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Spatial Data Infrastructure – Asia and the Pacific (SDI-AP) is a free electronic newsletter from the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) which is available in both English and Chinese language versions. The newsletter is produced for people interested in Spatial Data Infrastructure, GIS, remote sensing and geospatial data issues in Asia and the Pacific. It aims to raise awareness and provide useful information to strengthen SDI initiatives and support synchronising these activities across the region. Support for the newsletter is also provided by the Permanent Committee on Geographic Information for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP), a regional forum to enhance cooperation in the development of a regional geographic information infrastructure. The newsletter is currently being produced for GSDI by the Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration at the University of Melbourne.





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Contents

Message from the editors	1
Message from the editors	1
SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations	
GIS Tools, Software, Data	
News from abroad	7
Articles	9
Books and Journals (including Videos and Web publications)	10
Just for Fun!	11
Training Opportunities	12
Funding Opportunities, Awards, Grants	
Employment Opportunities	14
Conference Proceedings	
	15

Message from the editors

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter for the New Year. We will of course be celebrating the New Year again with the February issue.

If you have news or information related to SDI, GIS, RS or spatial data that you would like to share with the community (e.g. workshop announcements, publications, reports, websites of interest etc.), kindly <u>send us</u> the materials by the 25th of the each month for your contribution to be included in the next newsletter.

Malcolm Park and Serryn Eagleson (<u>Editors</u>), at the <u>Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration</u>, The University of Melbourne.

Contributions

Thank you to the following people and organisations for their contributions to this issue: Kate Lance, and Baek Wonkug for news feeds, Jeremy Shen and Bruce Lan and colleagues for the Chinese translation as well as Shivani Lal, *GIS Development*, *GeoSpatial World* and *Asia Surveying & Mapping* magazine for directly contributing to the newsletter.

- 1 -



SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

Kipal Sibal Moves India Toward an Aggressive Geospatial Data Sharing Policy

In an interview with the Hindu Kipal Sibal, Minister of Science and Technology for India has "voiced concern over the lack of enthusiasm shown by many government departments, except those related to security, on sharing of geospatial data for dissemination." Sibal believes in the investment of geospatial data and the value it can bring in helping India develop its infrastructure and in the overall growth to the country's economy. "We need to convince all central government departments, state governments and the line departments of the states that technology is not an end in itself; it is a vehicle for providing information to the people," Source: Directions magazine and The Hindu

Putting Brunei on the 3-D map by Siti Hajar

The Sultanate of Brunei has marked another milestone in its pursuit of development as the entire country can now be seen in 3-D thanks to the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's unwavering efforts.

Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) Service Resources

The US federal Geographic Data Committee have provided three services in a clearing house related to SDI. These include:

Service Status Checker: A web service to validate, test and score spatial web services. It returns a set of summary and test diagnostic information about the tests performed on each service.

Z39.50 Registry Service Checker: All Z39.50 services have been migrated to the above Service Status Checker (SSC) system. This system was originally in use with the Clearinghouse system.

Counselor Reports & Tools: A set of tools used by a team of Geospatial One Stop (GOS) councilors to assist service providers to test and improve with their GOS registrations and services.

Source: http://registry.fgdc.gov/

The evolution of a mega-city

The growth of mega-cities around the world poses unique challenges for managing infrastructure, health, communities and transportation. This expansion is near impossible to understand and plan for appropriately without the assistance of spatial information and geospatial technology. Geographic informatiom systems (GIS) and computer-aided design (CAD) are both helping to address these challenges. Yet, other areas that require attention fall more directly to spatial data infrastructures (SDI) and helping to build capacity within policy bodies.



Source: Vector 1 Media

OGC announces Table Join Service Standard

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) announces adoption and availability of the OGC Georeferenced Table Joining Service (TJS) Implementation Standard, Version 1.0. The OGC TJS standard defines an interface for services that provide

the ability to join attribute data stored in one database on a network with corresponding geometry (points, lines, or polygons) stored in another network accessible database. The TJS standard is available for free download at http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/tjs.

Google Maps faces July 2011 deadline on China regulations

This article outlines the case against Google in China. China will investigate and prosecute Google next July if the search engine company does not acquire the necessary state license to operate its Google Maps service in the country, according to the government. The deadline comes after the country's State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping introduced regulations earlier this year that require all companies providing online mapping services to apply with the bureau for approval. Google has yet to do so, the bureau said in an e-mail, adding that after March 31 of next year, companies without the license will be exposed to the public. In an interesting twist the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping launched its own online mapping service last month. Called Map World, the site is still in its beta stages, but offers two-dimensional and three-dimensional maps. Analysts say it will be a way for the government to judge the accuracy of other online mapping services in



the country."

Source: Computerworld

New Zealand launches SDI project

New Zealand's disparate geospatial data systems are to be linked together in a spatial data infrastructure. The SDI will be provided by LINZ (Land Information New Zealand), through the New Zealand Geospatial Office (NZGO). In the first half of 2011, the NZGO will develop a design and implementation plan for the SDI.

Source: ComputerWorld.co.nz

See also NZ keen to harness potential of location-based info

Source: GeoSpatial World Weekly and Voxy.co.nz

Back to contents

GIS Tools, Software, Data

Esri Offering Technical Certification

Starting in January of 2011, certification will be offered for the following: ArcGIS Desktop Associate, ArcGIS Desktop Professional, Web Application Developer Associate, Enterprise Geodatabase Management Associate, and Enterprise Administration Associate. Eight more certifications will be offered later next year and in 2012. Certification will be accomplished by taking a two-hour exam consisting of 90-95 multiple choice questions and will be offered in English only. The test will be available at 5,000 locations in 165 countries. Registration opens January 17, 2011.

Source: GIS Lounge

BIM for Geo-Analysis (BIM4GeoA)

To address the challenges of sustainable management and development of the built environment, engineers and facility managers need to exploit the 3D City models which grown in recent years to include interior space. A crucial issue for facilitating interaction with these 3D city models is the ability to integrate 3D BIM into the geospatial context. This requires the use of specialized software and specific expertise. In order to simplify this process, we proposed an information system that facilitates the use of BIM for geo-analysis purposes.

Source: Vector 1 Media

SuperGIS Applied to Recreation Potential Analysis Model

SuperGeo integrates GIS technologies with an analysis model for recreation potential analysis considering various resources and environmental protection. The related sectors can apply the research outcome when choosing suitable spatial range for potential natural and recreation sites by using SuperGIS.

Source: GIS Lounge

Digital Pick: More Inconvenient Truth posted by Sally Law

On November 29th, the sixteenth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change began in Cancun. To mark the occasion, Google Earth Outreach—launched to give high-tech visualization tools to environmental non-profits and public-benefit organizations—released the latest installment of its educational videos: a sobering look at global warming, hosted by Kofi Annan. Other Google Earth Outreach videos include a virtual tour through the mangrove forests of Mexico and an explanation on the acidity of the oceans. Users also can download the material into Google Earth directly, and even create their own tours.

Source: The New Yorker magazine blog and Climate change in Google Earth

Google Launches Earth Engine for Carbon Accounting

As promised last year at the COP15 climate talks in Copenhagen, the Google Earth Engine launched December 2 at the COP16 Climate Change Conference in Cancun. Earth Engine is a dynamic digital model of our planet that is updated daily, with 25 years of satellite imagery from the Landsat imagery catalog and tools to analyze the imagery. The tools were made available to rainforest nations in advance of this week's climate talks as both a means of assessing carbon in their forests and as a testbed for system development.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and Google Earth Engine

See also Google adds a layer to climate modeling efforts



Google has added to the emerging effort toward global climate modeling with the December 2 release of Google Earth Engine, which makes 25 years of satellite images available for studying changes and mapping trends in the Earth's environment. The images contain what Google says are trillions of measurements collected by Landsat satellites over the last quarter century, and the company is developing tools to help scientists interpret and analyze the data. A principle focus of the project is identifying areas of deforestation. Google is offering the platform for free, and also will provide 20 million CPU hours to allow scientists and developing countries to use the tools, reports Juliet Eilperin in the Washington Post.

Fiii's Bureau of Statistics GIS aided by New Zealand

New Zealand has donated information technology equipment to Fiji. It will assist in the set up of a GIS project to link all 2007 data to GIS bases and create a spatial representation of various socio economic analysis which would indicate standard of living and poverty status in Fiji, according to Filimoni Kau, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Fiji.

"This highlights the need for the agencies in Government to share not only knowledge and skills but also equipment with all relevant stakeholders to ensure a more comprehensive approach to managing our land resources," Kau said.

"The equipment will help the Bureau of Statistics data gathering of income and expenditure survey in Fiji, which started in September this year and is scheduled to be completed in June next year," said Epeli Waqavonovono, Chief Statistician, Bureau of Statistics in Suva, Fiji.

The Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama earlier this year commented that the availability of such information would allow Government to better address the development and utilisation of human resources in the country.

Source: GeospatialWorld.net and Indian Weekender news

In addition, NZAID is providing assistance to the Fiji Land Information System (FLIS) so it can support Fiji's Constituency Boundaries Commission with electoral boundary remapping work. NZAID's assistance also is helping FLIS meet geographic information system requirements in the urban development/informal settlements sector.

Building Capacity in Remote Sensing for Disasters

The use and application of aerial and satellite imagery plays an important role in planning for and mitigating the impacts of disasters. This includes flooding, earthquake, tsunami, desertification and other extreme events. This technology depends upon adequate knowledge for using image related technologies, products and services. Accordingly, the building of capacity through training and education is necessary to ensure effective and timely application of these useful technologies.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

The Future of the Global Navigation System of Systems

Coming satellite launches among the Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) promise new and stronger signals, with the greater number of satellites resulting in better accuracy, faster position acquisition, and more ubiquitous use in such problematic areas as urban canyons and under tree canopies.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

Mumbai to Use Satellite Imagery for Land Survey

The age-old process of officials physically surveying land could well be history for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The civic body has decided that satellite images will be collected for the land use survey in Mumbai in time for the revised Development Plan (DP), which is to be formulated in 2014.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and The Times of India

China and Pakistan sign deal on remote sensing

China and Pakistan signed a number of trade deals worth about 10 billion U.S. dollars, said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. Addressing the China-Pakistan Business Cooperation Summit in Islamabad, Wen said the deals reflected the huge potential for expanding bilateral economic and trade cooperation. The two sides inked some 20 trade deals during Wen's visit covering projects in the sectors of new energy, agriculture, cotton yarn and non-ferrous metal imports. A major deal is aimed at developing wind and solar power. Another one is on remote sensing satellite between the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission and the China Great Wall Industry Corporation.

- 4 -

Source: XinhuaNet News

Thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item



Following Maps, and Finding a 'Lost World' by BRIAN FISHER

Google Earth imagery enables scientific research on the island of Madagascar.

Source: New York Times blog

3D mapping software measures erosion of the Apostles



A South Australian company is using I-Site 3D laser scanner to measure erosion of the 12 Apostles in Victoria, Australia. The 12 Apostles is a collection of limestone stacks off the shore of the Port Campbell National Park, by the Great Ocean Road in Victoria, Australia. Their proximity to one another has made the site a popular tourist attraction.

3D laser scanning will determine the degree of erosion by comparing annual scans to see whether there have been any changes to the weathered rock. This technology can be used from up to 2km away, so there is no need to

navigate crumbling cliff tops, and it takes a panoramic photo at the same time.

The company is also surveying areas of the Californian coastline, where clifftop houses are "perilously close to the edge", he said.

In August, the company used its Vulcan technology to help rescuers in the Chilean mine collapse decide where to drill to make contact with the 33 trapped miners and the orientation of the shaft used to retrieve them. Source: AdelaideNow.com.au

Satellites unravel complex relationship between northern forests and climate

European Space Agency's (ESA) Earth-observing satellites are helping to understand the intricate role that Eurasia's boreal forest - the planet's largest land ecosystem - plays in the chemical make-up of the atmosphere and the global climate system.

Source: ESA News and GeoSpatial World Weekly



Calendar showcases changes in Taiwan's terrains

Satellite imagery of Taiwan's past and present terrains will be turned into a calendar, developed by National Central University (NCU) and Academia Sinica team. "This is the first time we have blended technology and history to revisualise the past," NCU associate professor Chang Chung-pai said.

"The calendar is part reality, part imagination, but has enormous value because it charts Taiwan's geological changes over the centuries," Chang added.
Source: Geospatial World Weekly and Taiwan Today

India to develop model for land title certification

The Ministry of Urban Development has set up a working group to develop a model for land and property title certification so that an effective, transparent and modern system can be adopted in all the states. Source: GeoSpatial World and Government of India Press Information Bureau

India plans to launch 30 satellites in next decade

India is planning to launch at least 30 earth observation satellites in the next one decade, a senior official at the Department of Space (DoS) stated. "We expect not less than 30 satellites," director of the Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), under the DoS Dr V Jayaraman said. NRSC is responsible for remote sensing, satellite data acquisition and processing, data dissemination, aerial remote sensing and decision support for disaster management.

Source: The Times of India and Directions Magazine

The Power of GIS and SMS Alert Services

Communicating important messages can be triggered through geographic information systems (GIS) activities. Using mobile devices, short message service (SMS) occur as text messages and often originate automatically. Deteriorating weather forecasts, tsunami alerts, flood events and pollution impacts are examples of events that can be communicated to mobile devices to warn and inform people. These messages tend to be short and are intended to cause immediate action.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping



Vietnam and Cambodia Embark on Extensive Survey to Determine Shared Border

The border between Cambodia and Vietnam is set to be refined in the new year. The Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Committee on Border Demarcation announced the award for a two-year, US \$1.5 million mapping project to the Danish team from BlomInfo A/S on December 17.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and GeoSpatial World

McAfee Labs Predicts Geolocation, Mobile Devices and Apple Will Top the List of Targets for Emerging Threats in 2011

McAfee, Inc. (NYSE:MFE) today unveiled its 2011 Threat Predictions report, outlining the top threats that researchers at McAfee Labs foresee for the coming year. The list comprises 2010's most buzzed about platforms and services, including Google's Android, Apple's iPhone, foursquare, Google TV and the Mac OS X platform, which are all expected to become major targets for cybercriminals. McAfee Labs also predicts that politically motivated attacks will be on the rise, as more groups are expected to repeat the WikiLeaks paradigm Source: Enhanced Online News and V1 Magazine

Take rambling to the next level with holographic digital maps

Paul Ridden at GizMag looks at the new 3D holographic imaging system which offers true 3D without glasses. The hardware starts at \$1500.

Source: Directions magazine

China developing Geographic Information Industrial Park

China has invested CNY 15 billion (USD 2.25 billion) to build the first national-level Geographic Information Industrial Park, which covers a total area of about 66.7 hectares. The park, which has garnered investment from the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping (SBSM) and the Beijing municipal government, is scheduled to be operational by 2013. More than 100 companies in the geographic information industry will enter the park by then. "The park is an important measure to enhance the development of the geographic information industry and Beijing will develop it (the park) into a 'Silicon Valley' for the industry," said, Guo Jinlong, mayor of Beijing. Source: ChinaDaily [Thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

Surveying and the Digital Earth by Jeff Thurston

The Digital Earth Symposium comes to Perth, Australia in 2011. Along with this event comes continued discussion on topics related to living in a digital world. Already we are experiencing many of the elements of a digital world from geospatial Web Services to innovations in surveying related technologies that originate the digital data pathway that weaves through the infrastructure we use daily

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

GPS Map Projector Device Revealed

South Korean technology developers have produced a GPS navigation system that contains a mini projector. that can project its maps on to suitable surfaces. The Maptor is a hand-held device - around the same size as a conventional torch - that can eliminate squinting at tiny three or four inch screens, while providing the same navigational capabilities as other modern GPS systems. While allowing for much larger display capabilities, it also lets users share their results and navigational information.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

Deforestation and the Settlement of New Zealand

Wherever humans have gone, fire has gone with them. Besides being essential for heating and cooking, fire has always and everywhere been the primary tool for clearing unwanted vegetation. Prehuman New Zealand was one of the few regions on the globe where natural fire played an insignificant role. Our native trees and shrubs are, with few exceptions, highly vulnerable to fire and only very limited range of native plants (for instance manuka, matagouri, bracken and tussock) are favoured by repeated burning. The widespread burning that accompanied the first settlers in the 13th century was therefore devastating. Much of what had been a



largely forest-covered land was transformed into a patchwork of scrub, grassland and forest.

The fire-driven deforestation of New Zealand was unparalleled for its speed and completeness. Our research interest centres on explaining how and why it happened, and what the implications are for how we manage our post-fire landscapes. Globally, fire is now recognised as one of the major drivers of landscape and vegetation change and there is intense interest in understanding its fundamental dynamics. We have been recipients of



several Marsden grants focussed on fire and settlement issues, and have collaborated widely with national and international groups studying fire.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and Landcare Research

Indonesia to Put Disaster Mitigation on the Map

Next year, Indonesia will have a detailed map of disaster-prone areas in the country which is expected to help provincial administrations develop better urban planning for disaster mitigation.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and the Jakarta Globe

Queensland State Disaster Management Group

Whilst many parts of Queensland have commenced recovery efforts, other areas are bracing for more flooding. Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and the Queensland Government

Back to contents

News from abroad

"This section has been included to highlight some of the developments happening outside the region which demonstrate SDI in action.

UK to develop National Address Gazetteer Database

Addressing information from local authorities and Ordnance Survey (OS) will be brought together to create a 'National Address Gazetteer Database' to provide one definitive source of accurate spatial address data. Source: GeoSpatial World Weekly and Ordnance Survey News Release

GIS market to experience vibrant growth

The worldwide market for GIS is forecast to grow 65 percent over the next five years, representing a compound annual growth rate of 10.5 percent, according to a new ARC Advisory Group study. With the global economic downturn now predominantly in the past, capital spending on information technology has rebounded vigorously. The GIS market has taken part in this technology rebound and is expected to experience vibrant growth. Source: GeoSpatial World Weekly and ARCweb.com

Azerbaijan completes first phase of land reforms

Azerbaijan completed first phase of land reforms, according to Garib Mammadov, head of the State Committee of Land and Cartography, Azerbaijan. The land reforms in Azerbaijan was launched in 1995. Source: GeoSpatial World Weekly and en.trend.az

3D laser scanner images dinosaur footprints

Throughout Trentino, Italy, many signs have been left by the dinosaur giants that trod the beaches and dominated the landscape millions of years ago. Icnologists – scientists who study the traces of animal behaviour – have long been trying to discover more about the types of animals that once roamed the earth. Coming to their aid are new 3-D technologies developed by the FBK Trento research centre. These noninvasive and extremely precise methods, based on photogrammetry and 3D laser scanning, offer documentation of fossils that is more accurate than previous methods.

Source: GeoSpatial World Weekly and Photonics.com

AARSE Addis Ababa Declaration

In a seven point declaration issued at the end of its five day conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, held October 25-29, 2010, the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) stressed that coordination is vital to ensure that the benefits of space science and technology in regional initiatives. The conference attendees includes distinguished geoscientists, educators, researchers, decision makers, practitioners and allied service providers from 40 countries. AARSE urges colleagues to give their full support to the following recommendations in whatever ways possible. Colleagues also are encouraged to bring the declaration to the attention of their organizations, publicizing it at relevant events and websites and citing the recommendations in presentations and publications.

Thanks to Kate Lance for this item



Mapping - Permanent Mean Sea Level

Based in the UK, the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level is continually monitoring ocean mean sea level around the world. Google Earth has been used to show the permanent network around the globe and a file can be <u>downloaded</u>.

Source: Vector One blog

GLONASS Launch Failure - End of GLONASS?

Last week three GLONASS satellites were launched from Baikonur, Russia and failed to achieve orbit. A quick review of the international media showed a wide variation in response. Some were downright negative, seeing the failure as the end of the GLONASS program. That is not the case and not going to happen.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

Address of the Incoming President - CheeHai Teo, FIG President 2011-2014

Full text available from FIG

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

Satellite imagery reveals mounting strain on biosphere

NASA satellite images have revealed that the biosphere is under increasing strain due to rising population and consumption of crops and animals. If the situation continues at present rates then by 2050 more than half of the new plant material generated on Earth each year will be required for humans. These findings were presented by NASA scientists at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting.

Source: Geospatial World Weekly and EnvironmentalResearchWeb

Insurers use GIS in battle against fraud

Over the last year there has been an 88% increase in the number of insurance fraud investigators using geographic information to build up evidential cases for prosecution. Nearly half (47%) are now using it to help with prosecutions compared to 25% last year. Almost four in five (77%) IFIs are using geography in their current role to help with hot spot analysis, verify customer information and help detect fraud at claim and policy inception stages.

Source: Ordnance Survey (UK) press release

Satellite Data Provide A New Way To Monitor Groundwater In Agricultural Regions

Scientists at Stanford have found a way to cheaply and effectively monitor aquifer levels in agricultural regions using data from satellites that are already in orbit mapping the shape of Earth's surface with millimeter precision.

Source: SpaceMart.com

NASA creating topographic map of Moon

NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter is allowing researchers to create the most precise and complete map to date of the moon's complex, heavily cratered landscape. Source: NASA News and GeoSpatial World Weekly

GIS used to select sites for solar parks

Environmental consultancy firm, ADAS, has teamed up with the solar PV expert Enfinity to scope out sites for the development of 50MW of solar parks in southern England and south Wales in 2011. The firm is scoping out suitable sites for solar power to be installed using a bespoke GIS screening tool. Such sites need to be flat, have good electricity connectivity and minimal visual impact.

Source: Geospatial World Weekly and Silicon Republic

New York Times provides "Mapping America"

The New York Times website provides instant mapping capability, nationwide for 22 demographic and housing variables. The site is called <u>Mapping America</u>. It is incredibly fast and easy to use. Major themes are Race and Ethnicity, Income, Housing and Families, and Education. Dots represent different numbers of people depending on scale.

Thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item





"Living Earth" simulator

The Living Earth Simulator (LES), a gigantic computer simulator that can replicate and predict what's happening on earth. FuturICT is a 10 year 1 billion euro program to explore social life on earth and everything it relates to - from global weather patterns to extreme poverty.

Thanks to the Thematic Mapping blog for this item

Source: BBC news

ESA unveils world's land cover map

The European Space Agency's (ESA) 2009 global land cover map has been released and is now available to the public online from the 'GlobCover' website. GlobCover 2009 proves the sharpest possible global land cover map can be created within a year. The map was produced using 12 months of data from Envisat's Medium Resolution Imaging Spectrometer at a resolution of 300m. ESA and Belgium's Université catholique de Louvain created the map using software developed by Medias France and Germany's Brockmann Consult on data collected from 1 January to 31 December 2009. GlobCover 2009 was generated within a year of acquiring the final satellite data. These maps are useful for studying the effects of climate change, conserving biodiversity and managing natural resources.

Source: ESA news [thanks to Wonkug back for this item]

Bahrain adds 5 data layers to NGIS

Five new spatial data layers have been added to the National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse, according to Dr. Khalid Al—Haidan, Director of GIS and member of the National GIS Steering Committee, Bahrain. These layers

are special data layers of digital elevations, health information layer, demographic statistics layers, communications layer and Kingdom geoids layer. The new layers will supplement more than 25 data layers of the infrastructure information embedded within the National Geographic Information System that serves more than 30 government and non-government authorities round the clock. It enables faster decision making service and overall planning. Source:

Source: < www.bahrainlocator.gov.bh > [thanks to Wonkug baek for this item]



Back to contents

Articles

History of Surveying CPS-98—An Odd Geodetic Survey Crew written by Albert E. Theberge, Jr. During the Second World War, US conscientious objectors served in non-combatant roles (in the Civilian Public Service) or gaol. One group was sent to the Coast and Geodetic Survey (C&GS). A geodetic field party was formed from this group in May 1943. Both the camp and field crew were designated CPS-98. They conducted operations until September 1946 in remote areas of the American Southwest including west Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and Nevada. Initially the crew operated side by side with Coast and Geodetic Survey personnel but, after a training period, CPS-98 was manned almost exclusively by COs, with the exception of the party chief and a reconnaissance man who worked in advance of the triangulation work. Source: The American Surveyor

<u>Forecasting Weed Distributions using Climate Data: A GIS Early Warning Tool</u> by Jarnevich, Holcombe, Barnett, Stohlgren, and Kartesz (PDF)

The rapid-assessment geographic information system tool described in this paper is very applicable to management of invasive exotic species. County-level records for weed distributions for large geographic areas are readily available on Websites, unlike point location data. This tool is easy to use and creates potential distribution maps based on climate variables. These maps can then be used to generate watch lists for early detection of the weeds. Early detection can help efforts to eradicate a problem species before a large infestation occurs that is much more difficult to control.

Source: Weed Science Soc of America, Invasive Plant Science and Management 2010 3: pp 365-375



Books and Journals (including Videos and Web publications)

Podcast: Predictions for the Geospatial Marketplace 2011

Directions magazine editors step up to the plate and offer predictions for the geospatial marketplace in 2011. Among the organizations in their discussions: PBBI, Safe Software, OpenStreetMap, Esri, Foursquare, Facebook and Oracle.

Source: Directions magazine

Call for Papers - Computers & Geosciences journal

A Call for Papers has been issued for a Special Issue of the journal Computers & Geosciences, with the title "towards a geoprocessing web"...

This special issue is to collect the current representative research in the area of Geoprocessing Web. To this aim, the Editors seek a number of high-quality research and application papers that discuss the state-of-the-art research on theoretic framework and practical implementations, and identify challenges and open issues in Geoprocessing Web. Topics of interests include, but are not limited to:

Service-Oriented Architecture for the Geoprocessing Web

Geoprocessing in the Grid and in the Cloud computing

Geoprocessing and Linked data

Standards and Metadata for Geoprocessing

Discovery in the Geoprocessing Web

Quality of Service and Service Level Agreement in the Geoprocessing Web

Geoprocessing Web and the Model Web

Geospatial e-Science Workflow

Applications in the Geoprocessing Web

Important Dates:

Paper submission deadline: March 15, 2011

Publication: 4th guarter of 2011 **Submission Guidelines**

Manuscripts should be previously unpublished, 8-12 pages (3000-5000 words) and follow Elsevier's formatting guidelines. Submission is via the Elsevier online paper submission system

< http://ees.elsevier.com/cageo/default.asp >, Article Type is Special Issue: Geoprocessing Web. All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed by at least two professionals. Qualified papers will be reviewed and recommended by the guest editors, with final decisions made by the journal's editors.

Assessing Spatial Data Infrastructures by Lucasz Grus, Publications on Geodesy 76, Delft, 2010. 171 pages. ISBN: 978 90 6132 320 4. €7.00

Over the last two decades many countries throughout the world have taken steps to establish national Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs). These actions have sought to provide an infrastructure for accessing and sharing spatial data to reduce the duplication of spatial data collection by both users and producers, and enable better utilization of spatial data and associated services. When developing SDI initiatives it is increasingly important to assess their outcomes in order to justify the resources spent on those infrastructures. Many researchers throughout the world have been struggling with the issue of assessing SDIs. The task is difficult due to complex, dynamic and constantly evolving nature of SDI.

Web GIS: Principles and Applications by Pinde Fu & Jiulin Sun, ESRI Press, ISBN: 978-1589482456 2010, 312 pages, Review by Jeff Thurston (V1 Magazine)

Geographic information systems (GIS) have evolved from being desktop focused software to become internet oriented and offered as web services. Today many people actively engage GIS through web services delivered over the internet. These activities are continuing to expand and will undoubtedly offer the widest variety of spatial information services well into the future, providing a wide variety of GIS functionality.



OpenStreetMap

OpenStreetMap: Using and Enhancing the Free Map of the World by Frederik Ramm, Jochen Topf, and Steve Chilton, UIT Cambridge, 1st edition, 2010, ISBN 978-1-90686-011-0,

Reviewed by Adena Schutzberg (Directions Magazine)





NOTE: this book is **NOT** OpenStreetMap - Be Your Own Cartographer by Jonathan Bennett, PACKT, ISBN: 9781847197504, 2010, 237 pages reviewed by Jeff Thurston (V1 Magazine) and previously noted in the December issue of the *SDI-AP newsletter*

Mother Pelican - A Journal of Sustainable Human Development, Volume 6, Number 12, December 2010

Open Planet 4, the magazine published for the **International gvSIG Conference** is now available in electronic format.

Co-ordinates magazine - November, 2010 Also available in ZIP file

Maaike van der Vegt Internship Report, "*Evaluating GIS in local government in developing countries*" ITC, The Netherlands

The American Surveyor Newsletter

LiDAR News online

Machine Control online

SERVIR-Africa community news - entries posted in November 2010

Back to contents

Just for Fun!

COPS (Cartographer's Obese Pen Syndrome) - FAULTY MAP - Battlelines run thick

Warring neighbours have spent \$630,000 on legal bills in a battle over 60 cm of land after planners drew a boundary line that was too thick on a map.

Had a draughtsman used a finer pen when marking out the boundaries, Spencer and Suzannha Cooper's court action against Geoffrey Silverman would never have got off the ground.

But the ambiguity on the small-scale plan has led to a costly legal case which is now headed to the Court of Appeal.

A British judge described the dispute over the sliver of land in broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire, as "ruinous". Source: mx News, 17 December, 2010, p 8; and The Daily Mail.

17th century map of Canada discovered on dusty Scottish shelf

A long-lost treasure of Canadian history — a one-of-a-kind, 17th century map of the country, hand-drawn by the leading English cartographer of the era — has been discovered under a thick layer of dust in the utility room of an old house in rural Scotland. Source: National Post and GeoSpatial World





Computer Code or a Subway Map?

On the morning of December 2, two days into the trial of computer programmer Sergey Aleynikov on allegations that he stole Goldman Sachs's computer code, U.S. District Judge Denise Cote closed the courtroom. The concern: protection of Goldman's "trade secrets." It was unclear how long the courtroom would remain closed.

The judge reopened the courtroom 45 minutes later, but that might not have made much of a difference to much of the outside world.

If you're a person of average intelligence without a specialty in the technology of stock trading, you'll need more than a few hours in court to understand the complex charts and data directories mapping out Goldman's confidential source code for its high-frequency trading platform.

While the infrastructure and the coding that powers Goldman's trading is surely valuable to Goldman's competitors, it might be coming across as alphabet soup and a maze for the men and women in the jury who will decide Aleynikov's fate.

- 11 -



One exhibit prosecutors examined on Wednesday was a list of Goldman computer directories, some with odd combinations of letters and numbers, which likely mean little without a deep understanding of either Goldman's system or background in computer programming. One directory included the word "ouch."

As prosecutors explored the infrastructure of Goldman's trading systems, they put into evidence maps of computer systems that to some jurors surely could have been confused with a subway map in Russia (pictured), Aleynikov's native country.

Source: Wall Street Journal law blog

Three Boats, Three Designs, One Goal

On-board GPS used to verify speed sailing records.

Source: Technology & more, issue 2010-3 at

< http://www.trimble.com/survey/customer_stories.aspx >



This Fall's Top "Off the Beaten Path" Maps

(selected by Directions magazine & listed as "Off the Beaten Path))

Directions magazine offers links to six newsletters from the fall that feature "Off the Beaten Path" maps and visualizations. Off the Beaten Path selections are comprised of maps or mapping applications that Directions magazine thinks take a slightly different view of the world. If you missed them the first time around, here's a chance to catch up. Enjoy!

You'll have to scroll down a bit in each newsletter to find the map.

<u>Sepiatown; The Montana Authors Project; Interactive Map: Poverty Data by Congressional District; The CommonCensus Map Project; The Geography of Offshore Oil; Slopeview's OnSnow site</u>

Source: Directions magazine

Back to contents

Training Opportunities

ESRI offering technical certification

ESRI offers a technical certification program for their software. The ESRI Technical Certification Program will recognize people skilled in desktop, developer, and enterprise use of ESRI technology. Earning a certification will mean an individual possesses a high level of technical expertise using ESRI software. Starting in January of 2011, certification will be offered for the following: ArcGIS Desktop Associate, ArcGIS Desktop Professional, Web Application Developer Associate, Enterprise Geodatabase Management Associate, and Enterprise Administration Associate. Eight more certifications will be offered later next year and in 2012. Certification will be accomplished by taking a two-hour exam consisting of 90-95 multiple choice questions and will be offered in English only. The test will be available at 5,000 locations in 165 countries.

Registration opens January 17, 2011.

More about ESRI's Technical Certification Program

Source: GISLounge

3nd Annual Spatial Ontology Community of Practice Workshop

Invitation - 3nd Annual Spatial Ontology Community of Practice (SOCoP) Workshop: Development, Implementation and Use of GeoSpatial Ontologies and Semantics

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Center, reston, Virginia, USA

Friday December 3, 2010 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The purpose of the workshop is to continue the discussion from the previous SOCoP < http://www.socop.org workshops in advancing spatial ontologies and semantic tools in the geospatial data domain. The main theme of this 3rd iteration of the workshop is the current and future state of development, implementation, and use of geospatial semantics and ontologies in meeting organizational mission and program needs.

There is no charge for the workshop.

Proceedings from last year's Workshop complete with presentation slides and audio are available at < http://ontolog.cim3.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?SOCoP/Workshop_2009_11_12 >, thanks to the support of Ontolog.

Directions Magazine Webinars (Web Seminars)



OpenGeo Releases Training Courses Under Creative Commons

At the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) conference in Barcelona this past week, OpenGeo announced the availability of its training materials online, licensed under the Creative Commons Share-Alike With Attribution license. Introductory workshops on the PostGIS spatial database, OpenLayers web mapping library, and the GeoServer map and feature server are all available online.

Vexcel Imaging Web Events (Webinars) - including past webinars

Back to contents

Funding Opportunities, Awards, Grants

<u>Master's and Doctoral opportunities in remote sensing - CSIR NRE and Meraka Institute - Pretoria</u> Funded MSc and PhD scholarships in remote sensing applications with CSIR

The CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) is a leading scientific and technology research organisation, implementing projects throughout Africa and making a difference in people's lives.

Two leading remote sensing research groups seek motivated and enthusiastic Master's and dectoral studies.

Two leading remote sensing research groups seek motivated and enthusiastic Master's and doctoral students to conduct original research toward the development of Earth Observation applications in support of the South African Earth Observation Strategy.

- 1) Indigenous forest monitoring (optical hyperspectral multispectral imagery)-Ref 4734
- 1 Doctoral student and 2 Master's students
- 2) Woodland / forest biomass assessment (LiDAR, radar, and optical imagery)-Ref 4734
- 1 Doctoral student and 1 Master's student
- 3) Time-series analysis of fire and vegetation patterns-Ref 4735
- 1 Doctoral or Master's student and 2 Master's students
- 4) Change detection-Ref 4735
- 1 Doctoral or Master's student

Successful applicants will possess either an Honours degree (for Master's applicants) or a Master's degree (for doctoral applicants) in remote sensing, environmental sciences, image processing, electronic engineering or a related field with a good academic record. The appointment will be made in accordance with the CSIR's employment equity initiatives and **this specific call is limited to South African citizens**. Applicants must indicate for which position and degree they are applying. In some cases, the successful applicants will be required to enrol with a collaborating university.

Go to this website to apply online Closing date: 10 January 2010

IBM annnounces new grant program to create smarter cities

IBM has inaugurated the Smarter Cities Challenge, a competitive grant program through which IBM will award a total of \$50 million worth of technology and services to a hundred municipalities across the globe.

Over the next three years, IBM will send top experts to those cities that have made the strongest case for participating in the Smarter Cities Challenge. IBM consultants will immerse themselves in local issues involving the administration of healthcare, education, safety, social services, transportation, communications, sustainability, budget management, energy, and utilities.

Following the November 2010 program launch, applications will be accepted annually, with the first cycle closing December 31, 2010.

Thanks to Kate Lance for this item

Best Student Paper Awards Nanjing, China – May 26-9, 2011 see under "Conferences, Events"

A Student Paper Prize Competition will be held during **LIDAR & RADAR 2011**. It is a great opportunity for young researchers to expose their work in this event and be recognized for their scientific value. Any student willing to be considered for this competition is required:

- ▶ to submit an abstract before 30 November 2010, indicating that he/she is willing to participate to the student competition. The abstract must have the name of the student as the first author.
- ► to submit the full paper and an electronic copy of a certificate showing his/her student status by e-mail to lidar2011@gmail.com no later than 30 January 2011.
- to present the paper at the conference, if the paper is accepted and included in this session.



The **Best Student Paper Award** with a value of \$100 will recognize the best paper submitted by a student. Only papers submitted on or before the Proceedings submission deadline will be considered for these awards.

Bentley's 2011 Student Design Competition Call for Submissions Now Open

The Bentley Student Design Competition is now accepting nominations for 2011. Students or teams (not to exceed 3 team members) may nominate their project in one of the categories, at their scholastic level, listed on the Bentley website.

The deadline is March 18, 2011.

Back to contents

Employment Opportunities

Spatial Jobs Online (Australia) Because of tight application closing dates the editors provide these websites for employment seekers to access directly: < http://www.spatialjobs.com.au/ > and < http://www.GISjobs.com.au/ >

Looking for a GIS - Geomatics Job in Canada?

Here are some links: 1) Geomatics Canada Job Site; 2) GeographyJobs.ca; 3) GoGeomatics Canada; 4)

Geomatics Employment Center

Source: V1 Magazine

Back to contents

Conference Proceedings

<u>Proceedings</u> of the <u>International Symposium on GeoInformatics for Spatial-Infrastructure Development in Earth and Allied Sciences (GIS-IDEAS 2010)</u>, 9-11 December 2010, Hanoi, Vietnam

According to the Organizing Secretary of GIS-IDEAS 2010, Prof. Venkatesh Raghavan, Osaka City University. "the conference attracted 120 participants -- 33 from overseas (Japan, Germany, USA, Switerzland, Taiwan). and 87 from Vietnam.

The <u>conference program</u> is available (some last minutes changes are not reflected in the schedule) Proceedings of full-papers and abstracts are <u>available online</u>.

Thanks to Kate Lance for this item

6th gvSIG Conference - Reports, posters and articles

Presentations, posters and articles presented during the 6th gvSIG Conference attended by ~ 500 persons taking in the "Knowledge for change" theme.

The magazine *Open Planet 4*, the Live-DVD given during the Conference, and videos of presentations and workshops will be published soon.

Map Africa stresses g-readiness for sustainable development

Map Africa 2010, organised by GIS Development, successfully concluded in Cape Town, South Africa on November 25, 2010. The three-day event explored status of "Geospatial Readiness for Building Africa" and its importance for the continent as it emerges a global investment hotspot.



Source: Geospatial Milieu

GeoExpo takes Center Stage

The two-day Geospatial Expo 2010 was held in Dubai recently. Around 16 exhibitors participated in the event that was attended by around 400 people.

Source: Geospatial Milieu



The first Latin American Remote Sensing Week (LARS) at Santiago de Chile

<u>Hindu Kush-Himalayan region: bridging the data gap for adaptation to climate change</u>

<u>Back to contents</u>



The United Nations Regional Seminar on Census Data Dissemination and Spatial Analysis,

United Nations workshops - Demographic and social statistics

The Australian and New Zealand Map Society Conference 2010

Map Asia 2010 and Conference Report

Conferences, Events

For upcoming events of global or major international interest, please visit the <u>upcoming conference list</u> on the GSDI website – as this conference list will be reserved for conferences within or with specific interest to the Asia Pacific Region.

The editors welcome news of conferences & events from the newsletter subscribers

Call for Expression of Interest to host AARSE 2014 and future Conferences *Edited

Call for Expression of Interest to host the 10th biennial International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) in October 2014 and future Conferences. The 9th conference will be held in Morocco in October 2012.

Date	Location	Event
January 2011		
5 – 7 January	University of Waikato, New Zealand	SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY Contact
18 - 19 January "NEW"	Stockholm, Sweden	GIS in Mining & Exploration 2011
19-21 January "NEW"	Washington, DC	ESRI Federal User Conference (FedUC)
18-21 January	Hyderbad, India	MapWorld Forum 2011 NOTE NAME CHANGE TO: GEOSPATIAL WORLD FORUM 2011 Last date for abstract submission has been extended to 30th September, 2010
24-27 January "NEW"	London	Defence Geospatial Intelligence 2011 (DGI 2011)
24-28 January "NEW"	Bahamas	MAPPS 2011 Winter Conference
February 2011		
2-4 February "NEW"	Alice Springs, Australia	Northern Territory Spatial 2011
7 – 9 February	New Orleans, USA	11th International LiDAR Mapping Forum 2011
21-25 February "NEW"	Anchorage, Alaska	<u>The 45 Annual Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference - "Meridians and Parallels"</u>
March 2011		
7 – 9 March	Valencia, SPAIN	Sth International Technology, Education and Development Conference (INTED2011) Abstract submission: CLOSED - 25th November 2010 Acceptance notification: 16th December 2010 Final Paper submission: 26th January 2011 Contact
15 – 18 March "NEW"	Moscow, Russia	Geoform+ 2011 / Cartography, Geodesy, Navigation, and Geospatial technology
21 – 24 March	Houston, USA	SPAR International 2011



		Contact: Linda McLaughlin, Program Manager
		Call for Presenters,
		ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE November 3, 2010
23 – 25 March	Enschede,	1st Conference on Spatial Statistics 2011
"NEW"	The Netherlands	•
25 – 27 March	Bilbao, Vizcaya,	7th International Conference on Technology, Knowledge and
	Spain	Society
		The deadline for the current round in the Call for Papers is
00 00 Manak	0	9 November 2010 Contact
28 – 29 March "NEW"	Canberra, Australia	100 Years of National Topographic Mapping
April 2011	Australia	
10 – 15 April	Sydney, Australia	34th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of
10 10 April	Cydricy, Additalia	Environment (ISRSE)
		Abstract submissions closed on 1 October
11 – 13 April	Munich,	Joint urban remote sensing event
"NEW"	Germany	
19 – 21 April	Santa Clara,	Where 2.0
"NEW"	California	
May 2011		
3 – 8 May	Antalya, Turkey	Gi4DM 2011 – GeoInformation for Disaster Management.
		Contact Deadline for Abstracts is December 15, 2010 Online Abstract Submission
		Full papers for Proceedings are required by March 31, 2011
26 – 29 May	Nanjing, CHINA,	LIDAR and Radar Mapping: Technologies and Applications
20 20	Tranjing, Orinivit,	Abstract submission deadline - October 15, 2010
		Authors notified on - November 30, 2010
		Full paper submission deadline - January 30, 2011
		Contact
31 May – 2 June	Cape Town,	AfricaGEO 2011
"NEW"	Cape Town, South Africa	AfricaGEO 2011
"NEW" June 2011	South Africa	
"NEW" June 2011 14 June		AfricaGEO 2011 Forum On Earth Observations V
"NEW" June 2011 14 June "NEW"	South Africa Washington, D.C	Forum On Earth Observations V
"NEW" June 2011 14 June	South Africa Washington, D.C Munster,	
"NEW" June 2011 14 June "NEW" 15 – 17 JUNE	South Africa Washington, D.C	Forum On Earth Observations V
"NEW" June 2011 14 June "NEW" 15 – 17 JUNE "NEW"	Washington, D.C Munster, Germany	Forum On Earth Observations V GEOINFORMATIK 2011 "Cities, Technologies and Planning" CTP 11 in conjunction with
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- 16 -



29 June - 1 July "NEW"	Fuzhou, China	ICSDM 2011 & BJ-IWGIS 2011 IEEE International Conference on Spatial Data Mining and Geographical Knowledge Services (ICSDM 2011) — AND - Beijing International Workshop on Geographical Information System (BJ-IWGIS 2011) Abstract deadline has been extended until Jan 1, 2011. The conference theme is "Bridging the Gap Between Spatial Information Technology and Geoscience Research". One of the keynote addresses is titled "SDI and Digital Asia as Information Commons."
July 2011		Commons.
3 - 8 July	Paris	25th International Cartographic Conference. 15th General Assembly of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) Abstracts were due 4th October, 2010. Second call for papers Contact: regist-icc2011@europa-organisation.com
5 – 8 July "NEW"	Salzburg, Austria	GI Forum 2011
9 – 12 July	San Diego	Esri and ACSM - Event for Surveyors and Mapping Professionals Abstract submission deadline is December 6, 2010.
11 – 15 July	San Diego	ESRI International USER CONFERENCE
11 – 13 July "NEW"	Macau	3 rd International Conference on Networked Digital Technologies (NDT 2011)
21 – 22 July "NEW"	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACTS AND RESPONSES
August 2011		
5 - 7 August "NEW"	Washington, DC USA	THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE IN SOCIETY
8 - 10 August "NEW"	Taipei	AOGS 2011 Geosciences World Community Exhibition The Geosciences World Community Exhibition will be held in conjunction with the 8th Annual Meeting of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS)
15 - 19 August "NEW"	Nairobi, Kenya	AGSE 2011
23 – 25 Augustl	Perth, Australia	7th International Symposium on Digital Earth (ISDE7) Held in conjunction with WALIS Forum 2011 and the 2011 NRM Conference
September 2011		
9 – 11 September "NEW"	Denver, Colorado	State of the Map (SotM)
12 – 16 September "NEW"	Denver, Colorado	FOSS4G 2011
28 – 30 September "NEW"	The Delft, Netherlands	<u>UDMS 2011</u>
November 2011		
14 – 18 November	Santiago, Chile	UGI 2001 International Geographic Union "Regional Geographic Conference" Brochure & Call for Papers
15 – 17	Canberra,	Spatial@Gov2011



November "NEW"	Australia	
21 – 25 November	Wellington, New Zealand	Surveying & Spatial Sciences Conference 2011
August 2012		
25 August – 1 September	Melbourne, Australia	XXII International Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing Congress Email: isprs2012@icms.com.au
October 2012		
	Morocco	10th biennial International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)
2014		
	Malaysia	Malaysia will be hosting the (International Federation of Surveyors) FIG Congress in 2014. The decision was taken at the recently concluded FIG Congress 2010 in Sydney, Australia.

Back to contents

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