



GSDI REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

for the **Global Geospatial Community**
covering



Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, North America, and the Middle East & North Africa

July 2014 – Vol. 1, No. 3

The *GSDI Regional Newsletter* is a free, electronic newsletter for people interested in all aspects of implementing national and regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) around the globe. The newsletter continues the tradition of the GSDI Association's former separate regional newsletters that covered Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, from 2002 onwards. The purpose of the newsletter is to raise awareness of SDI issues and provide useful information to strengthen SDI implementation efforts and support synchronization of regional activities. The archive of all past copies of the previous regional newsletters can be accessed from the GSDI website by following the link to Newsletter Archive at gsdi.org.



You can subscribe or unsubscribe to the regional newsletter or change your email address online at <http://gsdi.org/newslist/gsdisubscribe>.



Announce your news or information!

Feel free to submit any news related to spatial data infrastructure implementation that you would like to highlight, including new tools, policies, application stories, studies or reports from your area, profession, organization, country or region. Send your contributions to the News Editor, Kate Lance, at newseditor@gsdi.org and we will try to include these in our next newsletter. Share this newsletter with anyone who may find the information useful and suggest they subscribe themselves.

Support and Contributions to this Issue

Thanks to the GSDI Association for supporting the News Editor and GSDI listserv moderator Kate Lance; GSDI Communications & Operations Manager, Roger Longhorn; and Karen Levoleger (Kadaster, Netherlands) for their contributions in creating, producing and disseminating the GSDI Regional Newsletter.

Message from the Editor



I love it when I get feedback from people who are reading the news and announcements that GSDI shares via the GSDI Regional Newsletter and GSDI's email lists. This past month, I heard from a colleague [by email, Subject heading: "Appreciated"], who wrote to tell me that he had been awarded a consultancy that he learned about from the SDI-Africa email list. I had just circulated another consulting opportunity to the list, and he said he would go for that one as well. All the more power to him for being a go-getter, and I find it rewarding to know that my efforts reached a receptive reader. Sometimes, without such feedback, it can be difficult to get a sense of how people are benefitting from these highlights.

So, by all means, write to me and let me know which materials you're finding useful (newseditor@gsdi.org).

Kate Lance, News Editor

Message from the GSDI Outreach & Membership Committee

Capacity building and geo-ICT skills development are of paramount importance for the individual members of the GSDI Association, in the International Geospatial Society (IGS). The Association is launching a survey of IGS members this month to help us focus on those topics of most interest to IGS members, so that we can more fully develop our capacity building activities throughout the rest of 2014 and into 2015. If you are interested in joining IGS, please visit the website at <http://www.igeoss.org/> and follow the various links there to find out more.

Roger Longhorn, vice-Chair, Communications, GSDI O&M Committee

Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

Mauritius: Charting its way forward to establish National Spatial Data Infrastructure



High-level officials from several ministries and public organisations gathered May 26, 2014 to discuss and chart the way forward for the establishment of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in Mauritius. The NSDI will include a platform for collecting, sharing and disseminating geospatial data which aims at facilitating access to information, free of charge, and providing a special tool for analysing, and determining solutions to the needs and requirements of national development objectives. The one-day high-level meeting was organised by the Ministry of Housing and Lands. The purpose was to sensitise stakeholders on the importance of sharing, disseminating and access to geospatial data. The high-level meeting was followed by a four-day workshop on the implementation of the NSDI in Mauritius. The workshop was conducted by resource persons from the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD). Following the workshop, the Ministry of Housing and Lands proposes in due course to set up a technical working group comprising the stakeholders to ensure the way forward as chalked out during the workshop.

Source: <http://www.gov.mu/English/News/Pages/Mauritius-to-establish-its-National-Spatial-Data-Infrastructure.aspx>

Earth Data Namibia

Welcome to the web presence of the Geological Survey of Namibia's (<http://www.mme.gov.na/gsn/default.htm>) integrated geoscience and mineral exploration database Earth Data Namibia (EDN). EDN is not a system managing mineral licences, but a reference database storing geoscientific factual and metadata, including information from more than 50 years of mineral exploration in the country. This web application allows the user to query select modules of the database (e.g. geological map, satellite imagery, aeromagnetic map, topographic map). Please note that due to the nature of this information system all mineral licences are shown with their original outlines, e.g. any reduction in size in case of licence renewal is not reflected here. To overlay the actual current licence file as updated by the Directorate of Mines choose either Granted Licences or Pending Licences. Although EDN exists since 2003 as a local public information system, this web application is a new addition and still in its development phase. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact the administrators.



Source: <http://94.100.75.105/>

Ghana: Land administration in Ghana at the crossroads



The Second Ghana Land Administration Project (LAP-2), implemented by the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, is working to ensure a coherent set of land policies and laws, a more efficient and decentralized land administration system operating throughout the country, compatible with cultural norms and practices responsive to the needs of the people, boosting economic growth, enhancing food security, improving rural livelihood and reducing poverty.

The Lands Commission, now a single entity made up by previously separate Departments like the Survey, Land Title, Valuation and the Public and Vested Land Department, currently operates under one umbrella as part of the institutional reforms and re-engineering processes to ensure timely, less cumbersome and transparent land transactions. The One-Stop-Shop and the Customer Service and Access Units of the Commission to be established in designated offices throughout the country under the Project are far advanced. In the area of House Numbering and Property Addressing, the Project has provided an amount of 3.8 million US Dollars to support the Accra Metropolitan Assembly to name its street and number its houses. The Town and Country Planning Department and the Lands Commission are working in earnest under LAP-2 to finalize the National Policy for Geodetic Reference Network which provides fundamental support for land surveying, mapping, engineering surveying and related applications. The Land Bill and the Land Use Bill are under preparation. The National Spatial Infrastructural Framework (NSDF) and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) have been developed all in an effort at ensuring a sound and sustainable human settlement planning for the country.

Two and a half years into the implementation of LAP-2, which is currently undergoing a Mid-Term Review at the Kofi Annan International IT Centre, since the Project is for 5 years, the question that the participants, made up of representatives from the World Bank, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada, (formerly CIDA) and the Government of Ghana are expected to ask and provide an answer to is whether the Project is on course to achieve its development objectives. Or better still whether the objectives are realistic, ambitious or attainable. Whichever way, the participants also have the enormous task to fashion out the way forward for the successful

implementation of the Project in their collective effort to eradicate extreme poverty, promote gender equality, empowering women and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Source: <http://www.ghanalap.gov.gh/index.php/news/320-land-administration-in-ghana-at-the-crossroads>

Nigeria: Digital mapping, a solution to the nation's insecurity

To solve some of the problems confronting the nation, especially insecurity, governments at all levels have been enjoined to invest in surveying and digital mapping of the country so as to engender sustainable development. Both the government and the private sector have also been advised to connect and collaborate with the surveying profession for the purpose of articulating holistic solutions to the numerous challenges confronting the nation.



Making the call during the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS, <http://www.nisngr.com/>) in Benin City, Edo State in May 2014, experts in surveying and land management urged the government to put in place a deliberate National Mapping Policy to promote sustainable development. The theme of the conference was: 'Connect and collaborate: Creating opportunity and awareness for spatial integration'.

In welcoming members and guests to the conference, the President, NIS, Mr. Bode Adeaga, called on the government to begin massive investment in remote sensing and digital mapping to curtail the various challenges confronting the nation "Our investment in surveying and mapping of the country is an investment in our future, in the sustainability of our economy, in the protection of our environment, in the assurance of our security and ability to adequately and appropriately respond to emergencies, and to grow a healthy and productive nation," he said. Adeaga lamented the absence of maps of various locations in the country, adding that those that most designers and policy makers relied on were already obsolete, having been prepared almost 50 years ago.

Source: <http://3investonline.com/digital-mapping-a-solution-to-nations-insecurity/> Surveyors seek national mapping policy, investment in surveying, <http://www.mydailynewswatchng.com/surveyors-seek-national-mapping-policy-investment-surveying/>

Web-Based spatial immunizeable disease surveillance system for Nigeria



Author(s): Peter Adebayo Idowu, Bernard Ijesunor Akhigbe, Kehinde Oladipo Williams, Olajide Olusegun Adeosun

International Journal of Research in Business and Technology, Vol. 4, No. 3

Abstract: The absence of spatial representation of health data often lead to poor decisions. Therefore, this paper introduces an ImDisease Surveillance System (IDSS) that can handle spatial health data using the web-based GIS capability. While ArcGIS was used to incorporate the GIS potentials; the WAMP (Window Apache MySQL and PHP) server was used to demonstrate the suitability of the system (application) to run on a local host as well as on the Internet. The health data used were randomly collected from local government areas and offices of the state ministry of health in Ekiti State as case study. Results from implementing the system showed that users were able to use the user interfaces to visualize various occurrences of immunize-able diseases; select the type of view they desired - either by local government or disease types; and graphically know the areas affected by diseases. These results - information when disseminated would assist in program planning and evaluation, and the formulation of research hypotheses for further research. We also believe that it will be useful in the deployment of health personnel and resources to address health related problems; and would also provide useful predictions.

Keywords: Disease surveillance system; Spatial health data; Geographic information system; User interfaces

Source: <http://ijrbtonline.com/index.php/ijrbt/article/view/43284>

Rwanda: National Institute of Statistics geodata



National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda

Many of the NISR's datasets are available in formats that are able to be imported directly into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software. This web page contains a list of links to download freely available geographic datasets from NISR. Most of these datasets are provided in 'shapefile' formats - containing spatial and attribute information. The 'projection' of the data is WGS 84 (aka WGS 1984, EPSG:4326) A work in progress, links to the data will be added to this page, as more data is made available in these formats.

Source: <http://www.statistics.gov.rw/geodata>

Applying the theory of planned behavior to explain geospatial data sharing for urban planning and management: cases from urban centers in Tanzania



Author(s): Alex Lubida, Petter Pilesjö, Margareta Espling & Micael Runnström
African Geographical Review, Published online: 17 March 2014 [not an open access journal]

Abstract: This paper illustrates the potential use of the theory of planned behavior as a guiding framework for understanding intentions and behavior in geospatial data sharing in Tanzania. A structured questionnaire survey, was constructed and sent to local governments as well as academic and private organizations that are major producers and/or users of geodata. The questionnaire covered issues of how collection of geodata is financed, management of geospatial data, and compatibility of spatial data-sets. The theory was found to be generally effective in accounting for intentions to share geospatial data in Tanzania ($p < .01$). Results show potential for data sharing between local governments and other organizations in Tanzania, and it is suggested that creating awareness among spatial data stakeholders and the establishment of a spatial data infrastructure policy framework will speed up geospatial data sharing.

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19376812.2014.892433>

Kenya: 2014/2015 budget to support National Land Information Management System linked to NSDI

Aimed at unlocking land potential, the Ministry plans to roll out the National Land Information Management System (NMLIS). This will provide more access to electronic data online, reducing the time and cost for accessing information. The system will enhance revenue generation, establish a digital linkage with the Kenya National Spatial Data Infrastructure (KNSDI), and provide accurate and reliable information.



Source: <http://www.kenyafidelityhousing.com/20142015-kenyan-budget-and-real-estate/>

Developing Land Information Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa: Experiences and Lessons from Uganda and Ghana

Authors/Editors: Mykhailo Cheremshynskyi and Frank F. K. Byamugisha
Agricultural Land Redistribution and Land Administration in Sub-Saharan Africa: Case Studies of Recent Reforms
Published: April 2014 [registration required prior to download], Pages: 103 - 116

Abstract: Provides a review of the efforts and experience of Ghana and Uganda in developing and implementing computerized Land Information Systems (LISs). In many Sub-Saharan African countries, the performance of land administration remains adversely affected by numerous issues, such as inefficient land transaction procedures, land administration systems fragmentation, and fraudulent practices leading to land conflicts and social instability. An LIS can provide affordable, timely, and accurate information about land resources and their quantity, quality, ownership, and use, but the establishment of such a system faces a number of challenges, including (1) a lengthy process (up to 10 years), making it vulnerable to loss of support; (2) possible resistance to change and power plays by different authorities; (3) sustainability of project results through capacity development; (4) outdated legal frameworks in land administration and a low percentage of registered land; and (5) financial support for operation and maintenance of the computerized LIS.

Source: http://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/abs/10.1596/978-1-4648-0188-4_ch5

Zambia: Observations on crop monitoring and early warning systems



Author(s): Gelson Tembo, Bernadette Chimai, Nathan Tembo, Mukelabai Ndiyoi
Journal of Agricultural Science, Vol. 6, No. 3

Abstract: A good early warning system is one that provides timely planning information to a diverse set of stakeholders. While policy makers need very concise messages for quick decisions, aid and development agencies need very specific and detailed information which can help them in programming at grass-roots level. This paper reviews Zambia's crop monitoring and early warning systems and suggests practical ways to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, taking advantage of existing and potential synergistic and institutional opportunities.

Keywords: early warning systems, crop monitoring, crop production forecasts, Zambia

Source: <http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/jas/article/view/34345/19590>

Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) News, June 2014



Quarterly Newsletter of the AUC-MESA Project, June 2014, Volume 1, No. 1

The MESA program (<http://mesa.au.int/mesa/>) uses space-based and in situ Earth Observation data and GIS techniques to enable an improved management of the environment and security at continental, regional, and national levels in Africa. It builds on the Meteorological Transition in Africa (MTAP/PUMA) project and the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) program.

Source: http://www.agrhymet.ne/PDF/mesaNews2014/MESA_NewsJune.pdf

Geology and mineral information systems experts to meet in Addis Ababa



Experts working in the area of African geology and mineral information Systems will assemble in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from July 8-10. The meeting will take place amidst a growing consensus among experts that there is a lack of geological map coverage at appropriate scales across many African countries. In addition, there is a generally limited capacity currently available to fill these gaps through for example, field mapping, geophysical data acquisition and processing, and spatial data management among others.

Source: <http://www.uneca.org/media-centre/stories/geology-and-mineral-information-systems-experts-meet-addis-ababa>

Vacancy: Senior GIS Coordinator, IFPRI, Senegal

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) seeks a qualified candidate to serve as a Senior GIS Coordinator for its country **Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) project** for a one-year, fixed-term, exempt, renewable appointment. The position reports to the Office Head, East and Southern Africa Regional Office and is based in Dakar, Senegal. IFPRI is currently working with the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) to establish SAKSS nodes in 12 African countries. Country SAKSS nodes provide policy-relevant analyses, data, and tools to improve policymaking, fill knowledge gaps, promote dialogue, and facilitate benchmarking and review processes associated with the implementation agenda of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

The successful candidate will work closely with ReSAKSS nodes in east, southern and west Africa to coordinate IFPRI's capacity strengthening support to enable country SAKSS nodes to i) acquire necessary geographic information systems (GIS) and economic analysis tools and platforms, ii) develop the IT infrastructure for GIS, iii) develop GIS and economic analysis expertise, and iv) conduct GIS and economic analysis activities.

Source: <http://ch.tb.taleo.net/CH13/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=IFPRI&cws=37&rid=1418>

Postgraduate Training Fellowships for Women Scientists from Sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDC) at Centres of Excellence in the South

This fellowship programme is for female students from Sub-Saharan Africa or Least Developed Countries (LDCs) who wish to pursue postgraduate training in a field of the natural sciences leading to a doctorate degree at a centre of excellence in the South outside their own country.

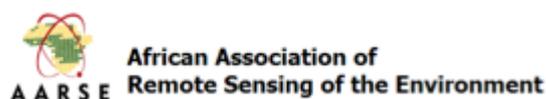
Please read the following information carefully before applying:

- Only women scientists from Sub-Saharan Africa and/or one of the Least Developed Countries can apply.
- Host institutions must be located in a developing country.
- Applications that are incomplete or illegible cannot be considered. Please make sure all the requested enclosures are submitted together with your application.

Deadline for applications: **15 August 2014.**

Source: <https://owsd.ictp.it/activities/postgraduate-training-fellowships>

Call for Expressions of Interest to host AARSE 2016 Conference



The African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE, <http://africanremotesensing.org>) invites expression of interest from national institutional members and/or other organizations/agencies in Africa for the hosting/organization of the

11th Conference of the Association in 2016, 2018 and 2020. The conference is usually held in the month of October (of every even-number year).

It should be noted that AARSE does not provide funds for the hosting organization but the Association can and will solicit for international funding on behalf of the organization towards a successful hosting of the conference, and provide guidance to the Local Organising Committee on soliciting sponsorships and commercial exhibitors within the host country. The AARSE Executive Council plans to reach a decision on a host country and organization at the AARSE 2014 conference taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 27th to 31st October 2014, therefore each applicant will be expected to attend and make a presentation to the AARSE Executive Council during the conference. However, discussions will be ongoing until suitable hosting arrangements have been finalized. The expression of interest should be sent latest by **1 September 2014**.

Source: <http://africanremotesensing.org/Resources/Documents/CallForEoItoHostAARSE2016.pdf>

Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

Indonesia (Sumatra): Successful completion of acquisition & production of geospatial data for the NSDI



PASCO Corporation (Tokyo, Japan) started acquisition and production of geospatial data in Indonesia from December 2010 and successfully completed on June 14th, 2014 on schedule by completing deliverables to the Indonesian Government. The data created is comparable to data for national land of Japan. The Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), towards the development of National Geo-Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), formulated and entered into contract in March, 2007. The Government represented by the Agency for Geo-Spatial Information (BIG) concluded a contract for the NSDI Development Project (IP-544): Component 1: Acquisition and Production of Geo-Spatial Data of Sumatra Island with PASCO in December, 2010 and PASCO developed Geospatial data at a scale of 1:50,000 covering 303,439 sq.km of Sumatra Island equivalent to 64% of whole island, and at a scale of 1:10,000 covering 4 cities.

Sumatra Island has tropical rainforest climate and there are difficulties to acquire aerial images by optical cameras due to easy influence of the weather conditions. PASCO therefore acquired the aerial images from X-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensor mounted on the airplane. PASCO's accumulated processing technology of TerraSAR-X satellite since 2007 was utilized for mapping from SAR images. Moreover archived imageries of Advance Land Observation Satellite (ALOS) "Daichi", which was in operation from 2006 to 2011, were utilized as the reference information and 300 local engineers were employed for this project to develop the data equal to entire land of Japan (approx. 377,961 sq.km).

The developed data will be accessible by the concerned government ministries within the national data sharing system in Indonesia. These geospatial data will be applicable toward national land development, natural resources management, environment conservation, and disaster prevention as important infrastructural information.

Source: <http://www.pasco.co.jp/eng/press/2014/download/PPR20140625E.pdf>

Thailand: Training held on online mapping system for public exchange and use of geospatial information



In support of the development of the ThaiSDI, the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency provided training on June 2-3, 2014 on the online mapping system for public exchange and use of geospatial information.

Source: http://thaisdi.gistda.or.th/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=173

Pakistan: Crop Information Portal

The Crop Information Portal is a component of the Pakistan Agriculture Information System. It is being developed by SUPARCO and FAO to support Crop Reporting Services in data and information dissemination on Pakistan's major crops (wheat, maize, rice, cotton and sugarcane) and agro-meteorological conditions affecting crop growth. The Portal makes available to Web users the historical archive and the latest produced crop and agro-meteorological data aggregated at district/province scale and integrated with satellite based information into a GIS-like environment. The Portal allows advanced filtering of the data archive based on the combination of user defined spatial and temporal parameters, focusing on specific crops or environmental factors, which are stored into the system, to produce standard outputs such as summary tables, maps, charts and user defined reports.



See prototype: <http://84.33.2.75/MapStore/>

See also: Land Cover Punjab / Sindh, http://dwms.fao.org/~test/dat_landcover_en.asp SUPARCO, in collaboration with FAO-Land and Water Division, recently has completed the detailed land cover/ land use database of Punjab and Sindh provinces using Remotely Sensed data and GIS technologies. It represents the first step in a national mapping programme, which aims at producing a comprehensive, harmonized and detailed land cover database for multiple purposes.

Source: http://dwms.fao.org/~test/geo_portal_en.asp

International Conference on Space (ICS-2014), September 8-10, 2014, Islamabad, Pakistan



Pakistan's Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), in collaboration with the Institute of Space Technology (IST) is organizing International Conference on Space (ICS-2014). The Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences & Technology (ISNET) will co-sponsor the Conference. Sequel to the first Space Conference held in September 2012, the International Conference is a biennial event.

The theme of ICS-2014 is *Space for Development*, with focus on how emerging space-faring nations can effectively apply space-derived techniques and solutions to solve a complex of development issues. ICS-2014 promises to be a complete package for space professionals, decision-makers, academicians, researchers and scientists as well as students of space sciences and technologies to showcase their achievements, share experiences and voice their opinions on important space and development issues in a highly interactive and cross-disciplinary environment.

Source: <http://www.suparco.gov.pk/pages/ics-2014.asp>

Australia: Duties of Office of Spatial Policy transferred to Dept of Communications



The Department of Communications has emerged as the closest thing to a winner in the 2014-15 Budget, with a raft of new responsibilities added to its remit. The Government has decided to transfer the functions of the Office of Spatial Policy from the Department of Industry into Communications. It maintains that Department of Communications is a better fit for the spatial data management functions, which can now be leveraged alongside its support for the e-Government agenda and the rollout of the National Broadband Network.

Source: <http://www.ga.gov.au/about-us/news-media/news-2014/govhack-promoting-open-access-to-our-data2.html>

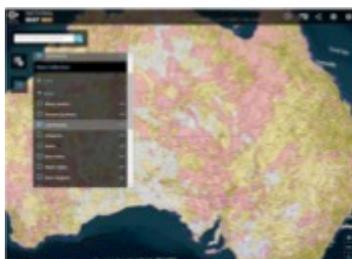
Australia: Government's new spatial data catalogue FIND released

Geoscience Australia announced the release of the Australian Government's new spatial data catalogue FIND (<http://find.ga.gov.au/>). FIND provides better access to a network of open government data, in conjunction with data.gov.au. The site will replace the 'aging' Australian Spatial Data Directory (ASDD) which will be pulled down in August 2014. The catalogue allows search and download of a wide range of spatially-referenced datasets created by both the Australian and State and Territory Governments. The catalogue will be expanded as new partners come online. Currently, the beta version of the site has been launched and is open for comments and feedback.

On 3 June, Geoscience Australia sponsored a prize for the best science hack – using government data for great scientific outcomes and helping people engage in, understand and use scientific information in their everyday lives.

Source: <http://www.geospatialworld.net/News/View.aspx?ID=29182> Article

Australia: Government launches national map to visualize open data



The Australian government has launched an open source browser-based map which allows citizens and businesses to easily visualise open data from agencies across the government. "This is a central application that integrates data from various providers - including open government directory (data.gov.au), federal and state government departments - and helps users to visualise it on a central browser-based platform, said Tim Mackey, Enterprise Architect, GeoScience Australia. The prototype was showcased at the recent Data Jam.

The national map is part of an initiative by the Office of Spatial Policy to provide the public with an authoritative open-source data tool, he added. “The data service should be multi-jurisdiction, multi-vendor, multi-custodian, multi-format, and in an open framework.”

To ensure that the national map can be used by non-technical users, the user interface is made simple so users can easily browse and search for the data they want. In the demonstration, Mackey showed how users can zoom and tilt the map, and choose data by type or source. Users can also perform 3D data visualisation.

Currently the data sets come from the Bureau of Meteorology, Bureau of Statistics and GeoScience Australia. Mackey expects to integrate new datasets in the coming months. Users can also upload and visualise their own datasets on the map. The National Map is still in beta testing and will be officially launched in its production mode after GovHack event, 11-13 July 2014.

The development of the National Map is being led by the Australian Government Department of Communications - Spatial Policy Branch in conjunction with NICTA and Geoscience Australia.

Several governments in Asia have launched similar web-based national maps, including Singapore’s OneMap (<http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2013/jun/07/singapores-onemap-journey-think-big-start-small-sc/>), The Philippine Geoportal (<http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2012/aug/23/philippines-embarks-one-map-journey/>), and Indonesia’s Ina-Geoportal (<http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2013/sep/30/indonesias-one-map-journey/>).

Source: <http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2014/jun/24/australia-government-launches-national-map-visuali/>

Pacific: CROP agencies and international stakeholders highlight significance of spatial data for region

A broad range of geospatial data experts, managers and stakeholders from the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), as well as partner agencies convened for the 2nd CROP Spatial Data Infrastructure meeting. The session was held at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Suva on June 17th to 18th 2014. The meeting was opened by Prof Michael Petterson, Director of SPC’s Applied GeoScience and Technology Division (AGTD), where he highlighted the various challenges facing effective geospatial data management in the Pacific. Such challenges cited were under-skilled staff, limited understanding by responsible personnel of available datasets, and obsolete formats of residing data. He encouraged the meeting to bring about some positive outcomes to address these and the many other challenges.

Participants reviewed current spatial data systems within CROP agencies to find ways to harmonize current efforts and to identify opportunities for future collaboration. SPC’s PacGeo, Open Access Data Repository for the Pacific, was showcased, along with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) ongoing efforts to develop <http://ESIS.sprep.org>, an Open Access Repository for Pacific Environmental data. The meeting also addressed ways to promote and strengthen avenues for standardised, cost-effective data sharing across agencies and Pacific Island countries, in order to reduce duplication of data collection and management efforts. In-depth discussions around achieving the Pacific Oceanscape Framework Strategic Priorities also were held, in particular building the political will to invest in spatial data infrastructures in order to achieve some of the priorities. One key result of the meeting was the decision to standardise global data standards across sister agencies, and enable secure data access within agencies, inter-agencies and externally.

Around 20 participants attended the two-day meeting from SPC’s AGTD, SPC’s Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division, University of Sydney, GRID Arendal, GeoScience Australia, GIZ, SPREP, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and CSIRO. This consultation is part of a broader technical collaboration between the agencies involved across a broad range of disciplines.

Presentations from the meeting can be accessed at <http://www.sopac.org/sopac/gis/UserForumJune/>

For further information contact: Sachindra Singh, ICT for Development Section, Applied GeoScience and Technology Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community – sachindras@spc.int

Source: GIS-PacNet, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Suva, <http://www.sopac.org/index.php/media-releases/1-latest-news/570-crop-agencies-and-international-stakeholders-highlight-the-significance-of-spatial-data-for-the-pacific>

Europe Region SDI News

Germany: Current GDI-DE Newsletter (June 2014) is available for download



The newsletter covers: Current state of implementation of INSPIRE; Geodata of Public Utilities in the GDI Saxony; Interview series with GDI actors in Brandenburg; Local network GDI: INSPIRE as a joint task; Energy Atlas Bavaria with 3D analysis; New version of Geoportal Brandenburg; Closing ceremony of the project GeoBAK 2.0; More than just maps; BKG provides new political maps "states of the earth" and "the States of Europe" is available; GDI Forum North Rhine-Westphalia; Common CityGML ADE Energy Workshop; 10 GeoForum MV 2014; Second Congress of the IT Planning Council; Brochure "3D city models"; Renaming the Municipal Survey Office Munich.

Source: http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/GDI-DE-Aktuelles/2014/Newsletter_GDI-DE_Juni_2014.html

Spain: Presentación de la IDE de Aragón / Introducing the SDI of Aragon



El Centro de Información Territorial de Aragón, CINTA (<http://www.aragon.es/cinta>), ha anunciado la puesta en marcha del nuevo portal de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Aragón, IDEAragón (<http://idearagon.aragon.es/>). IDEAragón significa un paso adelante en la evolución del SITAR en términos de ergonomía, accesibilidad, interoperabilidad y servicio a la sociedad aragonesa. Su nacimiento viene marcado por la necesidad de conseguir los objetivos marcados desde la Directiva Europea 2007/2/CE INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe), la Ley 14/2010, de 5 de julio, sobre las infraestructuras y los servicios de información geográfica en España (LISIGE) y el Decreto 208/2010 de Ordenación de la Información Geográfica en Aragón, que tienen por objeto hacer disponible información geográfica relevante, concertada y de calidad de forma que mejore la gestión territorial.

English summary: The Land Information Centre of Aragon, TAPE, has announced the launch of the new portal of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Aragon, IDEAragón. IDEAragón is a step forward in the evolution of SITAR in terms of ergonomics, accessibility, interoperability and service to the Aragonese society. His birth is marked by the need to achieve the objectives from the European Directive 2007/2/EC INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe), the Law 14/2010, of 5 July, on infrastructure and information services Geographic in Spain (LISIGE) and Decree 208/2010 of Geographic Information Management in Aragon, which aim at making available relevant, coordinated and quality geographic information so as to improve land management.

Source: <http://www.nosolosig.com/noticias/335-presentacion-de-la-ide-de-aragon>

Luxembourg: Geoportal of the National Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



The Geoportal of the National Grand Duchy of Luxembourg offers an interactive map portal, with thematic map windows, http://www.geoportal.lu/Portail/site_them.jsp?lang=en.

Source: <http://www.geoportail.lu/Portail/>

Northern Ireland: Portal launched for public sector location data

Finance Minister Simon Hamilton MLA officially launched on June 4, 2014 online access to government's geographic information. Spatial NI, created by the Department of Finance and Personnel's Land & Property Services (LPS), provides a centralised portal for the majority of Northern Ireland's public sector location data. Users can now view online detailed mapping and aerial imagery of Northern Ireland, which helps to inform the location of public services such as schools and hospitals.

Spatial NI provides an intuitive map maker facility and additional features for sharing and displaying maps via social media and email. It can be used by both technical and non-technical users who wish to use geographic information within their own business areas.

The Spatial NI portal was initially developed by LPS in order to comply with the EU INSPIRE Directive and has recently been enhanced. Further information on what Spatial NI has to offer and access to the 'make a map' facility is available on the Spatial NI website: <http://www.spatialni.gov.uk/>

The portal will allow visitors under licence to view online freely, explore, interrogate and develop a wide range of data relating to Northern Ireland. The Crown data accessed in Spatial NI belongs to the Crown and is protected by Crown Copyright and database rights. The data accessed may also contain third party information that remains the property of

the third party and is supplied to Spatial NI under Licence. A commercial license is required to use a number of the datasets in commercial applications.

Source: <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news-dfp-040614-hamilton-launches-online>

Malta: Environmental data collated in new geoportal system



The latest environmental data has been put together and collated in a new geoportal information system, giving the chance to the public, businesses and voluntary groups to access the data and analyse it. Launched by Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA), chairman Vince Cassar explained that it would help associations and the public take conscious decisions and instigate change when equipped with credible, regular and timely information about the state of the Maltese environment. The website, www.seismalta.org.mt, presents highly complex data about air, marine, soil and planning in an easy to understand format. It will also be useful to policy makers. This geoportal is the final component of a €5 million EU funded project on environmental monitoring. Called Developing National Environmental Infrastructure and Capacity, the project focused on radically improving the monitoring capacity of air, water, radiation, noise, soil and marine. The project was headed by MEPA in collaboration with the university, the National Statistics Office, the directorate for environmental health and the Malta Resources Authority.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20140604/local/environmental-data-collated-in-new-geoportal-system.521953>

Western Balkans: SIDA grant to support cadastre agencies in SDI development

The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) signed an agreement for a grant worth €4.2 million with the directors of cadastre agencies from the Western Balkans. The agreement was signed in Tirana, Albania during the 7th Regional Conference on Cadastre and Spatial Data Infrastructure. The funds provided by SIDA will support the implementation of IMPULSE, a regional project designed to establish National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), including a registry of streets and house numbers and a registry of real estate prices and rents. The project will be implemented over a period of 2014-2018; it contains a total of 6 work packages which support the agencies involved in the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive, providing technical interoperability, exchange and sharing of geospatial data on a national and regional level. Funds are to be allocated to the six countries of the Western Balkans (Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania).

Source: <http://kurir.mk/en/?p=33258> & <http://katarstar.gov.mk/mk/News.aspx?Id=1371>

Development of local spatial data infrastructure in Croatia



Author(s): Željko Hećimovića*, Slaven Marasovićb & Joep Crompvoets

Journal of Spatial Science, Published online: 27 May 2014 [not an open access journal]

Abstract: This work provides insight into the Croatian Local Spatial Data Infrastructure (LSDI). Field data collected in 2012 by means of a questionnaire formed the basis of this work. The questionnaire respondents were Croatian cities. The results were analysed according to city population, city budget and city area. An analysis was also performed according to European Union Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics 2 regions. Analysis showed significant LSDI differences between bigger and smaller cities. Some of the LSDI indicators are more suitable for Croatian relations than other. The indicators used and the analysis of their reliability could be adopted in other countries.

Keywords: SDI, LSDI, local government, SDI development, data survey

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14498596.2014.908424#.U4zc8PmzH1c>

EU enhances commercial access to Earth observation data

Businesses and research institutions will soon have more reliable access to commercial earth observation satellite data, according to a proposal presented by the European Commission in Brussels in June 2014. It aims to ensure better access to high resolution earth observation satellite data (HRSD) in particular, which, together with HRSD-based applications, are an essential tool for environment monitoring, urban planning, agriculture, natural resources management and disaster and emergency management, as well as for security and defence. Today regulations governing commercial activities using HRSD differ between EU Member States. This situation creates obstacles to market development as it hampers access to data vital by related businesses: including data resellers, data processors, value-adding service providers and software developers. Today's proposal aims to improve business conditions for such companies in Europe and to partially harmonise rules defining HRSD and related transparency and standards in the EU.

European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, commented that: *“The use of satellite imagery is an important and fast growing business. This Directive will facilitate commercial Earth observation and access to satellite data within the EU, accelerating the development of this innovative sector and the creation of new products and services. Our economy will benefit from increased competition by improving free circulation of satellite data throughout the EU.”*

The Directive covers the commercial side of EU space policy in Earth observation. It complements the Copernicus programme, which is the EU's Earth observation programme. Copernicus will ensure the regular observation and monitoring of Earth sub-systems, the atmosphere, oceans, and continental surfaces, and that will provide reliable, validated and guaranteed information in support of a broad range of environmental and security applications and decisions.

Next steps: This proposal will now be examined by the EU Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. If successful, Member States would then have to adapt their national law, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by end of 2017.

Source: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-688_en.htm?locale=en

Presentations from INSPIRE Conference 2014, held 18-20 June 2014, Aalborg, Denmark



The 8th annual INSPIRE Conference, organised by the JRC, DG ENV and the European Environment Agency, took place from 16 to 20 June in Aalborg, Denmark. Over 550 participants, from 44 countries, came together to discuss their different national INSPIRE implementation strategies and initiatives.

The workshop presentations can be downloaded at this link:

http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2014/index.cfm/page/wsl#c_26_51

The parallel sessions presentations can be downloaded here:

http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2014/page/oral

The plenary session presentations are available from this link:

http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2014/page/plenary

Public consultation on sharing spatial information in Europe shows benefits and obstacles

Better data retrieval and access, greater interoperability of data and improved coordination across the EU top the list of benefits perceived by both data producers and users of spatial information on the environment. Key changes suggested refer to improving communication and coordination, and to reducing the complexity of technical specifications as much as possible.

These are some of the findings of a public consultation carried out by the JRC and the European Commission's Directorate General Environment (DG ENV) to support a mid-term evaluation of the 2007 INSPIRE Directive which sets the guidelines for the sharing of spatial data for environmental policies and the creation of a pan-European platform by 2020. INSPIRE stands for Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community.

In its role as technical coordinator of the INSPIRE Directive, the JRC carried out the public consultation with a survey on the experience of producers and users of spatial data. The survey took place in late 2013 and early 2014. According to the 700 questionnaires returned, the INSPIRE Directive is seen to be starting to address key barriers that prevent the efficient sharing and use of spatial information. Respondents estimated that progress has been made in documenting data and making them available through web services. The survey also highlighted the delays incurred by Member States' public administrations in putting measures in place to improve data sharing.

See: JRC final report on the INSPIRE Public Consultation 2014, at:

http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/reports/consultations/INSPIRE_Public_Consultation_Report_final.pdf

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/public-consultation-sharing-spatial-information-europe-shows-benefits-and-obstacles>

Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

Argentina: IDERA Encuentro de Grupos de Trabajo 2014, 21 y 22 de Agosto. Termas de Río Hondo, Provincia de Santiago del Estero



Argentina's SDI working groups are scheduled to meet August 21-22, 2014.

Source: <http://www.idera.gob.ar/portal/node/228>

Colombia: Primer Foro ICDE – Tendencias en la gestión de la información geoespacial



Enfocado en las “Tendencias en la Gestión de la Información Espacial”, el primer foro de la infraestructura de datos espaciales ICDE, organizado por el comité coordinador de la ICDE, presidido por el Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi-IGAC, se realizó exitosamente durante el jueves 29 y viernes 30 de mayo de 2014.

Las conferencias realizadas en el foro ya se encuentran disponibles en el siguiente vínculo: <http://www.icde.org.co/web/guest/foro-icde-memorias>. También puede acceder a la galería de fotos y contenido relacionado a través del botón memorias “I FORO ICDE” ubicado en la página principal.

See also: Exitosa instalación del primer foro de la Infraestructura Colombiana de Datos Espaciales, <http://www.icde.org.co/web/guest/noticias>

Source: <http://www.ideca.gov.co/index.php?q=es/content/primer-foro-icde-%E2%80%93-tendencias-en-la-gesti%C3%B3n-de-la-informaci%C3%B3n-geoespacial>

Colombia: Nuevos retos para la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Colombia

Al finalizar el ciclo de conferencias del Foro, en la tarde del 30 de mayo de 2014, se llevó a cabo la reunión plenaria de la ICDE. En ella se plantearon y discutieron los pasos a seguir en el marco del proceso de implementación de políticas y estándares de la información geográfica por parte de los sectores definidos en el CONPES 3585 de 2009.

English summary: New challenges for spatial data infrastructure of Colombia

At the end of the lecture the Forum, on the afternoon of May 30, 2014, was held the plenary session of the ICDE. It was raised and discussed the next steps in the framework of the implementation of policies and standards for geographic information by the areas defined by the 3585 CONPES 2009.

Source: <http://www.icde.org.co/web/guest/noticias>

Bolivia: Inician las reuniones de los grupos de trabajo del Comité Interinstitucional de la IDE-EPB



El 23 de mayo inician las reuniones de los grupos de trabajo del Comité Interinstitucional de la IDE-EPB (Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia). Tras una amplia convocatoria a todas las instituciones y unidades descentralizadas que conforman el aparato estatal, cada uno de los grupos aprobados en la última reunión (31 de marzo de 2014) cuenta con un número de componentes, quienes empezaran a reunirse de acuerdo a las fechas mencionadas en este artículo, para comenzar a trabajar en el área temática que corresponde a cada grupo.

23 de mayo	Grupo 2: Metadatos, http://geo.gob.bo/?Se-reunion-el-grupo-de-trabajo-2
27 de mayo	Grupo 4: Arquitectura e interoperabilidad, http://geo.gob.bo/?Alcances-de-la-primera-reunion-del
30 de mayo	Grupo 1: Datos fundamentales
3 de junio	Grupo 6: Sistema de referencia oficial
5 de junio	Grupo 8: Fortalecimiento tecnológico y desarrollo
6 de junio	Grupo 7: Banco de imágenes e información raster
11 de junio	Grupo 5: Política de datos y seguimiento
13 de junio	Grupo 3: Marco legal y acuerdos interinstitucionales

Se espera que los acuerdos y resultados de las reuniones de cada grupo de trabajo sean consensuadas en la segunda reunión del Comité Interinstitucional de este año, a llevarse aproximadamente en el mes de julio. Si desea conocer más acerca de los Grupos de Trabajo y sus tareas, se recomienda consultar el siguiente document: http://geo.gob.bo/IMG/pdf/grupos_trabajo.pdf

Así mismo, se convoca a los usuarios de GeoBolivia, miembros de instituciones privadas, unidades académicas,

fundaciones y usuarios en general; a la 1ra reunión del Comité de Usuarios de la IDE-EPB, a llevarse el día viernes 27 de junio del presente en inmediaciones de la Vicepresidencia del Estado.

English summary: Bolivia's inter-institutional SDI committee, GeoBolivia, began a series of working group meetings in late May 2014, which are continuing through mid-June. Agreements and results of the meetings of each of the eight working groups are expected in July. The working groups focus on: 1) Metadata, 2) Architecture and interoperability, 3) Basic data, 4) Official reference system, 5) Strengthening and technological development, 6) Bank of images and raster information, 7) Policy and monitoring data, 8) Legal framework and institutional agreements. GeoBolivia also is calling users, members of private institutions, academic units, foundations and general users to the 1st meeting of the Members of the IDE-EPB, to take place on Friday, June 27 in the offices of the Vice President of the State.

Source: <http://geo.gob.bo/?Inician-las-reuniones-de-los>

Brazil: IBGE releases vector maps of Rondônia and Northeast Region



IBGE (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística) published a series of digital vector files (shape files that can be handled by users), as a result of the surveys on Land Use and Cover in Rondônia and on Surface and Subterranean Hydrogeology and Hydrochemistry in the Northeast Region. These and other maps can be accessed on link <http://mapas.ibge.gov.br/en/>.

The Land Use and Cover map of Rondônia details the file released in 2013 with a scale of 1:1,000,000 (1cm = 10km). Now it is presented in vector format with a scale of 1:250,000 (1cm = 2.5km), so as to allow the users to better handle it. The access is on link ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.br/mapas_tematicos/uso_da_terra/unidades_federacao/shape/RO/. Also in vector format, the maps of Hydrochemistry of the Surface and Subterranean Wellheads and the Hydrogeology Map of the Northeast Region allow users to better handle them. They were originally released in PDF format in December 2013, with a scale of 1:2,500,000 (1cm = 25km).

The three maps bring information on aquifers and on the quality of subterranean and surface waters in this region. As the most deprived region in terms of water resources, the maps will provide subsidies for planning actions and for the rational use of water resources. The access link is ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.br/mapas_tematicos/recursos_hidricos/regionais. All the maps will be soon available for consultation at the INDE website - National Spatial Data Infrastructure, on link www.visualizador.inde.gov.br.

Source: <http://saladeimprensa.ibge.gov.br/en/noticias?idnoticia=2649&view=noticia>

Brasil: El Ministerio de Agricultura pone a disposición datos espaciales



Para atender de forma eficiente al sector, el Ministerio de Agricultura, Agropecuaria y Abastecimiento (Mapa) anunció que está invirtiendo en la territorialización de políticas e iniciativas. En este sentido, entre las principales iniciativas se destaca la adhesión a la Infraestructura Nacional de Datos Espaciales (Inde).

A partir de la adhesión, el Ministerio de la Agricultura podrá poner a disposición los datos en el sitio web de Inde (www.inde.gov.br) y utilizar las herramientas disponibles, como un visualizador que permite trabajar con varias capas de datos – tanto del Mapa como de otros órganos – en un mismo mapa.

English summary: To efficiently serve the agriculture sector, the Ministry of Agriculture has announced that it is investing in spatial policies and initiatives. In this sense, it is aligning to the country's NSDI. It is integrating its spatial data and making it available via the the NSDI website (www.inde.gov.br).

Source: <http://mundogeo.com/es/blog/2014/06/23/el-ministerio-de-agricultura-de-brasil-pone-a-disposicion-datos-espaciales/>

Venezuela: Bs 8 millones se invierten en la Infraestructura de Data Espacial



El director de Planificación de la Gobernación del estado Nueva Esparta, Mario Escalante, confía en que a través de la Infraestructura de Data Espacial (Idene), se multipliquen los datos que se manejen en la región, a los cuales tendrá acceso el público en general a través del portal oficial del Ejecutivo regional. La inversión, canalizada por el Consejo Federal de Gobierno (CFG), está ya aprobada y el desarrollo del proyecto incluye la instalación de una sala situacional en la isla de Margarita, dijo. Estima que todo este programa pueda concretarse en el curso del presente año. Se dispondrá del nodo que nos va a conectar con el servidor principal de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Venezuela, Ideven.

Esta última “tiene como objetivo facilitar la disponibilidad, el acceso y uso de los datos, metadatos y servicios

geográficos normalizados a toda la administración pública, sector privado, universidades y público en general, brindándoles la posibilidad de integrar sus propios datos, metadatos, y servicios en esta infraestructura de datos espaciales”, de acuerdo con el sitio www.geoportalsb.gob.ve.

Cuando haya todo el flujo de información, el público podrá acceder a los datos a través de la página institucional de la Gobernación (www.nuevaesparta.gob.ve). Incluso, los Consejos Comunales podrán acceder a las cartas comunales, y tener a la mano información sobre los distintos espacios. “Se logrará a través del mismo servidor, porque éste tendrá infinidad de aplicaciones. Estamos realmente entusiasmados”, dijo. Escalante explicó que el Instituto Geográfico de Venezuela Simón Bolívar (www.igvsb.gob.ve) viene trabajando desde hace un par de años con toda la información de Nueva Esparta, la cual es procesada progresivamente y es digitalizada.

English summary: B 8 million invested in Spatial Data Infrastructure

The Director of Planning of the Government of Nueva Esparta state, Mario Escalante hopes that through the Spatial Data Infrastructure (Idene), data that are managed in the region, which have access to the general public multiply through the official website of the regional executive. The investment, channeled by the Federal Council of Government (CFG), is already approved and the project includes the installation of a situation room on the island of Margarita, said. He will have the node that is going to connect to the primary server for the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Venezuela, IDEVEN.

The latter "is to facilitate the availability, access and use of data, metadata and standardized geographic services to the entire general public administration, private sector, universities and by providing the ability to integrate their own data, metadata, and services in this spatial data infrastructure," according to the site www.geoportalsb.gob.ve.

When you have all the flow of information, the public can access the data via the corporate site of the Interior (www.nuevaesparta.gob.ve). Even the communal councils can access the community cards, and have on hand information about the different areas. "This will be achieved through the same server, because this will have many applications. I'm really excited," he said.

Escalante said the Geographic Institute of Venezuela Simón Bolívar (www.igvsb.gob.ve) has been working for a couple of years ago with all the information of Nueva Esparta, which is processed and is progressively scanned.

Source: <http://www.elsoldemargarita.com.ve/posts/post/id:134389/Bs-8-millones-se-invierten-en-la-Infraestructura-de-Data-Espacial>

Panama: Crearán Centro de Excelencia en SIG



Esri se comprometió en colaborar con la Autoridad Nacional para la Innovación Gubernamental (AIG) para crear un Centro de Excelencia en Sistemas de Información Geográfica (CESIG). "El compromiso se da mediante un segundo Memorando de Entendimiento, firmado entre las partes, luego del éxito logrado en un primer memorando similar, que logró el desarrollo e implementación del Sistema de Información Geográfica Nacional denominado GEORED", explicó Manuel Quintero, especialista de AIG.

El objetivo fundamental del Centro será brindar el soporte y liderazgo técnico que faciliten la innovación en el uso de tecnologías de información geográfica en las instituciones gubernamentales. La estructura contará con personal técnico capacitado para impulsar el uso y aplicación de estas tecnologías de manera que brinden apoyo a la toma de decisiones y garanticen el desarrollo de aplicaciones orientadas a los ciudadanos.

También se tiene programado definir un plan de capacitación y transferencia de tecnología que habilitará a la AIG a cumplir la misión fundamental de este innovador Centro, cuya ubicación será en Ciudad del Saber; punto de referencia para la investigación y desarrollo de nuevas tecnologías.

English summary: Creating a Center of Excellence in GIS

Esri pledged to work with the National Authority for Government Innovation (AIG) to create a Center of Excellence in Geographic Information Systems (CESIG). "Commitment is given by a second Memorandum of Understanding signed between the parties, after the first success in a similar memorandum, which managed the development and implementation of National Geographic Information System called GEORED" said Manuel Quintero, AIG specialist. The main objective of the Centre will provide support and technical leadership to facilitate innovation in the use of geographic information technologies in government institutions. The Center will have trained staff to promote the use and application of these technologies so as to provide support for decision-making and ensure the development of citizen-oriented applications. It will also define a plan for training and technology transfer to enable AIG to meet the core mission of this innovative Center, whose location will be at the City of Knowledge; a key location for research and development of new technologies.

Source: <http://www.innovacion.gob.pa/noticia/2192>

Panama: Realizan Open Geodata Festival 2014

El Centro de Acceso a la Información Panamá Corea en la Ciudad de Saber, Clayton, fue escenario del primer evento de publicación de Datos Geográficos Abiertos denominado “Open Geodata Festival 2014”. Este evento que se desarrolló en modalidad de “Hackathon”, contó con la participación de más de 12 instituciones del estado las cuales forman parte de la Infraestructura Panameña de Datos Espaciales (IPDE). Durante el desarrollo de este innovador evento, se logró publicar más de 30 nuevas capas de información en la Plataforma GEORED del Sistema de Información Geográfica Nacional.

En esta oportunidad los participantes recibieron una jornada de capacitación y el apoyo técnico de Especialistas de la Empresa Esri Panama y de Esri Latinoamérica, para posteriormente asignarles objetivos los cuales debían realizarse en un tiempo determinado. Esta nueva experiencia permitió crear un mejor ambiente de colaboración entre las instituciones del estado, en lo referente a compartir sus datos geográficos. Ver los detalles del Proyecto GEORED y acceder a la plataforma visitando el sitio web: <http://www.innovacion.gob.pa/geored>.

English summary: Open Geodata Festival 2014 held

The Center for Information Access in Korea Panama City Saber, Clayton, was the scene of the first event of Geographic Data Open publication called "Open Geodata Festival 2014." This event took place in form of "Hackathon" featured involving more than 12 institutions of the state which are part of the Panamanian Spatial Data Infrastructure (IPDE). During the development of this innovative event, managed to publish over 30 new layers of information in GEORED Platform System National Geographic Information. At this event, the participants received a day of training and technical support from specialists from Esri Panama and Esri Latin America, and later assigned objectives which needed to be done in a certain time. This new experience helped create a better environment for collaboration between state institutions, in relation to share geographic data. See details of the GEORED project and access the platform by visiting the website <http://www.innovacion.gob.pa/geored>.

Source: <http://www.innovacion.gob.pa/noticia/2180>

Trinidad: State-commissioned aerial mapping exercise - near completion - to prevent land misuse



With the near-completion of a State-commissioned aerial mapping exercise of Trinidad and Tobago, high technology now is being used in the battle against squatting and land misuse. Land and Marine Resources Minister Jairam Seemungal has warned would-be squatters to beware that the new maps—which will show in close-up detail any activities aimed at illegally occupying or degrading State lands, including protected lands. Seemungal was speaking at a news conference to mark the completion of the mapping exercise. Squatting and quarrying are still two of the biggest challenges for land management. Seemungal said some have also taken to parcelling and selling or developing State lands, with a recent case involving 200 acres of forested State lands in the Matura area.

The exercise has been under way for close to a month, with ninety per cent complete as of the end of May 2014. Eventually, it will be turned into a seamless image of the country. The images acquired will also provide topographic information, that is, data on surface features and contours. No such survey has been conducted since 1994, Seemungal said, and the newest maps will give authorities a database with which to work when processing squatters who claim to have been established on State lands for long periods of time.

The new, modern map would benefit other State agencies in time, Seemungal said. “The elevation models provide the information needed to design settlement layouts,” he said. “Other agencies will benefit from the datasets produced from planning of development and infrastructure like roads, and in the development of flood-mitigation plans. The imagery and elevation data will be available to all public agencies for use in enabling the services they are required to provide.” The data will also form the fundamental datasets upon which the proposed National Spatial Data Infrastructure will be established.

Commissioner of State Lands Ian Fletcher said the news imagery would also assist in disaster-management planning and in assessing the quantity and quality of State lands.

The recent aerial exercise was commissioned by the ministry through its Surveys and Mapping Division (formerly lands and surveys) and was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The contract for the exercise was awarded through the Central Tenders Board to UK firm BLOM Aerofilms Ltd, which then hired French firm IMAO, to carry out the survey. Pilot Alexander Gutierrez, part of the team flying the Seneca small craft that carried out the survey, said the new mapping was done with the most modern and precise equipment and offers, in some instances, images up to just one metre off the ground.

Source: <http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Technology-to-control-squatting-261343281.html>

Haiti: Forum du Centre National de l'Information Géo-Spatiale (CNIGS)



Un Forum du Centre National de l'Information Géo-Spatiale (C.N.I.G.S), qui se tiendra à l'hôtel Karibe du 23 au 26 juin 2014, marque l'aboutissement du Programme d'Informations Territoriales pour le Développement Durable, entamé depuis 2006 grâce à un financement du Gouvernement haïtien et de

l'Union Européenne.

Tournant autour du thème central « Haïti Géo-Gouvernance : Maîtriser notre espace, maîtriser le futur », la conférence se penchera sur les différents systèmes innovants et d'intégration soutenus par les technologies géo spatiales permettant une utilisation plus efficace des ressources, un développement plus organisé des infrastructures.

English summary: A Forum of the National Center for Geo-Spatial Information (CNIGS), to be held at the Hotel Karibe of 23 to 26 June 2014, marks the culmination of the program of Territorial Information for Sustainable Development, which began in 2006 with funding from the Government of Haiti and the European Union. Revolving around the central theme "Haiti Geo-Governance: Managing our space, control the future", the Forum will look at the various innovative systems and integration supported by geospatial technologies for more efficient use of resources, developing more organized infrastructure.

Source: <http://www.cnigs.ht/CNIGS/>

Caribbean: OECS member states commence hydrographic scoping study (assess maritime/marine spatial data)

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member states have commenced a hydrographic scoping study aimed at assessing maritime/marine spatial data that exists in the countries. One of the major outcomes will be a report on the status of hydrography and navigational charting in each member state. The OECS Commission's oceans governance unit is spearheading the study on behalf of the member states in collaboration with the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

A specific working group comprising nominated individuals from each OECS member states will facilitate this hydrographic scoping study. The next phase is the gathering of country information through consultation over the next four to five months by a core team in tandem with the working group. This study will contribute significantly to data gathering efforts on various parameters within the marine environment.

Source: <http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/headline-OECS-hosts-hydrographic-scoping-study-team-meeting-21415.html>

North America Region SDI News

Canada (Greenland): Government contracting company to build ocean data geoportal



It will be a collaborative tool that will allow multiple users to interact with the system.

ASL started the design and assemblage of the database in January 2014. This first phase also includes data quality control and database system integration.

The marine geoportal will be launched online in 2015. Geoportal maintenance and database updates will be carried out by ASL's team of ice and metocean specialists.

Source: <http://www.oedigital.com/component/k2/item/5945-greenland-asl-to-build-ocean-data-geoportal>

Global Change Master Directory (GCMD)/International Directory Network (IDN) Version 9.9.3 - Software Release (June 2014)



The NASA GCMD/IDN team has released Version 9.9.3 of the GCMD/IDN System. The Global Change Master Directory (GCMD) is a directory of Earth science data and services, funded by NASA for the purpose of tracking and subsequently locating NASA's Earth science data and services. The International Directory Network (IDN) Master Directory is part of NASA's contribution to international Earth sciences efforts. It extends the GCMD capabilities for use by interagency and international collaborators. The improvements in this release include changes to server and database configurations, new default Metadata Web Service (MWS) behavior, and the ability for external clients leveraging MWS to programmatically identify deleted DIF and SERF entries. A new feature includes metadata tagging, which will allow organizations to organize their own metadata within the GCMD/IDN system.

Major Features of 9.9.3:

- (1) Metadata Tagging
- (2) Metadata Web Service (MWS) Deleted Records Flag
- (3) Additional “Bug” Fixes and Enhancements

Additional documentation on web services can be found at: <http://gcmd.nasa.gov/Connect>

Visit the GCMD/IDN site for additional release details: http://gcmd.nasa.gov/learn/release_announcement.html

Federation for Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) 2014 Summer Meeting

2014 ESIP Summer Meeting, July 8-11, 2014 - Linking It Together: Sustainable Software Advancing Science Data and Services



The Federation for Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) is having their 2014 Summer Meeting in Frisco, CO at Copper Mountain Resort, July 8-11. The theme is "Linking It Together: Sustainable Software Advancing Science Data and Services" and will include a variety of activities supporting this theme for all levels of technical expertise, including:

- Keynote plenaries on software sustainability from multiple perspectives (data center, science and entrepreneurial)
- Breakout sessions on software metrics, attribution of software and source code and building community around a software package
- Half-day training on Agile software development practices and a discussion session on Agile in use around the ESIP Federation
- 2-day Software Carpentry Boot Camp which will teach researchers basic lab skills for scientific computing: the tools and techniques that will help them get more done in less time, and with less pain. Covers Unix Shell, Python or R, Git and Github and SQL. Great for scientist looking to learn basic coding!

See also: <http://www.esipfed.org/node/2486#AroundFederation>

Source: <http://esipfed.org/2014SummerMeeting>

Open and Free? The Political Economy of the Geospatial Web 2.0 (June 2014)

Geothink White Paper Series: How the Geospatial Web 2.0 is Reshaping Government-Citizen Interactions, Issue #001
Author(s): Harrison Smith, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto

This first issue of the Geothink White Paper Series presents three concepts. The author first outlines the concept of political economy as a toolbox to understand the Geospatial Web 2.0 or Geoweb. Second, the author applies these tools to produce a working understanding of the political economy of the Geoweb. Finally, future research priorities for political economists of the Geoweb are highlighted.

The paper draws on Vincent Mosco's (2009) analytical framework of the political economy of communication to highlight the key research areas and approaches to political economy. Mosco's framework situates political economy as the study of power relations that structure communication technologies, particularly analysis of the dominant economic practices, institutions, and organizations that shape access to communication resources. Importantly, it highlights how social, political, and economic inequalities structure access and ownership to communication technologies and infrastructures.

Issue #002 of Geothink White Paper Series coming soon! Geothink (short-hand for a 5-year Canadian Geospatial and Open Data Research Partnership) is funded by Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership Grant Program.

Source: <http://geothink.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Geothink-White-Paper-001-Shade-Smith.pdf>

USA: Open data maps can help cities get to a better place

Sometimes it's hard to map out exactly how open data helps create smarter cities. But a new project from MIT Media Labs is helping people see the benefits of open data with maps. The Social Computing Group at the MIT Media Lab is tapping open data sources to generate interactive maps that provide meaningful insights into cities. For example, for Washington, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City and a handful of other cities the group has posted interactive maps that show the best transportation modes based on your location. Then there's a map that depicts noise complaints in New York City neighborhoods, and another that pinpoints the most common causes of



hospitalization in different parts of the city. An Atlanta maps lets you visualize the amount of street greenery around downtown areas.

The project, called You Are Here (<http://youarehere.cc/>), involves a gang of computer scientists, mathematicians, artists, designers and educators who are bent on creating design patterns, social processes and technical tools to make cities more liveable and healthy places.

Source: <http://smartcitiescouncil.com/article/open-data-maps-can-help-cities-get-better-place>

Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

Saudi Arabia: Marine Environmental Observatory underway



The Saudi Aramco Marine Environmental Research Center at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST, <http://www.kaust.edu.sa/>) is developing a significant marine GIS and ecological mapping capability for the coastal seas of Saudi Arabia. The effort is part of a larger marine ecological and oceanographic effort to provide display, archiving, analysis, and visualization of marine and oceanographic data for the region. A marine ecologist/GIS scientist will be working with a team of marine ecologists and oceanographers as part of an integrated marine observing effort for the Red Sea. The effort includes initial baseline ecological assessments with long term monitoring to evaluate trends, sensitivities, and human influences. The ocean observing includes AUVs, moorings, coastal surface current mapping, remote sensing, and real-time 4D ocean modeling. Analysis is expected to include evaluation of differential anthropogenic effects on the ocean ecosystem, environmental sensitivity, interactions between coastal human efforts, coastal and deep-water ecosystems, and the effects climatic variations and global processes on the ecosystems of the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf. In addition to a significant marine science group at KAUST, the university resources include large supercomputing and visualization resources.

Source: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/jobs/417973-marine-ecologist-gis-research-scientist-for-a-marine-environmental-observatory>

Qatar: Central Planning Office relying on SDI for development of new and upgraded infrastructure

Engineering consultancy Atkins has been appointed the role of Planning and Integration Consultant for the Qatar Central Planning Office and is establishing a project team in the client's office. The remit is to coordinate the development of new and upgraded infrastructure in the country. The Qatari Central Planning Office (CPO) has been set up to help the country cost-effectively coordinate and plan for infrastructure projects that will facilitate major events in the country, such as the FIFA World Cup and Qatar's National Vision 2030, which is a long-term goal for Qatar to become an 'advanced' country with features including improved, multiple transport links. The Atkins GIS team will provide analysis and manipulation of a large amount of spatial data; they currently are looking for a Senior GIS Developer to join the project team in Doha (see link for job announcement) See also: Qatar National Geospatial Infrastructure (PPT, Cambridge Conference 2013) http://www.cambridgeconference.com/conference_2013/proceedings/1440%20-%201500%20-%20Mohamed%20Hamouda.pdf



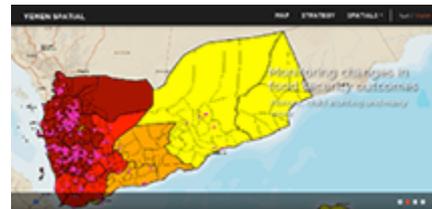
Qatari Centre for GIS - Ministry of Municipality & Urban Planning (CGIS), <http://www.gisqatar.org.qa/en/index.html>: Qatar has established a nationwide GIS since 1992. Today there are more than 60 Government and Semi-Government agencies integrated with this system sharing GIS information and using in their day to day work. Qatar authorities set the objectives for a nationwide GIS on a top to bottom approach. The Centre for GIS conducts a major mapping project on a national level every 3 years which updates digital topographic data base it maintains. New products are added as technologies evolve and requirements to deliver improved services to Qatar increase (<http://www.gisqatar.org.qa/en/page2/page11/test.html>).

Source: <http://careers.atkinsglobal.com/job/senior-gis-developer-jobid-me-003531>

Yemen: Introducing Yemen Spatial, a tool to help the country reach its food security goals

Yemen Spatial (www.arabspatial.org/yemen), an online food security mapping and charting tool, was launched in June 2014 in Sana'a at the joint Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) and FAO Food Security Information System (FSIS) Inception Workshop. The objective of the mapping and charting tool is to support the implementation of Yemen's National Food Security Strategy (NFSS); to monitor and evaluate progress in

key food security indicators, such as calorie deficiency and child stunting, and to strengthen food security by making data and information available for policy. Yemen Spatial is a collaborative effort between Yemen's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation; MoPIC; IFPRI; the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM); the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); and the German international development organization GIZ.



Source: <http://www.ifpri.org/blog/introducing-yemen-spatial>

Yemen: Climate Information System and Pilot Program for Climate Resilience Coordination Project



The objective of the Climate Information System and Pilot Program for Climate Resilience Coordination Project in the Republic of Yemen is to improve the quality of hydro-meteorological and climate services provided to end-users. This objective will be achieved through improved forecasts resulting from improved observing networks, the introduction of new technologies, and access to higher resolution global weather and climate products. Service improvements will depend on training both the providers and users of services to be able to tailor information more effectively to users' needs. The geographical focus will be countrywide. The project will have social and economic benefits by managing risk in weather-related disasters that disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable populations through improving forecasting, early warning systems and the observed climatology of Yemen. The project consists of the following four components: 1) the first component aims to improve climate resilience in Yemen through institutional strengthening and capacity building by provisioning of weather, climate and water services that meet stakeholders' needs by creating the conditions that ensure institutional, staffing and financial sustainability of the key providers; 2) the second component aims to upgrade and expand the observations networks for meteorology, agro-meteorology and hydrometeorology, ensuring that these networks are interoperable; 3) the third component provides for the implementation of a systematic upgrade of the weather, climate and water-related end-to-end services provided to all agencies, communities and individuals; 4) and the fourth component involves program management and knowledge sharing. This last component has three distinct subcomponents—oversight of the overall implementation; support for the program coordination unit; and knowledge sharing including public education and outreach.

Source: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2013/08/18324248/yemen-republic-climate-information-system-pilot-program-climate-resilience-coordination-project>

Israel: Space agency to provide data rescue teams worldwide



Recently, following an agreement between the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and the United Nations Committee for the use of Outer Space, the Jewish state will begin providing data and images of its satellites, to help rescue teams operating in scenes disaster worldwide, which will mean a contribution of the nation to the search and rescue efforts worldwide.

Daniel Brook, ISA adviser in international relations, learned of the United Nations Platform for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), which serves as a center for data transfer in case of international disasters occur. Nations can voluntarily submit their own pictures and SPIDER transmit to the competent authorities. Looking to join the effort, the Israel Space Agency hired ImageSat, a company that operates satellites Israel EROS EROS A and B of the building and Israel Aerospace Industries Elop, respectively. When necessary, ImageSat will target satellites in the damaged areas. Captured images will be immediately transferred by SPIDER.

ImageSat has photographed many scenes of disasters, including the tsunami in Thailand, but until now there has been an organized way to get the data from the right people expeditiously.

Source: <http://shalom.cl/agencia-espacial-israeli-proveera-datos-a-equipos-de-rescate-en-todo-el-mundo/>

Inception workshop on the Information Portal for climate change adaptation in North Africa (Side event), 17-18 October 2014, Morocco

The objective of the portal is to provide access to sectoral-specific and localized information, share information between users, and provide North African decision-makers with tools tailored to their needs in terms of adaptation to climate change. The portal will include the following tools and interfaces:

- Forum of users, Knowledge sharing, Search engine, Libraries, Glossary
- Simple mapping facilities
- Climate observations and scenarios

- Adaptation options; Adaptation strategies
- Monitoring and evaluation tool
- Decision support tool on adaptation (a set of several modules and tools listed above)

See Information Portal for Climate Change Adaptation in North Africa (PPT), http://prezi.com/cbzcpgz_v5qj/information-portal-for-climate-change-adaptation-in-north-africa/

Source: <http://www.uneca.org/ccportal>

GIS Forum MENA, 8-10 September 2014, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Join regional GIS professionals from municipalities, oil and gas, utilities, transport, telecoms, security, education and healthcare sectors in Abu Dhabi from 8 - 10 September as they gather together to share knowledge and best practice for Geographic Information Systems. Some of the key conference features include:

- Panel debate: "Developing Smart City initiatives with a spatial data interface"
- Regional case study: "Successful data integration of a GIS platform with an asset management database"
- International case study: "Meeting the challenge of managing geospatial data in a rapidly developing urban landscape"
- Post-conference focus day: "Demonstrating the ROI of GIS initiatives" and "Human resource challenges and the educational landscape"

If you are interested in sharing a presentation or joining a panel discussion at the conference, contact Rob Sahi, at enquiry@iqpc.ae. Download the Program Agenda (PDF): <http://www.gisforummena.com/Brochure.aspx>

Source: <http://www.gisforummena.com/>

Vacancy: M&E Data Analyst/GIS, USAID Monitoring & Evaluation Support Project (MESP), Amman, Jordan

The M&E Data Analyst will be responsible for monitoring datasets, creating effective visualizations of monitoring data, and managing spatial datasets. This is a local position. Only candidates with Jordanian citizenship will be considered. Responsibilities are to:

- Analyze diverse monitoring datasets in support of USAID Jordan's Office of Program Management.
- Create relevant, effective visualizations of monitoring data including dynamic, interactive charts, graphs and maps.
- Assist USAID in developing effective tools and processes to collect, manage and combine spatial (GIS) datasets.
- Collect, manage and combine spatial (GIS) datasets.
- Participate in and develop professional networks to encourage the sharing and utilization of open data to support USAID's development objectives.

Source: http://ch.tbe.taleo.net/CH08/ats/careers/requisition.jsp;jsessionid=E4FA15DA10F317A7A7F335C657507B23.NA10_primary_jvm?org=MSI&cws=2&rid=4260

Call for papers: ICGI 2014: International Conference on Geoinformatics

ICGI 2014: International Conference on Geoinformatics aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Geoinformatics. It also provides the premier interdisciplinary forum for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns, practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted in the field of Geoinformatics. Paper submission deadline: **September 30, 2014**.

Source: <http://waset.org/conference/2014/12/dubai/ICGI/call-for-papers>

Global SDI News

Work Coordination in a Complex Organization: Are We Ready?

This heuristic (shared at International City/County Management Association blog) includes general areas to be considered when deciding your organization's readiness for cross-agency work coordination efforts— particularly with a geospatial IT solution. These considerations are not meant to be exhaustive, nor are they a substitute for deep research and collaboration into deciding your next steps. Instead, they should be treated as accessible “conversation starters” to get stakeholders thinking – and hopefully kick-start your efforts.

Source:

http://icma.org/en/icma/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/306334/Work_Coordination_in_a_Complex_Organization_Are_We_Ready

Why SDI's Fail – a 2014 perspective – Part 1 & Part 2

Scott Tansley, from New Zealand, recently posted messages to his '50 shades of geodata sharing' blog. He is revisiting a critique of SDIs that Paul Ramsey published in 2006 (titled, 'Why SDIs Fail, <http://blog.cleverelephant.ca/2006/09/why-sdis-fail.html>). Scott stresses that how we measure SDI progress (benchmark SDI) is paramount, as this affects how we perceive SDI success.

Why SDI's Fail – a 2014 perspective – Part 1: <http://www.50shades.net.nz/2014/06/why-sdis-fail-2014-perspective-part-1.html>

Why SDI's Fail – a 2014 perspective – Part 2: <http://www.50shades.net.nz/2014/06/why-sdis-fail-2014-perspective-part-2.html>

Part 3 of Scott's 2014 perspective is coming soon.

Source:

http://icma.org/en/icma/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/306334/Work_Coordination_in_a_Complex_Organization_Are_We_Ready

Issue 12 of the Eye on Earth View

Eye on Earth aims to convene thought and action leaders of the worldwide community, converge consensus on the key areas of mutual importance, and finally collaborate towards strengthening existing initiatives and filling the gaps into the future.



Source: <http://www.eoesummit.org/node/239>

CAFF and Arctic mapping organizations cooperate on Arctic SDI

The national mapping organizations involved in this project include: the US Geological Survey (United States); Natural Resources Canada; the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Mapping (Russia); the National Survey and Cadastre (representing Denmark and the Faroe Islands); the Ministry of Housing, Infrastructure and Transportation (Greenland); the National Land Survey (Finland); the National Land Survey (Iceland); the Norwegian Mapping Authority; and the Swedish Mapping, Cadastre and Land Registration Authority.



Source:

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/resources/news-and-press/news-archive/883-caff-and-arctic-mapping-organizations-cooperate-on-arctic-spatial-data-infrastructure>

14th UNGIWG Plenary Meeting held in New York



The United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG, <http://www.ungiwg.org/>) held its 14th Plenary Meeting in New York from 14 to 16 May 2014, co-chaired by UNOOSA and UNDSS (Department for Safety and Security). The event was organized back-to-back with the 34th Interagency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space).

Several UNGIWG member organizations presented their work during the meeting. OOSA presented the work of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) Working Groups, especially the recommendations related to reference frames, timing and applications. The Office also lead the discussions of the UNGIWG Task Force on GNSS and introduced resources and permanent GNSS (GPS and GLONASS) station data available through the International GNSS Service (IGS) to generate precise GPS/GLONASS products in support of Earth science research, multidisciplinary applications, and education. Other presentations were held by the World Bank, UNECA, UNOCHA or UNDSS, as well as UNGIWG partners such as Esri, the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and Google.

Furthermore, the UNGIWG members discussed their working group's priorities, as well as challenges, actions and strategies for future cooperation. The meeting also included joint sessions with Member States and participants of UN-Space on the use of space technology within the UN system, Earth Observation data and efforts to share satellite imagery.

Formed in 2000, UNGIWG is a network of UN professionals working in the fields of cartography and geospatial

information management science to address issues of common concern.

See: UNSDI Status, http://www.ungiwg.org/sites/default/files/documents/UNGIWG14_UNSDI_Status.pdf

Source: <http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/news/14th-ungiwg-plenary-meeting-held-new-york>

Presentations from International Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information

The International Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information was held in Beijing, China, from 9-12 June 2014. The meeting 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 the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG) of China, and substantively supported by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP).

Source: <http://ggim.un.org/International%20Workshop.html>

Towards an environmental measurement cloud: delivering pollution awareness to the public



Author(s): Federico Domínguez, Samuel Dauwe, Nguyen The Cuong, Dimitri Cariolaro, Abdellah Touhafi, Bart Dhoedt, Dick Botteldooren, and Kris Steenhaut
International Journal of Distributed Sensor Networks Volume 2014 (2014), Article ID 541360, 17 pages

Abstract: Geosensor networks and sensor webs are two technologies widely used for determining our exposure to pollution levels and ensuring that this information is publicly available. However, most of these networks are independent from each other and often designed for specific domains, hindering the integration of sensor data from different sources. We contributed to the integration of several environmental sensor networks in the context of the IDEA project. The objective of this project was to measure

noise and air quality pollution levels in urban areas in Belgium using low-cost sensors. This paper presents the IDEA Environmental Measurement Cloud as a proof-of-concept Data-as-a-Service (DaaS) cloud platform that integrates environmental sensor networks with a sensor web. Our DaaS platform implements a federated two-layer architecture to loosely couple together sensor networks deployed over a wide geographical area with web services. It offers several data access, discovery, and visualization services to the public while serving as a scientific tool for noise pollution research. After one year of operation, it hosts approximately 6.5 TB of environmental data and offers to the public near real-time noise pollution measurements from over 40 locations in Belgium.

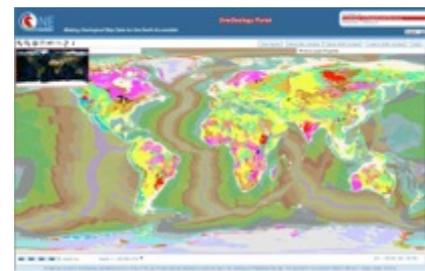
Source: <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ijdsn/2014/541360/>

OneGeology Web Services and Portal as a global geological SDI - latest standards and technology

Author(s): Tim Duffy, Agnès Tellez-Arenas
EGU General assembly 2014, Vienne, Autriche (2014), (29/04/2014)

Abstract: The global coverage of OneGeology Web Services (www.onegeology.org and <http://portal.onegeology.org>) achieved since 2007 from the 120 participating geological surveys will be reviewed and issues arising discussed. Recent enhancements to the OneGeology Web Services capabilities will be covered including new up to 5 star service accreditation scheme utilising the ISO/OGC Web Mapping Service standard version 1.3, core ISO 19115 metadata additions and Version 2.0 Web Feature Services (WFS) serving the new IUGS-CGI GeoSciML V3.2 geological web data exchange language standard (<http://www.geosciml.org/>) with its associated 30+ IUGS-CGI available vocabularies. See:

<http://resource.geosciml.org/> and <http://srvgeosciml.brgm.fr/eXist2010/brgm/client.html>



Use of the CGI simplithology and timescale dictionaries now allow those who wish to do so to offer data harmonisation to query their GeoSciML 3.2 based Web Feature Services and their GeoSciML_Portrayal V2.0.1 (<http://www.geosciml.org/>) Web Map Services in the OneGeology portal. Contributing to OneGeology involves offering to serve ideally 1:1000,000 scale geological data (in practice any scale now is warmly welcomed) as an OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) standard based WMS (Web Mapping Service) service from an available WWW server. This may either be hosted within the Geological Survey or a neighbouring, regional or elsewhere institution that offers to serve that data for them i.e. offers to help technically by providing the web serving IT infrastructure as a 'buddy'. OneGeology is a standards focussed Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) and works to ensure that these standards work

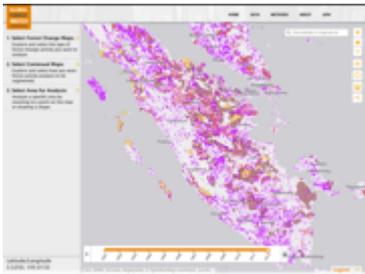
together and it is now possible for European Geological Surveys to register their INSPIRE web services within the OneGeology SDI. The OneGeology portal is the first port of call for anyone wishing to discover the availability of global geological web services and has new functionality to view and use such services including multiple projection support.

For the OneGeology Cookbook see:

http://www.geosciml.org/geosciml/3.2/documentation/cookbook/INSPIRE_GeoSciML_Cookbook%20_1.0.pdf.

Source: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2014/EGU2014-6603.pdf>

First detailed public maps of Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil-certified palm oil concessions released



The World Resources Institute (WRI) released in June 2014, for the first time in an accessible format, maps for all Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certified palm oil concessions. The maps are hosted on WRI's new Global Forest Watch-Commodities platform (<http://commodities.globalforestwatch.org/>). The concession maps show exactly where RSPO certified palm oil is produced and together with other data in the Global Forest Watch (GFW, http://www.globalforestwatch.org/accept_terms) platform will empower palm oil buyers and suppliers to make better decisions that support sustainable palm oil production while protecting forests.

The maps will be accessible through GFW-Commodities, an online platform that empowers companies to assess the impact of key commodities on forests using the latest and most powerful data. GFW-Commodities builds on the groundbreaking GFW platform, a dynamic online forest monitoring and alert system empowering people everywhere to better manage forests. Recently launched by WRI with over 40 partners, GFW unites satellite technology, open data, and crowdsourcing to guarantee access to timely and reliable information about forests. GFW-Commodities is now in beta development and seeking road testers among companies who buy and sell major commodities that impact forests. The RSPO certified maps encompass over 1.6 million hectares of palm oil concessions across five countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea and Brazil.

The release of the RSPO maps is a milestone on the road to even greater transparency. By Sept. 2014, the RSPO expects maps from all its member companies for their global palm oil operations to be made available, including both certified and non-certified areas. It is anticipated that these to be available publicly through GFW-Commodities by late 2014.

Source: <http://www.wri.org/news/2014/06/release-first-detailed-public-maps-rspo-certified-palm-oil-concessions-released>

GeoData 2014 workshop: Strengthening Interagency Geodata Connections

Geospatial data are developed and managed by many different government agencies but are used for many different purposes by the broad geodata research and applications community. Addressing the social, political, financial, and technical issues of connecting geodata in and among governmental agencies was the focus of the GeoData 2014 workshop (<http://tw.rpi.edu/web/Workshop/Community/GeoData2014>), held at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, June 17–19. CIESIN director Robert Chen gave an invited presentation as part of the first plenary panel, highlighting the complex network of stakeholders and challenges strengthening collaboration and ensuring long-term sustainability. The workshop plenary and panel sessions were livecast and will be posted online for viewing. A workshop report is also in preparation. The workshop was sponsored by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and aimed at complementing the NSF EarthCube initiative by extending the scope of the discourse beyond the NSF-funded geoscience research community.

Source: *CIESIN news (June 23, 2014)*

NASA Challenge: New Ways to Use, Visualize, and Analyze OpenNEX Climate and Earth Science Data



NASA is seeking creative new ways to utilize the Climate and Earth Science data recently made available on the Open NASA Earth Exchange (OpenNEX) platform on Amazon Web Services (AWS). This Challenge is being run in conjunction with the 2014 NEX Virtual workshop to engage and enable individuals and groups to provide new contributions and insight to address global climate change. Submissions to this Challenge must be received by 11:59 PM (US Eastern Daylight Time) on **31 July 2014**.

Source: <https://www.innocentive.com/ar/challenge/9933584>

IDRC Research Awards 2015

Deadline: **August 6, 2014**

As a research award recipient, you will undertake a one-year paid program of research on the topic you submitted to the competition and receive hands-on experience in research management, grant administration, and the creation, dissemination, and use of knowledge from an international perspective.

Eligibility:

- You must be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, or a citizen of a developing country.
- You must be currently enrolled at a recognized university at the master's or doctoral level OR have completed a master's or doctoral degree at a recognized university. These awards may be part of an academic requirement.
- Your proposed research must focus on one or more developing countries.

Duration: January – December 2015 (minimum 6 months to a maximum of 12 months). Based in Ottawa, Canada (Select placements may be located in one of IDRC's Regional Offices.)

Budget: CA\$39,000-CA\$45,000 (salary for one-year, paid internship)

Source: <http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Competitions/Pages/CompetitionDetails.aspx?CompetitionID=81>

Call for contributions to global workshop on spatial data and map quality, Malta, 20-21 January 2015

Experts in spatial data and map quality are being invited to take part in an international workshop being held at the Old University, Valletta, Malta from 20 to 21 January 2015. The workshop is co-organized by EuroGeographics Quality Knowledge Exchange Group, the European Location Framework (ELF) Project, International Organization for Standardisation (ISO), OGC and EuroSDR. Papers on a range of topics including quality evaluation, certification and standards are sought by the programme committee which comprises members of the organizing organizations and other international experts. Abstracts should be between 500 and 1000 words and submitted by **12 September 2014**.

Source: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/international-workshop-spatial-data-and-map-quality>

INSPIRE and Geospatial World Forum announce joint 2015 Conference

During the INSPIRE 2014 conference in Aalborg, Denmark, INSPIRE and the Geospatial World Forum announced plans to co-host the 2015 INSPIRE and Geospatial World Forum scheduled for 24 to 29 May 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal. The theme of the 2015 joint conference will be Convergence: Policies + Practices + People (PPP) addressing the need for synergy between policy makers, technology providers and end users highlighting workflow in order to facilitate more informed decision making from stakeholders.

Source: <http://www.geospatialworldforum.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 e-mail Forums maintained by the GSDI Committees and the regional SDI news, visit the website 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. You do not have to be a member of the GSDI Association in order to join a Forum.



The GSDI Association

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.

For more information, visit the GSDI Association website at <http://www.gsdi.org>

The GSDI Regional Newsletter is edited by Kate Lance, GSDI News Editor, and published by the GSDI Association. The Editor may be contacted at newseditor@gsdi.org. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to SDI initiatives at any level, or send e-mail announcement to news@gsdi.org.



“Advancing a Location Enabled World”