - Call for Papers Reminder and Registration Update!

Preparations are now well advanced for the **Global Geospatial Conference 2013** – the joint **GSDI 14 World Conference** and **AfricaGIS 2013 Conference** - to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA) Conference Center, 4-8 November 2013. Primary organizers and hosts of this conference include the GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the UN ECA, EiABC - Addis Ababa University, and the International Geospatial Society. The conference theme is "Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction".

Invited and tentatively committed Keynote speakers for the conference include **Jack Dangermond**, President, Esri, and **Barbara Ryan**, Director, GEO Secretariat.

We are now only two weeks away from the deadline for abstracts (for presentations) and full papers for peer reviewed publication – 15 May 2013! See the website for full details at:

http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/papercall.html

and registration is now open at:

http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/register.html.

Note that substantial reduction in registration fees are available for local participants, members of EIS-Africa and members of the International Geospatial Society who are from low income per capita nations. Substantial reductions in Exhibit and Sponsorship fees will be available for companies and agencies that are members of the GSDI Association. It is not too late to join the GSDI Association or International Geospatial Society to enjoy conference fee reductions!

GEO Challenge Grant

The **Group on Earth Observations** (GEO) has contributed $5,000 to help defray expenses of worthy applicants from economically disadvantaged nations in Africa to attend the combined AfricaGIS 2013 and GSDI 14 conference and training workshops before and after the conference. GEO would like to invite, encourage and challenge additional geospatial organizations and agencies from across the globe to make additional contributions.

To qualify to receive partial travel support, an applicant must have an abstract or paper accepted for the conference and be a resident in, and citizen of, any nation in Africa. Abstract submissions are due on or before 15 May 2013. Representatives from contributing organizations will serve on the selection panel for participants to receive the travel support.

If your organization can make a contribution to help support deserving peer professionals from across the African continent, please contact Sives Govender, Director, EIS-Africa, email: SGovender@eis-africa.org, phone: +27-12-3491068. If you are willing to fund and host a workshop, let him know that as well.

About the Global Geospatial Conference 2013

This combined and fully integrated conference offers numerous opportunities for oral presentations and refereed and non-refereed publication outlets. We invite presentations covering the full range of practice, development and research experiences that advance the practice and theory of spatially enabling citizens, government, and industry. The conference theme is Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction.

AfricaGIS is the largest regularly occurring GIS conference in Africa with participants from the whole continent. The GSDI World Conference moves to sites across the globe to offer geospatial specialists from all parts of the world opportunities to better exchange ideas and learn from peers in building spatial data infrastructure. For past conferences, see: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences.

This call for papers supports two primary forms of publication:

(1) a Conference Proceedings, with Abstracts for all accepted submissions, and refereed and non-refereed Full Papers for some of the submissions, and

(2) a pre-conference published book containing fully refereed articles. The tentative title is "Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction: Research, Development and Education Perspectives". The book will be published as an open access book in various e-reader formats.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE DATES

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 15 May 2013

Deadline for Submission of Full Papers for Refereed Publications: 15 May 2013

Deadline for Submission of Full Papers for Non-refereed Publications: 1 Sept 2013

Deadline for Full Conference Registration Payment for All Presenters 15 Sept 2013

Conference Dates: 4-8 Nov 2013

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE LINKS

Joint Conference Call for Abstracts and Papers: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/papercall.html

Conference Website: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14

Past GSDI World Conference Proceedings: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences

Past open access Books affiliated with the conference: http://www.gsdi.org/openaccessbooks

Other Important Dates: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/dates.html

Messages from our Conference Supporters

"*We appreciate that the intention of the event is to give opportunity to GIS experts from the entirety of the African continent for participation. ... This Conference can continue the intensive work undertaken by cartographers, GIScientists and researchers of Africa, providing a good opportunity to establish an interdisciplinary environment, where cartography and GIScience is the key scientific area.*" **Executive Committee of the International Cartographic Association**

Consult the web site at http://gsdi.org/gsdi14/ for latest information and details about the program, facilities and Sponsorship opportunities. Come prepared to engage, learn and enjoy! **We look forward to seeing you in Addis Ababa in November 2013!**

JOIN the GSDI Association or International Geospatial Society to enjoy conference fee reductions!

Substantial reduction in registration fees will be available for local participants, members of EIS-Africa and members of the International Geospatial Society who are from low income per capita nations. Substantial reductions in Exhibit and Sponsorship fees will be available for companies and agencies that are members of the GSDI Association.

Consult the web site at http://gsdi.org/gsdi14/ for latest information and details about the program, facilities and Sponsorship opportunities. Come prepared to engage, learn and enjoy! More news on the conference in future issues!

Partner Event News

MundoGEO Connect# Latin America 2013 is the Conference and Trade Fair for Geomatics and Geospatial Solutions, to be held 18-20 June 2013 at the Frei Caneca Convention Center, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Full details of the conference are at:

http://mundogeoconnect.com/2013/en/

and program details can be found at:

http://mundogeoconnect.com/2013/en/program/.

GSDI COMMITTEE NEWS

To keep abreast of what is happening in SDI and related fields around the globe, be sure to check out the various newsletters downloadable from the GSDI website (http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters). These include the **GSDI Regional Newsletters** for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America & Caribbean; the **GSDI & IGS Global News** (covering GSDI Association and IGS Member activities), **FGDC Newsletter** (USA SDI news), EuroGeographics and **EUROGI Newsletters** (covering Europe), **EIS-Africa** (environmental news from Africa), **SALB Newsletter** (Second Administrative Level Boundaries from the UNGIWG project) and, now, the **UN-SPIDER Newsletter** (the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, published by UNOOSA – UN Office for Outer Space Affairs).

Outreach & Membership Committee

O&M regional vice-Chair for the Middle East and India, **Dr Khalid Al-Haidan**, Director of the Geographic Information Systems Directorate at the Central Informatics Organisation, informs us that the Kingdom of Bahrain, represented by the GIS Directorate, has won the Maturity in GIS Achievement Award in NSDI. More information on this achievement in the section on "Association Member News". Dr Al-Haidan has also been successful in enlisting many new members from the Middle East and India, to the International Geospatial Society, the individual members arm of the GSDI Association. Thanks to Dr Al-Haidan once again for continuing to promote GSDI in the region so successfully!

NEURISA, the New England Chapter of the Urban & Regional Information Systems Association, recently held a quarterly social and educational event featuring "lighting talks". GSDI O&M regional vice-Chair, **Bruce Westcott** (Intergraph) offered a presentation intended to educate listeners on the choices facing software vendors in implementing global standards and to emphasize that standards compliance in itself may be insufficient to support workflows of users. Drawing on experiences over the past few years of designing SDI applications to serve the requirements of the INSPIRE initiative of the European Union, he provided an overview Intergraph's efforts to meet user requirements.

O&M Committee vice-Chair, Communications, **Roger Longhorn**, continues to support communications related activities of the newly elected International Geospatial Society (IGS) officers, as well as serving on the GSDI 14 World Conference committee.

The Outreach & Membership Committee also manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has 260 members. If you are not already a member of this group, please join today – and tell your friends! Visit http://www.linkedin.com to join, then find GSDI in the 'Groups' option, to join the group.

Legal & Socioeconomic Committee

Dr Bastiaan van Loenen, Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands, who is co-Chair of the GSDI Legal & Socioeconomic Committee, provides this issue's Article of the Month, looking at legally interoperable spatial data as among the key factors for successfully utilising spatial data infrastructures. See the full article later in this issue.

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is responsible for updating of the **GSDI SDI Cookbook**, a wiki maintained at:

www.gsdidocs.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Page. The Committee is currently developing a new work plan for 2013-2014 under leadership of Chair, **Eric van Pragg** (CAF).

Societal Impacts Committee

The Societal Impacts Committee, chaired by **Carmelle Terborgh** (Esri), administers the GSDI Small Grants Program, where vice-Chair, **Brigitta Urban-Mathieux** (FGDC) supports the Small Grants Program development. **Jeremy Shen**, Committee vice-Chair, Capacity Building, has provided a video on GIS standards at the website http://ngis.moi.gov.tw/lan_en/VideoEN.aspx#.

Jeremy also organizes annual training sessions held at his Ministry in Taipei and continues to oversee translation of the GSDI Asia-Pacific Newsletter into Chinese plus maintains contact with international SDI/GIS organizations to provide capacity building related material for the association.

The Societal Impacts Committee will be working more closely with the International Geospatial Society officers in the future, especially in relation to capitalizing on capacity building initiatives for IGS members from developing nations.

Small Grants Program Update

A 2011 GSDI Small Project Grants project was completed by Jamaica's National Spatial Data Management Division. The project initiated an NSDI awareness campaign that prepared and printed materials used for outreach to local, regional and international stakeholders. The final document describes the benefits, achievements, and plans for Jamaica's NSDI as well as six selected case studies that highlight NSDI successes in Jamaica. For more information see the extract below.

Jamaica - NSDI Awareness Campaign

Primary Contact: Ministry of Water Land, Environment and Climate Change; Land Information Council of Jamaica; National Spatial Data Management Division; Rohan Richards (original project lead was Ms Cecille Blake). See the extract below from the 82-page report, which can be downloaded (PDF) from:
http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1244.

Jamaica GIS Success Stories

The work of the Land Information Council of Jamaica has been recognized not only in the local GIS communities, but also in the regional and international spheres. The magnitude of the work undertaken by the Council is done through its Secretariat, the National Spatial Data

Management Division. This worldwide recognition of the Council has resulted in the LICJ being awarded four grants of US$2,500 each since 2001 from the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI).

The first GSDI grant was used to create a framework agreement for development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in Jamaica. This grant was used to develop a National Geospatial Portal. The portal facilitates the search, discovery and retrieval of geospatial data and has assisted in the data sharing process by providing LICJ members with free access to the geospatial dataset of another entity. The grant was also used to purchase Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Enterprise Licenses to support the portal development.

The second grant in 2005 continued the work on the geospatial portal and enabled the creation of a Clearinghouse that further supplemented the NSDI and enabled growth in the geospatial arena in Jamaica. In 2007, the Council won a third grant, which was used to implement metadata creation in five Government of Jamaica entities. In furtherance of metadata management, two complimentary technical workshops were held for all LICJ members.

The fourth GSDI grant was awarded in 2011 and was used to assist in continuing the coordination activities for the development of the NSDI, through an awareness initiative, which targeted key stakeholders. In accordance with the NSDI Awareness campaign, the grant was used to prepare, produce and print NSDI Awareness raising materials. These materials were used to inform, educate and sensitize local, regional and international stakeholders of the benefits, achievements and plans for Jamaica's National Spatial Data Infrastructure. A component of this involved undertaking research to prepare this GIS Success Story document of the six selected entities featured in this case study.

The Government of Jamaica has been moving to develop the legal framework to formally establish its NSDI and the national institutional, technical and policy framework to facilitate the capture, management, maintenance, integration, discovery and distribution of spatial data under relevant terms and conditions, at all levels of society and sustainable development. The intention is to empower the National Spatial Data Management Division, the repository of all Government spatial data, to continue the management of Jamaica's NSDI and promote the use and sharing of spatial data as well as to create national standards for collection, storage, maintenance and exchange. The creation of the regulatory framework will support planning, development and related activities; create business opportunities; and facilitate the growth of products and

services in the local geospatial sector.

More than fifty entities within the Government of Jamaica are members of the Land Information Council of Jamaica. The six entities highlighted in this case study were selected because of the extent of penetration of GIS use and application within the respective organization. Challenges, strategies and GIS solutions employed were identified through a review of available literature on and within the entities, as well as national publications such as the Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica, an annual publication of the Planning Institute of Jamaica. Exploratory research was also conducted through the use of interviews and survey instruments to determine the cost and benefits associated with the implementation of GIS technology within the entity. The study of these entities will be used as a teaching aid and to provide guidance for future Spatial Data Infrastructure and GIS development.

Visit the Jamaican National Geospatial Portal at: http://www.licj.org.jm/licj/portal_access1.htm

GSDI Small Grants - URISA GISCorps Support

For information on the support from the **URISA GISCorps** volunteers on behalf of the GSDI Small Grants awards, and other URISA GISCorps activities, visit the GISCorps Ongoing Projects website at:

http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=62

NEW SMALL GRANTS FUNDERS NEEDED!

The GSDI Association Board and Members are seeking funding to help ensure that the Small Grants Program can be continued in 2013 and for the future. Anyone who can help with future financial support, please contact the Association President, Prof David Coleman, or Executive Director, Prof Harlan Onsrud.

A working group has been formed and a new information leaflet defined, to be used for fund raising (see the GSDI web site). This was finalised in October and fund raising actions are now underway, seeking contributions from both the industry and government agencies, plus major cooperation aid funding bodies, academic and research institutions – anyone wishing to offer support for this very worthwhile and highly visible GSDI Association activity.

To see the final reports and for more information on the Small Grants Program visit our web site at http://www.gsdi.org/sic1. Those wishing to make donations to the Small Grants Program in any amount will now find a 'Donate' button on the web pages!

As always, we express the Association's grateful thanks for the past support of the US Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and current support from the URISA GISCorps for making the grants programme possible.

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSPATIAL SOCIETY (IGS)

The International Geospatial Society is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association and seeks individuals for membership who have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests, including professionals working in these topic areas in government, academia or industry, and students. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. As of 30 April 2013, IGS had 271 active members. The IGS web site is at http://www.igeoss.org.

IGS President, *Sives Govender* (Executive Director, EIS-Africa), and President-elect *Dev Raj Paudyal* (Lecturer, University of Southern Queensland, Australia) and Roger Longhorn, vice-Chair, Communications, GSDI O&M Committee, have held two teleconferences in the past month, at which a range of topics were presented and discussed relating to on-going development of the Society. They will continue to meet this way twice-monthly throughout the year, with participation from other GSDI Association Officers, Committee Chairs, vice-Chairs, and Board Members, as needed.

A draft report examining a range of issues, including an updated (draft) IGS Strategy and Workplan, is in preparation and will be posted on the IGS web site towards the end of May, at which time a survey of all IGS members will also be conducted (online) for their feedback. The intention is to have a final document ready well in advance of the next face-to-face IGS meeting to be held at the GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013 joint conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November. The IGS meeting is to be held on Sunday, 3 November, and all IGS Members are invited to participate.

International Geospatial Society Mission and Goals

The **mission** of the International Geospatial Society is to:

- serve as a point of contact and effective voice for those in the global community involved in developing, implementing and advancing geospatial, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information science, and geographic information system concepts,
- foster geospatial, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information science, and geographic information system concepts that support sustainable social, economic, and environmental systems integrated from local to global scales, and
- promote the informed and responsible use of geographic information and spatial technologies for the benefit of society.

The **goals** of the International Geospatial Society are to:

- support the establishment and expansion of local, national, and regional (multi-nation) spatial data infrastructures that are globally compatible,
- provide an organization to foster international communication and collaborative efforts for advancing geospatial technology, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information science, and geographic information system innovations,
- support interdisciplinary research and education activities that advance geospatial technology, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information science, and geographic information system concepts, theories and methods,
- enable better public policy and scientific decision-making through such advancements,
- promote the ethical use of and access to geographic information, and
- foster geospatial technology, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information science, and geographic information system developments in support of important worldwide needs such as:
    - improving local to national economic competitiveness,
    - addressing local to global environmental quality and change,
    - increasing efficiency, effectiveness, and equity in all levels of government, and
    - advancing the health, safety and social wellbeing of humankind in all nations.

Learn more about IGS at *www.igeoss.org* and follow IGS and GSDI news at www.gsdi.org.

IGS REMINDERS

Subscriptions to GIM International

As a member benefit of IGS, you may receive a free subscription of *GIM International*. GIM International carries GSDI news, including IGS news, in a monthly column. If you want to stay up to date with this column and read up on other developments in Geomatics, please follow this link and subscribe if you are not already receiving a hard copy of the magazine: http://www.gim-international.com/GSDI.

Participation in GIKNet

IGS members are also reminded that information is uploaded in GIKnet in the Society Web Forum:

- Topics of general interest (English)
  http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=41

- Topics of general interest (Spanish)
  http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=42

- Task 5. Promote the work of IGS members as a network sharing information, knowledge and publications among IGS members
  http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=12

Members are invited to actively participate in the Society Web Forum, as a means of sharing news.

LinkedIn IGS Sub-Group

On 1 May 2013, we discontinued the IGS Sub-group in the professional social network LinkedIn, since all IGS Members were already required to be members of the GSDI Group before they could join the sub-group, and there seemed little need to continue with maintenance of the sub-group. In future, most communications with IGS Members will be via the IGS mailing list and the web site will shortly be updated to reflect this.

Joining IGS

Remember that individuals in low and very low income nations can apply to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. The listing of low and very-low income nations may be found at http://www.gsdi.org/RankingTable.To join for free, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe on the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) at http://giknet.org and then apply for membership in IGS at http://www.igeoss.org/join.

To maintain your free membership, simply update your professional profile each year on or about December or January. You have the ability to view, edit, or delete your individual profile at any time. Members who joined IGS via this route, i.e. without paying the annual members fee, are reminded to update their information annually, or lose their membership of IGS.

Thanks to the special efforts of *Dr Khalid Al-Haidan*, regional vice-Chair, Middle East & India, GSDI Outreach & Membership Committee, we have seven new members signed up to IGS in April, with a significant additional number of members expected to join from the region in the next month.

Help us reach our goal of 1000 IGS Members by November 2013 – get your friends to join today! We are continually looking for ways to improve on IGS Member Benefits, so please tell us what you think would be most valuable to you, as an IGS Member – or as a potential IGS Member.

IGS Members – submit your news, please, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are over 200 of you out there now, so please communicate with us. News can be sent by e-mail directly to me, Roger Longhorn, Editor GSDI & IGS Global News at roger@alum.mit.edu.

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

EuroGeographics Update

Dave Lovell, President-elect of the GSDI Association and Secretary General and Executive Director of Association member EuroGeographics, announces the following news from his organisation:

The *European Location Framework (E.L.F.) project* commenced on 1st March. This project, conceived by EuroGeographics and now led by EuroGeographics member Kartverket (http://www.statkart.no/en/), will run for 36 months, involves 30 partners, including 16 national mapping and cadastral authorities, and benefits from 6.5 million euro funding (50% of project cost) from the EU's CIP-ICT-PSP programme. For information visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/about/index_en.htm

The project will deliver the location layer for the European SDI and will be Europe's contribution to the UN Global Map for Sustainable development (UN-GM4SD) Workshops on the E.L.F. have been arranged at the Geospatial World Forum and the INSPIRE Conference - see: http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/geospatial-world-forum-2013-0 and
http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2013/.

On 8 March, EuroGeographics launched *EuroGlobalMap opendata*. The data can be downloaded after completing some simple information and is free of charge for any use by anybody. To access the data, visit:
http://www.eurogeographics.org/form/topographic-data-eurogeographics.

In the period since EuroGeographics signed an agreement to support the *Copernicus Emergency Management Service*, 30 European national mapping and cadastral authorities have agreed to make their reference data available for this service, free of charge.

The next steps in this development were discussed at the "*Monitoring Matters – In-situ coordination in support of Copernicus operations Conference*" in April 2013. More information is available here:

http://gisc.ew.eea.europa.eu/gisc-project/meetings/2013/april-2013/gisc-event

Kingdom of Bahrain Achievement Award in NSDI

Dr Khalid Al-Haidan, Director of Geographic Information Systems, Directorate at the Central Informatics Organisation (CIO) informs that Kingdom of Bahrain, represented by the GIS Directorate, has won the "Maturity in GIS Achievement Award in NSDI" which is awarded for the first time in this International conference, held in Dubai from 2 - 4 April 2013. Dr Al-Haidan received the Award on behalf of CIO during the special celebration from the executive Director of GISTEC, the local Esri distributer in UAE.

This achievement is a result of the great support from the leadership, wise government and adds to Bahrain's achievements in all fields. The importance of the award arises from the large number of highly developed countries of the world, especially in Information Systems, noting that the conference included more than 1000 participants from all over the world. Bahrain has reached a distinguished place at the Regional, Continental and Global levels in the field of Geographic Information Systems, and a large number of countries in the region are currently working to take advantage of the Bahraini experience. Noting that this development and advanced level resulted from the continuous progress over several years, as a result of the unlimited support of the Government, Dr Al-Haidan explained that such achievement is part of on-going excellence of the CIO in this field and adds to Bahrain's achievements in all fields.

At the ceremony, Dr Al-Haidan concluded by thanking His Excellency the Minister of Interior, Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa and the CIO president Dr Mohammed Ahmed Al Amer, for their support for GIS which resulted in receiving this award and is a result of the unlimited

support of the senior leadership in the Kingdom and a result of investing in Bahraini human resources and clear strategic plans produced by the cabinet and its support for GIS in different Government ministries and Organizations. This International Award shows that Government strategic plans in this field are moving in the right direction and are producing results, such as the high level of competent human resources and greater achievements in all fields.

Esri NMA Seminar in Africa

Esri conducted a seminar on "*GIS for National Mapping Agenices*" on 25-26 April 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. With continuous demands on land related issues, the National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) are in continuous production to meet the ever increasing planning, survey, adjudication, mapping, cartographic and information systems demands. The seminar goal was to enable NMAs to improve their working efficiencies, improve quality, reduce production time and increase service delivery.

During the seminar, attendees were expected to:
- be updated about the development projects and policies made by different institutions dealing in the planning, land administration, adjudication and management of land issues across the Eastern Africa region;
- identify advances made in policy formulation and implementation regarding National Spatial Plan, National Land Information Management Systems and National Spatial Data Infrastructure;
- share their experiences in planning, mapping, charting, information systems and land administration/adjudication/management, identify the challenges and find the answers; and
- explore the functionality and application of ArcGIS, ENVI and Trimble in mapping and analysis, imagery analysis and accurate data collection.

For more details, visit: http://esriea.co.ke/seminars/gis-for-national-mapping-agencies-seminar/.

2013 GIS in Local Government Benchmark Study

The 2013 "*GIS in Local Government Benchmark Study: Preliminary Report*" is the culmination of a collaborative effort between Australia's councils, SSSI and *Esri Australia*. The Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) is Australia's peak body representing the interests of surveying and spatial science professionals, combining the disciplines of land surveying, engineering and mining surveying, cartography, hydrography, remote sensing and spatial information science.

The Report, which contains the Study findings, was compiled by an independent research agency, which surveyed 150 council representatives on their use of spatial technology. It provides an outline of how councils across the country are currently using GIS - and also how they plan to use it in years to come. The Report also highlights new trends and areas of growth for the sector.

Most importantly, it provides the opportunity for councils to share knowledge and insights with each other that will impact future technology strategies; and support collaboration in areas from community engagement to emergency response. A copy of the Report has been provided exclusively to Study participants - however, you can read an overview of the findings in the articles from Esri Australia, below.

"*Landmark study predicts rise of council smartphone apps*" by Alicia Kouparitsas on 18 April 2013 at: http://esriaustralia.com.au/p/news/landmark-study-predicts-rise-of-council-smartphone-apps-nar-155

"*Study forecasts bright future for GIS industry*" by Alicia Kouparitsas, 18 April 2013 at: http://esriaustralia.com.au/p/news/study-forecasts-bright-future-for-gis-industry-nar-156

See some of the facts and figures from those articles, below.

The study found that "more than half (58 per cent) of respondents expected to release location-based smartphone apps in the next two years, while a majority believed further development of mobile technology was a key priority over the next five years". Results also indicated "smartphone apps are expected to play a crucial role in information gathering during emergency situations, as well as serve as a means to open up community access to council data." Also that "68 per cent indicated the value of the technology is becoming widely understood across their organisations."

Speaking from the SSSI annual conference in Canberra at the launch of the Study, Esri Australia Principal Consultant Gary Johnson said the research showed councils see GIS - an advanced data mapping technology ñ as the key to better communication with the public.

The study showed that councils see "GIS technology as integral to emergency management internally, with around half of respondents declaring it strengthened decision-making (53 per cent) and resource allocation (47 per cent), and heightened situational awareness (48 per cent)."

Also, 85 per cent of councils already provide all of their departments with access to GIS capabilities and 38 per cent planned to increase their GIS technology budget in the near future. Key areas in which the technology is currently used by councils include asset management (97 per cent), planning and analysis (94 per cent), customer service (89 per cent) and emergency management (71 per cent).

FGDC News for April

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is conducting a public review of the draft National Shoreline Data Content Standard. The FGDC has developed a draft National Shoreline Data Content Standard that provides a framework for shoreline data development, sharing of data, and shoreline data transformation and fusion. The FGDC Coastal and Marine Spatial Data Subcommittee, chaired by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), sponsored development of the draft standard. The FGDC Coordination Group, comprised of representatives of Federal agencies, has approved releasing this draft standard for public review and comment.

The draft National Shoreline Data Content Standard and consultation information may be downloaded from:

http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/FGDC-standards-projects/shoreline-data-content/2013-04_PublicReviewShorelineStandard

Comments shall be submitted using the content template at:

http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/process/standards-directives/template.doc

Instructions for completing the comment template are found in FGDC Standards Directive #2d, Standards Working Group Review Guidelines: Review Comment Template, at:

http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/process/standards-directives/directive-2d-standards-working-group-review-guidelines-review-comment-template

Comments on the draft National Shoreline Data Content Standard must be submitted by no later than 31 July 2013.

CNR-El Salvador Develops GIS in the Cloud

The National Registry Center of El Salvador, Headquarters of the National Geographic and Cadastral Institute, became the first in Latin America and the Caribbean region to develop geospatial information services in the Cloud. The project benefited from support

of GSDI Association Members *Esri*, *PAIGH* and *CAF* (Latin American Development Bank).

After considerable preparatory effort led by Engineer Rigoberto Magana, Director of the National Geographic and Cadastral Institute (in Spanish IGCN) of the National Registration Center (NRC), once ready, it had full support of Dr Jose Enrique Argumedo, Executive Director of the National Registry Center, which allowed developing this innovative activity both to El Salvador and the region.

The launch of the National Registry Center Geoportal in BETA version concludes this project, where you may visualize geographic information such as the official and topographic maps of the Republic of El Salvador both at scale of 1:200.000. According to announcement of Mr Magaña, gradually, more geographic layers will be released, more and better services will be provided, and the BETA version of the Geoportal will be consolidated by way of the IGCN / CNR Territorial System Management Office.

This project that will place geospatial information and associated services of the Republic of El Salvador in the Cloud has had support of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and the Development Bank of Latin America (in Spanish CAF), since its inception, as well as the enthusiastic participation of Esri, a company led by Jack Dangermond, who from the beginning expressed interest in supporting initiatives in the Cloud by geographical institutes in the region.

In the words of *Santiago Borrero*, Secretary General of PAIGH (and former President of the GSDI Association), and *Eric van Praag*, GeoSUR Program Coordinator (and current Chair of the GSDI Association Technical Committee), "*Much of the future of these organizations depends on the way and intensity with which new technologies are addressed for spatial information management, as this new platform developed in the cloud has enabled.*"

The initial, take-off phase of the project will last two years with financial, technological and institutional assets form IGCN / CNR, and support of *PAIGH*, *CAF* and *Esri*. Please visit the BETA test site at:

http://www.cnr.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=953&Itemid=327

BISON System from USGS

Biodiversity Information Serving Our Nation (BISON) is the only system of its kind - a unique, web-based Federal resource for finding species in the U. S. and territories. Its size is unprecedented, offering more than 100 million mapped records of nearly every living species nationwide

and growing. And the vast majority of the records are specific locations, not just county or state records.

What is more, BISON provides an "Area of Interest" search capability in which users can query by drawing the exact boundary around their area of interest, down to and including towns, villages, or even much smaller areas such as parks. For instance, New York City's Central Park has more than 100,000 "species occurrences" recorded in BISON, with each species noted in detail. Other BISON search options include querying the species by scientific or common name, year range, state, county, basis of record, or provider institution.

As for the results, BISON displays them in both an interactive map and a list format. Users can click on each species occurrence point to retrieve more information, such as the institution providing the data, the collector, the date collected, and whether it was from a collection or an observation. Further, occurrences can be dynamically visualized with more than 50 other layers of environmental information in the system. Extensive web services are also available for direct connections to other systems.

"*The USGS is proud to announce this monumental resource*", said Kevin Gallagher, Associate Director, Core Science Systems, "*and this is a testament to the power of combining the efforts of hundreds of thousands of professional and citizen scientists into a resource that uses Big Data and Open Data principles to deliver biodiversity information for sustaining the Nation's environmental capital*".

"*BISON is destined to become an indispensable toolkit to manage species occurrence data to support scientific, educational, and policy-making activities in the US*", Dr Erick Mata, Executive Director of the Encyclopedia of Life explained. "*This is highly complementary and synergistic with EOL's efforts to raise awareness and understanding of living nature.*"

"*With BISON, the USGS takes a big step toward making biodiversity data held within Federal agencies easier to find and use*", added Mary Klein, President & CEO of NatureServe. "*I am enthusiastic about future opportunities to work with USGS to increase collaboration among Federal, state and private data holders.*"

USGS Core Science Systems Mission Area, which developed the resource, expects that BISON users will be broad-based and include land managers, researchers, refuge managers, citizen scientists, agriculture professionals, fisheries managers, water resource managers, educators, and more. Land managers, for instance, might be looking for a piece of land to purchase

for conservation, but first they want to know what species have been documented for that parcel. BISON will tell them after only a few mouse clicks.

BISON serves as the U.S. Node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and will form an integral part of EcoINFORMA, the information delivery strategy in "Sustaining Environmental Capital: Protecting Society and the Economy," a recent report by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

"*BISON responds directly to a key need PCAST pointed out in 'Sustaining Environmental Capital' - to make Federal environmental data available, inter-operable, and usable to the public*," said PCAST member Rosina Bierbaum, "*We look forward to this 'biodiversity' hub being supplemented by complementary ecological data hubs by other Federal partners, to further the goal of helping communities across the Nation make increasingly wise planning and management decisions*."

BISON already includes millions of points from the Federal investment in biodiversity research. It is formally cooperating with other Federal agencies to greatly expand the delivery of federally funded biodiversity data for the greatest possible good. Hundreds of thousands of citizen and professional scientists have collected the data in BISON. Non-governmental organizations, state and local governments, universities, and many others are also participating in this enormous undertaking. The USGS has built and maintains BISON, which is hosted on the massive Federal computing infrastructure at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. To learn more, visit: http://bison.usgs.ornl.gov or contact the USGS BISON Team at BISON@usgs.gov.

The USGS Core Science Analytics and Synthesis program within Core Science Systems is home to BISON and focuses on innovative ways to manage and deliver scientific data and information. The program implements and promotes standards and best practices to enable efficient, data-driven science for decision-making that supports a rapid response to emerging natural resource issues. One of the ways this is accomplished is by developing national data products that increase our understanding of the Earth's natural systems.
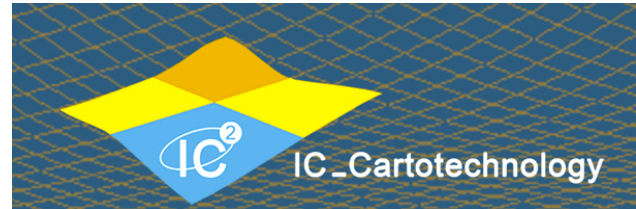
Original article by Mike McDermott & Mark Newell and can be found here:
http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3566

Institut Cartografic de Catalunya (ICC) Cartography Course Announced

GSDI Association member Institut Cartografic de Catalunya (ICC) is pleased to announce the start of the "International Course on Management and Applied Techniques in Cartography" (*IC_Cartotechnology*). IC_Cartotechnology is a capacity-building instrument to provide a wide range of geoinformation professionals with basis of advanced and up-to-date techniques, tools and critical thinking in Geoinformation. IC_Cartotechnology is an international networking platform for attendees, lecturers and professionals; it is the place to exchange different ideas and experiences.

IC_Cartotechnology is a semi-residential Postgraduate Program (45 ECTS) consisting of several modules, certified by the Fundació de la Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and supported by Direcció General d'Universitats de la Generalitat de Catalunya. The Program integrates all the disciplines, approaches and techniques used to acquire and exploit geospatial data. Such data are a key part of scientific, administrative, legal and technical operations involved in the process of production and management of spatial information.

The Program is conducted by the Institut Cartografic de Catalunya (ICC), the official mapping agency of Catalonia with 30 years of experience in capacity building in terms of developing knowledge, infrastructures and added value in cartography. This experience has been key in defining an innovative and consolidated course to track and translate current needs, requirements and geoinformation challenges into a powerful capacity building instrument. Course background:

- The course begins in September 2013.
- Course comprises a 3 term program - 2 terms attended learning + 1 term distance learning
- Modular options available
- Conducted in English
- Program size: 15-20 students
- International highly qualified lecturers
- International Advisory Board
- Total learning effort: 1125h (45 ECTS)

IC_Cartotechnology is a knowledge and technology transfer tool to boost and spotlight your institution by updating your staff knowledge, launching projects on demand and putting the spotlight on your activities. IC_Cartotechnology offers an optimum scenario to promote the basis for an outstanding institution:

- Boosting new ideas and competences along your added valued chain and staff

- Participating in an international networking framework
- Investing in knowledge for internal promotions
- Opening your mind to new ideas and visions

For more information about the modular options and any other aspects of the IC_Cartotechnology, please contact:

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Open Geospatial Consortium Elects Directors

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) recently held its biennial election of directors. Of the 18 elected members of the consortium's 2010-2012 Board of Directors, 15 serving members were re-elected and three new members have been seated. The new OGC board members are **Christopher Holmes, Walter Scott** and **Geoff Zeiss**.

Chris Holmes is the Chairman and Founder of OpenGeo, a social enterprise that builds web-based geospatial technology. Chris is a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) Board Member, an Open Internet Tools Steering Committee Member, and the Chairman of the Project Steering Committee of GeoServer. He has given keynote addresses at geospatial and open source conferences around the world. Chris is a Stanford graduate and a 2005 Fulbright Scholar.

Dr Walter S Scott is Executive Vice President and Chief Technical Officer of DigitalGlobe, which he founded in 1992. Dr Scott is responsible for the development of its space-borne imaging systems, US Government strategy, leadership of DG Labs (DigitalGlobe's R&D efforts), and technical oversight for engineering and technology across DigitalGlobe. He has been responsible for a number of industry "firsts" in commercial and defense related Earth imaging. A member of the US National Research Council Committee on Implementation of a Sustained Land Imaging Program, Dr Scott is also on the Committee on Earth Science and Applications from Space (CESAS) and was a member of the Committee on Earth Studies in 1997-98.

Geoff Zeiss, PhD, is Principal at Between the Poles, a thought leadership consulting firm. Geoff has more than 20 years experience in the geospatial industry and 15 years experience working in enterprise geospatial infrastructure management with some of the largest utilities and communications organizations in the US and around the world, primarily as Director Utility Industry Program, Autodesk, Inc. Geoff has served on the boards of directors of the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA US), Geospatial Industry Association of Canada (GIAC) and the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGEO). He has participated on the Public Advisory Committee for the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI), and supported open standards through several organizations, including the OGC, in which he represented Autodesk at Technical Committee meetings. Geoff is a frequent speaker at major geospatial industry events around the world.

Returning to the OGC board are: Philippe Delclaux, Steve Hagan, Jeffrey Harris, Mike Jackson, Michael Jones, Sanjay Kumar, Vanessa Lawrence, Jacqueline McGlade, Jack Pellicci, Jeff Peters, Kevin Pomfret, Francois Robida, Velu Sinha, Christopher Tucker, and Rob van de Velde. Two OGC staff members, Jeff Burnett and Mark Reichardt, are members of the Board by appointment.

Jeffrey Harris, Chairman of the OGC Board of Directors, said, "We are delighted that Walter Scott, Geoff Zeiss and Chris Holmes have joined our Board. Their expertise and comprehensive understanding of geospatial technologies will allow the OGC Board to anticipate and address the needs of the consortium in this dynamic, global, interoperable marketplace. It's important for our Board to have intimate knowledge about the markets we serve. We look forward to Chris, Walter and Geoff's leadership as members of the OGC Board."

The OGC Board and staff thank Dr John Curlander and John Olesak for their valuable service as they depart the Board. The Board and staff and the whole OGC community mourn the passing of Board member Stefano Morisi, who died 13 January 2013.

OGC Student Spatial App Challenge Sponsored by Google

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) is challenging students who have software development skills to create new applications that use OGC standards in innovative, interesting and fun ways. For example, the software application can do some or all of the following:

- Mash up data from a variety of existing geospatial Web services that provide location data.
- Provide access to new sources of location data (including, for example, sensors, computer models, webcams, 3D urban models, mobile devices, or spatial databases) to support innovative applications.
- Provide access to original new Web services that provide processing capabilities for innovative applications that use new or existing location data.

The three applicants to the OGC Student Spatial App Challenge that best satisfy the competition criteria will receive an award and the opportunity to have their apps featured on the OGC website and in other media channels. In addition, the first place winner will:

- Be sponsored by OGC to receive an award in front of the OGC membership at a quarterly OGC Technical Committee meeting.
- Have a dedicated award page on the OGC website featuring the winning application.
- Be cited in an OGC press release acknowledging the award.
- Receive a Nexus Tablet donated by Google.
- Receive, for the student's academic institution, a two-year OGC membership or two-year free renewal if the institution is an existing member.

The estimated total value of the prize to be awarded is $1,500 plus round trip travel to the winner's selected OGC TC meeting. The OGC Map App challenge is open to any university student at the undergraduate or graduate level who is enrolled part or full time as of July 15, 2013. Submissions to the challenge are by individual only. Submitters must be 18 years or older at the time of submission.

Applications must be submitted by midnight EST, 15 July 2013. For registration details, see:

http://appchallenge.opengeospatial.org/

CIESIN Participates in Global Roads Open Access Data Set

The Global Roads Open Access Data Set, Version 1 (gROADSv1) was developed under the auspices of the CODATA Global Roads Data Development Task Group. The data set combines the best available roads data by country into a global roads coverage, using the UN Spatial Data Infrastructure Transport (UNSDI-T) version 2 as a common data model.

All country road networks have been joined topologically at the borders, and many countries have been edited for internal topology. Source data for each country are provided in the documentation, and users are encouraged to refer to the readme file for use constraints that apply to a small number of countries. Because the data are compiled from multiple sources, the date range for road network representations ranges from the 1980s to 2010, depending on the country (most countries have no confirmed date), and spatial accuracy varies.

The baseline global data set was compiled by the Information Technology Outreach Services (ITOS) of the University of Georgia. Updated data for 27 countries and 6 smaller geographic entities were assembled by Columbia University's Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), with a focus largely on developing countries with the poorest data coverage. Visit:

http://beta.sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/set/groads-global-roads-open-access-v1

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Don't forget to check out the GSDI Association's ***Capacity Building Resources*** web pages at http://www.gsdi.org/sic3 to view some of the videos relating to SDI implementation provided by our members. Also visit the Webinars page at: http://www.gsdi.org/webinars

If you have any videos to contribute, or webinars to suggest, then please notify us by contacting Roger Longhorn (ral@alum.mit.edu).

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Newsletter, we are re-publishing the *GIM International* magazine GSDI column from ***Dr Bastiaan van Loenen***, of the Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands, who is co-Chair of the GSDI Legal & Socioeconomic Committee.

Legal Interoperability It Is!

Awareness is rising that legal interoperable spatial data is among the key factors for successfully utilising spatial data infrastructures. Legal interoperability was introduced in "Licensing Geographic Data" publication of the Mapping Science Committee of the NSF back in 2004, and is now the key discussion topic of the GSDI working group on legal and socio-economic aspects. To increase awareness and capacity to this end the GSDI working group on legal and socio-economic issues organised a workshop on harmonised licences at the GSDI13 conference in Quebec in 2012. The group also published a book chapter in "*Geographic data and the law*" by Katleen Janssen and Joep Crompvoets where many very relevant legal topics are discussed by leading legal scholars. In Europe, the European Commission recently provided grants to two projects that aim at increasing the legal interoperability of data.

The first project is the *European Location Framework (E.L.F.)*, led by the Norwegian Kartens Statverk. This pilot project will foster the wider use of geo-information and enable the creation of innovative value-added services. The purpose of this project is to deliver the European Location Framework (E.L.F.) required to provide up-to-date, authoritative, interoperable, cross-border,

reference geo-information for use by the European public and private sectors. The work package "Sustainable access and use" will create a policy for sustainable legal interoperability, consistent with European legislation (INSPIRE and the PSI legislation) and policy.

The second project concerns the *Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information 2.0* project, with the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in charge. This project will identify the remaining legal barriers and obstacles to access and re-use of public sector information (PSI) on the European content market, and to provide measures and tools to overcome or reduce these barriers and to stimulate the progress of the European market towards open data. The Licensing Framework work package will identify the essential elements for the development of public sector body licensing policies that are interoperable, allowing the combination of datasets from multiple public sector data suppliers in a cross-border information product or service. It will further develop a licensing framework that promotes the open availability of PSI for any use, while at the same time allowing sufficient flexibility to take into account the needs of particular public sector bodies or national legal frameworks.

Although the scope of the objectives of the projects is European, the legal interoperability issue does not stop at the European borders. The heaviy involvement of members of the GSDI working group for legal and socio-economic aspects in both projects should ensure that the experiences and results of both projects will be shared with the rest of the world and ensure that developments taking place elsewhere in the world will be taking into account to bring the legal interoperability of geographic information at a global scale one step further. More information on the projects is available at: www.elf.eu and www.lapsi.eu.

Dr. Bastiaan van Loenen is co-Chair of the GSDI Legal and Socio-Economic Working Group of the GSDI Association. He is a faculty member and member of the OTB Research Institute for the Built Environment at the Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands.

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

The aim of the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (**GIKNet**) is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geographic information community. The GIKNet Community Registry permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other institutions to record and publish details about themselves and submit relevant documents to the Spatial Documents Depot, which provides a search facility for locating information and documents submitted by GIKNetwork members. A comprehensive list of GI/SDI related discussion lists can be accessed from a single reference page. Access the GIKNetwork at this link: http://www.giknet.org/.

The main categories under which documents can be referenced in the GIKNetwork include: GI Science: Education & Training; GI Science: Research; and SDI/GIS: Practice and Applications. The network is promoted on the Association's e-mail lists and the LinkedIn GSDI Group. All members of the GSDI Association and IGS are encouraged to sign up for GIKNetwork and to submit documents relevant to any aspect of SDI development and deployment, globally.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL SDI PROJECTS

Open Source Geospatial Laboratory Created

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Open Source Geospatial Laboratory at the University of Southampton, United Kingdom. The laboratory is one of the members of a worldwide network developed under the auspices of the ICA-OSGeo Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The GSDI Association also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the ICA.

In 2011, the International Cartographic Association (ICA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo) with the aim to develop global collaboration opportunities for academia, industry and government organisations in the field of open source GIS software and data. The MoU aims to provide expertise and support for the establishment of Open Source Geospatial Laboratories and Research Centres across the world and will support the development of open source geospatial software technologies, training and expertise.

The University of Southampton is one of the top research universities in the UK and has strong research in geospatial science. The University of Southampton Open Source Geospatial Laboratory (OSGL) has been established by the GeoData Institute and Geography and Environment AU in collaboration with other initiatives in the UK and further afield. The initiative brings together staff from various disciplines (Engineering, Geography, Electronics and Computer Science) across the university.

The current members of the lab are Prof Pete Atkinson, Prof David Martin, Jason Sadler, Chris Hill, Julia Branson, Craig Hutton, Andrew Murdock, Duncan Hornby, Andrew Harfoot, Gemma Gubbins, Homme Zwaagstra, Jeremy Austin, Ian Waldock, Oles Kit, Mike Clark, Samantha Cockings, Robin Wilson, Kirk Martinez, Kate Parks, Simon Blainey and Richard Treves.

The Laboratory will engage in open source research for geospatial software and data, using open source geospatial software and data as tools and contributing to the development of tools, standards and data through research. The lab will seek to exploit new opportunities for research, often in partnership with other OSGLs and members of the ICA-OSGeo initiative. The Laboratory will also deliver open source geospatial training and CPD programs. The website of the new lab is at http://www.osgl.soton.ac.uk/.

OSGeo is a not-for-profit organisation founded in 2006 whose mission is to support and promote the collaborative development of open source geospatial technologies and data. ICA is the world authoritative body for cartography, the discipline dealing with the conception, production, dissemination and study of maps.

International Society for Digital Earth

International Journal of Digital Earth (IJDE) Editors' Choice - to give you a taste of the content in International Journal of Digital Earth, the Editors have highlighted a selection of significant articles to aid your research. These articles have been made FREE for you until the end of 2013. Explore the articles available at: http://explore.tandfonline.com/content/est/tjde-editors-choice.php

INSPIRE European SDI Update

INSPIRE Regulation Text Approved by INSPIRE Committee

On 8 April 2013, the INSPIRE Committee, which comprises representatives from all EU Member States, unanimously approved the Implementing Rule regarding the 25 data themes in Annex II and III of the INSPIRE Directive. This important event is a milestone for spatial information interoperability in the European Union, primarily for environmental related spatial data, but also for other communities who will benefit and will build upon the INSPIRE experience and harmonization principles and rules. This text forms the basis for the new EC Regulation that will now be under review by the European Parliament for a period of not longer than three months, and which is expected to be published in the Official Journal in September or October this year. From that date, it becomes EU-wide law.

At the meeting, the way forward was agreed regarding on-going INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation work. A Commission Expert Group (MIG) will be set up, with nominated representatives from the Member States, EFTA / accession / candidate countries and one representative of the European Environment Agency.

An open Call for Experts to participate in the Maintenance activity will be launched in May 2013 to create a "Pool of experts" able to intervene in ad-hoc group(s) to solve a specific maintenance issue when necessary, and according to the Work Programme. The rolling Work Programme for the MIG will start with a first proposal to be discussed and agreed in October 2013 (by which time the EC Regulation will have been published and taken effect). More details about that process and Terms of Reference will be communicated soon.

More information will also be available at the INSPIRE 2013 Conference, to be held in Florence, Italy, 24-27 June 2013 - visit the conference web site at:

http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2013/

GSDI INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

GSDI Member organisations, members of the GSDI Association Committees, Council and Board, and IGS members are involved in the many other regional and global initiatives on an on-going basis:

➢ Digital Earth (International Society for Digital Earth) – visit www.digitalearth-isde.org.
➢ Eye on Earth – visit www.eyeonearth.org.
➢ Group on Earth Observations (GEO) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – see
➢ www.earthobservations.org.
➢ EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu/default.aspx.
➢ INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu.
➢ International Hydrographic Organisation – Marine SDI Working Group – see www.iho.int.
➢ UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit www.iode.org.
➢ UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit ggim.un.org.
➢ UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit www.ungiwg.org.
➢ UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit www.iode.org.
➢ UNSDI – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit ggim.un.org.
➢ UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit www.ungiwg.org.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS UPDATES

To see the latest news from the different e-mail forums maintained by the GSDI Committees (4) and the regional SDI Newsletters (5), visit the web site at http://www.gsdi.org/discussionlists, choose the forum of interest and select the 'Archives' option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above.

For more information on any of these items, visit the **GSDI Association** web site at http://www.gsdi.org.

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS - News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society – is published by the GSDI Association, edited by Roger Longhorn, vice-Chair, Communications, of the GSDI Outreach and Membership Committee. The Editor may be contacted at ral@alum.mit.edu. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to GSDI and IGS Member news or SDI initiatives at any level.

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

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

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

"The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association - Advancing a Location Enabled World"