GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 3, No. 7, 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 organisers of the **Global Geospatial Conference 2013**, to be held at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4-8 November, are pleased to announce that industry leaders **Esri**, **Intergraph**, **Google** and **DigitalGlobe** have all signed on as lead sponsors for this joint *GSDI 14 World Conference* and *AfricaGIS 2013 Conference*.

Key Sponsors Announced

Esri, Inc. is the conference Titanium Sponsor while **Intergraph Corporation** (part of Hexagon) and **Google**, Inc. are Platinum Sponsors. **DigitalGlobe** has signed on as a Bronze Sponsor. Esri and Intergraph are also both GSDI Association corporate members. Negotiations are on-going with a range of other sponsors and exhibitors. The Sponsor and Exhibitors Prospectus is available at the conference web site at www.gsdi.org/gsdi14/.

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

New Official Collaborators

Two new Collaborators have officially joined the Conference organisers and hosts in promoting the event. These are the Ethiopian Mapping Agency and tge Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD). They join our previous Collaborators, the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) and the Geographic Information System Society of Ethipioa (GISSE).

AfriGEOSS Launch at the Conference!

AfriGEOSS, the GEO initiative to reinforce Earth observation in Africa, will feature a special plenary launch on the second day of the conference, followed by a cocktail reception that evening at the UNECA. Learn more about this exciting initiative that will expose African experts to global collaborations and improve their access to data and open-software tools for applications development in order to create new benefits for society, help sustain existing capacities, encourage knowledge transfer and provide a large return on investment in Earth Observation.

Plenaries, Exhibition and Sponsors

Seven plenary sessions are scheduled and 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 are now listed on the Conference web site, with more to be added over

the coming weeks. 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.

Register Now!

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

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. The recipient receives a medallion and certificate to be presented at the global conference, and is invited to present a visionary speech. Following appraisal of the

nominations and final selection by the awards committee, the winner has been selected. Watch this space for more news!

OTHER CONFERENCE NEWS

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.

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

The new O&M Committee Chair, **Denise McKenzie**, of OGC, and **Roger Longhorn**, vice-Chair Communications, held two teleconferences last month while working on revised GSDI Communications and Membership Strategies. These are still under development and will be presented to O&M Committee members and the Board for comment at the end of September. A final draft will be presented to the Council and full Board meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November. Denise and Roger have also been proposed to participate in the team, to be led by President-elect **Dave Lovell**, in developing the next 5-year GSDI Strategic Plan, as the current plan expires in 2013. They will be joined by other Committee members and the Executive Committee.

Dan Paull, of PSMA Australia Ltd, who joined the GSDI Association in May 2012, has been nominated to fill the Board vacancy for the representative from Asia. This was confirmed in the Board meeting on 1 August. Dan will serve in this post through the GSDI 15 Conference. Six Board positions expire at the GSDI 14 Conference and will need replacements. More on the nomination and voting procedure in the next issue.

During the Board meeting on 1 August, it was also announced that Prof Harlan Onsrud will change title to 'Secretary-General' of the Association, while current President, Prof David Coleman will assume the title of 'Executive Director', as well as President. This change is for procedural reasons and does not impact on any of the work that either Harlan or David are already performing for the Association or their responsibilities.

The GSDI Association Member Survey that was conducted from mid-February through April has been closed, with 10 members responding to the survey. O&M Committee vice-Chair, Europe, Joep Crompvoets, has completed an initial analysis of the results that will be published in the next newsletter and presented to the Council and Board at their meetings in Ethiopia in November. While the return rate was less than expected – and hoped for! – we feel that some valuable lessons can be learned from even this limited number of responses. We will once again conduct the survey, this time in person, prior to or at the GSDI Council meeting in Ethiopia, as the Council comprises representatives from all GSDI members. We remind all GSDI members – and their representatives – that the purposes of the survey are to find ways to make the Association more relevant to current members' needs – and to be more attractive to potential new members.

In July, we created a **Facebook** account to help promote the GSDI Conference and continued to publish news on the Members' Corner of the GSDI website. Our Facebook address is: ***www.facebook.com/gsdiandigs*** for those wishing to follow us or post news of their own. A Twitter account has also been created, and will be used during the forthcoming Global Geospatial Conference in November.

O&M Committee vice-Chair, Communications, Roger Longhorn, continues to support communications related activities of International Geospatial Society (IGS), as well as serving on the GSDI 14 World Conference committee. Re-design of the Association and Society web sites continue, plus further Global Conference preparations, and draft Annual Reports of the Association were prepared for the ISCGM and JBGIS meetings held in July and August.

The Outreach & Membership Committee manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has **280 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 or go direct to: http://www.linkedin.com/groups/GSDI-Association-3794985.

Note: you do NOT have to be a member of the GSDI Association or the International Geospatial Society to join the LinkedIn group! However, requests to join the group and/or to post messages are moderated.

Technical Committee

Eric van Praag, of CAF, is Chair of the Technical Committee, responsible for updating of the GSDI SDI Cookbook, a wiki maintained at:

http://www.gsdidocs.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Page.
The committee is 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. **Jeremy Shen** is vice-Chair, Capacity Building.

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 31 July 2013, IGS had 298 active members. The IGS web site is at http://www.igeoss.org.

IGS Member Survey Preliminary Results

The IGS Member Survey launched on 20 June has been very successful so far, with 93 responses recorded in the first month (fully one-third of the membership!). The survey seeks input from all IGS Members on a range of issues, which will be used to help focus the new IGS strategy and proposed activities in the future work plan. 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. IGS President-elect Dev Raj Paudyal has completed an initial analysis of the responses to date of which a summary appears below.

The IGS Member Survey was carried out in June using SurveyMonkey. By the end of the scheduled collection period, 93 members had responded, representing one-third of the total membership. While a full analysis of the results is underway, President-elect Dev Raj Paudyal has provided a preliminary analysis, which is summarised below.

The main reasons for joining the IGS were:

- learning, training and research opportunities (77%);
- networking with other professionals (76%);
- a desire to work cooperatively with others in making a difference (66%);
- to improve professional status (58%) and consultancy opportunities (31%).

Perceived membership benefits so far included:
- increased networking with other professionals (45%),
- enhancing the member's resume, professional status and professional visibility (45%), and
- increased learning, training or research opportunities (35%).

As to whether members would renew their membership in 2014, 93% said 'yes', 5% were uncertain and only 2% said 'no' (mainly because they were no longer working in the geospatial field).
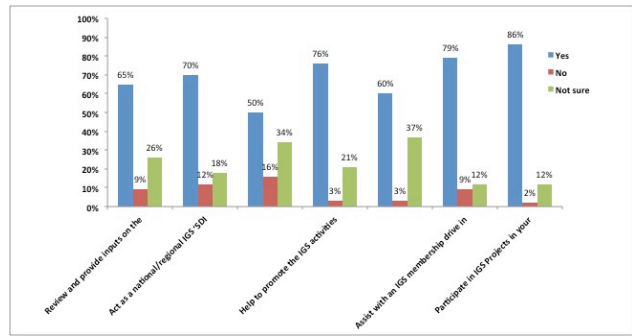
The survey also asked members to prioritise some proposed IGS activities for the next years for the IGS Strategy work plan, with the following results:

1. Implement an IGS Member 'Mentoring Program' under which IGS members can learn from the practical experience of our more senior IGS and GSDI Members in regard to SDI implementation issues (67%).
2. Support regional IGS Conferences or workshops on a periodic basis (62%).
3. Implement an IGS 'SDI Accreditation and Certification' program (via online courses and/or regional workshops (58%).
4. Support a program of IGS members acting as 'SDI Ambassadors' in promoting GSDI Association membership to their own organizations and related organizations in their regions (50%).

When asked if the member would be willing to volunteer their time to help with various activities, the results were:

- Participate in IGS Projects in your region. [86%]
- Assist with an IGS membership drive in your nation or region. [79%]
- Help to promote the GSDI World conferences and other IGS activities. [76%]
- Act as a national/regional IGS 'SDI Ambassador', i.e. become a proactive NSDI activist. [70%]
- Review and provide inputs on the 2013-2014 Action Plan. [65%]
- Provide periodic content to the GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter and the new website. [60%]

- Participate in monthly IGS teleconferences with the IGS President and President Elect. [50%]

The IGS President and President-elect, Sives Govender and Dev Raj Paudyal, wish to express their thanks to all IGS members who completed the survey and point out that the survey is still open at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NPKX8CZ.

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 or the new GSDI and IGS Facebook account (www.facebook.com/gsdiandigs/), 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 298 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: ral@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

Charting the Course for the US NSDI

'On the Frontlines' magazine carries an interesting article on the update to the US NSDI Strategic Plan as well as discussion of the Geospatial Platform in their July edition. View the article at:

http://digital.onthefrontlines.net/i/141677. You can also subscribe to download the full magazine issues in PDF format.

In the article, **Ivan DeLoatch**, FGDC Executive Director and GSDI Board member, outlines the progress to date in delivering the final NSDI strategy by end of 2013, with a clear roadmap through 2016 to complete the strategy implementation. According to DeLoatch:

1. In the past the NSDI scope was to enable the access, sharing and use of geographic data across agencies. In 2016 the vision is to focus on applying that information for improved place-based decision making. Think how that will help first responders and law enforcement.

2. Before, it was to establish spatial data and metadata standards. "*Standards are proliferating and that has been great; but we want to focus on those standards that are implementable and standards that are going to help us be interoperable. That is going to be very important,*" Mr. DeLoatch said. So, in 2016 it's leveraging shared and standards-based services. Think specifically of using the Geospatial Platform to provide a suite of shared services and capabilities to federal agencies, partners and the public. Mr. DeLoatch characterized this as "operationalizing the concept of the NSDI by utilizing the Geospatial Platform."

3. Before it was to reduce the monolithic systems storing and managing duplicate spatial data and applications. In 2016, it's making data discoverable for innovation by all. Think cloud providers that have been FedRAMP vetted that can help create and deliver innovative services.

Nominations to US National Geospatial Advisory Committee

Nominations to participate on the National Geospatial Advisory Committee must be received **by 12 August 2013**.

The Department of the Interior is seeking nominations to serve on the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC, http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac). The NGAC is a Federal Advisory Committee established under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior through the Federal Geographic Data Committee related to management of Federal geospatial programs, development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, and the implementation of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-16 and Executive Order 12906. The Committee

reviews and comments upon geospatial policy and management issues and provides a forum for views of non-Federal stakeholders in the geospatial community.

Send nominations electronically to ngacnominations@fgdc.gov, or by mail to John Mahoney, U.S. Geological Survey, US Department of the Interior, 909 First Avenue, Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98104.

Nominations may come from employers, associations, professional organizations, or other geospatial organizations. Nominations should include a resume providing an adequate description of the nominee's qualifications, including information that would enable the Department of the Interior to make an informed decision regarding meeting the membership requirements of the Committee and permit the Department of the Interior to contact a potential member. Nominees are strongly encouraged to include supporting letters from employers, associations, professional organizations, and/or other organizations that indicate the support by a meaningful constituency for the nominee.

Read more at:
https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/07/08/2013-16261/call-for-nominations-to-the-national-geospatial-advisory-committee

Developing a Pan-Canadian Geomatics Community Strategy

The Canada Centre for Remote Sensing / Mapping Information Branch of Natural Resources Canada is pleased to announce that a contract has been awarded to Halo Management Consulting Inc. to carry out the next steps in the development of a pan-Canadian geomatics community strategy. This team will also provide advice and tools to strengthen the geomatics community and engage its many members in strategy development activities.

The contract, managed by the GeoConnections Program, is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2014. For further information, please contact the GeoConnections Program at: info@geoconnections.NRCan.gc.ca.

EuroGeographics 2012 Annual Review

The EuroGeographics 2012 Annual Report has been completed and is accessible

online. In addition to the EuroGeographics President's report, you can find a lot of information about EuroGeographics' common work, and significant achievements of the organization's members (national

mapping, cadastre and land registry authorities) and the summarized use cases. Together, EuroGeographics members invest around €1.5 billion in the development of geo-information each year and use cutting-edge technology to create, manage, maintain and make available authoritative national databases. Download the report at:

http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/EGAR_2012_smallest_size.pdf

OGC and LBMA to Jointly Address Location Information Issues

The (The LBMA) and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) recently signed a liaison agreement. Mark Reichardt, president and CEO of the Open Geospatial Consortium, explained, "We are very pleased to be setting out to work on projects of mutual interest with the Location Based Marketing Association. Their membership is focused on 'collaborative innovation at the intersection of people, places and media' and our membership is focused on making spatial information readily accessible and shareable. We've set the stage for a number of joint outreach and communication projects that will benefit members of both organizations. Also, we believe there is great potential in working together to promote the idea of an open database for Points of Interest (POIs)."

Asif Khan, president and Founder of the LBMA, said, "This new partnership with the Open Geospatial Consortium will help our members gain a better understanding of the importance of place data standardization, while at the same time enabling us to share in the opportunity to educate the public and others on the growing desire of marketers to leverage location data in a way that respects privacy and provides hyper-relevance." The Location Based Marketing Association is a group dedicated to the fostering of a community of interest around all avenues of advertising and marketing as it relates to location-specific opportunities. This community is comprised of mobile, out-of-home, digital and print advertisers. Our goal is simply to educate, share best practices, establish guidelines for growth and promote the services of member companies to brands and other content-related providers. More on the LBMA here: http://www.thelbma.com/.

Improve Business Outcomes with Cloud GIS - Esri Report

Gartner predicts continued growth of cloud computing to drive business efficiency, as you'll read in Esri's recent report, Cloud GIS Reveals the 'Where' in Your Data. In it, you will also find case studies and technology reviews

that describe ways cloud GIS helps organizations to do the following:

- Gain insights based on the perspective of place
- Understand and analyze market conditions
- Yield actionable intelligence
- Facilitate collaboration
- Improve business results

Get the report at:
http://www.gartner.com/technology/media-products/pdfindex.jsp?g=esri_issue2

Esri Canada SDI Newsletter

Since December 2012, Esri Canada's monthly **Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) newsletters** have helped stakeholders to keep up to date on what's happening in Canada and globally related to SDI. Visit the newsletters at:
http://www.esri.ca/en/content/enewsletters#sthash.2Mzao0Tc.dpuf

Esri Canada's eNewsletters keep you up to date on what's new and exciting with Esri Canada's products, services, events, technology, clients and business partners. They offer five specialized channels to which you can subscribe, based on your language, interest and area of expertise, including SDI.

Esri Launch New Website for GIS Professionals

Esri have built a website just for you, the GIS Professional. We're excited to let you know about a new website we've built for you. It's called ArcGIS for Professionals and it's a single destination for everything you need to get the most out of your GIS. ArcGIS for Professionals is your go-to resource in 8 key areas: Mapping, Analysis, Going 3D, Managing Your Data, Sharing Your Work, Planning Your Projects, Enabling your Enterprise, and Customizing Your GIS. Visit the new website - **ArcGIS for Professionals** - at:
http://pro.arcgis.com/

Intergraph Helps Make Cities Smarter

The first step in building anything is to establish a firm foundation. For the smart city, that foundation starts with geospatial data. It places all other data in a real physical and visual context. Two cities that are using geospatial data to improve operations are Edmonton, Canada, and Zurich, Switzerland.

Edmonton was one of the first cities to have all its geospatial information in digital format, making the transition in the 1970s. Today, it uses that data to increase the quality of life for its citizens. For instance,

the city's transit security division combines geospatial data with reports of crime to detect patterns. "They can recognize a pattern and deploy…resources to prevent crime or apprehend a suspected criminal," said Tim Beauchamp, IT enterprise architect for Edmonton.

Zurich, the largest city in Switzerland, is also on the cutting edge of geospatial data use. The city's central geoinformatics department continuously collects and pushes new survey data to other departments in the city, using Intergraph's GeoMedia. "There are about 600 different layers in there," said René Müller, head of geoinformatics for Zurich. "From this database, GIS users in various city departments can connect to it and view the data."

Read more about how Edmonton and Zurich are building smart cities upon a geospatial foundation in the first issue of Perspectives magazine (a publication of Intergraph Security Government & Infrastructure) at:
http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/intergraph/perspectives_2013issue1/#/14
and subscribe to the magazine at:
http://forms.intergraph.com/PerspectivesSubscription

Upcoming Intergraph Webinars in August

Intergraph invites you to attend one of their new webinars in August! See the list below and register now.

August 7, 2013 - **Map Labeling and Analysis in GeoMedia** - During this 30-minute webinar, we'll demonstrate analysis capabilities and how they can save you time and increase the quality of your maps. Time: 10:00 AM US EDT (GMT -4) / 5:00 PM (GMT+1) - Register at:
http://forms.intergraph.com/GeoMediaLiveWebinarRegistration?elq=e4d74fec76ed4a3db84ddc247d86cfc8&elqCampaignId=1326

August 20, 2013 - **Natural Resources: Providing Understanding for Sustainable Management** - Learn how Intergraph's geospatial products are being used today in these industries, including analysis of high-end terrain; multispectral, radiometric, seismic, and bathymetric data; 2D and 3D analysis; and visualization and interpretation. Time: 10:00 AM US EDT (GMT -4) / 5:00 PM (GMT+1) - Register at:
http://forms.intergraph.com/NaturalResourcesLiveRegistration?elq=e4d74fec76ed4a3db84ddc247d86cfc8&elqCampaignId=1326

Thermopylae Interviewed for 'Social Intelligence' Feature

In its most recent issue, the Geospatial Intelligence Forum spoke with GSDI Association member

Thermopylae's AJ Clark regarding 'social intelligence,' the concept of using publicly available social media feeds to inform Intelligence operations. Clark specifically discussed the use of using these sources for previously unavailable on-the-ground intelligence as well as how tools like Google Earth and iSpatial can make visual use of this data. Read the full article, "Social Intelligence," in the latest issue of Geospatial Intelligence Forum or at: http://www.kmimediagroup.com/mgt-home/510-gif-2013-volume-11-issue-5-julyaugust/6985-social-intelligence.html

OGC Request for Comments

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) is seeking comments on the charter for a proposed OGC Standards Working Group (SWG). The new SWG will revise the Earth Observation Metadata profile of Observations & Measurements, an existing OGC standard for documenting Earth Observation (EO) product metadata. It will also develop a new, related standard to extend the use of OpenSearch for discovery of EO products. The SWG will consider change requests for the charter that have been posted through 16 August 2013 via an email message sent to charter-requests@opengeospatial.org. See the charter at:
http://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/54744

OGC are also seeking comments – **by 8 August** - on the candidate OGC OWS Context Encoding Standard. This standard is comprised of three documents:

- Conceptual Model Document - https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/54513
- Atom Encoding Document - https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/54514
- Schemas and Examples - https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/54512

The OGC Web Services Context Document (OWS Context) standard was created to allow a set of configured information resources (service set) to be passed between applications primarily as a collection of services. OWS Context is designed to support limited in-line content as well. The goal is to support use cases such as the distribution of search results and the exchange of a set of resources such as OGC Web Feature Service (WFS), Web Map Service (WMS), Web Map Tile Service (WMTS), Web Coverage Service (WCS) and others in a 'common operating picture' supporting situational awareness. Additionally OWS Context can deliver a set of configured processing services (Web Processing Service (WPS)) parameters to allow the processing to be reproduced on different nodes.

This initial call for comment is for two (2) OWS Context documents: A Conceptual Model and the ATOM encoding for the conceptual model. The Conceptual model document describes the use cases, requirements, conceptual data model of the OWS Context encoding standard. The goal of the model is to provide a core model, which is extended and encoded as defined in extensions to this standard. A Context reference is a fully configured service set to be defined and consistently interpreted by clients. The ATOM encoding is the first extension of the core (conceptual model).

The OGC OWS Context Standards Working Group will consider all comments when preparing a final draft of the candidate standard. Please register your comments on this candidate standard at:
http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/requests/102

OGC are also seeking comments – by 22 August 2013 - on the candidate OGC Web Coverage Service (WCS) Interface Standard Processing Extension. The OGC Web Coverage Service (WCS) Interface Standard (http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/wcs) defines an open standard interface to access multi-dimensional spatio-temporal coverages, such as sensor data, satellite imagery, image time series, point clouds, and meshes. The candidate WCS Processing Extension standard specifies the standard service interface to a Web Coverage Processing Service (WCPS) query language that may optionally be implemented by WCS servers. WCPS extends WCS functionality with a high-level query language for server-side filtering and processing of multi-dimensional Big Data. Servers may transparently parallelize such queries over multiple cluster or cloud nodes. To this end, the WCS extension defines an additional request type, ProcessCoverages, beyond the core WCS request types GetCapabilities, DescribeCoverage, and GetCoverage.

All OGC standards are free and publicly available. Download the candidate OGC WCS Processing Extension Standard at:
http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/requests/104
Comments are due **by 22 August 2013**.

Australian Open Source Geospatial Laboratory to Support Smarter Cities

The University of Melbourne will be home to Australia's first Open Source Geospatial Laboratory. The laboratory will support urban research and educational excellence through the use of location based (geospatial) data and tools. The Laboratory will undertake research and provide training resources which utilises digital data and analytical and visualisation tools to up-skill a myriad of disciplines in evidenced based decision-making practices. Training will be delivered both into existing University curriculum and through a series of workshops and short-courses.

The laboratory is expected to attract considerable interest from urban geographers, spatial scientists, planners and policy-makers who are keen to contribute to and learn about the latest available data driven techniques to support evidenced based decision-making. The laboratory will utilise the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN). AURIN (http://aurin.org.au) is a $20 million open source e-infrastructure initiative that is unlocking datasets of relevance to Australia's cities and providing an analytical toolkit to inform sustainable urban futures.

The software used to support activities of the laboratory is open source, meaning the source code can be modified and re-distributed royalty and fee free. This open source geospatial laboratory is a joint initiative of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo). The laboratory will see scientists and practitioners from the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo) collaborate closely with University colleagues. This Australian facility will be part of a global network of open geospatial research labs known as ICA-OSGeo labs. Currently there are 22 ICA-OSGeo labs operating globally.

Dr Christopher Pettit, Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne, Victorian Chair of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) and Strategic Implementation Co-ordinator of AURIN will lead the initiative. "The University of Melbourne is one of the top research universities in the world and has been a pioneer in Australian geospatial science research," said Professor Tom Kvan, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. "We are delighted to collaborate with the ICA and OSGeo to create this opportunity for our students and researchers, which will encourage open geospatial teaching and related research in other universities."

The facility will open in Sep 2013. For more information, contact Dr Christopher Pettit, The University of Melbourne, email: cpettit@unimelb.edu.au.

IC_CARTOTECHNOLOGY Update - July 2013

We are glad to present the latest news of **IC_CARTOTECHNOLOGY** - the International Course on Management and Applied Techniques in Cartography – see www.iccartotechnology.com.

Announcing the Weekly Image Contest!

Participate every week and win a 5% enrolment discount to IC_CARTOTECHNOLOGY 2013/2014 and free updated world map! http://www.iccartotechnology.com/

New Synthesis Seminars

Learn more about the new Open Synthesis Seminar Projects within IC_Cartotechnology in collaboration with different institutions at:
http://www.iccartotechnology.com/Home-IC-Cartotechnology/Program#Synthesis%20seminar

Different Enrolment Options

Different enrolment options are available: whole postgraduate program, single itineraries or modules. More details at:

http://www.iccartotechnology.com/Home-IC-Cartotechnology/Enrolment

Visit the official website and complete the Pre-Enrolment Form for extra detailed information. For more information, contact Dr. Raquel Serrano-Calvo, Coordinator IC_Cartotechnology - www.iccartotechnology.com - twitter: @cartotechnology - Linkedin Group: IC_Cartotechnology

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.

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.

UNIGIS Distance Learning MSc Registration Open

Interested students and professionals from Central Asia will again have the opportunity to enhance their qualifications and to improve their career prospects. The UNIGIS MSc in 'Geographic Information Science & Systems' as well as the 'UNIGIS professional' certificate are offered via online distance learning to active professionals and graduates aiming at making GIS and Geoinformatics the basis for their current and future jobs.

The globally recognized UNIGIS qualifications are offered in Central Asia in a cooperation between the University of Salzburg's Z_GIS competence centre and the Austria-Central Asia Centre for GIScience - ACA*GIScience. Degrees and certificates are awarded from the University of Salzburg, Austria. The UNIGIS study programmes for Central Asia are based on English language online materials with support from instructors in local languages. Registration now is open for the fall 2013 intake of students, starting in October. Enquiries can be directed to unigis@aca-giscience.org and a brochure for Central Asian students is available online at: https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B1W9laE7MF3yNjZjMz M0NGItOGU1Ni00ODRkLTgwMTEtOTRjYTUxMWU5MTdi /edit?pli=1&hl=en#

PhD Position Available at ITC in the Netherlands

A PhD position is advertised for 'Volunteered geographical information and geovisual analytics for public health applications'at ITC in Enschede, Netherlands. Deadline for application is 16 August 2013.

Information and communication technologies have greatly facilitated the acquisition, online storage and exchange of large amounts of georeferenced data by non-professionals. Activities in this relatively new domain fall in the realm of Volunteered Geographical Information (VGI), as most of the data is processed by volunteers. VGI data is often highly heterogeneous and might be massive – if volunteers get organized to crowd source it for a particular citizen science project. These two characteristics have resulted in limited research efforts to derive new and/or improved geospatial products and knowledge based on VGI. However, such products and knowledge are needed to support informed decision-making and to move towards a true "information society".

This research project thus deals with the development of novel methods and tools to properly visualize and analyze VGI data. As a case study, we will focus on the role of VGI data to understand the impact of global environmental changes on public health. In this research project, we propose using geovisual analytics to derive meaning from and insight in the diversity of ever increasing VGI data collections and geo-products that can support public health applications such as the mapping and modeling of the spatial and temporal distribution and seasonality of vector-borne diseases.

Geovisual analytics is a developing discipline that integrates knowledge, methods and techniques from scientific geovisualization, human-computer interaction and spatio-temporal data management and analysis. As stated above, we envisage case studies strongly linked to public health where the integration of formal (GIS layers and remote sensing products) and informal (volunteers observations) datasets is expected.

This Promovendus position will suit a person with a Master's Degree in Geographical Information Science, in Remote Sensing or in (medical/physical) Geography. He/she should have an analytical mind, experience with programming and affinity with geovisualization as well as with quantitative GIS/RS methods (e.g. spatial data mining/machine learning and data assimilation).

More information on this PhD/AIO position can be obtained from Prof. Dr. M-J. Kraak (m.j.kraak at utwente.nl) or from Dr. R. Zurita-Milla (r.zurita-milla at utwente.nl). You are also invited to visit our homepage at: http://www.itc.nl/. Interested candidates are invited to send the application, detailed curriculum vitae and a letter elaborating the motivation for the application before 16 August 2013. Please use the application on www.utwente.nl/vacancies link below 'apply here' and fill out the application form. The successful candidate will be employed for a period of four years. Salary and conditions will be in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement (CAO) of the Dutch Universities.2062 – 2638

Earthzine 2013 Student Essay Contest

Earthzine (www.Earthzine.org) invites undergraduate and graduate students from around the world to submit an essay to its 2013 Student Essay Con- test on "Science Technology for Observing Earth's Climate." The contest offers students an opportunity to sketch visions and raise critical thoughts that can be discussed with Earthzine's global readership. Earth observation technology collects and processes data on climatic conditions on Earth. The 2013 Student Essay Contest is a platform to share views on Earth science technology, which includes hardware

for data collection, computer infrastructures for data management, and software and algorithms for data analysis.

The essays can be reports on how you use Earth observation technology or your critical views on developments of these technologies. What further technological advances do we need to understand Earth's climate? What problems have been solved with Earth observation technology? What are your experiences with this kind of technology? What insights did you gain on climatic conditions on Earth from using Earth observation technology?

Accepted essays will be published at www.Earthzine.org and judged by a panel of experts, with USD 1,500 in prizes awarded to the top entry or entries. The process for judging will include two weeks of online discussion with Earthzine readers and judges. The prize funding is sponsored by Northrop Grumman, a leading global security company.

- Submission Guidelines: Essays should not exceed 1,000 words, and include at least one image with caption and credit information. The author must have the rights or permission to use the image. Please refer to Earthzine's Writer Guidelines for further details at: http://www.earthzine.org/writers-guidelines/. With each entry, include a brief (about 100 words) biographical sketch of the student, along with a mailing address, email address, and anticipated year of graduation.

- Deadlines: Submissions are due 3 September 2013. Winners will be announced on 18 October 2013.

- Eligibility: Full- or part-time enrolment in any (U.S., European, African, Asian, etc.) undergraduate or graduate degree program at an accredited college or university at the time of the contest.

- Submission: Queries and final essays should be sent to Barbara Hofer, Associate Editor for Education, bhofer@earthzine.org.

- Disclaimer: Failure to comply with the above guide- lines may result in disqualification. Earthzine reserves the right to edit any content posted on its site. All essays must be original and previously unpublished.

For further details, please visit www.Earthzine.org and click on the 'Education' section.

Earthzine will also be represented at the GSDI 14 Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November, where they will be recording presentations from selected student presenters for later publication.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month, GSDI President **Prof David Coleman** initiated a new series of *'3 Questions with…*' interviews with senior representatives from the GSDI membership.

The second interview in the series is with Jarmo Ratia, who served as Director-General of the National Land Survey of Finland from 1991 through 2012. In addition to his leadership of that organization, Jarmo has been a long time proponent of increased cooperation between national mapping organizations in Europe and is a former President of the GSDI Association.

GSDI: Technologies and users have changed since you started your SDI planning and development in Finland. What is one key thing you would do differently if you and your colleagues could start from scratch with the tools, services and datasets available today?

Jarmo: *It is very difficult to say what we would do otherwise if we could start from the scratch now. Basically, it is question of co-operation between data producing organizations, discussions with users regarding their needs and raising the political will. All this takes time. More advanced technology - what we have now - perhaps would have made a process faster, but not in a crucial way.*

We started SDI work already 1980´s and what we were missing in those days were good, internationally accepted standards which had been tested with real data in real life. It would have been good to have software developed from the very beginning, which supported open source standards.

Finland is a member of European Union and therefore also a member of INSPIRE project. This exercise has been very heavy and long lasting. We must take into account what is given to us by the EU Commission. We may have developed SDI faster nationally, but of course SDI´s in European countries must be consistent with each other.

GSDI: What was the single most difficult issue that you faced in helping to implement and maintain the spatial data infrastructure in Finland?

Jarmo: *The most difficult issue in constructing SDI in Finland has been lack of people who know. Developing SDI in Finland began in the National Land Survey (NLS) of Finland in 1980's. There were only few people even in the*

NLS who realised what SDI was all about. So surveyors and mapmakers were the first ones but, along the years, environmental people, forest people, roads people, the military, and so on all grew to understand the benefits that SDI can offer them.

Courses in universities began but that is not enough, because people in their everyday work must master basic elements of SDI in order to work with the tool. The NLS of Finland has organised courses in SDI for almost 500 people. The NLS is also a supporting body in INSPIRE activities to other organisations. NLS maintains a network of experts on INSPIRE issues. Some 350 people from 120 organisations take part in this work on voluntary basis.

In my mind, teaching the basic elements of SDI should be started already at elementary school.

GSDI: What benefits and insights did you gain from your experiences with the GSDI Association? Do you have any advice for new organizational members of the Association or for individual members in the International Geospatial Society?

Jarmo: *The NLS of Finland is one of the founding members of the GSDI Association. I took part in the work from the very beginning even before the formal founding the association. In my mind, we needed a global forum for SDI issues, because work in the European Union and in EuroGeographics (the association of mapping agencies) was too "European". SDI is not only a local or regional exercise but global. For me, the GSDI Association has been a source of valuable information, a source of knowledge and expertise and a source of highly educated, civilized people who have become good friends of mine.*

I encourage all new members, whether organisations or individuals, to take full advantage of all products and services which the GSDI Association and International Geospatial Society can offer.

GSDI: And maybe a "bonus question", please... What excites you today in terms of new developments that may have an impact on SDIs in the future?

Jarmo: *The most exciting event that in my mind will have a great impact on developing Finnish SDI further, was opening our data bases. From 1/5/2012, all NLS data was opened for free use free of charge. By the end of that year, data from the NLS had been downloaded more then ever before. Also other organisations in Finland are now opening their data. It is too early to draw conclusions yet, but I believe that this will give birth to new innovations both in business and academia.*

Our thanks are extended to Jarmo Ratia for participating in the "3 Questions with …" interview series.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Global Newsletter, we publish an article from the GSDI column that is published monthly by **GIM International magazine**. This month's article is article is by **Doug Nebert**, a member of the GSDI Technical Committee and the editor of the original GSDI "SDI Cookbook". Doug is Senior Advisor for Geospatial Technology, System-of-Systems Architect with the US Federal Geographic Data Committee Secretariat.

Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure – a Base for Arctic Applications

The development of an Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure was proposed and adopted as a formal activity by the Arctic Council countries to create a mapping environment for use in the polar region. The Council is a forum for the eight circumpolar nations and sovereign indigenous populations to collaborate on social and scientific research of concern to the region. Topics addressed by the Council include biodiversity, environmental protection, effects of climate change, search and rescue, and the marine environment – all of which use and produce geospatial information for monitoring and decision-making and need a geospatial framework to coordinate their work.

A consistent public map has never been produced for use in the Arctic at a local to regional scale. Existing map service environments have also not supported native equal area polar projections critical for visualization and analysis in the Arctic. The Arctic SDI is developed to fill these gaps. The Arctic SDI provides a freely-available online base map and data for use at scales between 1:250,000 and 1:1million through adaptation of existing national map services from the Council nations. Higher-resolution data and maps are provided by some nations, as their national SDI policies allow. The Arctic SDI is 'virtual' in the sense that it is not an SDI built from scratch but re-purposes existing national maps and interoperability standards to enable a seamless circumpolar view.

The eight Council member countries – Canada, United States, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, and Denmark/Greenland, – have adapted their national map services to serve a compatible base map. A single 1:1million scale map service is hosted in the Amazon EC2 environment based on the most recent Digital Chart of the World (VMAP 0) data. The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) dataset is also served – developed by the British Oceanographic Data Centre to

provide a bathymetric base map for the oceans at a resolution of 90m or better.

In each country OGC Web Map Services (WMS) have been developed from data at 1:250,000 scale. These eight national WMS support a common symbology based on the EuroRegionalMap specification to provide consistent cartography. All layers are served using several Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area coordinate reference systems to provide regional views centered on the North Pole. National map data include the territorial sea, a 12 nautical mile buffer into the sea or ocean. An OGC Web Map Tile Service (WMTS) is being created to provide a rapid-access cached tile view of the Arctic. OGC Web Feature Services are also being investigated as companions to the WMS to enable download of selected map features and data for further GIS analysis.

The Arctic SDI is a unique virtual data infrastructure, supporting unique regional requirements through common standards providing access to existing national map services and data. As the project goes operational this year, several international applications will evaluate the utility of the Arctic SDI to support polar applications. These projects will be coordinated with and through the Council activities to identify additional stakeholder requirements and capabilities to be added.

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.

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)* was held 24 - 26 July 2013 in Cambridge, United Kingdom. The event is a follow-up to the August 2012 meeting in New York, and was coupled with the Cambridge Conference 2013 from 21 - 24 July 2013.

In this issue, we publish the comments and reports submitted by three GSDI Association representatives who were present. Papers for the meeting are available at http://ggim.un.org/ together with a draft attendee list.

GSDI was represented by GSDI President-elect, **Dave Lovell**, Executive Director of GSDI Member, EuroGeographics. The GSDI Association is one of the 14 recognised International Organizations supporting this UN initiative.

Dave reports that during the meeting ISPRS provided a summary report on the state of mapping across the world. A number of delegates expressed the view that the scope of the UN-GGIM topics was too narrow, being rather dominated by topographic mapping issues. More work is needed to ensure the effective integration of statistics and geo-information and consideration of information in the marine environment.

GSDI Association member, **EUROGI**, the European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information, was represented at the meeting by Prof. **Mauro Salvemini**, EUROGI past-Presdident and current Treasurer. Mauro reports that the large participation of member states' delegations discussed a long agenda of issues, agreeing on decisions that, among others, included:

- aiming to reinforce a global geodetic reference frame,
- developing a global map for sustainable development,
- addressing national institutional arrangements for GI, and
- addressing critical issues related to authoritative data.

The recently formed UN-GGIM regional committees, of which UN GGIM Europe is one, have already started to collaborate with the Secretariat in order to allow the Member Sates to continue to have a regional and global perspective.

Finally, **Denise McKenzie**, of OGC, and Chair of the GSDI Outreach & Membership Committee, provides this overview of the meeting.

The theme for the Cambridge Conference (http://www.cambridgeconference.com/conference_2013/) was '***Bringing Geographic Authority to Information***' with presentations that ranged from the weather, with Paul Davies, Chief Meteorologist from the UK Met Office, Sir Peter Hendy, Commissioner of Transport for London discussing the huge task of managing London's public transport, Sir Stuart Peach emphasizing the critical role of geospatial and a number of delegates sharing their own nation's national mapping experience and expertise. There was a joint meeting of the Cambridge Conference and UN-GGIM on Wednesday morning with a panel of government Ministers from across the globe discussing the broad variety of geospatial issues experienced by each nation.

The 3rd meeting of the UN-GGIM had a packed agenda. Reports and papers for the meeting are available at http://ggim.un.org/ together with a draft attendee list. GSDI was represented by President Elect, Dave Lovell with other GSDI members in attendance representing member nations and observing organisations.

Key reports tabled at the meeting include:

- Future trends in geospatial information management
- Geodetic Reference Framework for sustainable development (in collaboration with IAG)
- Development of a global map for sustainable development
- Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management
- Legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data (contribution from the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy)
- Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community (joint report by ISO, OGC & IHO)
- Linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data (contribution from Australian Bureau of Statistics – Statistical Spatial Framework)
- Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information
- Integrating land and marine geospatial information (contribution from IHO and FIG)
- Activities on geospatial information within the United Nations system (UNGIWG, UNSDI)
- Activities related to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development
- Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information
- Status of mapping in the world (contribution from ISPRS)

Following the publication of the official summary paper a more detailed report will be provided in the newsletter. For some further insight from delegates the official twitter hashtags used were #UNGGIM and #CambConf13.

Thanks to Dave, Denise and Mauro for their insights into the meeting and we will publish comment on the final official meeting report from GGIM in a future issue.

ECOSOC Report on Global Standards at UN-GGIM Meeting

At the Third Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) held from 24-26 July 2013 in Cambridge, UK, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) released the draft report "Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community". The introductory summary is below.

Report of the Secretariat Summary

The present paper contains the report for consideration

on establishing and implementing standards for the global geospatial information community. At its second session, held in August 2012, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management took note of the suggestion by technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 211) to put forward, jointly with the Open Geospatial Consortium and the International Hydrographic Organization, a proposal on the issues related to standard-setting in the international community (see E/2012/46, decision 2/103).

A preliminary paper, prepared by ISO/TC 211, the Open Geospatial Consortium and the International Hydrographic Organization, was presented at the Second High Level Forum on GGIM, held in Doha, Qatar, from 4 to 6 February 2013. It provided background information on the organizations developing standards and their procedures; collaboration on the issue; future areas in standardization; and the trends in information technology that affect standards in the context of global geospatial information management. The report provides an overview of the range of standards that are available and applicable in the context of the Committee of Experts and highlights areas where contributions can be made to establish and implement standards in order to support the objectives of consistent, standardized and interoperable datasets in national contexts. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for the international geospatial information community, including in considering mechanisms to assist Member States in adopting the existing standards and implementing them in national legal and policy frameworks.

UNRCC-A Meeting - August 2013

The 10th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the America (UNRCC-A) will be held on 19-23 August 2013 in New York, NY USA. GSDI Association President Prof David Coleman will represent the Association at the meeting, among other GSDI members.

UNRCC-A provides a regional forum where government officials, planners, scientists and experts from the Americas and other regions meet to address their common needs, problems and experiences in the field of surveying and mapping, cartography, hydrography, remote sensing, land and geospatial information systems.

The 10th Conference is being held under the theme UN-GGIM and the Americas, addressing global challenges through geospatial information. Specific conference objectives are:

- to receive reports on the work being done to advance geospatial information management and assess the status of the resolutions adopted at the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas.

- for conference delegates to share experiences, knowledge and best practices on geospatial information management (GIM) at all levels;

- for representatives from Member States to gain greater understanding of the relevance and work of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Committee of Experts, GIM issues being addressed in addition to the strategic direction and related program of work;

- to elect and welcome the new members of the governing body for the Americas and

- for Member States and supporting stakeholders to identify existing and new opportunities for increased regional and global collaborations aimed at advancing GIM for sustained economic development of the Americas.

There will be ten sessions and six topics. The topics per session are:

- Session 1 - UN-GGIM and the Americas
- Session 2 - Strategy, policy, economic and institutional issues
- Sessions 3 and 4 - Spatially Enabling Government
- Sessions 5 and 6 - Geospatial data collection, management and dissemination
- Session 7 - Best practices and applications
- Sessions 8 and 9 - Climate change and disaster risk reduction
- Session 10 - Technical Committees of the Conference (Parallel Sessions)

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction: Output Documents

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform took place from 19 to 23 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. Two of the main output documents are now available: The Chair's Summary is at:
http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/news/view/33306

and the Communiqué of the High-Level Dialogue is at:

http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/news/view/33281

This final Chair's Summary is a comprehensive account and concise report that highlights the key messages that emerged and comments made following the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is a biennial forum for information exchange, discussion of latest development and knowledge and partnership building across sectors, with the goal to improve implementation of disaster risk reduction through better communication and coordination amongst stakeholders. Hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), it is for government representatives, NGOs, scientists, practitioners, and UN organizations to share experiences and formulate strategic guidance and advice for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Copernicus Masters - The European Earth Monitoring Competition – Update

A Workshop on the Copernicus Masters 2013 – The European Earth Monitoring Competition will be held on 21 August 2013 in Enschede, The Netherlands.

From disaster prevention and agriculture to automotive and smartphone apps, many aspects of our daily lives have become difficult to imagine without the integration of satellite technologies. If you are a final year student or early stage researcher, what is your idea of including satellite data into an application?

Accept the Challenge! This half-day workshop is intended to introduce the Copernicus Masters and to provide competitors with information how its renowned partners can support the implementation of clever ideas by participating in the European Earth Monitoring Competition. Besides the presentation of application examples, participants get the chance to present their own creative ideas. To make this as productive as possible for participants, they will receive valuable feedback.

Pitch your solution (5 minutes, 5 slides) that uses any Earth observation data for business and society. Get expert support, representatives from EOPOWER, ITC, and ESA will be part of the jury. Win prizes, the best presentations will be invited to take part in a one-of-a-kind glimpse behind the scenes of ESA ESTEC and ESA BIC Nordwijk. Submit your solution to the Copernicus Masters that is open until 15 September at http://www.copernicus-masters.com/.

Please register **by 16 August at the latest** with ulrike.daniels@anwendungszentrum.de. You will then receive a confirmation, further information and a template for your presentation.

Singapore Geospatial Challenge Supported by UN-GGIM

The Singapore Geospatial Challenge [SGC] is an initiative of the Singapore Land Authority to encourage the use of Geographic Information Systems technology in schools. Supported by the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN GGIM), the challenge is organized for Junior Colleges and Secondary School students to help create a spatially enabled Singapore.

The main event will be held on the 2nd August 2013, Singapore Geospatial Challengers will have to plan an optimal route prior to the event and use a geospatial mobile application (created by Organizing-Partner, Nanyang Polytechnic) to navigate around the civic district while they check-into caches (e.g. Heritage Buildings/Trees) selected by SGC partnering agencies, NParks, NEA and NHB. While navigating and checking-into the caches with their mobile device, students will learn of the power and benefits that geospatial information and applications can bring while simultaneously uncovering Singapore's rich historical and green heritage.

Once checked-in, the cache would become unavailable to other challengers for a set period of time. Challengers waiting to check-in may opt to use their 'Lifelines' [limited!] to unlock the cache so that they may check-into the cache. Conversely, rival teams may want to work together to challenge reigning teams by creating quiz-barriers to caches they might be attempting to check-into.

Europe Permits Free Access to Sentinel EO Data

Despite concerns over the impact on fledgling European private EO company business models, the European Commission will permit free access to data from the Sentinel series of Earth Observation satellites. The Commission concluded that any potential harm to the private-sector operators would be outweighed by expected growth in value-added services derived from the data. This aligns the Commission's policy with the policy already adopted by the European Space Agency (ESA).

The European EO system was formerly known as GMES - Global Monitoring for Environment and Security – and comprised the European contribution to the global GEO/GEOSS initiative. GMES is now called Copernicus and ownership is transferring from ESA to the European Commission over the coming months. The Commission has agreed to spend a further 3.8 billion euros on Copernicus between 2014 and 2020, to complete development of the Sentinel satellites, finance their options and stimulate the growth of a user community.

Several years ago, ESA had already decided to follow the U.S. government's Landsat example and eliminated charges for access to ESA-owned Earth observation satellites. However, in Europe several companies have raised private capital to build and launch their own satellites and sales of data comprise an important element of their business model, even though future growth is in data-related services.

The Commission's new policy, released on 12 July, includes restrictions designed to prevent the millions of euros dedicated to developing Copernicus services from overwhelming the private sector. The free-and-open-access policy does not include data and information collected by the Copernicus program from third-party providers.

Copernicus's 3.8-billion-euro budget is far less than what the program's backers had said was needed to fully develop the system's potential and assure its continuity over the long term. It remains unclear how much of this budget will be reserved for services, and how much will be needed maintain the satellite fleet and dedicated ground infrastructure. The first Copernicus satellite, Sentinel 1A, is scheduled for launch in February.

(Article based on an reporting by Peter B. de Selding in Space News.)

EU Invitation to Tender relating to INSPIRE

ITT name: Authentication, Authorization and Accounting (AAA) for Data and Services in EU Public Administrations - JRC/IPR/2013/H.6/0016/OC

The tender concerns the tasks of preparing a study, workshop and test bed related to Authentication, Authorization and Accounting (AAA) for data and services and secure data exchange for public administrations in Europe. This includes assessing the technologies, standards and best practices used in European e-government and other public sector activities giving access to data and to web/network services. The main scope of this work will include those technologies and standards related to the Infrastructure for Spatial Information for Europe (INSPIRE) Directive 2007/2/EC and the European Interoperability Architecture of the European Union's Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA) Programme. The aim of the work is to determine requirements for an interoperable European approach in this context, with the test bed being a means to examine potential solutions in practice.

This is an 'open call' for the IES (see http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu/).

Basic tender information:

- Contract notice designation - 2013/S 139-240355
- Launch date - 09/07/2013
- Documents available until - 19/09/2013
- Deadline date for submitting Questions - 11/09/2013
- Tender deadline - 18/09/2013
- Date of opening of offers - 25/09/2013 09:30

Access this notice and download all the required documentation at:
http://web.jrc.ec.europa.eu/callsfortender/index.cfm?action=app.tender&id=2166&instdir=3511

Free Access to International Journal of Digital Earth Articles

To give you a taste of the content in "International Journal of Digital Earth", the editor has highlighted a selection of significant articles to aid your research. These articles have been made FREE for you until the end of the year. Please use this link to access all papers: http://explore.tandfonline.com/content/est/tjde-editors-choice

Featured articles include "Digital Earth 2020: towards the vision for the next decade", "Global characterization and monitoring of forest cover using Landsat data: opportunities and challenges" and "Sensors, empowerment, and accountability: a Digital Earth view from East Africa". Don't forget to share this collection with your friends and colleagues too!

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.eyeonearth.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.

The GSDI Association is an inclusive organization of organizations, agencies, firms, and individuals from around the world. The purpose of the organization is to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments that will allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance.

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 International Geospatial Society is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association and seeks individuals for membership that have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts.

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