

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 3, No. 6, 2013

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

GSDI 14/AfricaGIS Conference Update!



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

The **Global Geospatial Conference 2013** - the joint **GSDI 14 World Conference** and **AfricaGIS 2013 Conference** - is being held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA) Conference Center, 4-8 November 2013. Organizers and hosts of the 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".



The Conference organisers are pleased to announce that there will be an official launch session for the AfriGEOSS initiative on the second day of the conference, Tuesday, 5 November, at a special plenary session, with a cocktail reception to follow that evening at the UNECA. Watch the conference website at gsdi.org/gsd14/ for more information!

Abstracts for Oral Presentations

All abstracts submitted for oral presentations have now been reviewed by the committee, as well as those papers submitted for consideration in the published book that will follow the conference, and results were notified to the authors on 2 July. We look forward to a very full and interesting round of presentations on a wide range of topics relating to GIS, geomatics and SDI implementation in Africa and across the globe. In all, 252 submissions

have been selected for presentation, from 53 countries. The geographic coverage is as follows:

- Africa – 22 countries – 138 abstracts
- Asia-Pacific – 8 countries – 19 abstracts
- Europe – 16 countries – 60 abstracts
- Middle East – 1 country – 1 abstract
- North America – 2 countries – 29 abstracts
- South America & Caribbean – 4 countries – 5 abstracts

The presentations will be made in eleven parallel sessions over the four days of the main conference, plus a 'lightning round' for selected abstracts. The final program will be ready in a few days time, so please consult the conference web site at:

http://www.gsdi.org/gsd14/prog_details.html.

Plenaries, Exhibition and Sponsors

Seven plenary sessions are scheduled, including the special plenary on 5 November for launch of AfriGEOSS (www.earthobservations.org/art_019_002.shtml), the GEO initiative to reinforce Earth observation in Africa.

Exhibitors are already signing up and the exhibition area will be available throughout the day from 4-7 November. For firms and organisations not yet registered for the conference, note that substantial reductions in Exhibitor and Sponsorship fees are available to companies and agencies that are members of the GSDI Association. It is not too late to join the GSDI Association to enjoy conference fee reductions, but you must be a registered member of the GSDI Association in order to benefit from the discounted fees.

Workshops

The workshop programme is also developing very nicely and the initial set of workshops on offer will be announced shortly. Note that all attendees can participate in the workshops at no additional cost. Training Workshops will be offered throughout the week, sponsored and organized by agencies, private companies and consortia. Further details of the workshop schedule will be on the website in the coming weeks.



Keynote Speakers Update

Among those individuals fully or tentatively committed as keynote speakers are:

- Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA - the conference hosts)
- Wilber Khasilwa Ottichilo, Member of Parliament, Emuhaya Constituency, Kenya
- Peter Gilruth, Director, Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Lee Schwartz, Director, Office of the Geographer and Global Issues, US Department of State
- Jack Dangermond, President, Esri
- Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director, Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Registration Now Open on the Web!

Conference registration is now open on the conference website at www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/register.html. The early-bird registration period ends on 15 September.

A substantial reduction in registration fees is available for local participants, members of EIS-Africa and members of the International Geospatial Society (IGS) who are from low income per capita nations. It is not too late to become a member of the IGS – visit: <http://www.igeoss.org/join> to join today!

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>.

Important Conference Dates

- 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
- Early registration fee ends: 15 September 2013
- Conference Dates: 4-8 Nov 2013
- Workshops: Esri workshops begin on Sunday, 3 November 2013.

Important Conference Links

- Conference Website: <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14>
- Conference Registration: <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14/register.html>
- 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>

Impressions from a Reviewer

*"In November 2013, academics, vendors, government staff and geo practitioners will gather in Addis Ababa for the combined **AfricaGIS 2013 Conference** and the **GSDI 14 World Conference**. The conference theme is "Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction", and I was pleased to serve as one of the several GSDI Association reviewers of abstracts submitted by authors from around the globe. Many readers have attended conferences featuring presentations such as those to be offered at **GSDI 14**, but perhaps you've never had the opportunity to review the tremendous diversity offered by potential presenters. Let me describe the range of topics that you will hear discussed at the conference.*

Just over 50% of submissions came from African contributors, usually submitted jointly, often spanning academic, governmental and non-profit sectors and sometimes partnering with colleagues from Europe. Abstracts were submitted from Asia-Pacific, Europe, India and the Middle East, and Latin America (including Caribbean), with around 10% from authors in the US and Canada. In all, 252 abstracts were accepted spanning 53 nations globally. Topic categories included heavy focus on spatial enablement of government and industry, economic development, and poverty reduction. Other submissions focused on basic and applied research, assessment and measurement, and education. Abstracts describing actual SDI implementations grabbed my attention, while I marvelled at the diversity of research covering the utility of geotechnology in helping to address specific African challenges of water management, health, and agriculture.

The biggest pleasure to me, as one of the reviewers, was to learn of so many topics our GSDI and IGS colleagues



focus on with which I had no previous exposure. There is no question that planning to attend the conference will give any of us a rich opportunity for learning and networking.”

Comment by **Bruce Westcott**, of Intergraph, regional vice-Chair, North America, GSDI Association Outreach & Membership Committee

GEO CHALLENGE GRANTS

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 Global Geospatial Conference 2013 and training workshops before and after the conference. GEO invites, encourages and challenges other 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 have now closed and the received abstracts are under review. 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 to attend the conference, 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.

Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director of GEO, is one of the keynote speakers at the conference, and will be focusing on GEO's AfriGEOSS initiative, which seeks to identify the challenges, and to put in place measures, to enhance Africa's participation in, and contribution to, GEOSS. See: http://www.earthobservations.org/art_019_002.shtml.

THE GSDI ASSOCIATION 'GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD'

The GSDI Association's **Global Citizen Award** recognizes globally an individual who has provided exemplary thought leadership and substantive worldwide contributions in (1) promoting informed and responsible use of geographic information and geospatial technologies for the benefit of society and/or (2) fostering spatial data infrastructure developments that support sustainable social, economic, and environmental systems integrated from local to global scales. Our first two award winners - **Jack Dangermond** and **Gilberto Camara** - exemplify the continuing standard

of excellence and service we are trying to set for future recipients of this Award.

A Call for Nominations was issued earlier this year, several nominations were received, reviewed and voted on by the award selection committee, which included past recipients of the award and the GSDI Association Executive Committee (the Past President, President, and President-elect). The GSDI Global Citizen Award winner receives a medallion and certificate to be presented at the GSDI conference. She or he is invited to present a vision speech in a plenary session, is permanently recognized on the Association's Global Citizen Award web site, and receives a lifetime membership in the International Geospatial Society. The award winner will be announced on the GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013 Conference web site in the near future.

OTHER CONFERENCE NEWS

GSDI wins MundoGEO#Connect Special Award

MundoGEO#Connect Awards 2013 recognized companies, institutions, brands, software, equipment and people that contributed in improving the geospatial industry over the last year. The awards ceremony was held on the second day of MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica 2013, and delivered 27 trophies.



In 2013, MundoGEO#Connect Awards featured new categories such as “Best Facebook Page about Geospatial Technologies” and the “Most Memorable Global Brands”, both with great online participation. MundoGEO and Garmin – official sponsor of MundoGEO#Connect Awards - congratulate all the winners as well as the other finalists, which strengthen the geospatial global market. Winners of the 24 categories of MundoGEO#Connect Awards, chosen through online voting, and also the institutions that received three ‘Special Awards’ are listed below.



Special Awards:

- **Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI)**
- Comité Permanente para la Infraestructura de Datos Geoespaciales de las Américas (CP-IDEA)
- Red Geoespacial de América Latina y el Caribe (GeoSUR)

Person(s) of the Year:

- Universities: João Francisco Galera Monico (Unesp Presidente Prudente)
- Public Sector: Moema José de Carvalho Augusto (IBGE)
- Geospatial Industry: Eduardo Oliveira (Santiago & Cintra)

Most Memorable Course:

- Land Surveying and/or Cartographic Engineering: Engenharia Cartográfica Unesp
- Geography: Unesp Rio Claro

Most Memorable Company:

- Satellite Images: Santiago & Cintra Consultoria
- Image Processing Software: Santiago & Cintra Consultoria
- Mapping: Engemap
- Geodesy and Topography Equipment: Santiago & Cintra Geotecnologias
- GIS Software: Santiago & Cintra Consultoria
- Solutions Development: Geoambiente

Most Memorable Brand:

- Satellite Images: RapidEye
- Image Processing Software: Erdas
- UAV: Gatewing
- GPS Topographic and Geodetic: Trimble
- Total Station: Topcon
- Topographic Software: Topograph
- GIS: ArcGIS

Other Awards:

- Most Prominent Public Institution: IBGE
- Best Facebook Page about Geospatial Technologies: CPE Tecnologia
- Best Maps Provider: Google
- Best SDI Initiative in Latin America: Inde Brasil
- Best Junior Geospatial Company: Geoplan Jr (Unesp Rio Claro)
- Best Marketing Professional: Fernanda Ribeiro (CPE)

View the original awards article with further information at:

<http://mundogeo.com/en/blog/2013/06/26/winners-of-mundogeoconnect-2013-awards-are-announced/>

Geospatial and Engineering International Conference

The GSDI Association are proud supporters of the 'Geospatial and Engineering International Conference - Entering and Expanding Global



Business Opportunities' to be held 13 - 14 November, 2013, at the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, VA. Please visit the conference website at

www.geointernational.org to learn more about this valuable conference and the opportunities offered to network with colleagues from a range of government agencies and commercial organisations.

Conference sessions will feature agencies and organizations that finance, procure, coordinate, and manage geospatial and engineering projects outside the United States with presentations on their programs, budgets, requirements, and procurement procedures. Private sector professionals experienced in international business will share best practices and lessons learned. Sessions will focus on both new entrants to the market outside of the United States, as well as those experienced in overseas work.

If you are responsible for and interested in international contracting outside of the United States for professional geospatial and engineering services, then this conference is for you. The conference will provide information and practical knowledge to enable firms to export their services, data and products to overseas clients.

MAPPS is pleased to be hosting the Conference and participating organizations include the Association of American Geographers (AAG), American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI), National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), and the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA).

Confirmed Session Descriptions and Speakers

One of the most valuable parts of gaining insight on any topic is when peer firms share their experiences and lessons learned. Look for open and honest presentations from engineering and geospatial firms as they discuss their particular projects and what valuable knowledge was gained while working overseas to improve performance on future work. Presenters will answer:

- Who funded the project and how long did it take to "close the deal"?
- What unique situations occurred during the project?



- What would be done differently the next time?
- Did the firm use support organizations for exporting, safety, logistics, etc?
- 'Doing Business Outside the United States: Positive Trends but Serious Challenges' - Keynote speaker is Jodi Bonds, Vice President - Americas, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- 'Experienced Exporting Topics - Information to Know Before I Go' - Speakers include: Jeroen Meijer, Vice President & Director of Consulting, Control Risks; Jorge A. Canovas, Esq., Vice President Export/Import Operations, Raytheon; Lisa Bencivenga, Global Ground Systems; Speaker TBA, Baker & McKenzie
- 'New to Exporting - Information to Know Before I Go' - Speakers are: Joe Campagna, President, Global Ground Systems; Other Speakers to be determined
- 'How do I Get Started and Who Can Help?' - Speakers: Richard Ginsburg, Senior International Trade Specialist, U.S. Small Business Administration; Charles Tansey, Senior Vice President Small Business Group, Export Import Bank of the United States; Speaker TBA, U.S. Export Assistance Center; Speaker TBA, Trade and Development Agency
- 'Who Has the Work and What Are the International Market Opportunities?' - A lower risk approach to entering the international marketplace is to follow U.S. government agencies that accomplish or coordinate projects outside the continental U.S. The purpose and benefit of this session is to introduce attendees to some of the many agencies that fund international projects.
- 'Why, Where, and How Could I Go International?' - Speakers: Mick Morrissey, President, Morrissey-Goodale, Inc.; Other Speakers to be determined

Registration is now open at: <https://mapps.site-ym.com/events/register.asp?id=326772>

For more information, contact sally@mapps.org. If you are interested in receiving updates about the conference via email, visit: <http://www.mapps.org/page/GeoInternatContactUs>.

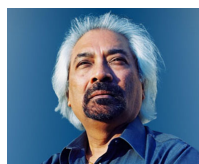
Esri Conference Week!

From 6 to 12 July 2013, Esri are hosting the full range of its annual international conferences in San Diego, California, USA, including:

- Esri National Security Summit, July 6-9, 2013 - <http://www.esri.com/events/homeland>
- Esri Education GIS Conference, July 6-9, 2013 - <http://www.esri.com/events/educ>

- Survey Summit, July 6-9, 2013 - <http://www.esri.com/events/survey-summit>
- Esri Business Summit, July 7-9, 2013 - <http://www.esri.com/events/business>
- Esri International User Conference, July 8-12, 2013 - <http://www.esri.com/events/user-conference>

At the **Esri International UC**, don't miss Keynote Speaker **Sam Pitroda**, an internationally respected development thinker, policy maker, telecom inventor, and entrepreneur who has spent 48 years in information and communications technology (ICT) and related human and national developments.



Credited with having laid the foundation for and ushering in India's technology and telecommunications revolution in the 1980s, Pitroda has been a leading campaigner to help bridge the global digital divide. During his tenure as adviser to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Pitroda led six technology missions related to telecommunications, water, literacy, immunization, dairy production, and oil seeds. He was also the founder and first chairman of India's Telecom Commission. In these roles, he helped revolutionize India's development policies and philosophies, with a focus on access to technology as the key to social change.

Pitroda was recently chairman of India's National Knowledge Commission (2005–2009), set up to provide a blueprint for reform of the knowledge-related institutions and infrastructure in the country. The commission has offered a series of recommendations on various aspects of the knowledge paradigm to help India meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. He is adviser to the prime minister of India on public information infrastructure and innovation, with the rank of a cabinet minister and serves as the chairman of the Smart Grid Task Force Committee to reform public broadcasting, modernize railways, deliver e-governance, and perform other developmental activities. He is also a founding commissioner of the United Nations Broadband Commission for Digital Development.

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.gsd.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



We are pleased to announce that **Denise McKenzie**, of OGC, will assume the Chair of the O&M Committee from this month, taking over from Mark Reichardt, President and CEO of OGC, who held the Chair

for the past year. Denise worked with all sectors of the geospatial industry on behalf of the State Government of Victoria, Australia, in areas of strategic policy, collaboration and innovation for over 12 years, and led the formation of the OGC ANZ Forum in 2012. She has worked in a wide variety of domains including emergency, environment, asset and risk management, business intelligence, positioning and navigation. Her collaborative work has earned local, national and international industry awards.

Throughout her career, Denise's focus has been to utilize public-private partnership and community building to move geospatial from being a niche to a core service within mainstream information technology and decision making process. In her role as the OGC's Executive Director Marketing and Communications, she is responsible for the planning and execution of marketing, communications and education programs to raise awareness and increase application of OGC standards by technology providers and users worldwide. Denise is now located in the UK.

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. Activities in the past month continued in regard to re-design of the Association and Society web sites, further Global Conference preparations, enhancing the Communications and Membership Strategies for both the Association and Society, GSDI Conference abstract review, and creating new membership promotional literature for use by Members in our current membership drive.

Other Committee vice-Chairs also took part in reviewing the abstracts submitted for the Conference, for which support we are very appreciative.

The Outreach & Membership Committee manages the **GSDI Group on LinkedIn**, which now has 275 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. Note: you do NOT have to be a member of the GSDI Association or the International Geospatial Society to join the LinkedIn group!

Technical Committee



Committee Chair, Eric van Praag, replaced GSDI President Prof David Coleman as keynote speaker at the MundoGEO Connect# Conference in Brazil at the end of June. His presentation was very well received and he also accepted **MundoGEO's**

Special Award to the GSDI Association in the award presentation ceremonies.

Committee vice-Chair, Prof. Arup Dasgupta, Managing Editor of Geospatial World magazine, has published an excellent article in the May issue of Geospatial World magazine, titled "Economic Value of Geospatial Data: The great enabler" which can be seen at <http://geospatialworld.net/Magazine/MArticleView.aspx?aid=30534>. Prof Dasgupta can be contacted at: arup@geospatialmedia.net. The article is published by Geospatial Media and Communications Private Limited.

The Technical Committee is also responsible for updating of the GSDI SDI Cookbook, a wiki maintained at: http://www.gsdidocs.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Page. The committee is also in the process of developing further online webinars and identifying others that already exist and are relevant to SDI implementation.

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/USGS) supports Small Grants Program development. This month's 'Article of the Month' is by Brigitta, reflecting on the success of the Program over the past year. The Societal Impacts Committee also works closely with the International Geospatial Society officers in relation to capitalizing on capacity building initiatives for IGS members, especially from developing nations.

For updates on 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 Secretary General, 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. Watch this space for future reports on our success!

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 GSDI home page!

As always, we express the Association's grateful thanks for the past support of the US Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and on-going support from the URISA GISCorps for making the 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 June 2013, IGS had 280 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, continue to hold regular teleconferences, focusing on the developing IGS Strategy and the work plan.

On 20 June, they launched a **member survey** seeking input from all IGS Members on a range of topics and issues, which will be used to help focus the new IGS strategy and proposed activities in the future work plan. As of 30 June, 45 IGS members had completed the survey.

The final Strategy document will be circulated to members and presented at the IGS meeting to be held at the GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013 joint conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3 November, to which all IGS Members are invited. Finally, the team are actively participating in the project to redesign the current GSDI and IGS web site to better serve the membership(s) and promote the Association and Society.

IGS Membership Statistics

At the end of June 2013, IGS had **280 members from 55 countries**. Regional distribution statistics are as follows:

Africa	111
Asia-Pacific	88
Europe	24
North America	27
South America	30

Representation from countries with 10 or more Members each (representing approximately half of the total membership) is as follows:

Nigeria	37
India	37
United States	17
Kenya	13
Ghana	12
Bolivia	10
South Africa	10
Australia	10
Pakistan	10

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 they can upload information in GIKNet, to which they are requested to contribute:

- 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 IGS discussion list and/or on the GSDI LinkedIn Group as a means of sharing news.

LinkedIn Group

If you have not already done so, please join the GSDI Group on the professional networking site LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com. This group now serves both the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society – and is there for **YOU** to use to let the geo community know what you are doing – or to seek advice on important issues that you may be facing in your work or studies.

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.

Help us reach our goal of 500 IGS Members by November 2013 – get your friends, colleagues and associates 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 280 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 Newsletter at: roger@alum.mit.edu, or to Sives Govender, IGS President, at: sives.govender@gmail.com or to Dev Raj Paudyal, IGS President-elect, at: DevRaj.Paudyal@usq.edu.au.

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

Dutch Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster) Update



The need for high quality geo information continues to grow. In order to meet this demand in an efficient and reliable way, the Dutch Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster) has modernised its map production processes. Starting in 2013, the Netherlands is the first country in the world to use fully automated generalisation to produce topographical maps.

In order to generate a small-scale map from a topographical map, it is necessary to simplify the display of data. This process is called generalisation and is traditionally carried out manually. Following successful tests in 2011 and 2012, Kadaster are now using automatic generalisation to produce smaller-scale maps. During development, the optimal implementation and parameter values were determined consulting with end users, such as government agencies. Many of Kadaster's counterpart organisations in other countries have already shown an interest in this development. This innovation accommodates both short update cycles and the production of flexible and on-demand products.

Also, Kadaster will be working on the European Location Framework (E.L.F.) for the next few years. The purpose of E.L.F. is to make the geographic information of the National Mapping, Cadastre and Land Registry Agencies (NMCAs) in Europe available in a standardised and harmonised manner through web services. Kadaster are directly involved in Work Package 4: Implementation of Geo-Tools.



Kadaster and Cape Verde: One Stop Shop

Eight individuals from relevant institutions and ministries of Cape Verde were in the Netherlands from 24 to 30 March. With their trip organized by Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster), they studied the Dutch and European systems of land administration and the spatial data infrastructures in specific.

Cape Verde is often praised as an example among African nations for its stability and developmental growth. It has a legacy of Portuguese land administration. Recently the country laid the foundation for a spatial data infrastructure: the Territorial Information System (<http://www.sit.gov.cv/>).

The Government of Cape Verde wants to integrate all spatial data that already exists among different institutions. They united employees from relevant institutions and agencies and gave them the opportunity to get acquainted with the European and Dutch system. Kadaster shared its experience with NSDI and gave insight in the development and maintenance of the national geo-portal PDOK. Also the system of key registers in the Netherlands was discussed.

Despite the cold weather, the delegation received a warm welcome and helpful information from skillful enthusiastic Kadaster employees, the municipality of Amsterdam (Dep. of Civil Registry and Geo-Information), Notary Overwegend BV and Real Estate.

Local Spatial Planning in El Salvador

Recently Kadaster was selected to execute the 'Participative land management project for the sustainable development on a local level' in the municipality of Antiguo Cuscatlán, El Salvador. This city is located near the capital, San Salvador and will last for three years, financed by the European Union development programme.

The purpose of the project is the creation of development plans for the urban and rural areas. The plans will be used for programmes to reduce poverty and to improve development on local level. In order to develop these plans, a Geographic Information System (GIS) will be created. The GIS will contain a land administration system as well as planning information. By realising this purpose, the local authorities will have stronger capacity for establishing planning policy and instruments. This will intensify the interaction between local authorities and citizens.

Kadaster will guide and accompany all the project activities, making use of the results of a similar project "Integral Management of Lands" just finished in

Honduras and Guatemala, where similar activities took place. A special challenge in this project is the collaboration to be established with the national cadaster organisation, Centro Nacional de Registros (CNR), and the national planning authority. The relation between these national organisations and the municipality of Antiguo Cuscatlán will intensify. The municipality has to take responsibility and guarantee up-to-date and approved cadastral and planning information.

Note: **Kadaster International** is a department of the Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster).

New Esri Training Format - Instructor-Led Workshops

Esri announced the launch of a new instructor-led format called a workshop - a four-hour event held in their Online Classroom. For more information, visit the website at: <http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm?fa=catalog.onlineclassroom>

Attendees of the popular live training seminars consistently rate the Q&A, presenter expertise, and software demonstrations as the most valuable aspects. A common request is for more in-depth coverage of the seminar topic. Instructor-led workshops are an ideal training option for those who want a deeper dive into a topic than is possible in a one-hour training seminar. Workshops retain the Q&A, demonstrations, and of course the expert presentation by an Esri-certified instructor. Learn more at:

<http://blogs.esri.com/esri/esritrainingmatters/>

The first two workshops are designed for content publishers and users of an ArcGIS Online organizational site.

- ArcGIS Online Subscriptions for Organizations: Publisher Workflows
http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm?fa=catalog.courseDetail&courseID=50131008_10.x
- ArcGIS Online Subscriptions for Organizations: User Workflows
http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm?fa=catalog.courseDetail&courseID=50131125_10.x

See all training options for **ArcGIS Online** at: <http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm?fa=search.results&searchterm=arcgis+online>

Intergraph Announces 2014 Geospatial Challenge

Intergraph Security, Government & Infrastructure (SG&I) announced its inaugural 'Geospatial Challenge' for students participating in Intergraph's Global Education



Program – Intergraph U. With the rapidly growing geospatial advancements across multiple industries, Intergraph places great emphasis on involving future generations in key problem solving activities to stay ahead of the curve and prepare them for what's ahead.

In this challenge, students from around the world are asked to submit an abstract describing the scope of a problem, their geographical area of interest, and the dataset(s) and Intergraph solution(s) used. From the abstracts selected, qualifiers will provide a research paper and accompanying video demonstration showcasing how Intergraph software was used to transform their data into actionable information.

Students can enter multiple contest categories based on the platform used (web, mobile or desktop); discipline (GIS or remote sensing); and industry (government, transportation, utilities, communications or emergency response). Intergraph will select winners based on creativity, technique and the tools used.

If a student's submission is selected by the panel of judges, consisting of geospatial executives, partners and attending professors, he or she will receive a \$2,500 travel sponsorship to attend the 2014 HxGN LIVE conference, publication in Intergraph SG&I's Perspectives magazine, a trophy and a free one-year license and waived maintenance costs for GeoMedia® Professional and IMAGINE Professional® –offerings from Intergraph's Geospatial Educational Desktop Core.

"The Geospatial Challenge is a great way to get students involved and engaged in the software they already have access to with our Intergraph U Education Program," states Kerry Fehrenbach, Vice President of SG&I Global Marketing at Intergraph. *"We've designed this contest to help students get a jumpstart on solving today's problems using the latest geospatial software, and it is a useful tool to prepare them for whatever industry they choose to pursue in the future."*

All student submissions will be accepted via e-mail to GeospatialChallenge@intergraph.com from 1 November 2013 through 31 January 2014. Winners will be announced 1 March 2014. Recognizing the increasing importance of a close partnership between academia and developers of leading technology, Intergraph offers robust academic programs for higher education.

Intergraph's Education Program is designed to support the advancement of innovative research and teaching, and ensure the recognition of academic excellence. Intergraph helps prepare students to enter the professional world while facilitating relationships between academia and industry in developing ideas and finding innovative solutions to industry challenges.

To learn more about Intergraph U and the 2014 Geospatial Challenge, visit:

www.intergraph.com/education.

See more at: <http://www.asmmag.com/2012-12-30-14-17-42/corporate/5354-intergraph-announces-2014-geospatial-challenge.html#sthash.6spzcr1K.dpuf>

Intergraph Leads Roundtable Discussions at FutureGov Forum

Intergraph CTO **Mark Doherty** and senior government IT leaders from across Asia, Europe, Australia and Canada gathered on 12 and 13 June 2013 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, for the **FutureGov Forum** to discuss challenges and solutions in the government sector. FutureGov enables participants to network with national and international peers and partake in industry discussions within three key streams: Transformation, Efficiency and Innovation.

Sticking with this year's track themes, Mark's roundtable discussion addressed Geographic Information Systems (GIS), including such topics as leveraging GIS for citizen engagement, mobile applications, business and technical challenges to achieving a common operating picture, and some hidden truths of open data. Mark was joined by Laurence Millar, former Chief Information Officer of New Zealand and current Editor-at-large for FutureGov magazine, as co-host. Long-standing partner of Intergraph and official sponsor and host of this year's FutureGov Forum, the City of Edmonton, also presented at the event.

Intergraph Canada was pleased to be able to support the FutureGov Forum and contribute to conversations with government leaders about the continuing challenges in the industry, said Rob Patten, vice president for Intergraph Security, Government and Infrastructure, Canada.

EuroGeographics Membership Continues to Grow



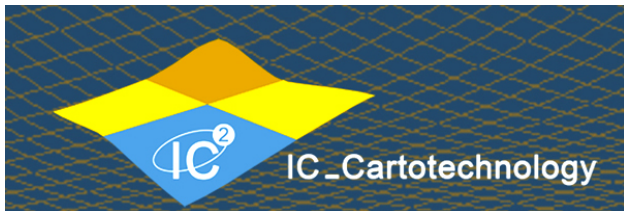
The Extraordinary General Assembly of our Association was successfully closed yesterday afternoon. Almost all our permanent correspondents either in person or remotely via webinar attended the two days of very active discussions, presentations, and debates. Apart from other topics of the formal business 4 membership applications have been approved by our members and we are pleased to announce, that the National Agency of Public Registry in Georgia upgraded its membership from



associate to full member of our association, the Real Estate Cadastre and Technical Inventory Centre Azerbaijan, the State Land and Cartography Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Her Majesty's Land Registry Great Britain became new members of EuroGeographics.

Discounted Fees Available for GSDI & IGS Members on IC_Cartotechnology Course

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



IC_Cartotechnology is a Postgraduate Program (45 ECTS) consisting of several modules, certified by the Fundació de la Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, and supported by the Direcció General d'Universitats of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia.

The Program is conducted by the Institut Cartografic de Catalunya / Cartographic Institute of Catalonia (ICC). ICC is the official mapping agency of Catalonia with 30 years of experience in setting up and building new capacities in terms of developing knowledge, infrastructures and added value in Cartography. This very practical experience is key to defining an innovative and consolidated course to track and translate current needs, requirements and geoinformation challenges into a powerful capacity building instrument.

IC_Cartotechnology is a knowledge and technology transfer tool to boost your institution by updating staff knowledge, launching projects on demand and putting the spotlight on your activities:

- Boosting new ideas and competences along your added valued chain and staff.
- Participating in an international networking framework.
- Investing in knowledge for internal promotion approach.

- Opening your mind to new ideas and visions.

ICC are offering Special Discounts from course fees for GSDI or IGS members as follows:

- Postgraduate program: 10% reduction in cost
- Itineraries: 10% reduction in cost
- Modules: 5% reduction in cost

Applicants will still be required to pass through the normal participation selection process, of course. For more information about the enrolment options, the GSDI and IGS Member discounted fees, and any other aspects of the IC_Cartotechnology course, please contact: **Dr Raquel Serrano Calvo** and **Dr Jordi Corbera** - raquel.serrano@icc.cat and jcorbera@icc.cat - or visit: www.iccartotechnology.com.

PSMA on the Value of Location

Spatial Sources carries an excellent and length article this month on the "**Value of Information**" from GSDI Association member, **PSMA Australia Ltd**. Each of the governments of Australia is a shareholder in PSMA - States, Territories and the Commonwealth holding one share each - to enable the social, economic and environmental benefits from a suite of national geospatial datasets, including geocoded physical addresses, to flow through to Australian society and economy.

PSMA Australia's (PSMA's) unique national collections include the physical address and location datasets from all States and Territories, as well as cadastral (Cadlite®), Administrative Boundaries from the AEC, and comprehensive addresses from Australia Post. PSMA then ingests, cleans, processes and distributes these and other national mapping assets back to stakeholders and businesses through its national and international-award winning PSMA Systems.

Australia's police, medical and emergency helicopters, including CareFlight, are utilising PSMA address and mapping data for navigation intelligence to save lives, critical time, fuel and resources. Thousands of taxis from Perth to Adelaide to Cairns rely on the same address and mapping data intelligence to deliver customers to their doorsteps, while tens of thousands of other vehicles from concrete and retail delivery fleets to community service vehicles, police, roadside service, glass repair, insurers and others, are being precision routed for driver and logistics cost savings, to keep fleet managers, drivers and accountants happy. Numerous Australian businesses from tourism to finance sectors to telecommunications are utilising PSMA data-sourced products for their decision making, business intelligence, efficiencies and savings. The NBN Co, for example, uses G-NAF® and



other PSMA datasets and services for planning and implementing the NBN rollout (cutting fibre to accurate lengths).

Read this full, excellent article by Alison Carters, with graphics, on Spatial Source at:
<http://www.spatialsource.com.au/2013/06/25/value-of-location/>

FGDC Endorses ISO and OGC Standards

The **FGDC Steering Committee** has endorsed ISO 19156:2011, Geographic information - Observations & Measurements. ISO 19156:2011 defines a conceptual schema for observations and for features involved in sampling when making observations. It provides models for the exchange of information describing observation acts and their results, both within and between different scientific and technical communities. Observations commonly involve sampling of an ultimate feature-of-interest. ISO 19156:2011 defines a common set of sampling feature types classified primarily by topological dimension, as well as samples for ex-situ observations.

The schema includes relationships between sampling features (sub-sampling, derived samples). ISO 19156:2011 concerns only externally visible interfaces and places no restriction on the underlying implementations other than what is needed to satisfy the interface specifications in the actual situation. It is equivalent to the OGC® Topic 20: Observations and Measurements abstract specification. The FGDC Standards Working Group recommended ISO 19156:2011 for FGDC endorsement. The FGDC Coordination Group subsequently approved ISO 19156:2011 for FGDC endorsement, and the FGDC Steering Committee took the final action of endorsing ISO 19156:2011, Geographic information - Observations & Measurements.

The FGDC Steering Committee also has endorsed the OGC WaterML 2.0: Part 1- Timeseries Encoding Standard, an OGC Encoding Standard for the representation of hydrological observations data with a specific focus on time series structures. WaterML2.0 is implemented as an application schema of the Geography Markup Language version 3.2.1, making use of the OGC® Observations & Measurements standards. WaterML2.0 is designed as an extensible schema to allow encoding of data to be used in a variety of exchange scenarios.

This standard provides the framework under which time series can be exchanged with appropriate metadata to allow correct machine interpretation and thus correct use for further analysis. Existing systems should be able to use this model as a conceptual 'bridge' between

existing schema or systems, allowing consistency of the data to be maintained.

FGDC member agencies **NOAA** and the **USGS** were among the organizations that submitted WaterML 2.0 to OGC. WaterML 2.0 was developed and approved through OGC's voluntary consensus standard development and review process. The FGDC Standards Working Group recommended OGC WaterML 2.0: Part 1- Time series for FGDC endorsement and the FGDC Coordination Group subsequently approve the standard for FGDC endorsement, where the FGDC Steering Committee took the final action of endorsing the specification.

OGC Wins Sensor Magazine Best of Sensors Gold Application Award

On June 5, at the Sensors Expo & Conference, Melanie Martella, Executive Editor of Sensors, presented the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) with the magazine's 2013 Best of Sensors Gold Application Award. **Greg Buehler**, OGC's Director, Outreach & Communication Services, accepted the award. The Best of Sensors Application Awards recognize advances in sensor and sensor-related technologies, either in the form of novel technologies or as significant improvements in existing technologies.

Melanie Martella said, "*I am thrilled to to recognize the OGC for its Sensor Web Enablement Initiative. The consortium's members who have worked on this project over the years are creating a robust platform that makes it easier for people to make efficient and effective use of the wealth of Web-connected sensor data available. This is an important project with broad scope and I congratulate them on their achievement.*"

Mark Reichardt, President and CEO of the OGC, said, "*This is a wonderful honor that recognizes the vision and hard work of a very large number of OGC member representatives. Mike Botts, chair of the OGC Sensor Web Enablement Domain Working Group, deserves special mention for bringing SensorML into OGC 13 years ago and creating the momentum in OGC to advance our sensor standards framework. He still leads the working group effort, but scores of others have also worked to make these standards an extraordinary and very important part of easing the integration of sensors into the broader IT infrastructure. This award honors their service, and they can all be very proud of what they've done.*"

The Sensor Web Enablement (SWE) (www.ogcnetwork.net/swe) standards of the OGC comprise the only truly open international standards suite that provides a comprehensive platform for publishing, discovering, assessing, accessing and using



sensors and sensor systems of all kinds. The standards documents are freely available on the web, as are open source software implementations of the standards. Their use requires no proprietary platform support of any kind, and yet they can be implemented on platforms other than the open Internet and Web. The encodings and interfaces are based on fundamental, widely used and open Internet and Web standards and best programming practices. The consensus process in which SWE standards are created and maintained is open to all who want to participate. SWE standards have been implemented in hundreds of applications by private sector, government and university developers.

Initial Draft of Updated NSDI Strategic Plan in USA

The initial draft version of the updated strategic plan for the NSDI has been developed with inputs from a variety of sources, including the **FGDC** community, the **National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)**, and geospatial partner organizations. The plan is designed to address drivers including Administration priorities, FGDC strategic initiatives, NGAC recommendations, and the recent GAO report on Federal geospatial programs. The plan is designed to be relatively brief and high-level, and focused on a small set of critical goals and objectives.

The plan describes a broad National vision for the NSDI, and includes goals and objectives for the Federal government's role in continued sustainable development of the NSDI. Following completion of the strategic plan, The FGDC will develop more detailed action plans for the goals and objectives in the plan. Following review and discussion of the initial draft plan by the FGDC Steering Committee and the NGAC in June 2013, the NSDI strategic plan team will develop a revised draft of the plan (Version 2) that will be distributed for broader public review and comment in July/August 2013.

Download the draft strategy document at:
<http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-strategic-plan-DRAFT-v1-6-5-13.pdf>

For additional information on the NSDI strategic planning process, visit: www.fgdc.gov/nsdiplan

Crowd-sourcing the Nation - USGS Seeks More Volunteers



The USGS volunteer mapping program known as **The National Map Corps (TNMCorps)** has added 16 more states to the data collection effort. The program encourages citizens to collect and update structures data such as schools, hospitals, post offices, police stations and other important public buildings to augment The National Map. The new states are: Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming, bringing the total number of states available for updating to 35. By the end of 2013, all 50 states will be available for volunteer data collection.

For more information about the project and how to participate, go to The National Map Corps web site. Also contact USGS at NationalMapCorps@USGS.gov if you have questions or comments. The tools on the TNMCorps website explain how a volunteer can edit any area, regardless of where they live. Rewards are available to participants.

Ireland Launches National Geoportal

EUROGI member, **IRLOGI**, the national GI association for Ireland, reports that the **GeoPortal.ie** is the Republic of Ireland's portal for Geographic Information, launched on 24 June by Minister of State Fergus O'Dowd. The portal was developed by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (DECLG) and Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi), with guidance and oversight from Irish public bodies on the Irish Spatial Data Infrastructure (ISDI) project steering committee. GeoPortal.ie has been designed to comply with the EU INSPIRE Directive and to promote the sharing and effective use of Geographic Information and Geographic Information Systems in line with actions in the Irish eGovernment Strategy (2012-2015).

The purpose of the ISDI project and the GeoPortal.ie portal is to make geographic information produced by Irish public bodies easy to find and use. GeoPortal.ie will act as a gateway to very useful environmental spatial data from a wide range of content providers. By making this environmental spatial data more accessible and interoperable, the GeoPortal.ie portal and the ISDI project aim to support and promote: sustainable development; environmental protection; greater collaboration and integration between Irish public bodies; and more efficient evidence-based decision making across Ireland.

The ISDI project and GeoPortal.ie portal will compile a wealth of geographic information on a wide variety of environmental themes from official sources; it will ensure that standardised spatial data from a network of ISDI content providers will be published according to the



INSPIRE principles of data being stored once close to the source and used many times. This ISDI network of data from content providers is published in association with highly quality authoritative base mapping from OSi. The GeoPortal.ie portal allows end users to complete cross-border searches for INSPIRE environmental spatial data, by providing an optional search link with the Northern Ireland Spatial NI project catalogue.

GeoConnections Webinar Series Update



GeoConnections (www.geoconnections.nrcan.gc.ca) is a national partnership initiative led by GSDI Association member **Natural Resources Canada**, has been running a series of excellent webinars in both English and French over the past several weeks, offering excellent opportunities to learn more about the **Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI)**.

The most recent, on 26 June, presented the operational policy implications of the emerging technologies and methodologies of volunteered geographic information (VGI). Since 2010, GeoConnections has researched and developed a series of operational policy resources intended to help Canadian organizations in their interactions with spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) from an operational perspective. These resources encourage organizations to consider issues beyond the technological scope of an SDI, such as licensing, privacy, security, and other business, technology or legal topics. The content of GeoConnections' recently published Volunteered Geographic Information Primer were featured during the webinar, which covered topics including:

- VGI initiatives and the role they play in the geospatial community
- Characteristics of VGI implementations and contributors
- Operational policy considerations related to VGI:
 - Data quality and authoritativeness
 - Legal concerns
 - Security concerns
 - Data preservation

Download the **Volunteered Geographic Information Primer** here:

<http://geogratias.gc.ca/api/en/nrcan-rncan/ess-sst/b2f2a224-fc26-5292-82a9-5f62d431a208.html>

FROM THE PRESIDENT



GSDI President **Prof David Coleman** initiates a new series of '**3 Questions with...**' interviews with senior representatives from the GSDI membership.

The first interview is with **Dr Chukwudozie (Dozie) Ezigbalike** of GSDI Association member, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Prof Coleman hopes to present these interviews regularly over the coming weeks in both the Newsletter and on the 'President's Corner' of the GSDI website.

Dr Chukwudozie (Dozie) Ezigbalike is newly named **Chief of the Data Technology Section for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**. He is a member of the

organizing Committee for the GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013 Conference and is recognized as one of the world's leading experts on spatial data infrastructure. Prior to joining the UNECA, he lectured in land surveying, GIS, land administration and spatial analysis at the universities of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Melbourne. He holds a PhD in Land Information Management from the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, Canada; an MSc in Land Surveying from the Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria; and a BSc (Hons.) in Surveying from the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus. He is also a certified yoga teacher (Yoga Siromani).



Dr Ezigbalike agreed to be the lead subject for the new "3 Question with..." interview series.

(1) Your own education and experience in land information networking and SDI goes back 25 years. Now that many regional and national SDIs are in place and being maintained, how have the key issues changed?

One issue that has not changed is the data custodianship paradigm, as opposed to data ownership. Many data producers still think that they own the data that they produce and that it is from their generosity that they "share" with others. We need to move to complete custodianship principle. Other key issues have now differentiated according to economies. In the advanced economies, the issues have shifted to how to make spatial data and information products transparently ubiquitous so that non-experts can exploit them as supporting locational services, without being conscious that they are using SDI services. The less developed economies are still concerned with provision of



fundamental data sets on which other products should be based, with emphasis on mechanisms for acquiring high resolution image products as a corporate resource.

(2) What is the best advice you would give to a country or region in Africa still planning how it is going to populate and maintain its SDI?

The assumption is that the SDI principle has been accepted and maybe an SDI committee or body has been established, with some understanding of thematic responsibilities for the data sets. My advice is that the SDI Committee should establish a technical working group (or groups) drawn from the custodians, albeit implicit custodians, to identify the data sets products expected to result from their planned and already-resourced activities or projects. Then they should ensure that the SDI adopted standards are adhered to, and that the resulting data sets are produced in the context of the SDI.

(3) What is the most important advice you would give to development banks looking to fund SDI-related projects and programs in the future?

Remember first that - "everything happens somewhere." Therefore when funding development projects, to remember to ask the "where" questions when planning development projects, and therefore provide appropriately for the data that will be used to answer them. The "where" questions should also be emphasized when gathering evidence for monitoring and evaluation. Since project proposals now include up front identification of the means of verification, the "where" data should be provided for up front. That way, without specifically talking about "SDI", they will be providing for the standards-based SDI components, including any necessary management components to ensure that the data are produced and made available.

Our thanks are extended to Dr Ezingbalike for participating in the kick-off to the "3 Questions with ..." interview series.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Global Newsletter, we re-publish an article from the GSDI column that is published monthly by *GIM International magazine*. This month's article is by GSDI Societal Impacts vice-Chair, **Gita Urban-Mathieux**, titled "**GSDI Small Grants Program: Accomplishments of the Past Year**".

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association Small Grants Program has supported numerous international geospatial efforts for the past decade. The support the program has provided to the GSDI member

organizations has resulted in meeting program goals to foster partnerships, develop in-country technical capacity, improve data compatibility and access, and increase political support for spatial data infrastructure s (SDIs).

The GSDI Association, the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee, and the GISCorps of URISA are partners in this program. Three types of awards have been utilized: (1) cash award up to US \$2,500; (2) SDI/GIS consulting services up to the value of US \$2,500; or (3) a combination of cash award and SDI/GIS consulting services. The consulting services are offered through the GISCorps (www.giscorps.org).

During the past year all but two of the 17 projects awarded in 2012 were completed. In addition two projects from the 2011 award year were completed. The results of the projects represent the success of the program to increase the knowledge and deployment of SDIs throughout the international community. Highlights of the GSDI Small Grants Program include:

- Hosting numerous workshops to provide training on concepts, exchange ideas, and build relationships for future SDI work in Columbia, Indonesia, Macedonia, Rwanda, South Africa, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe.
- Geospatial metadata training, outreach, and generation in Ecuador, Ethiopia, Nigeria.
- Activation of a geospatial portal in Ethiopia (hoarec.org/index.php/geoportal-home).
- Expansion of Rwanda's GeoPortal (www.cgis.nur.ac.rw/geonetwork/srv/en/main.home).
- Initialization of a geospatial portal for Zimbabwe.
- Hosting of a tri-country (El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua) meeting that resulted in the creation of a steering committee to guide actions needed to complete Gulf of Fonseca Hydrographic Survey and Nautical Charting.
- Translation of the "SDI Cookbook" into Albanian.
- Establish an encoding standard for Multilingual (four languages) Place Name Database in China.
- Improvement of a policy and strategy for the realization of SDI for Tajikistan.

Additional information and links to final project reports are available at: www.gsdi.org/sic1. The GSDI's Societal Impacts Committee, chaired by **Dr Carmelle J. Terborgh** of Esri, (www.gsdi.org/standingcomm?project_id=305) oversees the program and the program support contact is **Ms Gita Urban-Mathieux** at burbanma@fgdc.gov.

Gita Urban-Mathieux is FGDC Grants Coordinator for the Federal Geographic Data Committee within the US Geological Survey and vice-Chair of the Societal Impacts



Committee of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association.

Learn more about how to participate in the GSDI Association here: <http://www.gsdi.org/joinGSDI>

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

The aim of the Association's **Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet)** is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geographic information community. GIKNet is a participatory, user-created and maintained information commons.

The GIKNet **Community Registry** permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other institutions to record and publish details about themselves in a central database, and to submit relevant documents to the Spatial Documents Depot, which provides a search facility for locating information and documents submitted by GIKNet 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/>.

An 8-minute background video on the purposes and goals of the GIKNet may be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/spatialinnovations>.

The main categories under which documents can be referenced in GIKNet 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 GIKnet, enter their personal or agency profile information, and then submit documents relevant to any aspect of SDI development and deployment, globally.

Entering a professional profile to GIKNet is similar to entering a professional profile on Wikipedia, except that an individual may enter and maintain their own profile (in a format similar to that found on Linked In or other social networking sites) and GIKNet is restricted to geospatial professionals, students and those involved in implementing spatial data infrastructures (SDI) at any level.

Entering information about a geospatial agency or organization is similar to an entry in Wikipedia, except that individuals affiliated with the organization enter the data and it is much easier to accomplish.

The GIKNetwork is moderated by GSDI Association volunteers who review profile submissions for relevance. In short, none of us knows as much as all of us. GIKNet is intended for collective intelligence whereby each community member acts responsibly and makes their own decisions on what and how much to contribute.

A typical example of exploitation of the GIKnet Data Depot is publication of advanced degree theses by our GSDI or IGS Members. See the following example:

"Legal Issues and Validation of VGI"

An MScE thesis published at the University of New Brunswick by **Andriy Rak**, and is well worth exploring. GSDI Association President, Prof David Coleman, was co-supervisor of this work. See the abstract below.

The Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) provides access to authoritative geographic datasets of Canada, which are the source of accurate and reliable data. The process of acquiring, updating and maintaining such datasets using traditional approaches, requires both time and costly resources. As a result, in many cases the datasets are out of date because of the high cost of maintenance. An alternative approach to reliably create and update authoritative datasets is linked to its integration with Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI). VGI provides a vast source of spatial information to government, industry and citizens. However, the integration of VGI with CGDI generates several questions, with VGI quality and legal issues at the forefront.

This research has investigated methods for assessing the quality of VGI, and describes the importance of a link between VGI and legal liability in the need for integration of VGI with CGDI. This research developed a prototype to validate data quality and examined legal liability issues around VGI to discover a strategy for possible integration of VGI with CGDI datasets. The research also provides four primary risk management techniques for CGDI to manage risks resulted from incorporating VGI into their datasets.

Thesis citation: Rak, Andriy (2013). Legal Issues and Validation of Volunteered Geographic Information. M.Sc.E. thesis, Department of Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering Technical Report No. 283, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, 128 pp. (April 2013)

Download the thesis from the **GIKNet Data Depot** here: <http://www.giknet.org/depot/?docid=86>



Joining GIKNet

Join the network by clicking 'Login' in the upper right corner of the GIKNet home page (<http://www.giknet.org>) and use the 'Register for an Account' link. If you are already registered, then simply 'Login' to GIKNet (in the upper right corner of the welcome screen) or use the password reminder facility. (Your Username and/or Password can be e-mailed to you, using the e-mail address that you used when first registering).

The first thing you should accomplish after registering is to add information about yourself by using the 'GI Community Registry' link in the left menu to lead you to Enter Profile for Individual. The questions are similar to those used by sites such as "LinkedIn", so you might simply cut and paste from other sites in which you already participate. Most responses are limited typically to 200 words. Don't forget to upload a photo! You have the ability to view, edit, and delete your individual profile at any time in the future through your 'My Submissions' link in the upper right corner.

After that feel free to add profile information about geospatial agencies, companies and NGO's with which you are affiliated. In a way, this is similar to entering basic information about geospatial organizations into Wikipedia, but much simpler.

Above all – contribute documents to the GIKNet *Spatial Documents Depot* relevant to any aspect of SDI development, implementation, monitoring, etc. so that we can build a useful repository of easily accessible information on SDI 'best practice' for access by all.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

UN-GGIM Participation



The *Third Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)* will be held 24 - 26 July 2013 at the Corn Exchange Building in Cambridge, United Kingdom. The event is a

follow-up to the August 2012 meeting in New York, and will be coupled with the Cambridge Conference 2013 which is due to take place from 21 - 24 July 2013. Representatives from various GSDI Association members will be present at the UN-GGIM meeting.

ISCGM Meeting

The 20th meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) will be held in Cambridge, UK, on 20 July.

Copernicus Masters - The European Earth Monitoring Competition

The *European Earth Monitoring Competition 2013* is open for submissions - with further industry leaders as partners and a prize pool worth well over EUR 350,000. The Copernicus Masters innovation competition (previously known as GMES Masters) was initiated 2011 by the European Space Agency (ESA), the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), and T-Systems with endorsement of the European Commission. It is also supported by European Space Imaging GmbH and Astrium Services.

In 2013, the BMW Group Research and Technology and GEO magazine have joined the competition as new supporting partners. The Copernicus Masters invites researchers, developers, entrepreneurs, and students to submit ideas for innovative, market-oriented applications based on the use of GMES based Earth observation data between 1 June and 15 September 2013. All information is also available at the competition website www.copernicus-masters.com. If you have any questions or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lara Schaflinger, Project Officer at lara.schaflinger@anwendungszentrum.de.

EC DG JRC INSPIRE Water Management Workshop

A Workshop on 'INSPIRE and Integrated Land and Water Management' will be offered by the European Commission's DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) on 26-27 September 2013 in Zagreb, Croatia. The target group for the workshop includes SDI experts, water and environmental professionals. The focus is on participants from:

- New EU Member States
- EU Acceding Country
- EU Candidate Countries
- EU Potential Candidate Countries
- Framework Programme Associated Countries
- European Neighbourhood Policy Countries and Russia

The workshop is addressed to the SDI community to transmit and discuss the experiences and the lessons learned during INSPIRE/NSDI implementation in Europe. Through the data specifications, INSPIRE covers 34 policy areas, many of which combine terrestrial, marine and inland water data. The challenge is to combine different



data sources to achieve seamless, consistent, and efficient land-water data management.

The workshop focus is on various thematic applications from integrated coastal management to biodiversity, transport to agriculture and aquaculture - to mention only a few - where interoperability and integration of different spatial data sets contribute to an effective and efficient solution of the related tasks. Workshop participants are requested to present practical applications and concrete implementation examples. Special attention will be given to the benefits of usage of integrated data management in the connection and as a support to EU policies and initiatives, as well as the problems still persisting in these fields. Get the latest information here:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/downloads/enlargement/eia_2013/2013-ies-a-08.pdf

INSPIRE Conference Reports

The annual **INSPIRE Conference 2013 - The Green Renaissance** - was held 23-27 June 2013 in Florence, Italy. Twenty-seven workshops were held on Sunday and Monday (23-24 June), ranging from 90 minutes to all-day sessions, followed by three days of presentations (25-27 June) in six parallel streams. Five plenary sessions were held over the four days of the main conference, covering the environment and e-government, capacities and innovation, networking, plus the opening and closing plenaries and award presentations. Plenary sessions were accessible via webcasts.

The conference was attended by many GSDI Association and IGS members, including GSDI President-elect, **Dave Lovell**, Executive Director of Association member EuroGeographics; **Bruce McCormack**, President of EUROGI and others. O&M Committee vice-Chair, **Roger Longhorn**, developed the presentation material for one of the workshops on data access and sharing, which also included other GSDI and IGS members, including OGC's **Athina Trakas**.

As the conference had just ended as this Newsletter went to press, we will carry a more complete report in our next issue. INSPIRE implementation remains an important SDI implementation model beyond just its European boundaries, and its basic principles, standards (ISO and OGC) are being considered for SDIs in other parts of the world.

Maintaining INSPIRE – Call for Experts

All infrastructures require maintenance and evolution if they want to remain relevant for serving the purposes for which they have been put in place. Lessons learned by implementing the INSPIRE infrastructure need to be

taken into account to further optimise its performance in order to meet its policy objectives. Setting up a framework for such maintenance, further implementation and evolution for INSPIRE is a logical initiative. The European Commission, in agreement with the EU Member States, are setting up an **INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation Group (MIG)** and a Pool of Experts. The MIG will comprise representatives nominated from the EU Member States, i.e. representatives of the INSPIRE national contact points.

A pool of experts drawn from the stakeholder community will complement the MIG. The experts in this pool will be called upon when MIG sub-groups are formed to address specific implementation or maintenance issues, but will also provide the opportunity to reach out to experts involved or interested in particular aspects of INSPIRE implementation or maintenance.

The call is open to all individuals with a high level of expertise in one or several of the aspects relevant for INSPIRE implementation and maintenance. It will be open-ended, and registration will be possible from 8 July 2013. Find out more at:
<http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/5160>.

New INSPIRE Guidelines for Encoding Spatial Data (released 11 June)

The document "**INSPIRE: Guidelines for the encoding of spatial data, Version 3.3rc3 (Date: 2013-06-11)**" specifies requirements and recommendations for the encoding of spatial data for the purpose of data interchange between systems in INSPIRE. The focus of data interchange is understood by this document primarily as access to data via services which includes, but is not limited to, a download of a complete spatial data set. The requirements and recommendations specified by this document are requirements and recommendations for encoding rules as specified by ISO 19118. These encoding rules will be specified in or referenced from INSPIRE data specifications.

Download the document at:
http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/Data_Specifications/D2.7_v3.3rc3.pdf

GSDI INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

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



- Eye on Earth – www.eyearth.org.
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – www.earthobservations.org.
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu.
- EU INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu.
- International Cartographic Association (ICA) – www.icaci.org.
- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) – www.fig.net
- International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) – Marine SDI Working Group – www.iho.int.
- International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) – www.digitalearth-isde.org.
- International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) – www.iscgm.org
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – www.iode.org.
- UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – 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"

