GSDI and IGS Global News

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society
Vol. 4, No. 8, 2014

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

GSDI President, Dr. David Coleman, and President-Elect, Dave Lovell, Executive Director of EuroGeographics, attended the Global Forum on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, 4-5 August 2014 at UN Headquarters in New York. David's intervention on behalf of the Association in regard to National Institutional Arrangements is below:

"Mr. Chairman: The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association congratulates the Working Group in recognizing the critical importance of effective and responsive institutional arrangements in geospatial information management. Since 1996, GSDI has supported its members in the exchange of information on best practices and to capacity building through our Small Grants projects worldwide. We recognize that much has changed since the first GSDI Conference in 1996 - particularly with respect to the pace of change, the sophistication of users, and their potential role in data collection and, in some cases, indirect verification. We think the Working Group has set an ambitious schedule for its work and, as an observer, the GSDI Association would welcome the opportunity to assist the Group in terms of its proposed investigations into the Role of People as Users and Producers of Geospatial Information. Thank you."

David is a Keynote Speaker at the ***1st Annual Pan-Canadian Spatial Data Infrastructure Summit 2014*** being held in Calgary, 17 – 19 September, 2014 (see news in the Allied Conferences section).

In October, David will chair the GSDI Board Meeting on 9 October and also is a keynote speaker at the ***Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications*** from 6-8 October 2014 at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, Toronto, Canada, presenting the paper: "*Paper Title: Challenging Traditional Models, Roles and Responsibilities in Evolving Spatial Data Infrastructures".*

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Call for Expressions of Interest in Hosting GSDI 15 and GSDI6

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association supports a major international geospatial conference every twelve to eighteen months. The conference is typically delivered in affiliation with another regularly held national, regional or global geospatial conference and/or with the support of a major sponsoring organization. The gathering is purposefully moved around the globe in order to accomplish the Association's purpose of promoting international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure (SDI) developments that allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance. The locations and proceedings of the past 14 world conferences, held since 1996, may be found at http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences.

The **GSDI 14 World Conference** was held in Africa at the UNECA Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November 4-8, 2013 (The UN Economic Commission for Africa is a member of the Association. (see http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/)

Ideally, **GSDI 15** should be held over the period May - October 2015 and GSDI 16 would be held approximately 18 months after that.

The GSDI Association is inviting expressions of interest to host either of these conferences. Affiliation with the GSDI World conference can bring international and global attention to a national or regional geospatial conference or Spatial Data Infrastructure initiatives, attract substantial international participation and sponsorship, and increase numbers of attendees overall.

While the GSDI Association can provide substantial support services, we try to work with a competent local organizing committee that is committed to working with broad geospatial stakeholder communities and which has a proven track record of supporting large geospatial events. Many tasks must be accomplished in preparing for a successful conference. The major conference planning and implementation tasks to be accomplished by the parties are open for negotiation. The specification of these tasks is typically set forth in a written agreement between the GSDI Association and a local legal entity such as a local hosting organization or government agency.

Revenue from the GSDI World Conferences is an important contributor to the Association's overall budget. Organizations proposing to host the next conference(s) should provide a business case to support their proposal, indicating expected income, expenses, a profit-sharing proposal and how the conference revenues would support GSDI's direct costs related to the Conference.

Organizations or agencies interested in hosting the 15th or 16th GSDI World Conference should submit a written expression of interest (maximum of four pages) that must include:

- the name of the organization(s) or government agency(s) to serve as the local organizer for the conference,
- the name of the national, regional or global conference with which the GSDI World Conference would be affiliated (if any),
- the country, city and venue proposed for the conference,
- the proposed approximate date for the conference,
- a statement concerning the resources the local organizers would be able to contribute to the conference and past record in providing such resources,
- the facilities available for the event, including for plenary sessions, workshops and breakout meetings,
- the benefits to GSDI of affiliating with the organisation and/or event, e.g. support for GSDI staff to attend, reduced cost registration fees for GSDI members, etc.
- other pertinent information bearing on the success of the conference, and
- the name and contact details for further communications.

Please direct any questions and send your expressions of interest to mgallant@gsdi.org and dcoleman@unb.ca **no later than 30 September 2014**.

Our Thanks to GEO for Conference Sponsorship

The GSDI Association wishes to extend grateful thanks to GEO for providing sponsorship support to the joint GSDI 14 World Conference and AfricaGIS 2013 that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-8 November 2013. The generous support provided travel grants for eight individuals to attend the conference, from Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya, Benin and Ethiopia, plus made a very welcome donation to the GSDI Developing Nations Fund. The Developing Nations Fund

Acknowledgements of Support for Attending GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013 Conference

Below are messages of thanks from various recipients of the travel grants sponsored by GEO to the GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013 Conference that also saw launch of the AfriGEOSS initiative, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 2013.

From Bernard Hakizimana: "*I welcome this opportunity to give us an occasion to express our gratitude for the travel Grants Sponsors to the GSDI conference. It was a great opportunity to meet professionals in the geospatial field and we had a chance to present findings from our research and shared our experience on rural electrification model in order to improve human settlement in rural areas. We appreciated the grant, as it enabled us to reach the event*

and contributed to our career development in terms of professional networks."

From Benson Kenduiywo, PhD student: "*I take this opportunity to thank you and GEO for the support accorded to me last year to attend GISDI conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was very interesting as I had the chance to meet several researchers, company employees in various parts of Africa and even some of my former classmates. We had a chance to learn from each others' research activities and work experiences and made important new information and contacts for future collaborations. The assistance was timely indeed. I really hope that such valued help shall continue in the future.*"

From Adebayo Ojo: "*My experience at the last. I was one of the recipients of the grant by GEO to attend the GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 13 Conference in Ethiopia in November 2013. Attendance at the conference was overwhelming. I participated at almost all of the sessions at the conference. At every session attended, I found new concepts, ideas and contributions that were innovative. The conference has really improved my knowledge on spatial techniques. I wish to use this newsletter to thank GEO and the GSDI Association for granting me this great opportunity to attend such an event. Thank you, again.*"

From Dr Vincent O. A. Orekan: "*In the frame of the joint GSDI 14 World Conference and AfricaGIS 2013 Conference, I obtained financial support to complete my travel to Addis Ababa. With the help of my home University, the whole ticket was covered and I could rent a suitable room at a hotel. Attending theses conferences for the first time was very worthwhile as they helped me to learn a lot about the new advanced techniques in GIS and remote sensing, and also to meet new colleagues and specialists from a variety of disciplines coming from other countries, learning from their presentations and collecting some new applications for SDI and imagery processing. I hope in future we will have another opportunity for better collaboration.*"

Once again - thank you to GEO for this generous level of support for our colleagues in developing nations in Africa.

The GSDI Developing Nation Fund Background

Some people in developing nations feel that the most critical role that the GSDI Association might play is to provide hands-on educational materials and workshops that relate practically to SDI technology, organizational and policy issues. Providing a face-to-face forum for communication and education allowing for human capacity building appears to be one of the highest desired priorities. However, concerns have been expressed about dues and travel expenses by the various sectors in developing nations. Some sectors in developing countries will be unable to pay dues at any level. This concern has

as much or more to do with in-country politics and bureaucracies as it does with cost.

Purpose - Organizations and institutions in low-income nations with programs and missions consistent with the purposes of the GSDI Association often have great difficulty in consistently raising funds to travel to and participate in the major international GSDI Association conferences and meetings. The purpose of the Developing Nation Sponsors designation is to encourage industry, government and individual members to make additional contributions that will pay the dues for government, professional or private sector organizations in developing nations. This will allow representatives of organizations in developing countries to attend and fully participate as official voting council members in the annual meeting and attend training workshops, conference presentations, and participate in spatial data infrastructure discussions.

Pre-announcement: 1st IJSDIR Special Call for Geospatial Dataset Descriptions

The *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research (IJSDIR)* has made a pre-announcement for the 1st IJSDIR Special Call for Geospatial Dataset Descriptions.

In recent years e-Science and Science 2.0 have been promoting the sharing of research outputs online; to not only include research articles but also tools, models, methodologies and data. Those working with geospatial data in pure and applied research, including policy support, have the opportunity to publish their findings in a range of journals, but the datasets rarely are peer-reviewed.

The IJSDIR would like to explore filling this gap in in support of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) and will shortly be inviting researchers and practitioners to submit descriptions of their datasets as short scientific papers for peer-review.

Published papers will, amongst other topics, illustrate current and potential areas for reuse of the geospatial datasets. Such examples could contribute to ARE3NA's existing evidence base about the cross-cutting nature of geospatial data to support a range of public policies.

Custodians and managers of INSPIRE datasets are encouraged to submit examples for this special call. The call will be announced shortly. However, potential contributors, are already invited to indicate their interest to the editor.

Source:
http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/announcement

ASSOCIATION MEMBER NEWS

Industry Member News

News from Spatial Innovision Ltd

Spatial Innovision 2-Day Workshop at UrisaCaribbean Conference

Spatial Innovision are conducting a 2-Day Workshop: "Mobile and Server GIS: Field to Finish" - for details, see: http://urisacaribbean2014.sched.org/event/b2a931f5fd09daaa015a4feeb0b2dd27

This workshop will take place on Sunday and Monday it is a two day comprehensive course.

Overview

This course will entail details on Mobile, Web and Server GIS technology and the integration from field to finish. The skills required to accomplish this task will be taught step by step for participants to take advantage of emerging technology to improve their process flow within their respective organization.

Course Outline

- Overview of ArcGIS for Server, ArcGIS Online and Collector for ArcGIS
- Creation of Enterprise Geodatabase
- Check out data from ArcGIS for Server
- Data preparation for the mobile environment:
- Geodatabase Design
- Replicating data
- Publishing Feature Services using ArcGIS for Server
- Creation of Web Application using ArcGIS Online
- Data Collection using Collector for ArcGIS (Using GIS Data in the Mobile Environment)
- Check data back into ArcGIS for Server

Special Note: Participants will need to bring a laptop computer and smartphone with Android or iOS operating system compatible with esri Collector for ArcGIS.

Presented by Spatial Innovision. Participation is Limited.
Fee to attend: $300
Sunday October 26, 2014 9:00am - 5:00pm

For full details of the UrisaCaribbean Conference, visit this link: http://urisacaribbean2014.sched.org/

See the full URISA Caribbean Conference announcement later in the Allied Conferences section of the Newsletter.

News from Esri

Esri User Conference plenary videos are now online

Another successful Esri User Conference concluded in July in San Diego. Videos of the plenary sessions are available online. Session highlights include: Jack Dangermond speaking about his vision of the future; solutions that transcend continents and communities; technology updates and news on the latest ArcGIS capabilities; thought leaders tackling the world's tough challenges; motivation for tomorrow and our future; concluding with a brief video tribute to Dr. Roger Tomlinson. View Plenary Videos here: http://info.esri.ca/QR000UOt0D0X00N04h0JyU000L30Z

Papers in the SDI Track at Esri UC 2014

'*Building an INSPIRE-ed GeoPortal for ONS UK—a move towards Open Data*' by Claire Dawson
Download the paper here:
http://proceedings.esri.com/library/userconf/proc14/papers/509_110.pdf

'*Bureau of Land Management: National Geospatial Datasets and Services*' by Jeff Safran. See the abstract here:
http://proceedings.esri.com/library/userconf/proc14/abstracts/a598.html

'*Fulfilling UDDOT's Responsibilities to the NSDI*' by Derald Dudley
Download the paper here:
http://proceedings.esri.com/library/userconf/proc14/papers/70_234.pdf

'*Ireland's approach to driving a Spatial Data Infrastructure*' by Lorraine McNerney
Download the paper here:
http://proceedings.esri.com/library/userconf/proc14/papers/886_626.pdf

'**Moving from Data Distribution to Interpretation & Application Services'** by Megan Walz
Download the paper here:
http://proceedings.esri.com/library/userconf/proc14/papers/1218_405.pdf

Esri Canada SDI Newsletter

Esri Canada's monthly **Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) Newsletter** keeps you up-to-date on what's happening in Canada and globally related to SDI. Back issues are available on the Esri Canada Web site. We welcome your comments on any of the topics you have read in this

publication. Send your feedback via e-mail to sdinews@esri.ca. View the Newsletter online here:

http://pages.esri.ca/index.php/email/emailWebview?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRonv6jLZKXonjHpfsX56%2BQrUK%2B3lMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4AS8NgI%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFQ7PGMaR6z7gNXRY%3D

Esri adds SPOT, Pléiades and DigitalGlobe added to World Imagery map

Esri recently updated their World Imagery map with the addition from three different satellite imagery products – SPOT, Pléiades and DigitalGlobe. View the map below for the coverage of the new imagery. See:

http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=10df2279f9684e4a9f6a7f08febac2a9
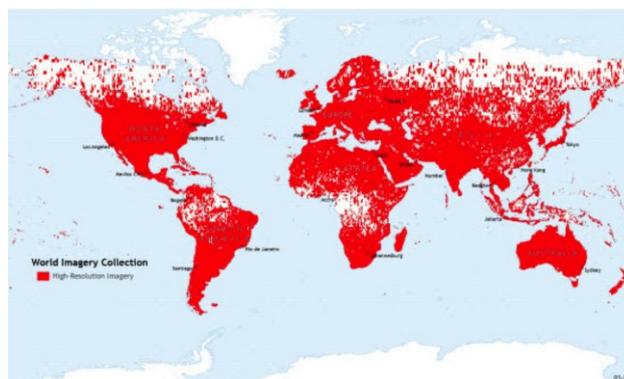
SPOT Imagery was added across Canada, the Nordic countries, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and a few locations in Eastern Asia. The 2.5m resolution imagery is provided at the larger scales, 1:36k to 1:9k. This updated SPOT imagery offers improvements to the previously published content in these areas. This supplements SPOT imagery that was published at smaller scales in June. SPOT imagery will be published at larger scales in many other parts of the world in the coming months.

Pléiades imagery was released over 26 cities in this initial release. Additional imagery covering approximately 350 urban areas globally will appear on ArcGIS.com in the coming months. This sub-meter, high-resolution imagery offers more recent collection dates – within the past 18 months. Both Pléiades and SPOT are products of CNES/Airbus Defence and Space.

DigitalGlobe is the third commercial data source updated this round. New satellite imagery appears in seven locations across Europe. The areas are in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. For those keeping track, this is our ninth release of DigitalGlobe imagery since December 2012. All the new DigitalGlobe imagery is sub-meter resolution.
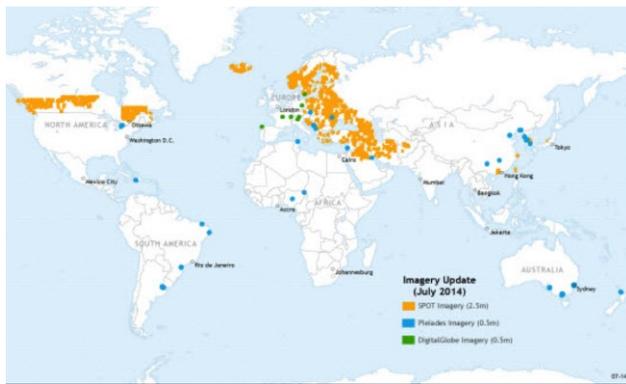
These most recent updates fill in holes of our previous coverage, update imagery source dates, and/or improve image quality as part of our continued effort to enhance the World Imagery map layer. *Images: copyright Esri*.

Esri Australia platform used by South Australia DCSI

Cutting-edge smart mapping technology is being used to pinpoint South Australia's most vulnerable communities as part of a new initiative influencing the allocation of millions of dollars' worth of services and grants programs. The Geographic Information System (GIS) platform from Esri Australia is being used by South Australia's Department of Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) to develop interactive, real-time maps layered with Census and social service data, and information about departmental resources.

The solution will help deliver more targeted programs and grants to the state's homeless, people with disabilities, and disadvantaged youth and families. The multi-dimensional maps visually represent the level of risk within communities across South Australia, as well as their current access to existing resources. This gives DCSI personnel an accurate insight into where there may be service gaps and provides evidence to support funding and grants decisions that target resources to areas with the greatest needs. In 2013, DCSI allocated more than $500 million in grants, subsidies and client payments across the state, including water, public transport and energy concessions for South Australians.

Source: https://esriaustralia.com.au/p/news/high-tech-maps-give-vulnerable-communities-afairer-share-nar-228

News from Intergraph

Hexagon Summer Webcast - Efficient property appraisal and accurate valuations

As part of our Summer Webcast Series, Hexagon Geospatial invites you to view this on-demand webcast on new solutions for property appraisals.

A new specialized version of ERDAS IMAGINE has been created for the **Property Appraisal** market that shortens the process for determining real property changes over time. Learn how a batchable process can automatically detect change at the parcel level, supported by a simple quality assurance step provided within the interface.

Also learn how our new **Geospatial Appraisal** solution using GeoMedia Smart Client and APEX Sketch enables easy review and update of property attributes and sketches from the field or office. Updates are automatically pushed to the enterprise system, thus removing the potential for double entry and reducing the risk of introducing errors. Keeping GIS building outlines in sync with sketches ensures accurate property valuation using better data.

Read more about this new approach to field appraisal here:
http://blog.hexagongeospatial.com/webcast-solutions-property-appraisers/.

Register for this on-demand webinar here:
http://forms.hexagongeospatial.com/FieldAppraisalPropertyChangeDetection

Revisit Intergraph presentations from HxGN LIVE 2014 (June)

Revisit HxGN LIVE 2014 (June 2-5, 2014 Las Vegas) SG&I Keynote: Where, When, and Why? The Power of Location - watch Intergraph Security, Government & Infrastructure (SG&I) new president, Steven Cost - here: http://tv.hxgnlive.com/session-detail/sgi-keynote-where-when-and-why-the-power-of-location/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEtTf8PKOA8

Take a look at Intergraph's latest technologies in the Zone at HxGN LIVE 2014 - Intergraph SG&I - Intergraph's experts in "The Zone" discuss the challenges customers face and how Intergraph's solutions for computer-aided dispatch, infrastructure management, business intelligence, outage management and more help organizations improve efficiency and customer service. Visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUGkugRlNLM

HxGN LIVE 2014: PP&M Keynote - Experience the Power of Smart Engineering - Intergraph PP&M - Hear how Intergraph Power, Process & Marine's (PP&M) latest technology solutions and user-driven improvements are allowing Intergraph customers to design, build, operate, and connect like never before - beyond boundaries. Intergraph has enabled organizations of all sizes to increase productivity, data quality, and operations efficiency through collaboration, simplification of capital

project information access, and visualization. Visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITKKEBF8xlc

HxGN LIVE LAS VEGAS will be held 1-4 June 2015, and HxGN LIVE HONG KONG, 18-20 November 2015.

Hexagon Geospatial Caribbean distribution partnership with GeoOrbis

Hexagon Geospatial has announced its new partnership with GeoOrbis to distribute the company's full line of solutions in the English-speaking basin of the Caribbean. Headquartered in Barbados, GeoOrbis is a GIS consulting firm offering geospatial project management, application development, and base mapping to organizations throughout the Caribbean. The distributor will be focusing on selling Hexagon Geospatial's solutions to government agencies, environmental organizations, natural resource planners, utilities, education, as well as the tourism sector.

Through the partnership agreement, GeoOrbis will distribute Hexagon Geospatial's software and platforms in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as in Turks and Caicos Islands.

"Organizations in the Caribbean now have an opportunity to better leverage geospatial solutions to advance decision-making for everything from tourism to environmental planning," said Mladen Stojic, President of Hexagon Geospatial. *"In addition, GeoOrbis is able to effectively integrate our software with other solutions to provide the most-effective geospatial data management offering to the region."*

GeoOrbis is also the Caribbean Distributor for DigitalGlobe Imagery Products and Services. By combining imagery products and services with Hexagon Geospatial's solutions, GeoOrbis provides unique solutions in the region for organizations that require imagery and geospatial data management solutions.

"Hexagon Geospatial has the most comprehensive line of geospatial software and platforms, which are ideal for a number of industries and applications in the Caribbean region," said Craig Batstone, Managing Director of GeoOrbis. *"We look forward to helping to boost the overall effectiveness of organizations in the region that need the right geospatial solutions for smarter decision-making."*

Hexagon Geospatial is a division of GSDI Member Intergraph Corporation. For more information, visit www.hexagongeospatial.com.

News from Boundless

Announcing the OpenGeo Suite App Contest

Boundless wants to know how you've been using OpenGeo Suite!

Boundless already knows what customers such as NYC DoITT, FCC, San Jose Water Company, and Howard County are building with the software, but Boundless is launching an app contest where developers can show off applications that use components of OpenGeo Suite. Winners will be promoted on the Boundless website and will receive free access to Boundless's online training offerings.

All you have to do is provide the following information through the App Contest submission form (http://boundlessgeo.com/about/contact-us/app-contest/):

- Describe what you've built. What's its purpose?
- What technology does it use, including specific OpenGeo Suite components?
- Why did you choose OpenGeo Suite?
- What are your future plans for this app?
- How did you architect and build the app?
- Is this available to the public, if so, what is the URL?
- Is this your first time using OpenGeo Suite or any of its components?

Boundless will be taking submissions through September 13th, the last day of FOSS4G (https://2014.foss4g.org/). Throughout the contest, Boundless will promote the best submissions on their blog and through their Twitter account. They'll announce semi-finalists the week after FOSS4G and then welcome the community to cast a vote for the finalists, which we will announce at the GeoNYC Meetup in October.

More info here:
http://boundlessgeo.com/2014/08/opengeo-suite-app-contest/

Source: http://lists.gsdi.org/pipermail/technical/2014-August/000484.html

From the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

OGC appoints Dr. Terry Idol as Executive Director, Interoperability Program

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) announces that it has appointed Dr Terry Idol as Executive Director, Interoperability Program.

Continuing OGC's leadership in advancing geospatial information, OGC is pleased to announce Dr. Terry Idol as the new Executive Director of OGC's Interoperability Program. Reporting to George Percivall, OGC's Chief Engineer, and working with OGC staff, membership and partner organizations, Terry will plan and manage the program of OGC initiatives, which includes testbeds, pilots, plugfests, and interoperability experiments. These initiatives develop, test and validate specifications that lead to open standards for geospatial information and technology.

Terry is a great match for this position as he is well known to the OGC community through his past activities. Most recently, he participated in OGC activities while with a US federal agency. Previously, Terry served as Initiative Director of the OGC Critical Infrastructure Protection Initiative while he was on loan to OGC staff from BAE Systems. Terry has rich experience in geo-information and remote sensing technologies. He received his Doctorate in Earth Systems and Geoinformation Sciences from George Mason University.

George Percivall commented, "Executive Director for OGC's Interoperability Program is a challenging position that will provide Terry the opportunity to work with OGC members and the broader community to advance the state of practice of geospatial information. Terry's knowledge and his experience in government and OGC programs will serve him well in this new position. We are delighted that he will join OGC Staff."

OGC Approves Best Practice for RESTful Encoding

The Technical and Planning Committees have approved release of RESTful encoding of OGC® Sensor Planning Service for Earth Observation Satellite Tasking as an official OGC Best Practice.

Organizations that manage and depend on Earth Observation satellites developed in recent years a set of standards for communicating the complex instructions involved in tasking satellite-borne imaging systems. This OGC Best Practice document specifies software interfaces, bindings, requirements and conformance classes that enable complete workflows for the tasking of sensor planning services for Earth Observation (EO) satellites.

With respect to the OGC Sensor Planning Service Interface Standard (10-135), this Best Practice document shows the advantages of replacing the implementation of the traditional SOAP interfaces by a combination of 1) REST for the service encoding and 2) OpenSearch technologies to describe sensors and tasking Options, as described in the OGC OpenSearch Extension for Earth Observation Satellite Tasking Encoding Standard (13-039).

The RESTful encoding of OGC® Sensor Planning Service for Earth Observation Satellite Tasking Best Practice document can be downloaded from: https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/57203.

OGC Sensor Planning Service Interface Standard (10-135): http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/sps

OGC announces Big Data Domain Working Group

At the recent OGC meetings in Geneva, members of the OGC formed an OGC Big Data Domain Working Group. [http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/groups/bigdatadwg] This OGC domain group provides an open forum for discussions and standards recommendations for Big Data interoperability, access, and analytics related to geospatial information. To this end, the open forum will encourage collaborative development among participants representing many organizations and communities, and will ensure appropriate liaisons to other relevant working groups inside and outside OGC.

The group will consolidate findings on a public wiki [http://external.opengeospatial.org/twiki_public/BigDataDwg/WebHome] to inform both the OGC membership and the greater public and allow for feedback during the editing phase and after. A report will be submitted to the OGC membership for publication as an OGC Best Practice paper.

Because location-based and geospatial data applications are major contributors to the Big Data deluge, the OGC is positioned to provide guidance on the use of OGC standards in managing such data. Further, with the advent of increased machine-machine communication, interoperability is gaining even more importance. OGC, therefore, is establishing a position addressing Big Data issues, including – but not limited to – science, implementation, market value, and societal effects.

The initial membership of the BigData WG will consist of the following members and individuals with extensive education and experience in Big Data issues:

- Peter Baumann, Jacobs University (co-chair)
- John Herring, Oracle (co-chair)
- Juergen Seib, Deutscher Wetterdienst
- Stan Tillman, Intergraph
- Marie-Francoise Voidrot, Meteo France
- Jeff de la Beaujardiere, NOAA
- Bruce Gritton, US Navy MetOc
- Chuck Heazel, WISC (co-chair)
- Mike McCann, MBARI
- Pedro Goncalves, Terradue
- Don Sullivan, NASA
- Ed Parsons, Google

- Robert Gibb, Landcare Research New Zealand
- Jean Brodeur, Geoconnections, NRCAN
- Jinsongdi Yu, Fuzhou University
- Arnaud Cauchy, Airbus Defence & Space

These members encourage others inside and outside the OGC to participate in discussions and in preparation of a final report.

OGC seeks comments on candidate OGC Web Processing Service 2.0 Standard

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) membership seeks public comment on the candidate OGC Web Processing Service (WPS) Version 2.0 Interface Standard.

In many cases geospatial or location data, including data from sensors, must be processed before the information can be used effectively. The OGC Web Processing Service (WPS) Interface Standard provides a standard interface that simplifies the task of making simple or complex computational processing services accessible via web services. Such services include well-known processes found in spatial extract, transform, and load (ETL) software and GIS software as well as specialized processes such as coordinate transformation and spatial and temporal modeling and simulation. Moreover, the WPS standard supports both immediate processing for computational tasks that take little time and asynchronous processing for more complex and time consuming tasks. While the OGC WPS standard was designed with spatial processing in mind, it can also be used to readily insert non-spatial processing tasks into a web services environment.

This WPS 2.0 candidate standard is a revision of WPS 1.0 (published in 2007). It incorporates change requests that have been submitted since the release of WPS 1.0 and provides improved support for process cataloguing and retrieval. Downloads and additional details are available at:
http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/requests/125

The 30 day public comment period for the candidate OGC Web Processing Service (WPS) Version 2.0 Interface Standard **ends 25 September 2014** .

After the OGC's WPS Standards Working Group has addressed comments received in response to this Request for Comments (RFC) the draft document will be submitted to the OGC Technical Committee and Planning Committee for their review and possible approval as an adopted OGC Standard.

OGC publishes Testbed 10 Open Mobility location standards Engineering Reports

Nineteen public Engineering Reports resulted from the Open Geospatial Consortium's (OGC) OGC Testbed 10 (http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/ows-100 the most recent in the OGC's yearly series of major geospatial interoperability testbeds. Six of these reports focused on Open Mobility, that is, on mobile users' needs to create, access and share diverse types of location information maintained in diverse Web resources. Use cases and scenarios provided by Testbed 10 sponsors defined the interoperabiity requirements. The Engineering Reports document interoperability prototypes developed by the testbed's participating technology providers. They describe work in progress on potential new standards and work done to validate candidate standards or improve adopted standards. This information may be useful to implementors of OGC standards, but OGC Engineering Reports do not represent official OGC positions.

The OGC Public Engineering Reports web page provides links to the engineering reports. (Select "Date" in the table header to see the most recent reports listed first.) Some are still being edited and have not yet been posted. (see http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/per)

The Testbed 10 Open Mobility Engineering reports include:

- OGC Testbed 10 OWS Context in NIEM Engineering Report (14-017)
- OGC Testbed 10 GeoPackaging Engineering Report (14-058r1) (Still being edited. Will be posted soon.)
- OGC Testbed 10 Service Integration Engineering Report (14-013r1)
- OGC Testbed 10 Annotations Engineering Report (14-002)
- OGC Testbed 10 Rules for JSON and GeoJSON Adoption: Focus on OWS-Context Engineering Report (14-009r1)

Below are descriptions of some of these Engineering Reports.

The OpenMobility GeoPackaging Engineering Report describes a Web Processing Service profile for automating GeoPackage creation from OGC services and keeping the GeoPackage synchronized with other instances of the same data stored in other places and formats. The OGC GeoPackage Encoding Standard, announced earlier this year, is an open, standards-based, application and platform independent, self-describing universal file format for geodata. If a dataset has a dataset ID and a revision ID, then in many cases, as described in the report, it is possible to synchronize with another system that has the same dataset.

The OWS Context Annotations ER Engineering Report addresses the need to annotate a map - for example, add notes, circle areas, and add emphasis on particular features. This complements the basic geographic map definition specification of OWS Context, which specifies the data sets that comprise the map. A more general draft World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Open Annotation data model provided developers in Testbed 10 with the basis for a specialization of the model that applies to the particular requirements of annotating geospatial features and their graphical representations.

Rules for JSON and GeoJSON Adoption: Focus on OWS-Context addresses the fact that mobile client applications increasingly depend on information services distributed across cloud infrastructures. In this environment, the JSON encoding approach often provides advantages over the eXtensible Markup Language (XML). Most OGC implementation standards are written for implementation using XML, but XML and JSON can be used together to combine their advantages. The OGC Web Services Context Document Standard (OWS Context) was created to provide a standard way for a set of configured information resources (a service set) to be passed between applications. In a cloud services environment, transferring such a service set is often more useful and efficient than transferring the data delivered by those services. The report offers general guidelines for obtaining JSON documents directly from elements in existing XML documents and schemas. While its focus is on transforming OWS Context documents, the approach offers generic guidelines for defining and using JSON encodings with other OGC standards.

The OGC Testbed 10 Service Integration Engineering Report provides a technical description of changes to the OGC web service architecture baseline to support better integration among OGC web services. Such integration will enable better automated publishing and richer discovery of those services and related resources.

The OGC Testbed 10 Context in NIEM Engineering Report describes and evaluates options for integrating OWS Context documents in requests for information based on the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM). NIEM is a US government program to facilitate the exchange of data between multiple different Communities of Interest at all levels of government. The NIEM data model provides the reference vocabulary for consistent and reusable intra- and interdomain information exchange.

The sponsors of the upcoming OGC Testbed 11 activity (http://www.opengeospatial.org/pressroom/pressreleas es/2018) are reviewing the results of Testbed 10 and developing new sets of interoperability requirements to be addressed by Testbed 11's participating technology providers. OGC Testbed 11 requirements will undoubtedly include additional Open Mobility requirements.

Contact the OGC [info@opengeospatial.org] to learn more about OGC Testbed 11 and how you might get involved as a sponsor or technology provider participant.

OGC announces new Urban Planning Domain Working Group

An OGC Urban Planning Domain Working Group (SWG) has been chartered to define the role for OGC standards and related activities within the Urban Planning discipline and to provide an open forum for the discussion and presentation of interoperability requirements, use cases, pilots, and implementations of OGC standards in this domain.

Technologies and trends such as Augmented Reality (AR), Smart Cities, Smart Grids, Sensor Webs, the Internet of Things (IoT), LBS (Location Based Services), Facilities Management, navigation (indoor and outdoor) and "Big Data" Analytics all can play important roles in informing urban planners. Also, these technologies are permanent and rapidly evolving elements of life in modern cities, which makes them subjects for urban studies and urban planning.

In all of those technology domains, open standards can facilitate the development, publication, discovery, assessment, analysis, portrayal and use of information. The OGC Urban Planning Domain Working Group intends to discover requirements for open spatial standards in information systems involved in the planning, design, use, maintenance and governance of publicly accessible spaces. Requirements presented and discussed in OGC Domain Working Groups are typically addressed in existing or yet-to-be chartered OGC Standards Working Groups and in the OGC's collaborative activities with other standards development organizations.

News from Africa Members

Data World, South Africa, Joins GSDI Association

Data World was established in 1995 and is one of the leading BEE ICT companies in South Africa, with a proven track record of On Budget, On Time Delivery of complex large scale projects and applications.

Data World is a process driven organisation with well-defined processes and Software delivery methodologies.

It has well organized Functional Teams with distinct Process Areas of Business Analysis, Software Development, Design, Testing, Software Support, Quality Assurance and Programme Management.

The Association is very pleased to welcome Data World to the membership!

PositionIT publishes GSDI 14 Conference Paper

The August issue of PositionIT magazine has published the GSDI 14 Conference paper "Mapping small scale irrigation farms utilizing GIS technology in North West Province, South Africa" by Lobina Palamuleni from North West University.

See the full article here:
http://www.ee.co.za/article/anglogold-ashanti-iduapriem-mine.html

PositionIT will also be carrying a new 'GSDI Column' in the near future, in which the GSDI Association reports on its various activities globally and in the African region.

African news is also carried in the 'Africa' section of the GSDI SDI Regional Newsletter, a monthly newsletter published by the Association and available from the GSDI Newsletter archive at http://gsdi.org/newsletters.

News from Americas Members

PAIGH & CAF (GeoSUR)

GeoSUR Newsletter No. 2 Published

PAIGH and CAF have partnered to produce the second edition of a digital newsletter on geospatial topics of interest to the Latin American community. This edition contains an interesting interview with the Coordinator of IDECA, the Bogota SDI; reflections by the GeoSUR Coordinator on the SDI interplay at the local, national, regional and global levels in the Americas; PAIGH news by this agency´s Secretary General and general SDI and geospatial news for the region. This edition also features a list of new datasets recently added to the GeoSUR Viewer and the call for the GeoSUR 2014 Award. The newsletter is published in 3 languages:
Spanish:
http://www.geosur.info/geosur/contents/GeoSURv1n2_esp.pdf
English:

http://www.geosur.info/geosur/contents/GeoSURv1n2_eng.pdf
Portuguese:
http://www.geosur.info/geosur/contents/GeoSURv1n2_por.pdf

GeoSUR Newsletter No. 1 for July is also published in all three languages:
Spanish:
http://ipgh.org/GeoSUR/Boletin/GeoSURv1n1_esp.pdf
English:
http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1539
Portuguese:
http://ipgh.org/GeoSUR/Boletim/GeoSURv1n1_por.pdf

Call for nominations to the GeoSUR Award 2014

The call for nominations to the "GeoSUR Award 2014" is now open. The award is bestowed each year to the activity that arises from the relationship of the participating GeoSUR Program institutions, based on their available geospatial data and the use of geospatial information services offered in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The award will be presented in Santiago, Chile during the 7th Meeting of the GeoSUR Program within the framework of the 45th Meeting of the Directing Council of the PAIGH. **Deadline is 7 October 2014.**

For information on the award nomination:
http://www.geosur.info/geosur/contents/geosur_award_2014.pdf

US National Geospatial Advisory Committee: The Shape of Geo to Come

Back in late June I attended the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC - https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac) meeting here in DC. NGAC is a Federal Advisory Committee sponsored by the Department of the Interior under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The committee is composed of (mostly) non-federal representatives from all sectors of the geospatial community and features very high profile participants. Current committee members include the creator of Google Earth (Michael Jones) and the founder of OpenStreetMap (Steve Coast). (see https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/membership).

So what is the committee interested in, and how does it coincide with what the digital stewardship community is interested in?

Interested? Then access the blog and read what NGAC is up to, including:
• follow-up on the "National Geospatial Data Asset Management Plan – a Portfolio Management Implementation Plan for the OMB Circular A–16"

(pdf) - http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/a-16/ngda-management-plan),

- a baseline assessment of the "maturity" of various federal geospatial data assets that is currently under way; the report Big Data – Seizing Opportunities,
- Preserving Values Report) from the Executive Office of the President, (http://www.cfr.org/technology-and-science/white-house-big-data---seizing-opportunities-preserving-values/p32916) and
- the PCast report on Big Data and Privacy (PCAST is the "President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology" and the report is officially called "Big Data: A Technology Perspective").
- probable withdrawal of the Spatial Data Transfer Standard, to be replaced by GML, already endorsed by FGDC; and
- how Federal Geographic Data Committee is working with federal partners to make previously-classified datasets available to the public.

Source: The Signal - Digital Preservation (Library of Congress) Butch Lazorchak blog of 5 August 2014. See see http://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/author/wlaz/)

USA: National Plan for Civil Earth Observations

Civil Earth Observations
The National Plan for Civil Earth Observations was released July 19th by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) as a result of a 2010 congressional order to better characterize and coordinate civil Earth observations. The U.S. government provides the largest amount of environmental and Earth system data in the world, which ultimately contributes $30 billion annually to the U.S. economy. OSTP created NEOTF (National Earth Observation Task Force) in February of 2011 to address the challenge put forth by Congress to better coordinate the operation of Earth system observations across agencies as well as address other issues such as data management.

The National Plan
The National Plan is a framework to establish, routinely evaluate and build a balanced Earth observations portfolio. Building upon the National Strategy released by NEOTF in April 2013, the National Plan seeks to categorize types of Earth observations, prioritize observations and outline how to support them as well as underscore agency/inter-agency responsibility for maintaining and broadening current efforts. The highest priority sustained measurements for public service include weather and seasonal climate modeling and prediction, land surface monitoring and characterization as well as other critical long-term observation systems. In order to support these systems, the plan also describes necessary actions such as the coordination and integration of observations, improvement of data access and management and increases in efficiency and cost savings.

Agency Responsibilities
There are currently 12 agencies that fund and conduct Earth observations which include the Departments of Defense and the Interior as well as NASA and NOAA. The designated high impact sustained observations systems include LIDAR, stream gage networks and marine survey vessels, but the plan also emphasizes the importance of short-term experimental observations that are instrumental in improving technology. Satellite observations for public service are primarily the responsibility of NASA and NOAA, with a significant role also played by the Department of Commerce. OSTP plans to update their National Plan on a three-year cycle with input from stakeholders and the public.

Access the plan here:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/NSTC/national_plan_for_civil_earth_observations_-_july_2014.pdf

Source: http://community.geosociety.org/blogs/lindsey-bowman/2014/07/31/national-plan-for-civil-earth-observations

Socio-economic Impacts Workshop, USA

Assessing the Socio-economic Impacts and Value of "Open" Geospatial Information is a workshop to be held 28-29 October 2014 at George Washington University, Washington DC, USA.

The objectives of this workshop are to examine the consequences of the changing technology, data, and policy landscape, evaluate the emerging new data-driven paradigms, and advance the state -of-the-art methodologies to measure the resulting socioeconomic impacts.

Examples of key issues to be discussed include:
- Valuing information, including infonomics (valuing information as an asset);
- Assessing an increasingly diverse set of information sources;
- Understanding the relationships between societal, environmental, and economic impacts;
- Building, measuring, retaining, and communicating trust in data and their sources;
- Addressing emerging constraints to open access, including intellectual property rights and privacy issues;
  Learning from experience of other data-rich domains such as environmental management, internet businesses, health, and transportation; and
- Developing new means of co-creating and communicating science.

This is a working meeting with strong participant engagement leading to recommendations for action. Participants will include economic, social and natural

scientists in a forum where dialog and strategy for future directions is the theme. Outcomes of the workshop include a plan for a sustained, multi-disciplinary community to address impacts and identification of use cases for further research and applications. Participation will include policy makers and analysts, financial analysts, economists, geospatial practitioners and other experts from government, academia and the private sector.

There will be a series of keynote addresses and panels. The format for each panel will be centered on a pre-circulated position paper and the panel will include the paper author and two discussants.

Details: Workshop announcement – details
http://www.socioeconomicbenefits.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Workshop-announcement-details.pdf

Agenda: Workshop announcement-Agenda
http://www.socioeconomicbenefits.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Workshop-announcement-Agenda.pdf

Logistics: meeting location, lunches, reception, and hotel information workshop-announcement-logistics
http://www.socioeconomicbenefits.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/workshop-announcement-logistics.pdf

Registration: **the workshop attendance is limited to approximately 65 attendees**. Please submit an initial request for participation and short bio to info_benefits14@yahoo.com. If space is available, you will receive a response directing you to the registration website. A $150 registration fee for each participant will be charged to support some of the workshop logistics.

News from Asia-Pacific Members

Department of Science & Technology, India

Call for proposal for conducting Summer/Winter Schools in Geospatial Technologies - deadline: 31 October 2014.

India's Department of Science & Technology under its Natural Resource Data Management System (NRDMS) programme has been promoting and supporting R & D projects related to development of natural resources databases, spatial data infrastructure (SDI) and associated applications. The programme aims at strengthening R&D in specifically identified areas to demonstrate the application of geospatial techniques for efficient planning. With these objectives in mind and to provide initial thrust to create awareness among different stake holders about potential of this technology as a rewarding and satisfying career option, this department proposes to shortlist a few geographically well distributed institutions capable of conducting short term winter/summer schools in the field of Geospatial Technology mainly for faculty of colleges/universities. Secondary school/college teachers and state/central government officials etc.

Financial support is proposed to be provided for conducting one basic course of 2-3 days duration and another specialized course in the area of specialized domain of the institute for a period of three week's (21 days) duration every year.

Some institutes may specifically opt for conducting 2-3 days course for the benefit of working professionals who cannot be spared for 21 days by their organisations for up gradation of their skills and creation of awareness on geo-spatial technologies and its uses. Various components for which financial support is proposed to be provided include boarding and lodging & travel expenses for participants and external resource persons besides attractive kit of study material which may include standard text book(s) and basic software/ hardware etc. P.G. Colleges/UGC recognized Universities/Institutions etc. having specialization in providing training in this field having experts at least (2-3) with their detailed bio-data and infrastructure facilities can submit applications for consideration by DST for support.

More information here:
http://nrdms.gov.in/whatsnew14/cop_summer_or_winter_geospatial-technologies.pdf

CIO Keynote at GIS Forum MENA Conference: 8-9 September

GSDI Member Central Informatics Organisation (CIO), Kingdom of Bahrain will present the Keynote at the MENA Conference on 9 September at 9.10 a.m. The presentation is "SDI Development Journey in Kingdom of Bahrain: Challenges and Issues" and covers:

- Illustrating the Geospatial beginning in the Kingdom
- Promoting the concept of spatially enabled Government via SDI
- SDI road map and supplementing framework
- Challenges along the Journey
- Capacity building (Capacity Assessment & Development)

The presentation is made by Eng. Khalid A. Hameed Al Hammadi, Acting Director of GIS Directorate Central Informatics Organisation (CIO), Kingdom of Bahrain. For his details, see
http://www.gisforummena.com/SpeakerInfo.aspx?tp_spkid=99164

See the MENA Conference website for conference details at:
http://www.gisforummena.com/AgendaDay.aspx?tp_day=42728

CIO are valued Members of the GSDI Association

Survey of Pakistan mandated to establish NSDI

Survey of Pakistan has been mandated by the Government of Pakistan to establish NSDI in the country as lead organization. In this context, the organization will arrange seminar on National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in collaboration with Norwegian Mapping Authority (SK) tentatively in October 2014. The main goal of the seminar is to take on-board all the major stakeholder groups and to have a shared vision for its implementation. The further details about the event will be available soon at Survey of Pakistan website: http://www.surveyofpakistan.gov.pk/.

Source: Asmat Ali, Assistant Director, Survey of Pakistan, an individual member of the GSDI Association, IGS.

National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China (NASG)

The National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China will host the 3rd High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, October 22-24, 2014, in Beijing, China.

Announcement letter:
http://files.sbsm.gov.cn/en/201408/20140801155418419.pdf
Information note:
http://files.sbsm.gov.cn/en/201408/201408271611505023.pdf

Chinese Translations of A-P Section of the new Regional Newsletter

Translations into Chinese of the Asia-Pacific section of the new GSDI SDI Regional Newsletter, edited by Kate Lance, are published on the GSDI Newsletter website and can also be downloaded directly from the archive at the links below.

May 2014 - http://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1532
June 2014 - http://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1533
July 2014 – http://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=156
August 2014 -
http://portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1570

Note: These translations are provided by staff of Mr. Jeremy Shen, vice-Chair, Capacity Building, of the GSDI Societal Impacts Committee, with great thanks from the Association.

University of Melbourne, Centre for SDIs and Land Administration – Australia

Prof. Abbas Rajabifard, past-President of the GSDI Association, will be in the Netherlands 8-12 September as a features speaker for Geodesign Summit Europe. The Geodesign Summit Europe will explore how geodesign professionals can incorporate GIS into their discipline to build safer, smarter and more resilient communities. While in the Netherlands, Prof. Rajabifard also will visit with colleagues at ITC at University of Twente and Delft University of Technology, both GSDI Association members, as well.

Link to Geodesign Summit Europe:
http://geodesignsummit.com/europe/agenda/speakers.html#abbas-rajabifard

Source: http://www.csdila.unimelb.edu.au/news/

News from European Members

TU Delft

The Edges of Home Ownership

TU Delft, Cambridge University, RMIT and Curtin University have won an Urban Studies Foundation Grant to organize a 2-day seminar The Edges of Homeownership in Delft on 30 September and 1 October 2014. The aim of the seminar is to set out lines for a clear vision for a sustainable future for housing systems as a whole that are more inclusive and less tenure bound than those operating today.

While the meaning, use and institutions of owner occupation vary across cultures and states, the edges of ownership, wherever they lie, constitute a neglected zone 'in-between' sustainable owner occupation and long-term rental in which the dilemmas of tenure-divided housing systems are played out. Establishing the extent and robustness of the evidence base is therefore an important new challenge and the first one being addressed by the seminar.

The seminar will provide a platform for innovative analyses of datasets from different jurisdictions that produce them to shed light on these marginal spaces. Second, the myriad practical experiments at the edges, which have yet to be recognized will be discussed. Existing experiments span the development of novel tenure types in co-operative and shared ownership and extend to the financial innovations designed to separate the costs of procuring housing services from the risks and rewards of property investment. Much remains to be invented to

improve the lives of disadvantaged and debt impoverished households. Third, the new evidence base combined with the financial innovations to lower the risks of homeownership will deliver ingredients for the design of a sustainable housing system.

For information about the seminar, please contact: Marietta Haffner (m.e.a.haffner@tudelft.nl)

ITC, University of Twente - Netherlands - Recent Papers

The contradictory effects in efficiency and citizens' participation when employing Geo-ICT apps within local government

Author(s): Muhammad Kurniawan & Walter T. de Vries, Local Government Studies, published online: 15 Aug 2014 [Not an open access journal]

Abstract: With the increasing use of web-based mapping applications, inter-mediation between public planning agencies and citizens is changing. This article investigates how one form of inter-mediation, geo-ICT-enabled apps (applications on mobile phones and/or internet that use maps or locations as basic references for any functional analysis), influences the degree of efficiency and participation in managing public space. The theoretical assumption here is that such apps encourage information disclosure and therefore have the potential to make a local government more responsive and transparent. Drawing on observation, interviews, and document and web content analysis conducted as part of a case study, this article suggests that the apps have indeed enhanced one municipality's response and have made citizens more active in uploading their complaints. However, unexpected and contradictory effects include an increase in trivial complaints, which has made the handling of reports less efficient, and the emergence of opportunistic behaviour by third parties on the basis of the complaints, which has made the services less effective. Consequently, the assumed causal relation between enhanced citizen participation and increased transparency and information disclosure requires an adaptation that incorporates such wicked effects.

Source: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/030039 30.2014.937001

Cyber-applications as gateway to data-rich Digital Earth systems

Author(s): Javier Morales & Rolf A. de By, International Journal of Digital Earth, Volume 7, Issue 7, 2014, pages 576-593 [not an open access journal]

Abstract: The underlying vision of the Digital Earth (DE) calls for applications that can embed vast quantities of geo-referenced data and allow users to study and analyse of our planet. Since the declaration of this vision in the late 90s, a significant number of DE data-sets have been created by the industry, governments, non-governmental organisations and individuals. An overwhelming majority of the successful applications that use DE data-sets has its end-user applications running on the desktop. While these applications are great tools, they remain inaccessible to the community as a whole. In this paper, we present a framework for the development of cyber-applications. We define an abstract architecture for cyber-applications based on the model-view-controller paradigm, which allows the dynamic inclusion of functional and data components into its execution engine at run-time. We define the operational characteristics of cyber-applications. We also specify the interface of pluggable components to the architecture. Finally, we demonstrate the appropriateness of the abstract architecture by means of a case study.

Source: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/175389 47.2013.788224

EuroGeographics News

EuroGeographics Attends UN-GGIM in New York

EuroGeographics attended the 4th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), which held in UN Headquarters in New York from 6 - 8 August 2014. The meeting brought together senior executives from national geospatial information authorities within UN Member States, and international geospatial experts from across the globe. A number of EuroGeographics members attend this important meeting; our Association, as an observer, is represented by the Executive Director Mr. Dave Lovell OBE.

EuroGeographics Messenger 2/2014 Issued

With new members, the launch of a new showcase application for the European Location Framework and a brand new Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN), EuroGeographics continues to deliver activities benefitting wider society as well as the national mapping, cadastral and land registry authorities that we represent.

Download the full EuroGeographics Messenger here:
http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/Euro
geographics%20Messenger201402.pdf
or from the GSDI Newsletter archive here:
http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1574

Don't forget that you can also download the **EuroGeographics Annual Report** for 2013 from their website here:
www.elfproject.eu/sites/default/files/EGAR%202013.pdf

EUROGI News

2nd EUROGI imaGIne 2014 Conference Update

Geographic Information: An Exciting Major Economic Growth Sector with Substantial Societal Impacts

Anyone who is interested in promoting economic development, or more generally, just understanding how GI will change ordinary citizen's daily lives and impact on businesses should attend EUROGI's **imaGIne** conference in Berlin on **8 - 9 October**. A key aim of the conference is to showcase the best Europe has to offer in the GI field.

Smart cities, energy, demography, job creation and economic growth, environment, open information and transparent governance are some of the main fields in which the role of GI will be considered in detail during interactive sessions. Another area of focus will be the European Union's multi-billion investment in Copernicus, a satellite based initiative which in the coming years will provide massive amounts of new detailed GI which can be used across many fields.

As a practical example of the application of GI there will be a session that focuses on the insurance industry. Examples of how costs can be avoided and efficiency gains can be made will be showcased. Whilst the focus will be on the insurance industry delegates could get insights that apply to many other sectors, such as retail, transport, health, safety and security.

We all are acutely aware that we live in an increasingly globalised world. Apart from focusing on specific areas such as energy and an industry (insurance) top speakers will place Europe in a global GI context; what are our current strengths and weaknesses and where are the

globally emerging opportunities on the basis of new and emerging GI technologies.

Potential Delegates

Given the societal wide impact of GI potential delegates could come from virtually any economic, social, environmental or governance sector. Business people, government policy makers as well as others from quite different backgrounds would all be welcome and would surely gain new and useful insights into how GI can benefit them in work, or leisure, environments.

The presentations and discussions will be aimed at a non-technical audience so EUROGI particularly looks forward to attendance by non-technical persons, 'the uninitiated'. A key aim is to keep jargon to an absolute minimum.

Patronage and Speakers

In recognition of the importance of the GI sector and more specifically the imaGIne conference, the German Vice Chancellor, Sigmar Gabriele, is the patron of the conference.

In line with the 'showcase the best Europe has to offer' aim EUROGI has lined up top level speakers in the various focus areas. The speakers will be from the public and private sectors as well as from the European GI research community. Deputy Director-General Roberto Viola of the European Commission, DG CONNECT, will give the opening keynote at the 2nd EUROGI imaGIne Conference 2014.

imaGIne and INTERGEO

The **imaGIne** conference will be held in the same venue and at the same time as the annual **INTERGEO** trade fair. The fair provides a showcase for GI technologies, with between 400 and 500 exhibitors each year. Based on past experience, about 15 000 people are expected to visit the fair. Conference delegates are welcome to browse at the fair as part of a combined conference/fair offer.

Further information about the conference and registration can be found at www.imagine2014.eu. A flyer with all basic information is available here:
http://www.imagine2014.eu/scripts/download.php?file=
/data/upload/imaGIne2014_Flyer.pdf

To find out more, contact Simon Vrečar, the EUROGI Secretary General by email at simon.vrecar@eurogi.org or by mobile +386 41 69 35 37.

HUNAGI News

The Hungarian Association for Geo-information (HUNAGI) suggested actions under the theme "Spatially enabled society". The proposal endorsed by GSDI and EUROGI at President's level has impressed the National Council on Communication and Informatics (NHIT - www.nhit.hu) in Budapest. A grant has been provided for HUNAGI to implement the proposal according to a contract signed with the National Media and Info-communications Authority of Hungary (NMHH) recently - see http://english.nmhh.hu/#sthash.2nFQObcH.dpuf.

The challenging point for HUNAGI will be the first time opportunity to act as co-organizer to arrange geospatial sessions at the largest annual Governmental ICT conference scheduled for early November in Balatonfüred, where over 1000 decision makers of the government, industry and academia are expected to attend. We anticipate that experts from the European Commission and EUROGI will accept the invitation of HUNAGI.

The preliminary program of the sessions under the theme "Spatially enabling society" is near to completion with the organizer Infotér (www.infoter.eu), an NGO who organize annually both the Infotér Conference and the Information Society Parliament in the four consecutive years. It will be posted on HUNAGI's blog (http://hunagi8.blogspot.com) soon.

The main issues to be addressed will be data sharing, data portals, open data and open source both from policy and applications perspectives. One of the highlights of the geospatial segment of the Infotér Conference will be the award ceremony of the contest "Mobile (geospatial) apps development" that was launched by HUNAGI for students and young professionals in late August.

The Call for Opportunity was announced on the website of the contest: http://mobilalkalmazasok.blogspot.com.
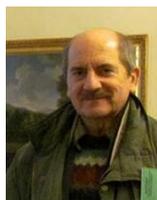
A translation of the Call that was announced in Hungarian is provided below by Dr. Remetey-Fülöpp Gábor, HUNAGI Secretary-General and former Chair of the GSDI Legal & Socioeconomic Committee.

Competition for Developing Mobile Applications

Subject of the competition: Development of mobile applications that provide assistance for the user by location information and map visualization. The application may use open source and/or proprietary software as well.

Who may apply? Anyone can participate, but mainly students and young professionals are expected to apply. Teams or single individuals can equally apply.

Deadline for the application submission:
The application has to be developed in the Hungarian language and submitted **at the latest by October 15, 2014 12 AM (CET)**. Requirements for submission are the accessibility of the developed application on the Internet and the completion of the on-line data sheet downloadable from this link: http://mobilalkalmazasok.blogspot.hu/.

Criteria of acceptance:
- Downloadable application
- User guide
- Half page textural introduction
- Introduction of the application in video or presentation

Announcement of the award winners: The award winners will be listed on 3 November 2014 onward at the website and the winner will be informed via the contact person given on the completed data sheet. (N.B. the ranking will be announced at the award ceremony at the Infotér Conference first).

Evaluation aspects and weighting: Scoring and weighting
- Originality of the idea: 3
- Visual impression: 2
- User satisfaction: 2
- Complexity: 3
- Quality of the accessories (N.B. guide, textural introduction and video/presentation)

Prizes: Prizes will be given to the awarded applications and an opportunity will be provided to introduce them shortly at the first "Spatially enabled society" session of the Infotér Conference scheduled on 6 November, 2014

The prizes are:
- First prize: 80 000 HUF
- Second prize: 40 000 HUF
- Third prize: 30 000 HUF

Additional prizes might be offered by sponsors.
(N.B. 1 USD is about 260 HUF)

For details please write to hunagi@hunagi.hu. For additional information please visit the website at: http://mobilalkalmazasok.blogspot.hu/.

National Land Survey of Finland (NLS)

As of 1 January 2015, as the Finnish Geodetic Institute (FGI) and the ICT development functions of the Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Tike) merge with the National Land Survey of Finland (NLS), the NLS will have 10 new directors.

The new directors have been appointed and the management composition of the new NLS now has been confirmed. The merger of the agencies combines the functions of the research and development centre for geographic information under one roof in accordance with the reform of sectoral research institutes. Regarding the merger, Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen said, "*We will only be able to say that we live in an information society when we make systematic use of information, and information that has been well-researched, in decision-making. The decision now made represents a major step, for Finland, towards becoming a genuine information society. The proposed sectoral research system will anticipate society's changing information needs. It must be capable of flexibly shifting research focuses and generating information needed by decision-makers in both the public and private sectors. The goal is for research to function as a strategic resource for decision-making and societal development.*"

Link to the Finnish Government's press release (September 2013): http://valtioneuvosto.fi/ajankohtaista/tiedotteet/tiedote/fi.jsp?oid=393357

Source: http://www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/en/tiedotteet/2014/08/management-composition-new-nls-confirmed

UNIGIS News

UNIGIS Salzburg: the key to geospatial careers

UNIGIS at Z_GIS (http://www.zgis.at/) - University of Salzburg - is opening the 2014 fall registration period for online programs in GI/Science!

Summer is a period for considering plans and making decisions about future career pathways. Professional development, attaining new qualifications through e.g. continuing education and maybe even distance learning today is key to opening up new career options.

The UNIGIS Salzburg (http://www.unigis.ac.at/) program recently has received top accolades by leading GIS industry actors like e.g. Oracle and ESRI, and is closely cooperating with FOSS and international organisations. With alumni from UNIGIS' 20+ years of record, MSc and certificate awards in GIScience / Geoinformatics are universally acknowledged as demanding, but widely recognized qualifications.

Applications for admission now are accepted for the German language MSc and professional certificate, as well as for international students in English language. Under the motto of 'Educating GIS Professionals Worldwide' geospatial careers in a range of different industries and disciplines have been facilitated on all continents.

More information here: http://unigis.blogspot.com/2014/08/unigis-salzburg-key-to-geospatial.html

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.

IGS members are automatically GSDI Association members. 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 August 2014, IGS had 445 members, approaching our goal of 500 members by year end. The IGS web site is at: http://www.igeoss.org.

2nd Annual IGS Members Survey Results

The *2nd Annual IGS Members Survey* closed on 18 August with 46% of members responding – an excellent rate of return for an online survey. Well done, all those members who responded!

The preliminary report has been prepared and will be on the IGS website shortly, with an announcement to all members as to the download URL. The summary report has been presented to the GSDI Executive Committee and will be distributed to the full GSDI Board on 8 September for discussion at the GSDI Board meeting on 9 October.

Responding members reported that the SDI/geo topics of most interest to them were:

- sustainable development,
- disaster prevention, warning, response and recovery,

- management of the built and natural environment,
- facilitating land registration and ownership, and
- ensuring food security.

Members were also asked to rank topics of most interest for future GSDI reports, webinars, onsite workshops and training. In order of priority, these were:

1. Experiences and case studies in use of geospatial technologies as tools in achieving societal goals, e.g. for sustainable development, alleviation of poverty, environmental management, etc.
2. Emerging approaches in providing geospatial education and training.
3. Best practices in developing spatial data infrastructure (SDI).
4. Basic and applied research challenges in advancing spatial data infrastructure theory and concepts.
5. Experiences and case studies in the implementation of SDIs.
6. The role of crowd sourcing in use of geospatial and mobile technologies in meeting the needs of citizens, government and business.
7. The Basics: Concepts in developing spatial data infrastructure.
8. Assessment and measurement methods in determining whether geospatial infrastructure initiatives actually achieve intended goals.
9. Overview: Standards use in the Geospatial Industry and their applicability and limitations.
10. Overview: technical challenges in design and development of depositories, portals, and registries for geographic data, metadata and services.
11. The complementary and competing roles of commercial versus open access geospatial data and services.
12. Overview: legal, economic and institutional challenges in implementing spatial data infrastructure.
13. The complementary and competing roles of commercial versus open source software in the geospatial community.

As Dev assumes the Presidency from Sives on 1 January 2015, the election of a new vice-President/President-Elect will be held electronically in late October 2014. A call for nominations for the post of President-Elect was issued on 18 August, explaining the nomination and later voting process. Nominations close on 15 September. The nominations review committee will complete its work and publish the short list of nominees on 30 September.

IGS REMINDERS

Subscriptions to GIM International

Get your free subscription to **GIM International** magazine. 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.

Subscriptions to Geospatial World Online Magazine
Geospatial World magazine is now offering free subscriptions to IGS members from developing nations or who are students.

Participation in GIKNet
IGS members are also reminded that information is uploaded in the **GIKnet Spatial Data Depot**, to which they are requested to contribute. Members are invited to actively participate in the IGS discussion list and/or on the GSDI LinkedIn Group as a means of sharing news, plus on the other regional and topic-oriented discussion lists of the GSDI Association.

GSDI & IGS on LinkedIn and Facebook
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. You can now also join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gsdiandigs/ to share your news.

IGS Member News!

IGS Members – submit your news, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are more than 450 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 [at] usq.edu.au.

Join IGS Today!

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.

Help us beat our goal of 500 IGS Members in 2014 - 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.

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 Newsletter (regional news from around the globe) and the GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter (GSDI Association and IGS Member activityes), EuroGeographics Messenger, the UN-SPIDER Newsletter, and the newsletters of the organisations with which GSDI has MoUs – ICA, FIG and ISPRS. Historical issues of the FGDC Newsletters, EIS-Africa (environmental news from Africa), SALB Newsletter (Second Administrative Level Boundaries from the UN), and EUROGI Newsletters are also available.

Outreach & Membership Committee

The final draft of the GSDI & IGS Strategy and Strategic Plan 2015-2020 was reviewed by the GSDI Executive Committee and IGS officers on 5 September. It will now be sent to the full GSDI Board on 8 September for discussion at the GSDI Board meeting on 9 October 2014. Following Board approval, the strategy document will be circulated to all GSDI and IGS Members and any required changes to the Association's structure and operating procedures will begin to be put into place.

The final draft *Membership Strategy* was presented to the GSDI Executive Committee in August and discussed at the Executive Committee teleconference on 5 September. It will be distributed to the full Board on 8 September.

The draft **Communications Strategy** was completed and reviewed by members of the O&M Committee and IGS officers. It was sent to the GSDI Executive Committee on 24 August and discussed at the teleconference meeting on 5 September. Based on feedback, the final version will be distributed to the Executive Committee and Board on 12 September.

Committee Chair, **Denise McKenzie** (OGC) joined other GSDI Members in participating in the UN-GGIM meeting in New York, as reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

Committee vice-Chair, Communications, **Roger Longhorn**, represented the Association at *OSGIS 2014* - the Fifth Open Source GIS Conference - at the Univ. of Nottingham, UK, from 2-3 September. Presentations over the two days were given by leading figures from the open source GIS community. The event also provided an introduction to the Research Data Alliance (https://rd-alliance.org/) by RDA co-Chair Prof John Wood. RDA is a joint European-USA-Australian (now global) initiative that brings researchers together to focus on harmonisation issues spanning numerous science disciplines. Presentations were also made by representatives of the RDA's Geospatial Interest Group, Agriculture IG and Urban Data Working Group, who also led workshops during the conference. Look for more information on RDA in a future issue – and ways for GSDI members to join and benefit from the RDA's activities.

Regional News Editor, **Kate Lance**, continues to provide news to the various regional and Committee news lists, as well as preparing the new Regional Newsletter, which is being well received.

The O&M Committee manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has **365 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.

Our **Facebook** account has gathered a few more followers and GSDI and IGS members are encouraged to use Facebook to tell us about their activities. Visit us on Facebook at: (www.facebook.com/gsdiandigs).

GSDI O&M has also created a *Slide Share* account so that members can publish their presentations online. Members wishing to take advantage of this, please send your Powerpoint files to vice-Chair, Communications, Roger Longhorn at rlonghorn@gsdi.org.

We have also launched an online viewing facility for the Regional and Global Newsletters, via the ISSUU.com e-zine system. With the announcement of each newsletter release, the link will also be provided to ISSUU where the newsletters can be viewed online. We hope that this may alleviate some of the Internet bandwidth restrictions that are affecting some members trying to download large PDF files. The online editions are searchable by full text.

We continue to publish news on the Members' Corner of the GSDI website and via **Twitter** @GSDI_IGS.

Legal & Socioeconomic Committee

Geo Legal Interoperability Map of the World (GLIM)

GLIM has three main views showing the licenses for every country.
- All licenses in use view
- Detailed license view
- Country view.

GLIM aims to promote the legal interoperability of geographic data by exploring and making transparent the global utilization of open licenses for geographic data and services.

GLIM is an initiative of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) Legal and Socioeconomic Committee. For questions or feedback, please contact co-chairs Bastiaan van Loenen or Joep Crompvoets. If you do miss your open licence for geodata from the GLIM global map, please let us know.

Licenses identified:
- CC BY
- CC0
- PDM
- CC BY SA
- Ordnance Survey (Open Data Licence)
- SeaDataNet
- GEO Gedeeld
- Open Government Licence
- OGL
- NLOD
- National Land Survey open data license
- Licence Ouverte
- Conditions for use of open public geographic data

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. The Societal Impacts Committee also supports the International Geospatial Society officers in relation to capitalizing on capacity building initiatives for IGS members, especially from developing nations.

2014 GSDI Small Grants Program Update

Since its launch in 2003, the GSDI Association's **Small Grants Program** has supported more than 100 projects across the globe. Through 2012, the program was sponsored via a partnership between the GSDI Association, the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee, and the GISCorps of URISA. Three types of awards are available: a cash award of up to US$ 2500 per project; SDI/GIS consulting services up to the value of US$ 2500; or a combination of cash award and SDI/GIS consulting services. The consulting services are offered through the GISCorps.

A Call for Proposals was issued in March 2014, resulting in 40 proposals, which were reviewed by volunteers from six continents from organizations in over 20 countries. The four proposals selected for funding were from Ghana, Uganda, Belize and Armenia, as reported in a previous Global Newsletter.

Many other very worthy proposals were received, but to support those, GSDI needs more funding! We hope that other GSDI Association members, or organizations that are not members but who appreciate the value of the Small Grants Program, would consider supporting some of the unfunded proposals this year. The Societal Impacts and Outreach and Membership Committees are reviewing the non-funded proposals to create a short list for further support, should the funds become available.

To see details, including final project reports, from all the proposals funded by GSDI Small Grants since 2003, please visit this web site: http://www.gsdi.org/sic1

GISCorps of URISA

The **GISCorps of URISA** published its August Newsletter. Since May they have launched four new projects, deploying six new members, bringing the total number of projects to 145 with 498 deployed volunteers. They are also in the process of initiating two new projects at this time.

They are also looking for a Website Volunteer with experience creating and modifying Wordpress webpages and content, including links to social media, to more effectively distribute new content, and a Volunteer with Web Design experience who can suggest theme, layout, and branding of the new GISCorps website.

Newsletter Link:
http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs190/1103462940572/archive/1118267378206.html

Further Funding Needed for Small Grants Program

Many of the applications for support received in response to the call earlier this year warrant funding, yet within the current Small Grants budget, we were only able to fund four grants. If your organisation can offer such support, please contact either the GSDI President, Dr. David Coleman, at dcoleman@unb.ca or the Societal Impacts Committee Chair, Carmelle Terborgh (cterborgh@esri.com) or Brigitta Urban-Mathieux (Gita

Urban-Mathieux burbanma@fgdc.gov). The Small Grants Program has been one of the most successful initiatives of the Association, having funded or part-funded more than 100 projects, meetings, conferences, and training opportunities since its launch in 2003. For information on how to donate, download the program flyer at this link: http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1512.

Note: The Small Grants Program is intended as a benefit of "full membership" in the GSDI Association. We make this opportunity available to non-members, as well, however, full members may obtain favored treatment in the instance in which two grant applications have been ranked similarly in the peer review process. Note that the annual GSDI Association membership fee for national organizations in low and very low per capita income nations may be as little as U.S. $100 or documented in-kind contributions in lieu of dues. Please see www.gsdi.org/joinGSDI for details.

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 and Natural Resources Canada (via GeoConnections) for making the programme possible.

FROM OUR MOU PARTNERS

ICA News

The GSDI Association and the International Cartographic Association (ICA) established a Memorandum of Understanding for joint action in 2011.

All issues of the ICA Newsletter since 2001 can be found on the GSDI Newsletter site at: http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#ICA

ICA accepted as full ICSU member

ICA President George Gartner announces that at the 31th General Assembly, the International Council of Science (ICSU) has accepted the International Cartographic Association as a Full International Scientific Union Member. (See http://www.icsu.org/ for more information).

ICSU's mission is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. The International Council for Science (ICSU) is an international non-governmental organization devoted to international cooperation in the advancement of science. Its members are national scientific bodies and international scientific unions. It comprises 120 multi-disciplinary National Scientific Members representing 140 countries and 31 international, disciplinary Scientific Unions.

From now on ICSU has 32 International Scientific Union Members, giving Cartography through ICA a strong voice in the world of science.

ICC 2015 Update

The 27th International Cartographic Conference and the 16th General Assembly of ICA will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23-28 August 2015. Visit the conference website here: http://www.icc2015.org/

Call for Papers is open - March 2014
(see http://www.icc2015.org/call-for-papers.html)

Important dates:
- Paper submission deadline (full papers and abstracts) - October 15, 2014
- Registration opening - November 1, 2014
- Papers Acceptance Notification - February 15, 2015
- Final Paper Deadline - April 15, 2015
- Authors Registration Deadline - April 30, 2013

For details please consult the ICC2015 website (http://www.icc2015.org)

ICA Research Scholarships

Are you a young scientist? Is your research topic linkable with the ICA Research Agenda and an ICA Commission? Do you need support?

I would like to point your interest to a new instrument of ICA, the ICA Research Scholarships. With this we would like to reach the following aims:

- to foster academic research in the domain of Cartography and GIScience,
- to establish contact between young scientists and ICA Commissions,
- to support young scientists to be able to actively contribute to ICA activities and events, such as especially International Cartographic Conferences,

- to establish opportunities for young scientists within ICA publications and conferences.

Interested? Information about how to apply can be found in the document here: http://icaci.org/files/documents/reference_docs/2014-2015_research_scholarship.pdf

We are looking forward to hear from you!
Georg Gartner
President of the International Cartographic Association

ISPRS News

The GSDI Association and ISPRS established a Memorandum of Understanding for joint action in 2011.

ISPRS joins "Geo for All" Advisory Board

The "Geo for All" Advisory Board is pleased to welcome ISPRS joining the initiative and looking forward to working together in our common aim to expand geospatial education and opportunities to all. Prof.Chen Jun (ISPRS President), Jeff McKenna (OSGeo President) and Prof. Georg Gartner (ICA President) met during AfricaGEO in Cape Town in July 2014 to discuss future collaboration for GeoforAll and we thank all of them for their vision to expand the initiative for the benefit of the wider community globally and also to make it inclusive as possible. So we are pleased to inform that from 14th July 2014, Geo4All will be ICA, OSGeo and ISPRS initiative.

The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) is a non-governmental organisation devoted to the development of international cooperation for the advancement of photogrammetry and remote sensing and their applications. Details at http://www.isprs.org

Note that the 'Geo for All' Advisory Board already has two members from the GSDI Membership on board and the Association is currently exploring means to become more closely involved in the initiative's activities.

Joint EuroSDR and ISPRS Workshop - November 2014

EuroSDR and ISPRS have announced a joint workshop, titled *'Efficient Capturing of 3D Objects at a National Level: with a Focus on Buildings and Infrastructure'*. The event will take place on **26-28 November 2**014 at Ordnance Survey in Southampton, UK.

Traditionally geospatial data has been restricted to two dimensions. Initially simply the result of limitations in the available technologies, subsequently the methodologies for modelling in 2D which evolved have proved to be

sufficient for most geo-applications and become entrenched. However the growing awareness for our intensively used environment makes 3D information increasingly important in many applications. For National Mapping Agencies (NMA), that have a long history in collating and maintaining countrywide 2D-datasets, the major challenge is how to best adopt a 2D base into 3D environment with an established process of continuous incremental update, and making best use of available resources. This is not a transition however and the ability to retain consistency with the original source is an imperative.

Several mapping organisations that face these challenges have joint forces in the EuroSDR 3D Special Interest Group. They are: Swisstopo, Ordnance Survey Ireland, Ordnance Survey UK, IGN France, IGN Belgium, Bavaria (Germany), Landmateriet Sweden, NLS Finland and Dutch Kadaster.

This workshop has the multiple aims:

- to specify the minimum 3D modeling requirements of NMAs;
- to identify, together with industry and researches, the most efficient 3D object capture methodologies for very large areas (e.g. national coverage);
- recognizing that "as automated as possible" might not always be the most efficient solution (i.e. guaranteeing a valid 3D object output for 60% of the objects could be preferable over a solution that targets a higher percentage but requires higher levels of human verification);
- to examine in addition to the reconstruction processes, the issues of validation of generated objects;
- to examine the ability to remain consistent with the original source;
- to focus on the most prominent features in (the majority of) 3D topological models, buildings and transportation networks (including tunnels and bridges);
- to focus on 3D object generation including the generation of accuracy information on the generated data. Data capture methodologies that can be varied in their sources (e.g. LiDAR, aerial photogrammetry, terrestrial laser scanning, existing 2D data) are of interest but not the prime focus of the workshop;
- to explicitly address the distinction between initial data capture and the incremental update of existing national models, which will require embedding the 3D modeling within established processes of continuous incremental updating of countrywide data sets.

Register via: http://3dsig.eventbrite.co.uk

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Call for abstracts: To participate in this workshop, you are invited to give a presentation or demonstration on one of the above-mentioned topics. 300-500 words abstract can be sent to j.e.stoter@tudelft.nl, by 12 noon, **30 September 2014**.

Source:
http://www.eurosdr.net/workshops/eurosdrisprs-workshop-efficient-capturing-3d-objects-national-level-focus-buildings-and

All past ISPRS eBulletins can be viewed at:
http://www.isprs.org/news/newsletter/default.aspx

or downloaded (PDFs) from the GSDI Newsletter archive at http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#ISPRS.

FIG News

The GSDI Association and FIG established a Memorandum of Understanding for joint action in 2010.

FIG Working Week 2015 Call for Papers

The FIG Working Week 2015 will be held from 17 - 21 May 2015. The Working Week is hosted by the International Federation of Surveyors and the Chamber of Graduated Surveyors, Bulgaria as the local host. Our Bulgarian colleagues are experienced professionals and great hosts as they have had the leadership of FIG and have successfully organized several memorable international events, FIG Commission workshops and the FIG Congress in 1983. The overall theme of the Working Week is "From the Wisdom of the Ages to the Challenges of the Modern World".

The Technical Programme offers both specially invited high profile presentations and papers that are selected through the open call for papers procedure.
The Call for Papers is open for both peer review and non-peer review submissions. The deadline for full papers for peer review papers is: **20 October 2014** (please also remember to submit your abstract by the deadline).

Deadline for abstract submission for non-peer review papers: **15 November 2014**.

Call for papers:
http://fig.net/fig2015/downloads/call_for_papers.pdf

Important deadlines:
http://fig.net/fig2015/downloads/deadlines.pdf

For updated information about the FIG Working Week 2015 check the conference web site:
www.fig.net/fig2015

FIG Monthly Newsletter

The August 2014 FIG Newsletter has been published at: http://fig.net/pub/enews/august_2014.pdf

The newsletter promotes the **FIG Article of the Month** for August, which is "*Why Technical Standards are not enough for Professionals Working in Land, Property and Construction and the Importance of International Standards on Ethics*" by Gary Strong and David Pilling, United Kingdom.

The article was presented at the FIG Congress 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The particle explores the opportunities and very real benefits that could be afforded not only to professionals working in land, property and construction but also to clients, the public and society more generally by the setting, promotion and monitoring of international standards on ethics.

Download the full article here (PDF):
http://www.fig.net/pub/monthly_articles/august_2014/strong_pilling.pdf

All FIG monthly e-Newsletters from 2007 can be downloaded from http://fig.net/pub/enews/index.htm or from the GSDI Newsletter Archive at http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#FIG for those posted since January 2010.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Online Training

Numerous online training opportunities, some for free and others a very modest cost, are available from many of our Members. See the links below for more details:

- **Esri Training**: http://www.esri.com/training/main
- **Intergraph Training**: http://www.intergraph.com/ppm/training/virtual_training/default.aspx
- **Boundless Training**: http://boundlessgeo.com/resources/training/
- **CAF (GeoSUR) Training** (in Spanish): http://www.geosur.info/geosur/index.php/en/trainingcorner
- **UNIGIS u-Lecture Webinars**: http://www.unigis.net/study-with-UNIGIS/ulectures

Webinars

Readers should not forget the possibilities for training on specific aspects of geomatics, geoscience and SDI implementation offered by online webinars and more formal training opportunities from some of our members, not least our industry members, such as Esri and

Intergraph, or association members, such as EuroGeographics, ICC (Cartographic Institute of Catalonia), UNIGIS, USGS/FGDC, EUROGI, HUNAGI, various national governments, etc.

The latest information and schedule of webinars is maintained on the GSDI web site at this link: http://www.gsdi.org/webinars.

This includes webinars from other agencies, not just GSDI members, including US NOAA, ICA (with whom GSDI has a Memorandum of Understanding on joint promotion), Open Geo Foundation and government agencies from various nations, to name but a few.

Forthcoming Webinar of the Month

"*Lessons from the Front Lines of the Geospatial Revolution*" will be offered as a live webcast on 6 October 2014 by the US Department of Interior's Office of Policy Analysis in their monthly speaker series. The presentation will focus on the importance of geospatial collaboration.

Steve Swazee, Executive Director of SharedGeo, will offer lessons learned from the Katrina crisis response, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and the largest Geospatially Enabling Community Collaboration (GECCo) event ever conducted in the U.S. He will also provide insights about how geospatial analysis can be applied to a wide spectrum of events, ranging from tracking diseases to climate change. Learn how the Geospatial Revolution can support your operational mission.

Unless otherwise indicated, all presentations occur at 12:15-1:15 (Eastern Time) in the Rachel Carson Room, located in the Basement Cafeteria of the Main Interior Building (1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC). Live webcasts are available at doi.gov/events. Closed captioning is available. A login ID on the Livestream website is required to use the service's chat feature. Please click "join" or "login to chat" and follow instructions. You can also view videos of past presentation videos in the Video Archive at http://www.doi.gov/ppa/seminar_series/video/index.cfm.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Global Newsletter, we publish an article from the GSDI column that appears monthly in *GIM International* magazine. This month's article is by GSDI Operations & Communications Manager, Roger Longhorn.

Are You Being Served?

The GSDI Association is preparing a 2015-2020 Strategy and Strategic Plan, to be presented to the GSDI Board in October. In a fast

changing world that is ever more dependent upon geoinformation and geomatics technology, we realized that it was time to review the Association's fitness for purpose, aims, mission and activities to ensure that we remain relevant to current and future members, both organisations and individuals.

The strategy seeks to reaffirm the Association as a trusted, single source of reliable, open access information on SDI challenges and implementation best practices from around the globe, while delivering practical member benefits. We are not alone in re-evaluating our strategy and position in the geo world, and the role we can play in assisting governments and organisations in regard to SDI by knowledge sharing, while continuing to promote SDI research via our GSDI World Conferences, held since 1996.

Governments are spending considerable resources – human and financial – in producing harmonised and interoperable geoinformation across a wide range of themes that reach far beyond the usual 'underpinning' themes identified in the early years of SDI development. A major challenge for the Association is extending its knowledge base to support not only those in the geo world who are involved directly in SDI implementation and maintenance, but also the myriad users of geo or location-based information globally. But who will use this information – and how – remembering "Information has value only when it is used."

Reaching out to the users of SDIs

So how can the GSDI Association extend its reach, delivering value to members and to society? There are several avenues to explore within the spirit of the new strategy, including:

• Actively participating in Open Data programmes around the world, given that government geoinformation is 'government' data first, and 'geo' second, where that data includes a location attribute. Numerous studies have been completed in the past few years on the value of Open Data to governments, businesses and civil society. Yet many challenges remain to be resolved in regard to implementing Open Data principles within the framework of official SDI implementations and regulations.

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- Meeting the challenges and opportunities presented by crowd sourcing and VGI in developing user-derived SDI components, in support of standards-based, 'official' government SDI development.
- Closer cooperation with allied organisations involved in different SDI sectors, such as the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) on continued development of marine SDI globally.

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.

If we are to deliver on our Vision, Purpose and Mission, then the GSDI Strategy and Strategic Plan requires support from the whole membership, while we strive to deliver real value to our fee paying members. Watch this space!

Roger Longhorn is the Operations & Communications Manager for the GSDI Association, vice-Chair Communications of the GSDI Outreach & Membership Committee and Editor of the monthly GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter.

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

Readers are reminded that they can subscribe to *GIM International* digital version completely free of charge or the print and digital version for 39 euro per annum. Visit the subscription page online at: http://www.gim-international.com/subscription/index.php

ALLIED CONFERENCE NEWS

Geospatial and Engineering International Conference, September 2104

The Conference program 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. Get the program here: http://www.mapps.org/page/GeoInternatProgram

Who should attend?

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.

What organizations are involved?

MAPPS is pleased to be hosting the Geospatial & Engineering International Conference: Entering & Expanding Global Business Opportunities on September 25-26, 2014 at the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, VA. 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).

Conference & Hotel Registration
Early rate for conference registration is available now. All MAPPS members, as well as members of all participating organizations, receive a discount. Conference registration here:
http://www.mapps.org/events/register.aspx?id=385075

MAPPS has secured a special hotel room rate with the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, VA. The room rate is guaranteed through September 12 or until rooms sell out, so make your room reservations today here:
https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1312097048&key=71A50

Contact Information
For specific questions, contact sally@mapps.org. If you are interested in receiving updates about the conference via email, please use this link:
http://www.mapps.org/page/GeoInternatContactUs

1st Annual Pan-Canadian Spatial Data Infrastructure Summit 2014, 17-19 September, Calgary

GeoDiscover Alberta, in conjunction with GeoConnections, is pleased to announce that registration

to the 1st annual SDI Summit is now open. Being held in Calgary from September 17 to 19, 2014, this SDI Summit will showcase the best Canada has to offer in the geospatial information field and help foster the establishment of a network of spatial data infrastructures across Canada.

Key Topics

- Building a Pan-Canadian SDI network
- The importance of geospatial data and information to the Energy sector
- An overview of current Canadian spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) governance models
- Focus on Standardization and Interoperability
- The Role of SDIs in Disaster Relief – Lessons learned from the 2013 Alberta Flood
- A Geospatial Vision for the Future - Geospatial sensors – the new Electronic skin

Keynote Speakers

Key note speakers include several GSDI Association members, including **Dr. David Coleman**, GSDI President; **Prashant Shukle**, Natural Resources Canada, and **Mark Reichardt** and **George Percival** both from member Open Geospatial Consortium.

As this event coincides with the Open GeoSpatial Consortium (OGC) annual meeting being held in Calgary from September 15th to 19th, 2014, the organizers are lucky enough to be able to take advantage of this opportunity to hold a joint event on Day One.

Attendance to the conference is FREE, however attendees will be expected to pay their own airfare, accommodations and any meals outside those designated as conference events.

Registration
As space is limited, priority will be given to Canadian government employees - at national, provincial, territorial, and municipal levels – who are involved in establishing and promoting geospatial information sharing within their organizations and beyond.

Get full conference details here:
https://geodiscover.alberta.ca/geoportal/catalog/news/summit.page

Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications – October 2014

The Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications will be held from 6-8 October 2014 at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, Toronto, Canada.

Keynote speakers are:

Dr. David Coleman, Professor of Geomatics Engineering at University of New Brunswick and President of Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association
Paper Title: Challenging Traditional Models, Roles and Responsibilities in Evolving Spatial Data Infrastructures

Dr. Gordon McBean, Director, Research and External Relations, Centre for Environment and Sustainability, Director, Policy Studies, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and Professor at Western University, London, Canada and the President Elect of the International Council for Science
Paper Title: Geospatial Information for Future Earth

Dr. Daniel Sui, Professor of Geography and Distinguished Professor of Social & Behavioral Sciences at the Ohio State University and editor-in-chief for GeoJournal
Paper Title: Alternative GIS (Alt.GIS) and the Six Senses of the New mind: Is Alt.GIS Transforming GIS into a Liberation Technology?

Dr. Stéphane Roche, Professor of Geographic Information Science at Université Laval, Quebec City, and Honorary Principal Fellow to the Department of Infrastructure Engineering at the University of Melbourne
Paper Title: Why Does a Smart City Need to be Spatially Enabled?

The Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications is hosted by the Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG) and co-organized by the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Technical Commission II on Theory and Concepts of Spatial Information Science, International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geographical Information Science and Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems. With a theme on Building Connections in GISciences for Future, the conference intends to present and disseminate the research, development and the innovative applications of geographical information theory and technologies in broad areas, as well as other interested areas by the participating organizations.

ISPRS Technical Commission II Midterm Symposium is held every four years in between two consecutive ISPRS Congresses. The symposium aims to bring together scholars and professionals from the international community of geospatial information sciences and engineering to present latest research achievements and technological developments. The topics of the symposium address the focuses outlined by the Commission, stated on its website:
http://www2.isprs.org/commissions/comm2.html.

The *International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling (SDH)* is the biennial international research forum for Geospatial Information Science, co-organized by the IGU Commission on Geographic Information Science and the IGU Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems. It commenced in 1984. The Symposium has become a major resource for recent advances in GIS research and is regarded as a premier international research forum for GIS.

Canadian Institute of Geomatics - Annual General Meeting 2014

The AGM of the CIG will be held during the conference on Monday, October 6, 2014. The CIG Nominations Committee 2014 will be comprised as follows:

- Immediate Past President George McFarlane, Chair (geomac66@sympatico.ca)
- Past President Pierre Gravel, Member (pierre.gravel@groupeinfoconsult.com)
- Past President Tony Sani, Member (tsani@sani-ita.com)

CIG is requesting members to put forth names of suitable candidates for Vice President 2014-2015 to any member of the Nomination Committee by e-mail.

Get full details from the conference website here: http://www2.isprs.org/2014GeoTPMA/home.html

7th URISA Caribbean GIS Conference – October 2014

URISA is pleased to announce the program details for its Seventh Caribbean GIS Conference, taking place October 26-30, 2014 at the Santa Barbara Resort in Curacao. The conference, themed "Spatial Technologies: Fuelling Economic Growth and Development" features important regional conversations, preconference courses and workshops, comprehensive education, and opportunities to connect with experts, peers and private sector sponsors.

Previous Caribbean GIS conferences have taken place in Jamaica (2001), Barbados (2004), the Bahamas (2006), the Cayman Islands (2008), Trinidad and Tobago (2010) and Jamaica (2012). Get full details here: http://www.urisa.org/education-events/caribbean-gis-conference/

The objectives of URISA's Caribbean GIS Conference are to:

- inform broad cross-section of Caribbean users about GIS technology and applications,
- share experiences regarding GIS implementation and management issues,
- establish new relationships with the vendor/consultant community,
- provide workshops and sessions that are application driven, and are relevant to the Caribbean community of GIS users,
- foster a Caribbean GIS network,
- assess the state of readiness of national and regional Spatial Data Infrastructures,
- act on directives from the High Level Meetings held over the past several years, fostering executive support for GIS.

The Conference Program is developed through a Call for Presentations. The committee welcomes the submission of individual papers, complete sessions, panel discussions and lightning talks.

Important Regional Conversations:

Geospatial Information High Level Meeting: targeted at key decision makers in the industry particularly, senior personnel of international and regional bodies with responsibility for the management of geospatial data and information, senior government officials, experts on geospatial related issues in academia, members of the donor community, and private sector companies.

General Session: The Importance of Geospatial Technology in the Caribbean: will examine the various issues that organizations are facing in the region as well as what is the overall value proposition that geospatial technology brings to the Caribbean economy. Participants will include senior representatives from national governments, donor agencies, academia, as well as experts from the vendor/consultant community.

Special Interest Group Roundtables: Important conversations including Geodetics, Open Source, Women in GIS, and Education.

Preconference Courses and Workshops:

- Getting Started with GIS
- Caribbean Decision Support System for a Climate Resilient Marine Managed Areas Network
- Mobile and Server GIS: Field to Finish (two-day course)
- URISA Certified Workshop: Addressing
- URISA Certified Workshop: GIS Return on Investment
- ArcGIS Online
- UAV Workshop

Comprehensive Education: Nearly 50 presenters in sessions covering important topics including…

- Climate Change and Sea Level Rise
- Disaster Mitigation/Modeling
- Harnessing the Power of GIS for Utility, Asset and Infrastructure Management
- Environmental Hazards
- GIS in Disaster Management
- Innovations in GIS
- National GI Policy Development & NSDI
- Public Participation GIS
- Public Safety, GIS for Emergency Response
- Addressing Systems
- Change Detection
- Geosciences & Regional Economic Development
- Enterprise GIS and Mobile Technologies
- Best Practices in Today's Digital Organization
- Spatial Technologies for Water Resource Management
- GIS in Public Health
- K-12 Education
- Using UAVs (Drones) for Aerial Imagery Acquisition

Start reviewing the abundance of education on the schedule. - http://urisacaribbean2014.sched.org/.

Exhibits & Sponsors: The opportunity to connect with the companies that provide solutions for Caribbean technology needs is a major component of the conference. Several of the conference sponsors are also developing vendor solutions sessions to allow for a deep-dive to learn about their products and services. Discounted exhibitor fees are available until September 1.

Conference Venue: The Conference will take place at the Santa Barbara Resort. We have arranged for discounted sleeping room rates at the hotel. URISA Conference attendees may take advantage of $129 rates for single or double occupancy which includes in-room internet access.

Registration - Register for the conference by September 1 and save $100!

Full conference registration (only $325) includes the conference proceedings papers, access to keynote speeches, breakout sessions, meetings, two lunches, reception and networking social event.

Learn more about the 2014 URISA Caribbean GIS Conference here: http://www.urisa.org/education-events/caribbean-gis-conference/.

Contact: Wendy Nelson, Executive Director - URISA
wnelson@urisa.org - www.urisa.org

International Workshop on Spatial Data and Map Quality – January 2015

The International Workshop on Spatial Data and Map Quality will take place on 20-21 January 2015 at the Old University Building, Valletta, Malta. **Deadline for abstract submissions is 12 September 2014.**

A number of international groups and organisations actively involved in spatial data and map quality issues are organizing a two-day international workshop aimed at providing innovative and original contribution to the ongoing debate on spatial data and map quality issues and at improving the process of knowledge transfer by means of the development of new techniques and methods for quality assessment of spatial data sets and the maps produced.

Download workshop announcement here:
http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/SDMQ15-Workshop_announcement1_0.pdf
Please direct any queries to Carol Agius. [carol.agius@mepa.org.mt]

Submissions:
Abstracts (500 - 100 words) using the approved template (.docx format)
http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/SDMQ_abstract_template.docx can be uploaded on-line here:
https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sdmq2015

- Acceptance for an oral presentation, poster, or software demonstration at the workshop will be announced by 31 October 2014.
- Deadline for long abstract/full paper is 31 December 2014.
- Registration for the workshop will open in September 2014.

The workshop is organised by **GSDI Members EuroGeographics** and the **Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)**, plus EuroSDR, ISO and members of the EU-funded European Location Framework (E.L.F.) project.

CoastGIS 2015 Conference - 2nd Call for Extended Abstracts

Deadline for submission of Extended Abstracts – 30 September 2014.

The CoastGIS2015 Local Organising Committee and the International Scientific Committees of the CoastGIS series of symposia are delighted to inform you that the 12th CoastGIS Symposium, and the first in Africa, will be held 22-24 April 2015 in the city of Cape Town, South Africa at the Protea Hotel Breakwater Lodge. CoastGIS is a biennial series of symposia that brings together practitioners and researchers in the field of marine and coastal Geographic Information Systems, remote sensing and computer cartography. We invite you to visit the website www.coastgis2015.co.za for more details.

The Symposium theme "*Monitoring and Adapting to Change on the Coast*" refers to the increasing demand on decision-makers and managers to be aware of changes in the coastal and marine environment. Not only must there be a much greater emphasis on the measuring of change, but also increasing and creative options to act on the observed changes, which may have either positive or negative societal impacts. In other words, how can CoastGIS2015 contribute to the understanding of coastal change, and how can the powerful tools we use, as a scientific and management community, help us make better decisions? Can we demonstrate how the excellence, passion and creativity in the various disciplines encompassed by CoastGIS be used to improve the use of science for decision-making relating to coastal management?

Papers responding to the symposium theme and the topics below that describe the use of GIS/Geospatial tools in the coastal and marine environments are welcome:

- Analysing and modelling coastal and marine processes
- Spatial information and observation systems
- Coastal risk and vulnerability
- Advances in data visualization
- Advances in geographical information technologies
- Decision-support and spatial planning
- Innovative application of geospatial technologies in coastal environments
- Coastal mapping and monitoring
- Coping with data scarcity in coastal and marine management
- Coastal and marine spatial data infrastructure (SDI)
- Application of geospatial technologies to support climate change adaptation in coastal regions

We would love to host you in South Africa and I invite you now to submit an extended abstract by the end of September 2014. Instructions for submission of abstracts can be found on the website.

Students from countries in the Western Indian Ocean and the Small Island Development States (excluding South Africa) can apply for a number of travel grants that will be dispensed on a competitive basis. Please contact me for more information.

Contact details: Louis Celliers, Chair, CoastGIS2015
Email: coastgis2015@csir.co.za
Website: www.coastgis2015.co.za

INSPIRE and Geospatial World Forum Joint 2015 Conference

The INSPIRE Conference and Geospatial World Forum 2015 will be jointly organised on 25-29 May 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal. The joint conference theme "Convergence: Policies + Practices + Processes via PPP" aims to address the need for greater coordination among policy-makers, technology providers and users to benefit the industry, and to highlight geospatial workflows as an enabler for successful PPPs by facilitating more informed decision making among the stakeholders.

Call for Abstracts

The Program Advisory Board is pleased to invite abstracts to be presented in thematic sessions, posters and for workshop proposals at the conference. Being the first joint effort between European Commission and Geospatial Media and Communications, the conference promises to be an exciting platform to showcase best practices and interchange of ideas among geospatial community at regional and global level.

See the Proposed Scope of Presentations here: http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/callforabstract_workshop.htm

The Submission Guidelines are here: http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/Submission_Guidelines.htm

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline   - 15 November 2014
Abstract Acceptance Notification - 1 December 2014
Abstract Submission Deadline   - 15 January 2015

Submit Abstracts at this link: http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/submit_abstract.asp

Submit Workshop Proposals here: http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/submit-abstract-for-workshop.asp

Proposed scope, technical themes, submission guidelines and important dates are available on conference website at:
http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/callforabstract_workshop.htm

Any further queries can be sent to the conference secretariat at papers@geospatialworldforum.org.

Call for Abstracts

The 2015 INSPIRE-GWF conference offers the opportunity to submit proposals for abstracts of presentations which will be delivered in thematic sessions, workshops and poster presentations. In terms of content, presentations given in sessions or the outcomes of workshops shall contribute to the general scope of the conference. Read more for some of the proposed themes and scope of presentations.

Abstract Submission Deadline: 15th November 2014

Why Together?

Considering the underlying objectives of both INSPIRE and Geospatial World Forum is to promote the optimal use and implementation of spatial data and resources for growth, there is an existing foundation for a synergised effort. While INSPIRE is designed to discuss the latest developments of the INSPIRE Directive, addressing common policy issues, applications and implementations of SDIs, Geospatial World Forum features success stories of private industry and users of spatial data boosting the business of spatial information and downstream dissemination of the technology applications. By combining efforts, both

Theme

Policies, technologies and applications are the three key factors affecting growth of geospatial industry. Formulation of policies and its associated implementation requires strong engagement and propagation of innovations and practices. Public private partnership is one instrumental driver not only in bridging technological gaps, but in integrating stakeholders for maximum impact. The theme CONVERGENCE: Policies + Practices + Processes via PPP aims to address the need for greater coordination among policy-makers, technology providers and users to benefit the industry.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

European Regional SDI Updates & INSPIRE

European Commission encourages re-use of Public Sector Information

On 17 July, the European Commission published guidelines to help EU Member States benefit from the revised Directive on the re-use of public sector information (PSI Directive) (http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/european-legislation-reuse-public-sector-information). These guidelines explain for example how to give access to weather data, traffic data, property asset data and maps. Open data can be used as the basis for innovative value-added services and products, such as mobile apps, which encourage investment in data-driven sectors. The guidelines are based on a detailed consultation (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-798_en.htm) and cover issues such as:

Licencing: guidelines on when public bodies can allow the re-use of documents without conditions or licences; gives conditions under which the re-use of personal data is possible. For example:
- Public sector bodies should not impose licences when a simple notice is sufficient;
- Open licences available on the web, such as several "Creative Commons" licences can facilitate the re-use of public sector data without the need to develop custom-made licences;
- Attribution requirement is sufficient in most cases of PSI re-use.

Datasets: presents five thematic dataset categories that businesses and other potential re-users are mostly interested in and could thus be given priority for being made available for re-use. For example:
- Postcodes, national and local maps;
- Weather, land and water quality, energy consumption, emission levels and other environmental and earth data;
- Transport data: public transport timetables, road works, traffic information;
- Statistics: GDP, age, health, unemployment, income, education etc.;
- Company and business registers.

Cost: gives an overview on how public sector bodies, including libraries, museums and archives, should calculate the amount they should charge re-users for data. For example:
- Where digital documents are downloaded electronically a no-cost policy is recommended;
- For cost-recovery charging, any income generated in the process of collecting or producing documents,

e.g. from registration fees or taxes, should be subtracted from the total costs incurred so as to establish the 'net cost' of collection, production, reproduction and dissemination.

European Commission Vice President Neelie Kroes said: "*This guidance will help all of us benefit from the wealth of information public bodies hold. Opening and re-using this data will lead to many new businesses and convenient services.*"

An independent report carried out by McKinsey in 2013 claimed that open data re-use could boost the global economy hugely; and a 2013 Spanish study (http://datos.gob.es/content/estudio-del-sector-infomediario-de-asedie) found that commercial re-users in Spain could employ around 10,000 people and reach a business volume of €900 million.

PSI guidelines were prepared on the basis of contributions to a Public Consultation in autumn 2013 and following recommendations by a dedicated expert group (PSI Group). These guidelines should assist Member States in transposing the revised PSI Directive into national legislation by the July 2015 deadline.

By contributing to the opening up of public sector datasets, this initiative complements the recently announced EU actions aiming at building up a data-driven economy, including funding under the Connecting Europe Facility.

Opening up public sector information (PSI) for re-use may bring major socio-economic benefits, provided the right policy and regulatory framework is in place. In December 2011, the Commission adopted a package of measures including the recently adopted Directive 2013/37/EU amending Directive 2003/98/EC on the re-use of public sector information**.**

The importance of PSI re-use has since then been recognised worldwide, including by the G8 countries, as witnessed by the signature of a G8 Open Data Charter (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-data-charter/g8-open-data-charter-and-technical-annex).

These guidelines were prepared on the basis of contributions to an online consultation followed by a public hearing and a meeting of a Member States expert group on PSI.

McKinsey report:
http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/business_technology/open_data_unlocking_innovation_and_performance_with_liquid_information
Connecting Europe Facility:
http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/connecting-europe-facility

Newsletter No. 3 (July 2014) of the eENVplus project reports that, at the half way mark of the project, the first results are appearing, shaping the eENVplus infrastructure, services and pilots.

These results and the working progress have been largely presented at the INSPIRE Conference 2014 within the workshop "A clustering approach to eENVironmental Services for advanced applications and capacity building within INSPIRE and SEIS" organized on 17/06/2014 and in various thematic sessions of the Conference by the eENVplus partners, according to the different aspects addressed by the eENVplus components.

The eENVplus Workshop

The workshop was organized as a cluster event of four projects all strongly related to the INSPIRE implementation process, in different scenarios and applications: **eENVplus, LIFE+IMAGINE, GeoSmartCity and LINKVIT**. (Note: Both organizational and individual members of the GSDI Association are involved in these projects).

The eENVplus session of the workshop covered introduction to the project, use cases and user requirement analysis, harmonisation and validation, thesaurus framework for environment, eENVplus infrastructure, pilot applications, capacity building, and exploitation towards communities and stakeholders.

A major achievement has been the demonstration of the real value of effective and strategic liaisons between EU funded projects leading to efficient synergies, especially for the reuse of software components, service oriented architectures and other outcomes such as training material and technical knowhow.

Access the project web site for the workshop proceedings:
http://eenvplus.us7.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=8ef0ebb40bd12bfe1546b7bc8&id=c86b0bab80&e=787eb3280c

Partecipation of eENVplus in the Conference sessions

INSPIRE Data Harmony

INSPIRE Land Cover Data Specifications to model fire access time in Europe: the experience of the eENVplus project (Giacomo Martirano, Fabio Vinci, Stefania Morrone, Marc Bonazountas, Alkis Astyakopoulos and Anestis Trypitsidis)

The activities in progress to implement and test the FAT (Fire Access Time) data model according to the INSPIRE

Land Cover Data Specifications, in the context of the eENVplus project. FAT dataset is an output of state-of-the-art technology/workflow which calculates the time (in minutes) a cell is burnt, with reference to the Fire Ignition Time stamp.

INSPIRE in Urban and Regional Spaces

INSPIRE'd land use planning - Dynamic indicators to improve planning achievements (Maria Vale, Raquel Saraiva, Bruno Meneses, Rui Reis and Paulo Patrício)

Cost and benefit related to data sharing and good governance, is a main INSPIRE Directive concern. The present document illustrates the work done within ongoing applied research projects oriented to promote good governance and understand costs and benefits related to open data and main constraints related to data sharing. The governance responsibilities explored are those related to urban growth and efficient land use management, including cadastre, and understanding data production and data quality to address all this issues in order to improve spatial planning efficiency in addressing effective economic growth.

Registries for INSPIRE

State of play of Environmental Thesauri in the Web and their adherance to (Open) Linked Data Best Practices (Riccardo Albertoni, Monica De Martino and Paola Podestà)

Environmental thesauri are used as shared nomenclatures in metadata compilation and information discovery, and they are increasingly made available on the web. We provide a methodological approach for creating a catalogue of the environmental thesauri available on the web and assessing their reusability, in terms of easiness to access and to exploit their content. The assessment of reusability consider the openness of licence and the compliance to the 5 star Linked Data, stressing on the deployment of derefereceable HTTP URIs as identifiers for resources.

Software services exploiting the eENVplus framework of interlinked thesauri for metadata management (Andreas Abecker, Riccardo Albertoni, Carlo Cipolloni, Monica DeMartino, Yashar Moradiafkan and Roman Wössner)

As part of eENVplus, a thesaurus framework is being develop and exemplarily filled which allows to interlink several domain thesauri represented in the Linked Open Data format SKOS / RDF in order to achieve a higher degree of domain coverage, multinguality, cross-domain services, etc.In this talk we want to present the functionalities, technical specifications and current implementation status of a number of thesaurus exploitation services – Web services with a usage-oriented

REST interface abstracting away from implementation details of the thesaurus framework and offering manifold ways of exploiting the domain knowledge contained in the interlinked thesauri for the purposes of metadata creation, metadata maintenance and resource discovery.

Earth Sciences

The eENVplus project geological harmonization data pilot as best practice to produce INSPIRE compliant data on Natural Risk Zone (Carlo Cipolloni, Matija Krivic, Matevž Novak, Marco Pantaloni and Jasna Sinigoj)

In the eENVplus project, there is a specific pilot that has the scope to highlight the importance of harmonised geological data to support the risk management analyses and to support the Geohazard mapping production. Starting from OneGeology-Europe project results and unsolved problems we have defined a first analysis based on a comparison of the two geological maps provided by the neighbouring countries.The Italian and Slovenian Geological Surveys involved in the pilot will discuss the problems highlighted during this phase.

The main target of Geological Surveys however is to produce data and web services compliant with the wider international schema but still in line with INSPIRE technical requirements.

Access the project web site for all the material: http://eenvplus.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8ef0ebb40bd12bfe1546b7bc8&id=a1d846acac&e=787eb3280c

eENVplus receive during the INSPIRE Conference the CEN/TC 287 Award for Excellence and Innovation

For more information on the award visit the eENVplus project website here: http://www.eenvplus.eu/

Visit the Newsletter here: http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=8ef0ebb40bd12bfe1546b7bc8&id=3d2fec2fed&e=787eb3280c

UN-GGIM

UN Global Forum and UN GGIM Meetings in New York, August 2014

The United Nations Global Forum on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information took place at UN Headquarters in New York from 4-5 August 2014. The Forum was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division, as the Secretariat of the UN Statistical Commission and the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and substantively supported by the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

GSDI Members at UN-GGIM Fourth Meeting

The Fourth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (http://ggim.un.org) was held at UN Headquarters in New York, 6-8 August 2014. While your GSDI Association was formally represented as an "Observer" by President David Coleman, there were in fact a number of GSDI Association Executive and Board members playing different roles in this event. GSDI President-elect Dave Lovell and Board member Carmelle Terborgh also attended as Observers representing their own organizations (Eurogeographics and Esri respectively). The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) played a major role for this meeting in terms of background research associated with geospatial standards, with OGC members (and GSDI Board/Committee members) Denise McKenzie and Mark Reichardt both present for the meeting and involved in organizing a pre-meeting workshop. Finally, former GSDI President Derek Clarke's two-year term as UN GGIM Rapporteur concluded with the beginning of this meeting.

Details and background documents from the meeting may be found at: http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

In addition to the general sessions held Wednesday to Friday, GSDI was present on Tuesday at the meeting of the International Steering Committee on Global Mapping (ISCGM) as well as advance workshops on standards

(https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=598 89) and legal/policy issues held in the afternoon. Watch the GGIM Site (NOTE: I

A full formal report and minutes of the meeting is yet to be posted to the UN GGIM Website. High on the Agenda of this year's Experts Meeting was the endorsement of the Report of the Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (available from the UN GGIM website mentioned above) as well as amending and endorsing a *Shared Statement of Principles on the Management of Geospatial Information*. Of special interest was the work completed and endorsed on Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community, and we encourage GSDI and IGS Members to check out the "*Essential Standard Guide for UNGGIM*" and Companion Document available for download from the UN GGIM Website at the URL mentioned above.

The GSDI Association was especially interested in the discussion following presentation of the Report of the Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements. In a formal statement presented at the meeting, your President congratulated the Working Group in recognizing the critical importance of effective and responsive institutional arrangements in geospatial information management and mentioned that, since 1996, GSDI has supported its members in the exchange of information on best practices and to capacity building through our Small Grants projects worldwide. He recognized that much has changed since the first GSDI Conference in 1996 - particularly with respect to the pace of change, the sophistication of users, and their potential role in data collection and, in some cases, indirect verification. Noting that the Working Group has set an ambitious schedule for its work, the GSDI Association welcomed the opportunity to assist the Group in terms of "The Role Of People As Users And Producers Of Geospatial Information".

Membership in the Meeting also noted with satisfaction the growing collection of valuable SDI-related reports and documentation contributed to the GGIM Knowledge Base available to the public at:
http://ggim.un.org/knowledgebase/Knowledgebase.aspx

The Session concluded on Friday. Your GSDI Association will also be represented at the Third High Level Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management to be held in Beijing, China from 22-24 October 2014.

Source: Report by David Coleman, GSDI President

Reports Released at the UN-GGIM Meeting

The '*Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management'* report (25 June

2014) was released at the Committee of Experts on Global `geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) 4th Session meeting in New York, 6-8 August 2014.

The report describes the creation of the Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements and the tasks undertaken to prepare the road map and the two-year work plan, which outlines the targets and deliverables to be achieved and the three broad areas of work:
a) geospatial information business model analysis;
b) the structure of geospatial information management organizations; and
c) the role of people as users and producers of geospatial information, inclusive of the creation of subgroups.

The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report, and express its views on the way forward in addressing and identifying best practices and options for national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.

Download the full report here:
http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1568

A second report presented at the meeting was the "***National Mapping Authority Perspective: International Geospatial Standards***", lead authors Gerardo Esparza, INEGI, Mexico, and Steven Ramage, Ordnance Survey International, Great Britain, published in July 2014.

"*While written from a National Mapping Authority viewpoint, this paper addresses some of the crucial communication elements of international standards and the need to develop a culture of standards adoption.*
It also offers examples of national and regional initiatives to highlight good practice and lessons learned, and can be used by other organisations working with the management of geospatial information."

Download the 26-page document here:
http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM4/National%20
Mapping%20Authority%20Perspective%20-
%20International%20Geospatial%20Standards.pdf

UN-GGIM & OGC Joint Standards Report Released

UN-GGIM and the Open Geospatial Consortium (IGC) released the report "***Role of Standards in Geographic Information Management***".

The United Nations' Initiative on Global Geographic Information Management (UN-GGIM) has released a report (PDF) on the "Role of Standards in Geographic Information Management." The report was prepared in conjunction with the Open Geospatial Consortium, The International Organization for Standards (ISO), Technical

Committee 211 Geographic information/Geomatics, and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). According to the report, the guide has three primary purposes:

*   Articulate the critical role of standards in geospatial information management;
*   Inform policy makers and program managers in Member States of the value in using and investing in geospatial standardization; and
*   Describe the benefits of using "open" geospatial standards to achieve standardization, data sharing, and interoperability goals.

Enabling a spatial data infrastructure (SDI) for an entire country is a challenge. Recognizing this undertaking, the UN GGIM recommends a "tiered" approach to developing standards and subsequent implementation of an SDI as follows:

*   Tier 1: Share maps over the web.
*   Tier 2: Geospatial Information sharing partnerships - share, integrate and use geospatial data from different providers.
*   Tier 3: Spatially enabling the nation - large scale (typically national) efforts to develop a "full blown' SDI that provides access to multiple themes of information, applications for using the shared information, and access via a variety of environments (mobile, desktop, etc.).

There is also a companion document (PDF) supporting the report that describes the standards that are appropriate for each tier.
http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM4/E-C20-2014-8_Essential%20Standards%20Guide%20for%20UNGGIM.pdf

A meeting of the UN GGIM to discuss the report was held in New York on 5 August.

UN-SPIDER Monthly Updates

The UN-SPIDER monthly updates are compiled at the end of each month and sent out by e-mail to all subscribers. The aim is to update subscribers on the latest UN-SPIDER and community news, and about upcoming events organized or supported by UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER. The updates present the reader with an overview or summary of the news and provides him/her with a link to the full online version. Subscribe to the Updates here: http://www.un-spider.org/mailing-list-subscribe

The Updates are also available from the GSDI Newsletter Archive at: http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#UNSPIDER.

The August UN-SPIDER Newsletter can be accessed here: http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/updates/un-spider-updates-august-2014

The GSDI Association acquired Special Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 1 May 2014, permitting GSDI to engage with ECOSOC, the United Nations Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies on activities related to GSDI's area of expertise.

WGISS-38 Meeting

WGISS-38 will be held in Moscow, Russia, September 29 to October 3, 2014. The meeting will be hosted by JSC "Russian Space Systems" and ROSCOSMOS.

WGISS (The Working Group on Information Systems and Services) is a subsidiary body supporting the Committee on Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS). WGISS promotes collaboration in the development of systems and services that manage and supply these observatory data.

WGISS creates and demonstrates prototypes supporting CEOS and Group on Earth Observation (GEO) requirements. WGISS also addresses the internal management of EO data, the creation of information systems and the delivery of interoperable services. The activities and expertise of WGISS span the full range of the information life cycle from the requirements and metadata definition for the initial ingestion of satellite data into archives through to the incorporation of derived information into end-user applications.

Gabor Remety-Fulopp, Secretary-General of GSDI Member HUNAGI, will be attending on behalf of the GSDI Association. Gabor will provide us with a short report following the meeting, to be published in a future issue of the Global Newsletter. For more information, visit: http://www.ceos.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=77&Itemid=199.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

The aim of *GIKNet* is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geospatial information and SDI community. Visit and contribute to GIKnet, including registering your own details or those of your organisation in the *Community Registry*.

The GIKNet *Community Registry* permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other institutions to record details about themselves in a central, searchable database. They can also submit documents to the searchable *Spatial Documents Depot* archive. The Community Registry currently holds profiles of nearly 700 individuals, 27 companies, 28 NGO/Non-Profits and Academic institutions, and 165 government agencies.

Spatial Docs Depot Document of the Month

PC-IDEA: SDI Manual for the Americas

This month's Spatial Doc of the Month is the "*PC-IDEA: SDI Manual for the Americas*" from the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas. The document authors included GSDI Member Natural Resources Canada via the GeoConnections initiative.

GeoConnections would like to particularly acknowledge the contributions made by Hickling Arthurs and Low Corporation - Ed Kennedy, Tatiana Delgado and Betty Anne Benes for providing research, writing and editing of the Manual, as well as Garfield Giff and Joep Crompvoets for the special chapter to support monitoring and measuring the impacts of SDI. The staff at GeoConnections who provided management, input and direction for the project were Paula McLeod, Rhian Evans, Simon Riopel and Jean Brodeur, in addition Me?lodie Bujold, Adam Balogh, Jenna Findlay and Kyra St. Pierre provided assistance in compiling the Manual.

Manual Abstract

The Manual has been developed from the decisions and work of the Working Group on Planning (GTplan) of the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC- IDEA). PC-IDEA was established based on resolutions of the 6th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (UNRCC-A) in 1997, and operates under its guidance (PC-IDEA, 2012). The primary goal of PC-IDEA is to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits of using spatial information, by exchanging knowledge, experiences and technologies of different countries, based on a common development model that allows for the establishment of an SDI in the Americas region. Further goals of PC-IDEA include:

- The establishment and development of National SDIs in each of the member countries;

- The exchange of spatial information among all members of the community of the Americas (respecting each country's autonomy, but acting in accordance with the overarching laws and policies); and
- The encouragement of cooperation, research and exchange of experiences in the areas of knowledge related to the field of geomatics.

Following a meeting of the PC-IDEA Executive Board in New York in May 2010, GTplan was created in response to the recommendations of the 9th UNRCC-A. Canada co-chairs the working group with Chile and membership includes representatives from Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Guatemala, Colombia, Canada and Chile. In 2011, GTplan conducted a survey of all PC-IDEA member countries focused on five key areas: innovation in national cartography institutes, state of qualifications, evaluation of national SDI development, state of standards and specifications, and best practices for the implementation of spatial data infrastructures. The survey results identified further needs for manuals and best practices regarding SDI implementation and assessment, and GTplan decided to proceed with the development of this manual.

The document can be downloaded for free from the GIK Network (GIKnet) Spatial Documents Depot at: http://www.giknet.org/depot/?docid=97.

To download the document, you must be logged in to the GIKnet. Membership is free and you can register here: http://www.giknet.org/register/register.php. See the directions below.

Participating in GIKNet

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

GLOBAL AND 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 ONLINE CALENDAR

GSDI's calendar of upcoming international events at http://www.gsdi.org/upcnf is a unique summary of global and regional conferences, symposiums, workshops, and other related gatherings that pertain to spatial data infrastructure, such as spatial data handling, data visualization, open data policy, research cyberinfrastructure, and RS/GIS applications. GSDI is always on the lookout to include appropriate events, so if you know about one which is not already included, feel free to submit it.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS

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 rlonghorn@gsdi.org. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to GSDI and IGS Members 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"