

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 2, No. 3, 2012 – May-June 2012

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Global Geospatial Conference 2012 (GGC 2012) Report

GGC 2012 combined the GSDI 13 World Conference, the 14th GEOIDE Annual Scientific Conference, the 7th 3D GeoInfo Conference and the Canadian Geomatics Conference 2012. The conference theme was "Spatially Enabling Government, Industry, and Citizens." Four of the five workshops held on the morning session of Monday, 14 May, were led by GSDI Association Committees (see the web site for details). There was also an "International Workshop on Geospatial Data Quality: Legal, Ethical and Technical Aspects" on Friday, 18 May, following the conference, at which several GSDI and IGS members participated.

Attracting almost 700 participants from 56 countries, the Global Geospatial 2012 Conference brought together the GSDI 13 World Conference, 14th GEOIDE Annual Scientific Conference, 7th 3D GeoInfo Conference, and Canadian Geomatics Conferences 2012 under one roof. Held in Québec City, Canada, 14-17 May, delegates were treated to a mix of plenary and technical sessions appealing to senior executives, technology professionals, researchers and students alike.

More than 200 papers were presented in seven parallel sessions on each of the four days of the conference, interspersed with five plenary sessions, a poster session on 15 May, and keynote presentations across the individual conferences. The conference this year also included nearly 50 exhibitors from across multiple geomatics industry sectors.

A limited-edition book of selected papers "***Spatially Enabling Government, Industry and Citizens: Research and Development Perspectives***" was provided free of charge to all conference registrants.

Abstracts and Papers from the Conference may also be downloaded from the GSDI Association's website at:
http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi13/prog_details.html.

Other publications available at the conference included "***Spatially Enabled Society***", a joint production of the GSDI Association and FIG with support of the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific. The new publication "***Geoinformation for Disaster and Risk Management: Examples and Best Practices***" was also available, a joint publication of the Joint Board or Geospatial Information Societies (of which GSDI Association is a member) and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

In the final plenary, closing the conference and presenting the highlights, outgoing President Prof Abbas Rajabifard was presented with his GSDI President's medal to acknowledge his service and to recognise him as past President. The organising team from GEOIDE and GSDI Association were warmly congratulated for their efforts, which lead to the success of the conference. The GSDI 14 World Conference will most likely now return to the African continent in 2014, for which a preview of potential sponsors/sites was presented by Sives Govender of IES-Africa, a GSDI Association Board member.

GSDI COMMITTEE NEWS

GSDI Standing Committees recommend programs of action to the GSDI Council and Board and carry out specific tasks as set out in the GSDI bylaws or as requested by the Council or the Board. Individuals interested in contributing to the work of committees should contact the committee chairs, via the GSDI Committees web site at <http://www.gsdi.org/standingcomm>. All current Committee members are encouraged to send their news to the Editor (ral@alum.mit.edu) for including in future issues of the Newsletter.



Outreach & Membership Committee News

Committee Chair, Steven Ramage (OGC®) and vice-Chair, Roger Longhorn, presented papers at the GSDI 13 conference in May and co-hosted a 90-minute workshop on “How to Get More Involved in the GSDI Association: Leveraging the Global Geospatial Community”. Longhorn also co-led a workshop on Licensing at the INSPIRE 2012 Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 June. The GSDI Association LinkedIn group continues to be active and we encourage all readers to join the group at www.Linkedin.com.

Societal Impacts Committee

Committee chair, Carmelle Terborgh, provided the ‘Article of the Month’ in this issue of the Newsletter, re-published from GIM International magazine’s GSDI column. It asks the question if SDIs can have an impact on society and highlights the work of the Committee in that respect (see the article later in the newsletter). Carmelle and Stan Tillman (Intergraph) also conducted the meeting of the Industry Council at the GSDI-13 conference in Quebec.

Through vice-Chair, Jeremy Shen, Director of the Information Center, Min. of Interior, Taiwan, the Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association provided a free training opportunity for up to three candidates from Latin America to attend the ICLPST (International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei. The training seminar will run from 12-25 September, 2012. From the applications received, the following applicants were accepted to receive the training:

- Ms Patricia Llanos of Bolivia (IGS member),
- Ms Leticia Hissa of Brazil (IGS member),
- Mr Norval Young of British Virgin Islands (IGS member), and as alternate
- Ms Carlene Boodoo (GSDI member), in case any of the above cannot attend.

GSDI Small Grants Update

Request for Information about SDI Education and Training Material

As part of the project, 'Developing a framework for South African SDI education and training', funded by the GSDI Small Grants Program, Serena Coetzee and colleagues are conducting a survey of existing SDI training and education material. They are looking for material that can be used for SDI education and training, as well as material to inform the development of the framework. They would appreciate it if you could send information about relevant material to Victoria Rautenbach at:

victoria.rautenbach@gmail.com, using the attributes below to describe the material. The results of the survey will be published on the project page at:

<http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=18853&sub=1&parentid=16053&subid=16145&ipklookid=11>

Title: <title of the material>
Author(s)/Publisher: <author names and/or publisher>
URL: <URL for the material or information about the material>
Access: <open? free? cost? copyright? >
Description: <description of the material (textbook, notes, course, presentation)>
Contact: <name and email address that can be contacted for more information about the material>

For more information about the project, refer to the project page or contact Victoria Rautenbach at victoria.rautenbach@gmail.com or Serena Coetzee at serena.coetzee@up.ac.za.

To see the final reports and for more information on the Small Grants Program, please visit <http://www.gsdi.org/sic1>. As always, we express the Association’s grateful thanks for the support of the US Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and the URISA GISCorps for making the grants programme possible.

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee conducted a workshop at the GSDI-13 Conference and a short report will follow in a future issue of the Newsletter.

Legal & Socioeconomic Committee

The GSDI Legal and Socio-Economic Working Group are developing a framework of several types of



licences that could be used globally and will increase transparency of the conditions for obtaining and using geographic data. The intention is to avoid creating new licensing conditions if this is not necessary. The framework should accommodate possible differences between organizations, cultures, and financing models. In April, the Committee sought the help of the GSDI community via a survey on Googledocs. The questions are directed towards the next step in developing a harmonised licensing framework for geographic data. The survey was promoted widely, and the six questions could be answered online. The results were presented and further discussed at the GSDI13 conference in Quebec City in the workshop "Towards the Global Harmonization of Licenses for Geographic Data"

Committee member (and former Chair) Dr Gabor Remety- Fülöpp (Secretary-general, HUNAGI) presented the "Liaison Report on GSDI Association: An update on selected activities since WGISS-32" at the CEOS WGISS 33 meeting, hosted by Jaxa at Restec in Roppongi, Tokyo, Japan, from 23-27 April 2012. The GSDI Liaison Report can be downloaded from this link:

<http://www.hunagi.hu/G/pub/Globalis/GSDIwgiss33.pdf>.

The WGISS 33 presentations will be accessible via the official WGISS webpage at: <http://wgiss.ceos.org>. His report included the activities of various L&SE Committee members in the EU-funded "Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information" (LAPSI), the SDI regional newsletters, participation in UNSDI related actions, and more.

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSPATIAL SOCIETY (IGS)

The International Geospatial Society (IGS) is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association whose members have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. The IGS web site is at <http://www.igeoss.org>.

IGS in the Press

Dr Mabel Álvarez, President of the International Geospatial Society, presented the IGS in the GSDI

monthly column in GIM International magazine's June issue – "The International Geospatial Society: A Young Initiative", repeated below:

The International Geospatial Society (IGS) (<http://www.igeoss.org/>) is the individual membership arm of the [GSDI Association](http://www.gsdi.org) (<http://www.gsdi.org>). While only geospatial organisations may join the GSDI, the IGS permits individuals not attached to such organisations to become more fully engaged with peers from around the world. The IGS enhances communications globally among individuals who are actively involved in promoting, developing or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts.

The International Geospatial Society initiative began in June 2009 during the GSDI 12 World Conference which was held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Through the GSDI Association, processes were developed for the election of the first IGS president and vice-president, each for a two-year term. This election was held electronically in the first half of 2010 and members from 50 different countries participated.

In recent years, many university graduates have completed a master's or PhD thesis on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), GIS and related topics. However, these documents are spread across many different locations, which often makes them difficult to find. Because many IGS members are affiliated with universities and research centres, a collaborative project was launched to compile a list of such postgraduate theses produced from the year 2000 onwards. The entry for each thesis includes a complete citation (incorporating the author's name, title, institution and date), an abstract and, if applicable, a link to the openly available, full-text version of the document online. All entries were uploaded into the GIKNet document archive (<http://giknet.org/depot>) as an open access document prior to the IGS meeting that was held in May 2012 as part of the GSDI 13 Conference in Quebec City, Canada (<http://gsdi.org/gsdi13>).

Members of both the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society receive the GSDI's bi-monthly GSDI and IGS Global News publication, which is edited by Roger Longhorn, vice-chair of communications of the GSDI Outreach and



Membership Committee. A new, regular section has been added to each issue of GSDI and IGS Global News to present IGS members. In the March/April issue, the column entitled 'IGS Member of the Month' contained profiles of two IGS members. This initiative has been very well received by IGS members, who have been invited to submit their profiles for sharing with the community.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the support given by the GSDI board and for the collaboration of IGS members, whose contributions, ideas and suggestions are the lifeblood of the International Geospatial Society.

More Information about the IGS: Information about the GSDI Association can be found at www.gsd.org. A short flyer outlining the benefits of International Geospatial Society membership is available in English at <http://bit.ly/Lc7pSL> and in Spanish at <http://bit.ly/KPCNXU>.

This article appeared in GIM International, June 2012, vol 26, no. 6. View the article online at: http://www.gim-international.com/issues/articles/id1885-The_International_Geospatial_Society_A_Young_Initiative.html

IGS Member Profiles

Our series of profiles of IGS members continues. To be included in future issues of the Newsletter, please submit your profile to the IGS officers (contact details on the IGS web site at www.igeoss.org/contacts).

IGS Member Profile – June 2012

IGS "Member of the Month" for June is Mr Abel Chemura, Research Scientist (Sustainability), Department of Research & Specialist Services, Coffee Research Institute, Zimbabwe.

The Department of Research & Specialist Services is a technical branch that is responsible for developing technologies for improved and sustainable agriculture in Zimbabwe and has several research institutes running under it. The Coffee Research Institute where the member is based is located in Chipinge, South-Eastern Zimbabwe and its goal is to

develop and disseminate research-based viable, sustainable and environmentally-friendly coffee production technologies. To achieve this, the Institute runs five programmes which are (1) Research, (2) Germplasm conservation, (3) Seedlings production, (4) Training, and (5) Information dissemination.

As a Research Scientist (Sustainability) Mr Chemura is responsible for developing and promoting 'sustainable' coffee production technologies. These include evaluating the potential of reducing or eliminating reliance on agrochemicals (for pest control, disease control and for soil fertility management). This is achieved through applied field research and assessments, including setting experiments and conducting surveys. Mr Chemura is also responsible for promoting sustainability certification of agricultural produce as a way of increasing sustainability in the agricultural sector. He is involved in developing remote sensing-based tools for assessing criteria for certification as a way of reducing the costs and improving objectivity. He is also active in training coffee stakeholders on sustainability requirements of different certification bodies and is a resource person for all certification issues. He has also participated on implementation of various research projects on coffee agronomy, rehabilitation and revitalization of coffee chains, insect control and disease management across Eastern and Southern Africa. Currently Mr Chemura is very active on issues around certification.

After completing his MSc in Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation for Environmental Modelling and Management, he "realized that there was need for networking and peer-interaction for cross-pollination of ideas and knowledge on geospatial technologies, and the best way to achieve that was to join IGS."

We demonstrated the potential of remote sensing in assessing sustainability of farms and agro-enterprises. The preliminary work on oil palms indicated that criteria with a spatial component can be accurately estimated using remote sensing and used in certification decision support systems. We also extended the same approach to evaluating the environmental sustainability of protected ecosystems using the same thinking. This work focused on extracting and mapping off-road trails and wildlife tracks in savannah ecosystems using



curvelet transformation, a recent and advanced image processing technique. We are currently working on a paper titled "Remote sensing applications for coffee production in Zimbabwe: Experiences and prospects". The paper will be a synthesis of successes and challenges of work done in applying remote sensing to coffee production including classification, phenology and spectral response as affected by age, intercropping, shade and coffee pest and diseases, and applications in certification assessment. The general outlook for applied remote sensing in coffee production is documented.

Mr. Chemura believes that there is immense potential for applied geospatial technologies in the agricultural sector. The role of satellite technology is becoming increasingly important in monitoring agricultural productivity; from yield forecasting for drought monitoring to assessing environmental performance of agro-enterprises.

Contact details: Chemura A, DR&SS, Coffee Research Institute, P.O.Box 61, Chipinge, Zimbabwe, 263, Email: achmeura@gmail.com.

IGS Reminders

Subscriptions to GIM International

As a member benefit of IGS, you may receive a free subscription of GIM International. GIM International carries GSDI news, including IGS news, in a monthly column. If you want to stay up to date with this column and read up on other developments in Geomatics, please follow this link and subscribe if you are not already receiving a hard copy of the magazine: <http://www.gim-international.com/GSDI>.

Participation in GIKNet

IGS members are also reminded that information is uploaded in GIKnet in the Society Web Forum:

- Topics of general interest (English) <http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=41>,
- Topics of general interest (Spanish), <http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=42>,

- Task 5. Promote the work of IGS members as a network sharing information, knowledge and publications among IGS members" <http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=12>

Members are invited to actively participate in the Society Web Forum, as a means of sharing news,

LinkedIn IGS Sub-Group

And if you have not already signed up for the IGS sub-group on LinkedIn (see December Newsletter), please do so ASAP! If you are already a member of the GSDI group, then you can request to join from the *Subgroups* page by clicking "Groups" at the top of your home page. Then click the parent group's name (GSDI). Under the "More" dropdown menu, select *Subgroups*. Then click "Join this subgroup." You can view the status of your membership from the Your Groups page at: <http://www.linkedin.com/myGroups>.

Joining IGS

Remember that individuals in low and very low income nations can apply to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. The listing of low and very-low income nations may be found at <http://www.gsdi.org/RankingTable>. To join for free, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe on the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) at <http://giknet.org> and then apply for membership in IGS at <http://www.igeoss.org/join>. To maintain your free membership, simply update your professional profile each year on or about December or January. You have the ability to view, edit, or delete your individual profile at any time.

IGS Members – submit your news, please, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are nearly 200 of you out there now, so please communicate with us. News can be sent by e-mail either to the IGS officers - President Mabel Álvarez, who can be contacted via the IGS web site - or directly to the editor, Roger Longhorn, at roger@alum.mit.edu.



ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

New GSDI Association Officers

Completing his term as GSDI Association President at the GSDI-13 Conference, Prof Abbas Rajabifard (Univ. of Melbourne) welcomed Prof David Coleman (Univ. of New Brunswick) and David Lovell, Executive Director of EuroGeographics) into their respective new posts as President and President-elect of the Association.

A geomatics professor and the Dean of Engineering at the University of New Brunswick in Canada, David Coleman recognized the challenges of his new role as President. According to Prof Coleman: "The GSDI movement has worked over 15 years to ensure that high-level attention is paid to the interfaces between SDI technologies, services, policies, and people. President Abbas Rajabifard has done a great job in influencing SDI thinking internationally. Over the next three years, we must become even more relevant to the needs of people and institutions in emerging nations. We will accomplish that through the combined efforts of a dedicated Executive, a committed volunteer Board, and our member organizations."

Prof Coleman recognized the special importance of GSDI's International Geospatial Society (IGS). "At a time when some people see a growing disconnect between our institutions and grass-roots users, IGS membership gives individual members the opportunity to connect with others and comments on SDI developments internationally." He also encouraged individual input through the GSDI Association's LinkedIn discussion group, which may be joined through <http://www.linkedin.com>. The IGS also has a LinkedIn sub-group, to which members can join once registering for the main GSDI Association group.

As Executive Director of EuroGeographics, President-elect Dave Lovell's influence brings the GSDI Association back to its roots in public sector mapping organizations. He added: "Thanks to greater data availability and technological capability, geo-information today touches more people's lives than at any other time in history. GSDI has an important continuing role in ensuring better understanding of its many benefits. I am pleased to be able to contribute to it."

GSDI Association Council and Board meetings were also held prior to and following the Conference, during which new Board members elected were:

- GSDI Board, Europe: Heli Ursin
- GSDI Board, Government Organizations: Khalid A. Rahman Al-Haidan

GSDI Committee Chairs confirmed were:

- Eric van Praag, Technical Committee
- Steve Ramage, Outreach and Membership Committee
- Stan Tillman, Industry Advisory Committee
- Mabel Alvarez, IGS

Two new Members were welcomed into the Association, bringing the number of full Members to 42.

- CAF – Latin America Development Bank: Delegate - Eric van Praag, Alternate - Jesus Suniaga
- PSMA Australia: Delegate - Dan Paull, Alternate - Michael Dixon

About Our New Association Members

CAF is a development bank established in 1970 that consists of eighteen countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe, and fourteen private banks from the Andean region. The organization promotes a model of sustainable development through credit operations, grants and technical support, and offers financial structuring to public and private sector projects in Latin America. Based in Caracas, Venezuela, CAF has offices in Buenos Aires, La Paz, Brasilia, Bogota, Quito, Madrid, Panama City, Lima and Montevideo. CAF's mission is to promote sustainable development and regional integration through efficient resource mobilization for the timely delivery of multiple, high added value financial services to public and private clients in our shareholder countries. CAF is a client-oriented competitive financial institution responsive to social needs and supported by highly skilled personnel.

PSMA Australia Limited is a company owned by state, territory and Australian governments, established to coordinate the collection of fundamental national geospatial datasets and to



facilitate access to this data. Beginning as a government consortium, formed in 1993 to create an integrated national digital base-map for the 1996 National Census, the base-map then was made available for commercial use. PSMA Australia brings together the supply and demand sides of the market place, which stimulates the private sector and ensures access by the public to geographical information.

Part of their role is to help the contributor's disparate data resources mesh, cooperate and function uniformly to create high-quality products. The PSMA Australia National Office operates as the hub of relationship management between data custodians, data managers and clients.

Geospatial World Forum 2012

Many GSDI Association and IGS members attended the Geospatial World Forum 2012 conference 23-27 April in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The Proceedings (abstracts) can be viewed online at <http://anax1em.pressmart.com/GeospatialMediaProceedings>. A full report is available on the web at: <http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/2012/gwforum2012.pdf>.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of GSDI & IGS Newsletter, we publish an article by GSDI Societal Impacts Committee chair, Carmelle Terborgh, which first appeared in GIM International magazine (Volume 26, Number 4) – “*Can SDIs Make a Societal Impact?*”.

While many argue that spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) are made for and by governments, entire commercial industries have risen up around the availability of this government-funded spatial data. From road data to demographic information, there are great opportunities for everyone, ranging from private organisations to academics and researchers, to share spatial data. Even non-profit organisations, such as The Nature Conservancy, understand the importance of spatial data. The Nature Conservancy, whose mission it is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends, has implemented an SDI as foundational to the organisation. The SDI is used to serve data throughout each department, ensuring that The Nature Conservancy staff members have access to

the information they need in order to support their mission.

And let us not forget the ‘crowd’. The citizen and youth engagement efforts of programmes like My Community, Our Earth (<http://www.mycoe.org>) openly share sustainable-development project data with anyone who needs it. All of these organisations and citizens working with spatial data can be effective contributors to a global SDI.

How do we achieve a global SDI?

Marten Hogeweg, Esri’s GeoPortal OS Product Manager, noted certain SDI design principles during a presentation he gave at the United Nation’s Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) meeting (<http://www.ungiwg.org>) held in Bonn, Germany, in October 2009. These principles included:

- Enable people (and organisations?) to share as much data as possible.
- Provide access to authoritative sources of current data.
- Make data widely accessible through machine-readable, open formats.

Today, we understand even more how creating SDIs that can deliver this type of data – authoritative, current and easily readable by many – ensures that informed decisions are made to assist in societal, environmental and economic needs of people all over the world.

The Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association explores the organisational/institutional frameworks within which SDIs are developed locally, across individual nations, multinational regions and, in some cases, globally. The Committee encourages dialogue and interaction with respect to varying approaches and explores SDI models and experiences. The goal of the Committee is to enhance cooperation in sharing spatial content. In addition to these practices, the Committee works on three specific activities:

1. Managing the GSDI Small Grants programme, which is supported by the US Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and URISA’s GIS Corps,



2. Raising monies for the GSDI Developing Nations Fund to support professionals engaging in SDI efforts in the developing regions of the world,
3. Sharing capacity-building resources through the Committee's website – including videos, presentations and training resources.

The Committee has contributed towards the travel of professionals from developing nations to attend GSDI and other SDI-related conferences from the Developing Nations Fund. The Committee has also issued more than 100 grants valued at USD 2,500 each, from FGDC, professional services from GIS Corps or both, to all regions of the developing world.

Take a moment and review the many exciting SDI efforts that have received these resources on the Societal Impacts Committee website. The Committee welcomes the participation of the geospatial community and those institutions that are implementing SDIs to engage in the dialogue surrounding the benefits of SDIs and to support the important work of the Committee.

Carmelle J. Terborgh is the team lead of the Esri Global Affairs team and an account manager for several US foreign affairs agencies and international organisations. She serves on the Board of Directors and chairs the Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association, as well as co-Chair of the GSDI Industry Council.

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

The aim of the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geographic information community. The GIKNet Community Registry permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other institutions to record and publish details about themselves and submit relevant documents to the Spatial Documents Depot, which provides a search facility for locating information and documents submitted by GIKNetwork members. A comprehensive list of GI/SDI related discussion lists can be accessed from a single reference page. Access the GIKNetwork at this link: <http://www.giknet.org/>.

The main categories under which documents can be referenced in the GIKNetwork include: GI Science: Education & Training; GI Science: Research; and SDI/GIS: Practice and Applications. The network is promoted on the Association's e-mail lists and the LinkedIn GSDI Group. All members of the GSDI Association and IGS are encouraged to sign up for GIKNetwork and to submit documents relevant to any aspect of SDI development and deployment, globally.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL SDI PROJECTS

- INSPIRE: pan-European regional SDI initiative. Many GSDI and IGS Members attended and participated in the INSPIRE 2012 Conference, in Istanbul, Turkey, from 23-27 June at the Istanbul Convention Centre. The initial programme, on Saturday and Sunday, 23-24 June, included a wide range of workshops, which were very well attended, by an estimated 400+ participants. (A full conference report is available online from the free *SDI Magazine* at www.sdimag.com – look in the menu option 'Event Coverage').

Various GSDI Member organisations, members of the GSDI Association Committees, Council and Board are involved in the many other global initiatives or programmes on an on-going basis:

- Eye on Earth – visit www.eyeonearth.org.
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) building the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – see www.earthobservations.org/ag_partorg.shtml.
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu/default.aspx.
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit www.iode.org.
- UNSDI – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit www.ungiwg.org.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS UPDATES

To see the latest news from the different e-mail forums maintained by the GSDI Committees (4) and the regional SDI Newsletters (5), visit the web site



at <http://www.gsd.org/discussionlists>, choose the forum of interest and select the 'Archives' option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above.

For more information on any of these items, visit the **GSDI Association** web site at <http://www.gsd.org>.

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