



GSDI Global Newsletter

Monthly News from the GSDI Association

Vol. 4, No. 11, 2014

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

The ***GSDI GLOBAL NEWSLETTER*** is published by the GSDI Association, edited by Roger Longhorn. The Editor may be contacted at rlonghorn@gsdi.org. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to GSDI Members, GSDI partners or SDI initiatives at any level.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Among other duties, in November GSDI President, **Dr David Coleman** has been working with Secretary-General Roger Longhorn and members of the Executive Committee on developing the new draft GSDI Bylaws and preparations for the forthcoming GSDI Council meeting in February.

David was a keynote speaker at the **Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications** in Toronto, Canada, in October, presenting the paper: "*Paper Title: Challenging Traditional Models, Roles and Responsibilities in Evolving Spatial Data Infrastructures*". See David's live presentation on the GSDI YouTube channel at: <http://youtu.be/VJ-oHvCTEOs>.

The slides can be seen on the GSDI SlideShare account at: <http://www.slideshare.net/GSDI/david-coleman-challenging-traditional-models-roles-and-responsibilities-in-evolving-spatial-data-infrastructures>.

In future, we hope that other GSDI members will contribute their presentations to the Association in helping to develop an active library of recent and relevant capacity building material for training purposes.

FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



Secretary-General **Roger Longhorn** has been busy with his usual communications and operations duties, including drafting an update to the Bylaws of the Association for review by legal staff in the USA, in order to reflect the new GSDI Strategy 2015-2020. As summarised in the Board meeting short report in the last issue, several areas of the Bylaws now need changing to reflect the new strategy.

We continue development of the new GSDI website and implementation of a new Membership Management System which aims to streamline contact with our organisational and individual members from 2015 for administrative, operational and capacity building purposes. Member news and SDI-related news from around the globe continues to be published on the current website and to our LinkedIn and Facebook accounts.

Minutes of the October GSDI Board meeting teleconference have also been distributed to all Board members for comment, as well as to GSDI Council members for information.

Members are reminded that the Association is more than happy to re-publish their presentations on the GSDI Slideshare account if they will simply notify Roger, which increases exposure of our Members' activities to the wider geo world! Contact him at rlonghorn@godi.org.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

GSDI Council Meeting – February 2015

Preparations are underway for the next GSDI Council meeting, to be held by teleconference in the middle of February 2015. The poll indicates that Tuesday, 17 February, at 1100 GMT, is the most likely date/time for the meeting. One of the most important issues to be discussed – and voted on- at the meeting are the proposed changes to the Association's Bylaws, which must be approved by the Council in order to be officially adopted. Changes reflecting the new GSDI Strategy 2015-2020 have been drafted by the Secretary-General and are being reviewed by an attorney in the State of Virginia, where the Association is registered as a non-profit organisation in order to ensure that all rules and regulations have been satisfied. A draft agenda for the meeting will be circulated to all Council Members (Delegates and Alternate Delegates) along with the draft Bylaws not later than 15 January 2015.

IJSDIR Special Call for Geospatial Dataset Descriptions

The **International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research (IJSDIR)** is one of the free and open access journals focusing on SDI issues and is one of the journals recommended to members interested in current SDI research. In August, IJSDIR made a pre-announcement of a Special Call for Geospatial Dataset Descriptions.

The IJSDIR would like to support Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) research and by inviting researchers and practitioners to submit descriptions of their datasets as short scientific papers for peer-review.

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

Custodians and managers of INSPIRE datasets are encouraged to submit examples for this special call. The formal call has yet to be announced, however, potential contributors are invited to indicate their interest to the editor, Dr. Sven Schade, at: sven.schade@jrc.ec.europa.eu.



Source:

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

ASSOCIATION MEMBER NEWS

Industry Member News

News from Spatial Innovation Ltd

[Spatial Innovation Limited Appoints GeoTechVision Guyana Inc. as Authorized Reseller for ESRI Products in Guyana and the Eastern Caribbean](#)

Spatial Innovation Limited, the exclusive distributor for Esri products in the Caribbean, is pleased to announce the agreement it reached with GeoTechVision in Guyana to become an authorized reseller for Esri products in the following countries: Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. This move is expected to widen our customer base within the region.

The partnership was announced during the opening address of the 7th URISA Caribbean Conference recently held in Curacao.

“Spatial Innovation is excited about this partnership as it provides an opportunity to broaden our market by exposing new users to world class technology at competitive pricing through GeoTechVision’s channel. As leaders in the development of geospatial solutions in the region we welcome GeoTechVision to the Eastern Caribbean as Authorized Resellers of Esri products and will work closely with them to unearth untapped applications of GIS,” said Roshawn Clarke, Marketing Manager, Spatial Innovation Limited shortly after announcing the partnership in Curacao at the URISA Caribbean Conference.

“Through this partnership GeoTechVision will now offer the industry leading software coupled with our existing business process specific integrated solutions that best meets the needs of our clients. We look forward to working with Spatial Innovation.” said Valrie Grant, Managing Director, GeoTechVision, after signing the agreement.

News from Esri

[Esri Geodesign Summit Update](#)

The Esri Geodesign Summit will be held January 22–23, 2015 at Esri Headquarters, Redlands, California. The full agenda, including preconference workshops on 20-21 January can be found here:

<http://www.geodesignsummit.com/agenda/agenda.html>

Registration fees are:

Standard= \$229 - Before December 19, 2014

Late and On-Site= \$279 - After December 19, 2014

Student= \$129

Exhibitor= \$99

Lightning Talk Presenter= \$99

Esri Distributor= \$99

Registration is open at:

<http://www.geodesignsummit.com/registration/index.html>

[Building a National Basemap of Canada](#)

The Esri Canada’s ArcNorth News Fall 2014 newsletter has been published. One of the more interesting articles is *‘From Many to One: Building a National Basemap of Canada’* in which Esri Canada President, Alex Miller describes a vision for a definitive topographic basemap that’s created by Canadian communities, for Canadian communities. *“For close to five years, Esri Canada has been spearheading the development of an authoritative national basemap of Canada,”* said Mr. Miller. *“Our role is to serve as the catalyst to help organize our users to produce a continuous map of the country that communities across Canada will maintain.”*

A de facto topographic basemap that’s updated on a regular basis does not currently exist in Canada. In the absence of a single, trusted basemap, government departments, agencies and public organizations across Canada often maintain their own in-house maps. This means that basemaps and geodatabases are being created and maintained in organizational silos. Updates or changes to these independently- managed maps are not being shared on a national level for the benefit of developing a central, publicly-available map.

The clear drawback to this current scenario is a duplication of efforts, not to mention a missed opportunity for Canada’s basemaps and corresponding geographic information to move out of silos and into a shared reservoir. Under Mr. Miller’s leadership, Esri Canada is rallying the national GIS community to seize this opportunity with a simple, yet bold idea: create a national, publicly-accessible basemap that people trust because of their confidence in its underlying data.

“We developed a strategy that will keep the national basemap accurate by focusing on organizations that are the authoritative sources of data,” said Mr. Miller. *“Those sources in Canada are government organizations. Federal and provincial organizations are important sources of data, as are universities, colleges and airports. But we’re specifically targeting municipalities because, collectively, they represent the largest proportion of organizations mandated to maintain our infrastructure, such as roads, sidewalks and buildings, on a local level. Part of their*



efforts to fulfill this mandate involves continuously collecting new data to reflect changes and updates to their infrastructure. Our goal is to take this data, weave it into a seamless community map of Canada and publish it in a way that everyone can access in a consistent fashion."

Read the full article on pages 20-21 in the Newsletter at <http://info.esri.ca/m000JV3040yU2tOzZhY0DU0>

Source: Esri Canada ArcNorthNews Fall 2014 issue.

Esri at 2014 GEO-XI Week - 11-14 November

The Eleventh Plenary Session of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO-XI), hosted by Switzerland, took place in Geneva 13 to 14 November 2014 at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The agenda included GEO Board and Executive Committee meetings on 11 and 12 November, with plenary sessions held on 13-14 November. **Paola DeSalvo**, from Esri's Nonprofit and Global Organizations team, attended the GEO-XI Plenary on behalf of the GSDI Association.

Among the side events held on 12 November was a workshop conducted by GSDI Member Esri, entitled **'Working with the Esri GEO Community Portal'**, which reviewed a GEOSS Community Portal that helps Esri users to participate in GEO and support the nine societal benefit areas.

News from Boundless



Boundless Partners Update

Boundless partners are an important part of spreading the depth and breadth of our software around the world. In this ongoing series, we will be featuring some of our partners and the ways they are expanding the reach of our Spatial IT solutions.

Long-time Boundless partner Gaia3D is a software



development and system integration firm focused on solving spatial IT challenges for government and research institute

clients across South Korea. Since Gaia3D founder Sanghee Shin was first exposed to open source geospatial solutions many years ago at a FOSS4G conference, he and the team at Gaia3D have been vocal advocates for open source. The company initially reached out to Boundless (then OpenGeo) for guidance as they worked to introduce open source geospatial to the burgeoning South Korean market. The enterprise OpenGeo Suite packaging and support

enabled Gaia3D to foster adoption of these powerful new tools. "OpenGeo Suite is equipped with everything we need," said Gaia3D Director of Marketing Heegu Park.

Read more about Gaia3D at their website here:

<http://www.gaia3d.com/en/>

Learn more about all Boundless partners here:

<http://boundlessgeo.com/about/partners/>

News from the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

Trimble becomes a Principal Member of the Open Geospatial Consortium

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) is pleased to announce that Trimble has raised its membership level from Technical Committee level to Principal level.

As a Principal Member, Trimble will participate in OGC's Planning Committee to explore market and technology trends relevant to OGC's mission to assure that OGC's policies and procedures remain effective and agile in a changing technology environment. As a member of the Planning Committee, Trimble will participate in final approval decisions for all OGC standards and for nominations to the Board of Directors.

"OGC's standards work continues to broaden to support convergence and information integration between the geospatial, civil engineering and AEC disciplines as well as sensors, navigation and mobile communications. Broad convergence of these domains is extremely important if we are to improve our ability to address increasingly complex challenges facing cities and communities today and into the future. Trimble's participation in the OGC Planning Committee as a Principal member will undoubtedly help influence OGC's understanding of the market and the future direction of enabling standards," said Mark Reichardt, President and CEO of the OGC.

Bryn Fosburgh, Vice President responsible for Trimble's Construction Technologies Division, said, "We are extremely pleased to be part of the OGC's Planning Committee and we look forward to collaborating with this consortium of companies, government agencies, research organizations and universities. We believe we can bring significant industry and technology experience to participate in the consensus process and support the creation of geospatial standards that that can empower technology developers to make geospatial information and services more accessible and useful."

OGC seeks comment on new working group focused on disseminating lightweight "datacubes"

Mobile computing has become pervasive in most parts of the world. The OGC Web Coverage Tile Service ("WC Tiles") SWG will address the needs of users who need timely, compact, geospatial data or data products for their



location or point of interest and for whom the overheads of other geospatial service interfaces may be too demanding of their mobile devices' computing resources, battery life or bandwidth.

The new standard will be directly analogous to the OGC Web Map Tile Service, which provides for downloading tiles of pre-formatted image tiles to a client device on demand. Those images are encoded in the relatively simple image formats commonly used in websites. OGC Web Coverage Tiling Service 'data cubes' will be able to transfer virtually any type of complex spatial data, such as multi-dimensional atmospheric or ocean data, hyperspectral Earth images or even vector geometry.

The draft charter for the OGC Web Coverage Tile Service Standards Working Group is available at https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=60231. Send comments on the charter to charter-requests@opengeospatial.org.

The 30-day public comment period **ends 20 December 2014**. After the ad hoc group seeking to form the new SWG has addressed comments received in response to this Request for Comments (RFC) the draft charter will be submitted to the OGC Technical Committee and Planning Committee for their review and likely approval.

The OGC adopts GML in JPEG 2000 ("GMLJP2") Encoding Standard Version 2

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) has adopted the OGC GML in JPEG 2000 Encoding Standard (Part 1 - Core) (GMLJP2) version 2.

In 2006 the OGC published Version 1.0 of GMLJP2 to address problems encountered when attempting to have satellite images fit to Earth coordinate systems and "match up" to other sources of geospatial information. These are difficult problems because there are many sources of both Earth images and geospatial information, all with different coordinate reference information. GMLJP2 version 2 is the latest in a series of interrelated standards that have come into wide use in various application domains that use imagery.

JPEG 2000 is an image compression format widely used to store and transport imagery. The OGC Geography Markup Language (GML) is a widely used XML (eXtensible Markup Language) encoding for the transport and storage of geographic information, including vector data and non-spatial properties of geographic features. The GMLJP2 geospatial data encoding standard defines how the OGC Geography Markup Language (GML) is to be used within JPEG 2000 images for adding geographic content to imagery.

GMLJP2 Version 2 eliminates shortcomings of Version 1 and also addresses shortcomings of competing methods of using JPEG2000 in geospatial applications.

Standards organizations cooperate in the continual improvement and updating of the international open standards that provide a platform for seamless service-based publishing, discovery, assessment, ordering, access and processing of geospatial information. This suite of standards evolves to keep up with evolving application requirements and the world's evolving Information Technology ecosystem. The OGC will announce another standard related to GMLJP2 – "GMLCOV for JPEG2000" – in 2015. GMLCOV for JPEG2000 will support improved interoperability and integration and address a more varied set of spatial data types and applications.

All OGC standards are free and publicly available on the OGC Standards Page. You can view the GML in JPEG 2000 (GMLJP2) Encoding Standard version 2 at: <http://docs.opengeospatial.org/is/08-085r4/08-085r4.html>.

OGC seeks public comment on the Earth Observation Metadata profile of the OGC Observations & Measurements Standard

The membership of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) seeks public comment on the candidate Earth Observation Metadata Profile of the OGC Observations and Measurements (O&M) Standard.

The Earth Observation (EO) Metadata profile of Observations and Measurements is intended to provide a standard schema for encoding Earth Observation product metadata to support the description and cataloguing of products acquired by sensors aboard EO satellites.

EO products are differentiated by parameters such as the date of acquisition and the image footprint as well as characteristics pertaining to the type of sensor, the type of platform, the applied processing chain, and more. This candidate standard identifies the metadata elements that enable the robust description of general EO products and defines specialisations for specific thematic classes of EO products, such as optical, radar, atmospheric, altimetry, limb-looking and systematic/synthesized EO products. In addition, this document describes the mechanism used to extend these thematic schemas for specific EO missions.

Version 1.0 of the EO Metadata profile of O&M is an OGC Implementation Standard that was adopted in 2012. Since then the standard has been implemented by the EO ground segments of a number of EO missions. During these implementations, a number of improvements and corrections have been identified. The proposed version 1.1 addresses these corrections and improvements.



The documents for the candidate OGC Earth Observation Metadata profile of Observations & Measurements Standard are available for review and comment at: <http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/requests/127>

OGC Supports European Data Modelling Workshop

The Open Geospatial Consortium joins EUROSDR, AGILE, JRC and E.L.F. in presenting an important technical workshop focused on the geospatial elements of data models. The workshop will be held from 28 January (noon) to 30 January (noon) at the Danish Geodata Agency, Copenhagen, Denmark.

National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies and other spatial data infrastructure (SDI) content providers are facing increasing demand for making well documented data in known data models available as standardised web-services. National e-government initiatives require spatial data to be modelled seamlessly with non-spatial data. INSPIRE puts requirements on GML application schemas and web service standards, and the European Location Framework (E.L.F.) project brings the national SDIs together in a Pan-European context.

Data modelling is a mature discipline, but how best to handle a number of specific modelling issues such as semantic mediation for cross community collaboration is challenging. The potential benefits of solving such issues for automating implementation of data distribution and sharing environments is obvious. However, many considerations need to be taken into account when defining and agreeing to the data model. In addition, automating the process of implementing instances database schemas and web-services based on UML data models adds an extra level of complexity.

The workshop aims at identifying challenges in order to identify relevant research topics and encourage development of best practice recommendation. Please register via: <http://www.geonovum.nl/workshop-eurosd>

Call for abstracts

Participants in this workshop are invited to give a presentation on one or more of the topics described on the workshop web page. 300-500 word abstracts can be sent to j.e.stoter@tudelft.nl, **by 12 noon, 12 December 2014**. The abstracts will be used to organize the programme. Improved versions or full papers will not be requested for the workshop.

OGC and GEO announce joint session on GEOSS in Asia: The Next 10 Years

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and invited speakers held a special joint session on 1 December, in Tokyo, Japan. The

session is intended to provide an overview and discussion on the state of the Group on Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS) and the role of OGC and other standards to enable greater interoperability in the context of Asia, with a particular focus on GEO plans for the next ten years.

Co-located with OGC's December technical and planning committee meetings (OGC-TC/PC), speakers will present on a variety of topics including:

- Introduction to the Group on Earth Observation GEO/GEOSS and the Role of the Infrastructure Implementation Board (IIB) and the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI)
- OGC's role in GEO - Results from the Architectural Implementation Pilot
- The Vision and Architecture for the GEOSS Information System future products and services
- The OGC Technical Committee Opening Plenary - A unique invitation to learn more about the OGC community
- Asia and GEO - Asian organisations, both GEO members and non-members, will present on relevant topics
- The Geneva Plenary and the GEO Strategic Plan (2106-2025) - A Review of Outcomes from the November Geo Plenary
- Panel Discussion - GEO and Asian Organisations; how do we increase participation?

News from Americas Members

News from PAIGH

The VII GeoSUR Annual Meeting takes place in Santiago

The meeting was convened under the aegis of PAIGH's Directive Council celebrated in Santiago de Chile on November 11 – 14, and it took place on the morning of November 13.



The GeoSUR Coordinator, Mr. Eric van Praag, presented the project status, the GeoSUR Action Plan for the period



2015 – 2017 and the future plans for this initiative, Mr. Rodrigo Barriga, PAIGH's Secretary General, presented the project's regional perspective and its relationship to PAIGH's Pan American Agenda for the period 2010 – 2020, while Mr. Emilio López, Director of CNIG Spain briefed the audience on a new project to produce a regional 1:250,000 map of Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú and Bolivia, funded by CAF and spearheaded by several regional and national agencies.

GeoSUR Award 2013

The 2014 GeoSUR Award was granted to the TERRA-MA project for the development of an open source platform to manage natural disasters, presented by Brazil's National Center for Spatial Research (INPE).



GeoSUR awarded honorable mentions to two important projects: the National Inventory of Renewable Energy presented by Mexico's Ministry of Energy and the online platform for the citizen presented by Chile's Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism.

The awarded is given annually to innovative projects and initiatives in the application of geo-spatial data and the development of geo-services in Latin America and the Caribbean.

GeoSUR presentation at the JIIDE Meeting in Lisbon

The keynote presentation was given by Eric van Praag, GeoSUR's Coordinator, at the Iberian SDI Meeting (JIIDE) celebrated in Lisbon on November 5-7. Mr. van Praag stressed the role of GeoSUR in Latin America and the Caribbean, the program achievements and its relationship with European agencies such as CNIG, INSPIRE and the European Environment Agency (EEA). The annual JIIDE meeting presents a unique opportunity to expose to Iberian agencies some of the SDI initiatives taking place in Latin America and to learn from good SDI practices in this European region.

CIESIN

Geography 2050 Symposium Launches Expedition to the Future

Columbia's Low Library was the venue for a major symposium, "Geography 2050" held November 19 and organized by the American Geographical Society (AGS) in collaboration with the Earth Institute, the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), and the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF). More than 200 participants from government, the geospatial industry, nongovernmental organizations, and academia gathered to consider key trends and surprises likely to shape the future of the U.S. and the planet. Speakers included Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute; Lee Schwartz, Geographer of the United States; former CIESIN scientist Deborah Balk of Baruch College; Robert Cardillo, new director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA); and Barbara Ryan, secretariat director of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). CIESIN director Robert Chen moderated a session, "Climate, Risk, and Opportunity," and represented the Earth Institute in symposium planning and discussions. CIESIN's 25 years of work applying geospatial technology and data to pressing interdisciplinary problems was given special recognition during the program and reception.

The symposium was sponsored by HumanGeo, Spatial Networks, MapStory Foundation, National Solar, and Boundless and represented the first event in a planned multi-year strategic dialog involving the AGS, the Earth Institute, and other partners.

Source: <http://www.ciesin.org/news.html>

Other US News of Interest

USA Congressman Lamborn calls for Natural Resources Subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over federal geospatial activities

On October 31, 2014, Congressman Doug Lamborn sent a letter to House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings calling for a Natural Resources Subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over federal geospatial activities. In his letter, the Congressman for Colorado's 5th Congressional District noted that despite the extraordinary growth and the near-ubiquitous presence of geospatial data in government and the private sector,

"Congress does not have a committee or subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over geospatial activities. Rather, the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) has concluded the responsibility for oversight and authorization of Federal geospatial activities is spread among more than 30 House and Senate committees and subcommittees.



Whereas the FGDC is chaired by and the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) reports to the Department of the Interior, a subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources would be most appropriate. I believe that the Energy and Mineral Subcommittee is the appropriate location considering the oversight role over **USGS**."

- In May 2012, the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held an oversight hearing entitled "Federal Geospatial Spending, Duplication and Land Inventory Management". This hearing covered the importance of updating Federal land mapping practices for job creation, additional use of public lands and scientific advancements. The hearing also focused on the Federal government's mapping and geospatial management programs including Federal data reliability and management. Advances in mapping technology and demands for mapping products have created greater demand in the Federal government for geospatial services. However, the coordination between agencies often fails to produce the best information or value for various constituencies and stakeholders. Frequently, multiple Federal agencies will request mapping of the same area at the same time, wasting Federal resources, and taxpayer dollars.
- GAO issued a report, "Geospatial Information: OMB and Agencies Need to Make Coordination a Priority to Reduce Duplication", (GAO-13-94, November 26, 2012) where it reported duplication and lack of coordination still exist.
- In December 2013, the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources found the Federal government lacks a current, accurate geospatial inventory of the land it owns, resulting in waste, duplication, and reduced revenue from public land activities. The Subcommittee also found there is still no accurate accounting of Federal geospatial expenditures. GAO testified that "better coordination among federal agencies that collect, maintain, and use geospatial information could help reduce duplication of geospatial investments and provide the opportunity for potential savings of millions of dollars" and reiterated the need for action among several federal agencies, **FGDC**, and **OMB**.

Another GAO report on duplication among Federal geospatial activities and expenditures is expected to be released in February, 2015. It will be critically important that the House has a subcommittee dedicated to these important activities so the GAO recommendations can be reviewed and implemented, with prompt consideration of any required legislation.

See link below for full text of the letter.



Source:

<http://www.directionsmag.com/pressreleases/congressman-lamborn-calls-for-natural-resources-subcommittee-with-primary-j/423339>

October 2014 Standards Update Published Online

Standards updates provide status of FGDC, INCITS L1/ISO TC 211, GWG, OGC, and other standardization activities. There are now over 200 standards tracked in the standards update log. The log has been maintained continuously since February 2011. See for the latest information:

<http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/monthlyStandardsUpdate/index>

News from Asia-Pacific Members

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

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

May 2014 - http://portal.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1532

June 2014 - http://portal.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1533

July 2014 - http://portal.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1569

August 2014 -

http://portal.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1570

September 2014 -

http://portal.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1608

October 2014 -

http://portal.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1614

November 2014 -

http://portal.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1629

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

News from European Members

EUROGI

EUROGI Contribution to Public Hearing in EESC

On 26 October, EUROGI President Bruce McCormack and EUROGI Secretary General Simon Vrečar attended the Public Hearing on Macro-regional strategies across Europe held by the EESC (European Economic and Social Committee). On this occasion EUROGI presented key points regarding the note on the EC's Macro Regional document which is referred to in the document prepared by EESC. Additionally the importance of Geographic

information and Geo-technologies in the processes of macro regional strategies implementation was presented.

Read EUROGI's submission here:

http://www.eurogi.org/images/News/EUROGI%20Note%20on%20ECs%20Macro%20Regional%20Areas%20Strategies%20Document_20141112.pdf

Read the EESC document here:

<http://www.eurogi.org/images/News/Key%20Points%20-%20EESC%20opinions%20on%20macro-regions-1.pdf>

Find out more about EESC here:

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/>

Universty of Twente – ITC

The University of Twente (UT) will provide training on Earth Observation in Africa. UT, together with VITO and Particip, will receive three million Euros. Recently, the MESA (Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa) Training Service has been established, which is aimed at 48 countries south of the Sahara desert. The ultimate goal is to provide African policy-makers and planners with relevant satellite-based information. This information should help them to solve social problems and make choices for the benefit of their people on the basis of the right data.



The trainings will be provided by **ITC Faculty** of the UT. Ben Maathuis, Assistant Professor at Faculty ITC, says: *"We will instruct African authorities, meteorological services, universities and companies on how to use geographical information systems, earth observation data as well as spatial information. We will provide trainings to public officers and lecturers at local universities. They will learn how to install and manage satellite receiving stations. In addition, they will learn how to use the accompanying software in order to retrieve data such as maps and diagrams. Everywhere in Africa, we will establish small and cheap receiving stations in order to enable local institutions to collect the right data without the internet."*

The training will be provided from four special training centres of meteorological services spread over Africa, but also on the basis of distance learning in a special digital learning environment.

MESA

Despite the economic growth of the last years, Africa still has the poorest population of the world. In addition, the continent struggles with problems such as droughts, floods, forest fires and erosion. The objective of MESA is to make satellite data about land, sea and climate available to policy-makers and planners. These data can play a key role in solving the continent's problems. On the basis of this information, policy-makers and planners can make sustainable choices in order to promote the progress and well-being of the African population. Furthermore, MESA intends to transform these satellite information in services for governments and businesses. In this way, the latter can be provided with up-to-date information on such topics as forest fires, floods, deforestation, agriculture and food security, e.g. by means of SMS messages. Fishermen may for instance receive an SMS message with information on those spots where most fish can be found. Foresters may receive an SMS message whenever there is some forest fire in their vicinity.

MESA will focus on poverty reduction and sustainable development in 48 countries south of the Sahara desert in Africa. The project will run until 2018 and will be financed by the European Development Fund ('EDF'), and will be coordinated by the Commission of the African Union.

NEWS FOR GSDI INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The **Individual Membership arm of the GSDI Association** (formerly the *International Geospatial Society*) seeks individuals for membership who have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests, including professionals working in these topic areas in government, academia or industry, and especially students and young professionals from developed and developing nations.

The new **GSDI Strategy and Strategic Plan 2015-2020** proposed ways to be more inclusive of Individual Members in the services and resources available from the Association. In November, more news is being sent to all current Individual Members as to how this transition will take place, which will involve no additional intervention by Members themselves. The stated goals and workplan of the IGS will not change and we plan to devote even more resources from the Association into benefits for Individual Members, especially those from less developed nations.

The current web site is at <http://www.igeoss.org> and this is being redeveloped as part of the new GSDI website, to be released by year's end.



REMINDERS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Subscriptions to GIM International

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

Subscriptions to Geospatial World Online Magazine

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

Participation in GIKNet

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

GSDI on LinkedIn and Facebook

If you have not already done so, please join the GSDI Group on the professional networking site **LinkedIn** at www.linkedin.com. This group now serves both the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society – and is there for YOU to use to let the geo community know what you are doing – or to seek advice on important issues that you may be facing in your work or studies. You can now also join us on Facebook to share your news at: www.facebook.com/gsdianidigs/

Individual Member News!

GSDI Individual Members – submit your news, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are now 440 of you out there now, so please communicate with us. News can be sent by e-mail directly to me, Roger Longhorn, Editor GSDI Global Newsletter at: rlonghorn@gsdi.org, or to Dev Raj Paudyal, IGS President-elect, at: [DevRaj.Paudyal\[at\]usq.edu.au](mailto:DevRaj.Paudyal[at]usq.edu.au).

Join GSDI Today!

Remember that individuals in low and very low income nations can apply to join the GSDI Association as Individual Members 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://siteresources.worldbank.org/DATASTATISTICS/Resources/CLASS.XLS>. 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 as an Individual Member at <http://www.igeoss.org/join>.

GSDI COMMITTEE PROJECT NEWS

To keep abreast of what is happening in SDI and related fields around the globe, be sure to check out the various newsletters downloadable from the GSDI website (<http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters>). These include the **GSDI Regional Newsletter** (regional news from around the globe) and the **GSDI Global Newsletter** (GSDI Association news Member activities), **EuroGeographics Messenger**, the **UN-SPIDER** Newsletter, and the newsletters of the organisations with which GSDI has MoUs – **ICA**, **FIG** and **ISPRS**. Historical issues of the **FGDC** Newsletters, **EIS-Africa** (environmental news from Africa), **SALB** Newsletter (Second Administrative Level Boundaries from the UN), and **EUROGI** Newsletters are also available.

As a result of the new GSDI Strategy and Strategic Plan 2015-2020, from 2015 the role of Committees within the Association will be replaced by Projects, each with a named Project Leader and support staff (typically volunteers with some limited financial support). Projects and funding may be proposed by Members and first option to execute a Project will also be available to GSDI Members.

Communications, Outreach & Membership

Outreach and Membership activities are now carried out by Roger Longhorn, under his responsibilities as Secretary-General. As part of the GSDI Strategy 2015-2020 work is still underway in regard to a potential new fee structure to be implemented in 2016, via an internal working group with representatives from the various member groupings of the Association.

The **Communications Strategy** and **Membership Strategy** presented to the Board on 9 October are being implemented, incrementally, with the main emphasis in December on development and implementation of the new GSDI website and Membership Management System.

The Global Newsletter continues to be edited by Roger Longhorn, that role to be taken over by **Karen Levoleger** from January 2015. Regional News Editor, **Kate Lance**, continues to provide news to the various news lists, as well as preparing the monthly Regional Newsletter. Both Roger and Kate also provide near daily updates to discussion lists and online news on the website.



The GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has **380 members**. If you are not already a member of this group, please join today – and tell your friends!

Visit <http://www.linkedin.com> to join, then find GSDI in the 'Groups' option, to join the group or go direct to: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/GSDI-Association-3794985>.

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

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



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

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

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

Capacity Building

One of the main capacity building initiatives of the Association has been the GSDI Small Grants Program, under the remit of the Societal Impacts Committee, chaired by **Carmelle Terborgh** (Esri), supported by vice-Chair, **Brigitta Urban-Mathieux** (FGDC/USGS), assisted by **Jeremy Shen**, who provides support for on-site GIS training activities and **Kate Lance**, who maintains the list of webinars and the calendar on the GSDI website - see: <http://www.gsdi.org/webinars>.

ICLPST Training Opportunity in Taipei, March 2015

Eligibility available for members of the GSDI Association and International Geospatial Society

The Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association will provide a free training opportunity for 5 candidates from Africa, Latin America and Asia Pacific Region 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 begin on March 11, 2015 and conclude on March 24, 2015.

Chinese Taipei is the sponsor of the training program that entrusts ICLPST to carry out the project. Each candidate must satisfy the following guidelines:

1. Candidates must be a member of the International Geospatial Society (IGS), the Individual Member arm of the GSDI Association, or must be affiliated with an organization that is a Full Member of the Association.
2. Candidates must be proficient in both spoken and written English in order to be able to follow lectures and instructions conducted in English. Nominees with basic computer skills will be considered more suitable for this course.
3. Candidates must be the persons who are presently working as an administrator, planner or project analyst in areas such as land use and management, urban planning, land surveying, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information systems, etc.
4. Candidates must be under the age of 55 and must be medically certified as fit for study and travel abroad. Those Selected should submit a medical certificate to Chinese Taipei in 10 days after the announcement of the selected name list; otherwise, we will fill the vacancy with the next name in line. Please see the referenced Medical Report form for the required physical check-up. Those who are taking medication for chronic diseases have to prepare sufficient medication for the duration of their stay in Chinese Taipei.

All participants should have valid passports and visas (they shall apply for a visa valid for at least a one month stay) for entry into Chinese Taipei. Please note that each participant will receive a round-trip, economy-class air ticket for travel between his/her country's capital city and Taipei by the most direct route, and will be provided with board and lodging expenses during the training seminar. The participant is fully responsible to pay for any and all other incidental expenses in connection with the travel such as visa fees, airport taxes, en-route hotel accommodations, etc.



To better facilitate discussions among the participants and with the lecturers, we require that every participant prepare a country paper about developments in their home country to be presented in class. The topic should be relevant to the theme of the course (see the curriculum). Each country-based presentation is limited to 20 minutes. A computer and projector will be provided by the Center (ICLPST) for the presentation. However, outside the presentation, participants are expected to bring and use their own laptop computers during the training seminar.

If you are interested in the training seminar, please fill in the application form and medical report form as attached or found at:

http://ngis.moi.gov.tw/lan_en/Content.aspx?MenuID=95&SubjectID=541.

Send it to Mr. Jeremy Shen, vice-Chair, Capacity Building, of the Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association **before January 5, 2015** at: jeremyshen0120@hotmail.com or moi0795@moi.gov.tw.

Every application submitted will be reviewed by GSDI Association's Societal Impacts Committee and the President of the International Geospatial Society. Selections should occur within 10 to 15 days.

This announcement can be downloaded in PDF format at: http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1628

We congratulate our vice-Chair, Capacity Building, GSDI Societal Impact Committee, for once again providing this excellent GIS training opportunity in Taipei in 2015 for GSDI members.

Small Grants Program and URISA GISCorps Support

This has been an extremely busy and fruitful quarter for URISA's GISCorps [www.giscorps.org] and its amazing volunteers! We have been engaged in nine new projects, completed two missions and are processing new requests on a regular basis. The total number of projects is now at 154 with over 530 volunteers deployed to over 50 countries around the world.

For new projects, two are in response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and the other seven are uniquely different from each another. Volunteers are digitizing features in flood prone areas of Malawi; assisting researchers at a university in Ecuador; documenting coastal changes via a crowdsourcing effort; teaching a Search & Rescue workshop; helping GISCorps redesign its website; and two volunteers are preparing to head to Uganda in the spring of 2015 to teach GIS and remote sensing. You can read a summary of each of these remarkable projects in the projects in progress web page.

Two volunteers are also assisting a GSDI Small Grants Project in Ecuador

Daniel Mihalov, a GIS Technician from Illinois and Santiago Gonzalez Arriola, a GIS Analyst from Montréal, Canada are assisting researchers at the University of Cuenca and the University of Azuay in Ecuador, the University of Republic in Uruguay, and the Bogotá Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDECA) in Colombia in their study of the implementation of recent SDI trends in the Latin American region. These institutions are supported by the PanAmerican Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) and they applied to the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) for volunteer assistance from GISCorps. The research includes identification of indicators, specifications, and best practices in other SDI efforts around the world that allow assessing the impact of the SDI trends in Latin American Society. Recruitment is complete and work is in progress

GSDI are thankful for the continued support of GISCorps and grateful to all volunteers for their remarkable service.

To see the latest on all GISCorps projects, visit here: http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=127&Itemid=63

Online Training

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

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

Webinars

Readers should not forget the possibilities for training on specific aspects of geomatics, geoscience and SDI implementation offered by online webinars and more formal training opportunities from some of our members, not least our industry members, such as Esri and Intergraph, or association members, such as EuroGeographics, ICC (Cartographic Institute of Catalonia), UNIGIS, USGS/FGDC, EUROGI, HUNAGI, various national governments, etc.



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

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

Forthcoming Webinar of the Month: An Ocean of Story Maps

Presented by Dawn Wright, Chief Scientist at ESRI, this webinar takes place on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 2 pm EST / 11 am PST / 7 pm GMT.

The story map is a relatively new medium for sharing not only data, photos, videos, sounds, and maps, but for telling a specific and compelling story by way of that content. Story map apps provide the user with sophisticated cartographic functionality that does not require advanced training in cartography or GIS. Story maps are essentially web map applications built from web maps, which in turn are built from web-accessible data (including OGC WMS, WFS).

Depending on the chosen complexity of a story map, it can be built in anywhere from a few minutes to a few days. With the beauty and utility of underlays such as the Esri Ocean Basemap, as well as a small tsunami of ocean content percolating up through a host of open data sites, there are powerful stories being told about coastal zone management, conservation, exploration and other forms of scientific field work. These stories are informing, educating, entertaining, and inspiring decision-makers on a wide variety of coastal issues.

This presentation will take the audience on a small tour of a growing catalog of coastal and ocean story maps, many of which are accessible via MarineCadastre.gov and NOAA's Digital Coast. It will also highlight the various resources available for building and deploying story maps, and discuss the utility of this medium for presenting, not just photos and videos, but more analytical results. Learn more about Story Maps at <http://storymaps.esri.com>. Webinar co-sponsored by the EBM Tools Network and OpenChannels.org. To register, visit:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8041913070108707330>

FROM OUR MOU PARTNERS

ICA News



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

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

ICC 2015 Update



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

The call for papers is open and the deadline is 15 October: (see <http://www.icc2015.org/call-for-papers.html>)

Important dates:

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

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

27th International Cartographic Conference pre-conference workshop (2015) - Call for Abstracts

The call for extended abstracts is open for pre-conference workshops for the 27th International Cartographic Conference: Spatial data infrastructures, standards, open source and open data for geospatial (SDI-Open 2015). Jointly organized by the Commission on Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards and the Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies, the venue is the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Friday, 21 August 2015.

The discovery, access, exchange and sharing of geographic information and services among stakeholders from different levels in the spatial data community is facilitated through a spatial data infrastructure (SDI). Standards are key for the quality and development of interoperable geographic information and geospatial software.

The drive for access to geographic information has led to its publication as open data, i.e. freely available to everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control. According to a report by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the use of open source solutions is likely to increase significantly in the future as a viable alternative to proprietary suppliers. Open source software for geospatial, geographic information standards and open data policies are therefore significant for SDI development and implementation. This workshop aims to record examples of current SDI practice with an aim to identify benefits and challenges to implementing free and open source software for geospatial, geographic information standards and open (spatial) data in an SDI.

SDI researchers and practitioners are invited to submit extended abstracts of 1,000-1,500 words that describe SDI case studies where:

- open source software for geospatial is used in the technical implementation; and/or
- geospatial standards are implemented; and/or
- geographic information is accessible as open data.

The case studies shall include the following:

- Background information about the SDI, including the relevant policies.
- A description of how open source, standards and/or open data are implemented in the SDI.
- An evaluation of the motivators, benefits, barriers and challenges concerning implementation of open source software, standards and/or open data.
- Based on the evaluation, provide recommendations for improvements and/or further work.
- Conclusions.

Extended abstracts have to be written in English. Contributions must be original and previously unpublished. Author guidelines are available at <http://opensourcegeospatial.icaci.org/>. Abstracts have to be submitted through the online submission system, available at: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sdiopen2015>.

Abstracts will be reviewed by members of the organizing ICA Commissions. Upon acceptance, a revised abstract has to be submitted for inclusion in the workshop proceedings. At least one of the authors of an accepted abstract must register for the workshop and make an oral presentation at the workshop.

Accepted abstracts will be published in the online workshop proceedings with an ISBN number and will be openly archived on the ICA website under a Creative Commons Attribution License, which allows others to

freely access, use, and share the work, with an acknowledgment of the work's authorship and its initial publication in the online workshop proceedings. Authors of a selected number of high quality abstracts may be invited to submit an extended paper to a peer-reviewed journal.

Important dates:

- **Abstract submission: 2 March 2015**
- Notification of acceptance: 1 June 2015
- Submission of revised abstracts: 6 July 2015
- Full workshop registration payment for presenters: 6 July 2015
- Pre-conference workshop: 21 August 2015
- 27th ICC 2015 Conference: 23-28 August 2015

If you have any questions, please contact Antony Cooper acooper@csir.co.za, Serena Coetsee serena.coetsee@up.ac.za, Suchith Anand Suchith.Anand@nottingham.ac.uk, Luciene Delazari luciene@ufpr.br or Silvana Camboim silvanacamboim@gmail.com

ISPRS News



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

Selected abstracts for special issue of ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information

Selected abstracts for the planned special issue of **ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information on "Open Geospatial Science and Applications"** are available at: http://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijgi/special_issues/science-applications

The last decade has seen a rapid growth in open source geospatial software and open data developments. Building upon the broader progress in open science, the synergies in the developments in open source geospatial software, open data, open standards, open hardware and open access to research publications have been key in accelerating the advancement for open geospatial science and applications. A combination of factors are driving this momentum, including the contributions made by hundreds of developers and the leading role played by the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo), aiming primarily to support and promote the collaborative development of open source geospatial technologies and data. For the geospatial community this has offered exciting opportunities for expanding both research and education for the future. By combining the potential of free and open GI software, open data, open standards, open access to research publications, open hardware, etc. will enable the creation of a sustainable innovation



ecosystem for advancing the discipline and accelerating new discoveries to help solve global cross disciplinary societal challenges from climate change mitigation to sustainable cities.

We invite original research contributions on all aspects of open source geospatial software and its applications, and particularly encourage submissions focusing on the following themes for this Special Issue of ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information (ISSN 2220-9964).

- The use of open source geospatial software and data, in and for scientific research.
- Academic endeavors to conceptualize, create, assess open source geospatial software and data, and teach such usage.
- Use of Open Data and Big Data.
- Data quality, software quality.
- Open source implementations.
- Open SDI.
- Open standards.
- Community building.
- Assessment of costs and benefits of open source applications and open source business models.
- Architectures and frameworks for open source software and data.
- Teaching geospatial sciences with open source solutions and open data.
- Open Source GIS application use cases: government, participatory GIS, location based services, health, energy, water, climate change, etc.
- Human computer interfaces and usability in and around Open GI systems.

On behalf of the Editor team (**Prof. Thierry Badard, Prof. Franz-Josef Behr, Prof. Serena Coetzee, Dr. Luciene Delzari, Dr. Barend Kobben**) for this special issue, I will be happy to hear from potential full paper contributors who are able to submit their full papers **before 30 Jan 2015** to email suchithanand76@gmail.com **before 10 Dec 2014**.

UAV-g 2015 - International Conference on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Geomatics

You are cordially invited to the 2015 International Conference on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Geomatics UAV-g 2015 to be held August 30 – September 2, 2015 in Toronto, Canada. This is the third event of the series of UAV-g Conferences following the very successful meetings in 2011 in Zurich, Switzerland and in 2013 in Rostock, Germany.

Using small UAV as data acquisition platforms and measurement instruments has become attractive for many emerging applications. These small and lightweight Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) are also known as

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) or Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). Small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) are being used for a variety of civilian uses ranging from mapping remote arctic areas to search and rescue to home deliveries.

sUAS mobile mapping systems are becoming the technological impetus for revolutionizing 3D geospatial data acquisition and mapping and causing a paradigm shift in the field of geomatics. sUAS are transforming geomatics research and applications and creating new and innovative opportunities for measuring and modelling geospatial environments. However, there are no complete and easy solutions as the low cost, smaller and simpler pilotless aerial mapping systems, consisting mostly of small aerial platforms and off-the-shelf equipment and sensors, are still expected to deliver high quality results in efficient and economical ways.

The aim of UAV-g 2015 is to bring together experts in photogrammetry and remote sensing, surveying, robotic mapping, computer vision, artificial intelligence, aerospace engineering, geosciences and various users' communities. Researchers, developers, service and systems providers as well as users are invited to contribute with presentations, posters, exhibitions, live demonstrations and discussions to create synergies between research and applications using UAV in Geomatics. It is a great opportunity to learn about the most recent developments and to exchange views on the future directions of UAV in geomatics research, applications and services. The conference will include plenary and thematic sessions, poster sessions, exhibition and demonstrations.

UAV-g 2015 is organised by the ISPRS ICWG I/Vb on Unmanned Vehicle Systems (UVS): Sensors and Applications and is hosted by the Lassonde School of Engineering, York University. Please visit the conference web site for information and updates.

Important Dates

- Full papers (for ISPRS annals): **15 March, 2015**
- Abstracts (for ISPRS archives): **31 March, 2015**
- Notification of acceptance: 30 April, 2015
- Full and final papers due: 15 June, 2015
- Early-bird registration by: 31 June, 2015

Contact: Costas Armenakis, Co-Chair, ISPRS ICWG I/Vb
www.uav-g-2015.ca

GI Research 2014

GI Research 2014: The 1st ISPRS International Conference on Geospatial Information Research - was held November 15-17, 2014 at the University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran. All conference papers have been indexed in



the ISPRS Archives at: <http://www.int-arch-photogramm-remote-sens-spatial-inf-sci.net/XL-2-W3/index.html>.

The conference was organized by the University of Tehran, Department of Surveying and Geomatics Engineering and ISPRS WG II/1, WG II/4, ICWG II/IV, WG IV/7, and endorsed by, among others, the International Cartographic Association (ICA). GSDI Past-president **Dr. Abbas Rajabifard**, made a presentation at the conference. Dr. Rajabifard will also be speaking at the World Cadastre Summit, Conference and Exhibition, 20-25 April 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey (see: <http://wcadastre.org/page/45-en-home>) on the topic: about "*Beyond Spatial Enablement- the role of Cadastre and 3D land and property information in delivering future cities*".

FIG News

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

4th International FIG 3D Cadastre Workshop, 9-11 November 2014 - Dubai, United Arab Emirates

GSDI Past-president, **Dr. Abbas Rajabifard**, gave the opening keynote presentation at the FIG 3D Cadastre Workshop held in Dubai, titled '3D Cadastres and Beyond' on 9 November. The full paper can be downloaded here: http://www.gdmc.nl/3DCadastres/workshop2014/programme/Workshop2014_01.pdf

The presentation can be downloaded at: http://www.gdmc.nl/3DCadastres/workshop2014/programme/Pres2014_p01.pdf

or viewed on the GSDI Slideshare account at: <http://www.slideshare.net/GSDI/abbas-rajabifard>.

See the full programme and download all papers and presentations from this link: <http://www.gdmc.nl/3DCadastres/workshop2014/programme/>

FIG Monthly Newsletter

The November 2014 FIG Newsletter has been published at: http://fig.net/pub/enews/november_2014.pdf.

The Article of the Month in November 2014 is written by Tajul Ariffin Musa, Abdullah Hisam Omar, Ivin Amri Musliman, Siti Syukriah Khamdan, Yip Kit Mengand Kamaludin Omar, Malaysia: **A Prototype of RFID-Based Cadastral Boundary Mark System (RCBMS) in Malaysia**. This paper is peer reviewed and presented at the 2014 FIG Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The paper discusses an RFID-based cadastral boundary mark system (RCBMS). The aim of the RCBMS is to modernize the conventional cadastral boundary marks with marks that are lighter,

robust, and easy to locate, and which offer the capability to perform spatial/non-spatial cadastral information on site. View the article and download the article from this link:

http://www.fig.net/pub/monthly_articles/november_2014/musa_et_al.html

All FIG monthly e-Newsletters from 2007 can be downloaded from <http://fig.net/pub/enews/index.htm> or from the GSDI Newsletter Archive at:

<http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#FIG> for those posted since January 2010.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

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

GSDI – The Way Forward to 2020

On 9 October, the GSDI Association Board adopted a new GSDI Strategy and Strategic Plan 2015-2020, focusing on activities in five areas:

- SDI capacity building,
- awareness raising of SDI challenges for implementers, users and beneficiaries of SDIs,
- sponsoring research into SDI issues,
- dropping the IGS 'brand' to create an all-inclusive Membership Association, and
- streamlining the infrastructure and administration of the Association.

Capacity Building

The Association's current capacity building work focuses on:

- the GSDI Small Grants Program sponsors workshops, seminars, and projects mainly in developing nations, with support from URISA's GISCorps,
- the GSDI SDI Cookbook and various publications provide guidelines for implementing SDIs,
- targeted training activities, such as the two-week GIS training offered free of charge to selected GSDI Members in Taipei each year,
- information on webinars related to SDIs, from both Member and non-Member resources
- reports and studies related to SDI, in the GI Knowledge Network spatial documents depot, and
- the Community Registry, with details of more than 700 industry professionals and organisations, to offer wide networking opportunities.

Awareness Raising

The Association publishes the monthly GSDI SDI Regional Newsletter, with global coverage of SDI-related news, and the GSDI Global Newsletter covering Member activities.



We maintain an extensive online calendar of events and news items are posted almost daily to the GSDI website. GSDI officers and Members also participate in conferences and meetings around the globe on a regular basis.

SDI Research

GSDI World Conferences are drivers for professionals globally to focus on research relating to SDI. Since 1996, 14 conferences have been held and GSDI 15 is scheduled for first quarter of 2016. All conference proceedings are available online as open access documents. In 2015, the Association will introduce 'SDI White Papers', the first of which will be an analytical comparison of SDI best practices from regions around the globe. The final report will be available to Members, the wider community, and the UN-GGIM initiative, as part fulfilment of the Association's responsibilities under its special consultative status with the UN.

GSDI as an All-Inclusive Organisation

The Association's Bylaws initially provided for membership only for organisations. In 2009, the Association opened membership to individuals, creating the International Geospatial Society (IGS) as a separate 'brand' within the Association. In order to reduce confusion among current Members, sponsors and geo community, from 2015 GSDI will drop 'IGS' as a separate marque, while reaffirming to all Individual Members that they are, and have always been, Association Members and will continue to enjoy the rights and privileges available to Members. We will also be seeking members from outside the usual geo community.

Streamlining the Infrastructure

From 2015, the GSDI Board will be reduced to be able to react more quickly in providing guidance to GSDI's officers. Committees will be replaced by Projects, with targeted deliverables and named Project Leaders, to deliver tangible benefits to Members and the geo community. The goal is to permit more resources to be used in producing meaningful Member benefits, more easily and more efficiently.

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

Useful Links:

- GSDI Small Grants: <http://www.gsdi.org/sic1>
- URISA GISCorps: <http://www.urisa.org/about-us/urisa-s-giscorps/>
- SDI Cookbooks: <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdicookbookindex>
- Publications: <http://www.gsdi.org/publications>
- Webinars: <http://www.gsdi.org/webinars>
- GIKnet: <http://www.giknet.org/>
- GSDI World Conferences: <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences>

- Newsletters: <http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters>



Roger Longhorn is the Secretary-General of the GSDI Association and Editor of the GSDI Global Newsletter. He can be contacted at rlonghorn@gsdi.org.

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

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

ALLIED CONFERENCE NEWS



DGI 2015 Update

The team behind Worldwide Business Research's DGI conference have created an insightful benchmarking report. Download the report here to see the results: <http://dgi.wbresearch.com/defence-geospatial-intelligence-benchmarking-survey-2015-mloc-f-ty-m>

The survey gives geospatial experts the opportunity to capture the latest thinking and identify the current trends in the Geospatial Industry.

The survey was distributed to over 5000 Government & Military Agencies from over 21 countries to find out their opinions on topics such as:

- What are their biggest challenges in the Defence Geospatial Intelligence Industry in 2014/2015?
- Do they plan to invest in new GIS technology or upgrade their current GIS system in the next 3 years?
- Do they use LiDAR as a normal source for your production?
- Is their organization using crowdsourcing and volunteered geographic information?

I thought you might be interested in seeing the report of the results. I hope you will find the report valuable and look forward to seeing you at the DGI 2015 Conference in London, 19th-21st January 2015 at the QEII Conference Centre.

Message from: Neil Thompson, Former Director Geospatial Intelligence Canadian Armed Forces Advisor, Defence Geospatial Intelligence



DGI, Europe's largest conference covering location intelligence, has developed a key agenda that focuses on the challenges brought forward from research over the last 6 months.

19 January at 12.20: Challenge the experts - what are the new requirements, what are the solutions

In this panel with Jim Hill, Marine Corps Intelligence, CDR Kelly Taylor, US National Ice Center, Martin Jeffries, Office of Naval Research and more you will receive new ideas from leading US and Canadian geospatial intelligence experts plus ask questions yourself

19 January at 14.20: How Interoperability Between Geospatial Intelligence And The MAJIC Project will be Achieved During 2015

Learn from NATO and NCIA about how they are breaking down the silos for increased collaboration between forces, in order to tackle threats more efficiently.

20 January at 10.00: 5 Challenges Geospatial Intelligence Leaders Need to Overcome

Spend time with some of the world's most experienced geospatial intelligence leaders to understand how they prioritise activities in response to the biggest challenges today during this unmissable panel!

21 January at 8.40: Geo-Political Changes Shaping the Future for Location Intelligence Professionals

The onset of cross border and home grown terrorists is a new challenge and threat which has multiple implications. Find out what measures have been put in place to reduce these threats from world-renowned expert Robert B. Murrett, Deputy Director, Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCT) Professor of Practice, Public Administration and International Affairs.

GSDI Members at DGI 2015

Several GSDI Members will be represented – and presenting or chairing sessions - at the **DGI 2015 Conference**.

On 20 January, at 1230h, **John Day**, Director for National Security Business Development, **Esri**, will provide "**Expert Insight - Transforming Intelligence for the Complete National Security Community**". John will also be on the panel at 1805h that day, '**Challenge the Panel: 5 Lessons from Commercial for Defence and Security Application**'.

At 1355h, **Charles Kenelley**, Chief Technology Officer, **Esri UK**, will chair Track C – '**Exploiting Knowledge**'.

Then, at 1430h, **Denise McKenzie**, Executive Director, Communications and Outreach, Open Geospatial Consortium (**OGC**), will make a presentation on "**Sensors, Mobile and Big Data – Next steps for Geo-standards**". Denise will also chair the roundtable '**New Ways to Enable Location Data Compatibility**' at 1640h.

At 1500h, **Ben Conklin**, National Security Solutions Manager, **Esri**, presents '**Advances in Location Analytics for Defence Geospatial Applications**'.

Later that afternoon, Roundtable 5 – "**Harnessing Innovation Opportunities from Open Data and Big Data**" will be led by **Dr Gabor Remetey-Fulopp**, Secretary General, Hungarian Association for Geoinformation (**HUNAGI**) and **Roger Longhorn**, Secretary-General, GSDI Association.

On 21 January, at 1335h, **Khalid A. Hameed Al Hammadi**, Director of GIS, at GSDI Member, **Central Informatics Organisation (CIO)**, Directorate of GIS, Kingdom of Bahrain, will present '**How Geospatial Intelligence is Contributing to Security in Bahrain**'. He will later chair Roundtable 4 titled "**How to Solve GEOINT Challenges in the Middle East**".

Download the full agenda here:
<http://wbreasear.ch/gsdiagenda>

International Workshop on Spatial Data and Map Quality – January 2015

The **International Workshop on Spatial Data and Map Quality** will take place on 20-21 January 2015 at the Old University Building, Valletta, Malta.

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

Download workshop announcement here:
http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/SDMQ15-Workshop_announcement1_0.pdf

- Deadline for registration is **15 December 2014**.
- Deadline for long abstract/full paper is **31 December 2014**.

Registration for the workshop is now open. This event is being sponsored by EuroGeographics and spaces are limited. See details at:



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

Workshop cancellation and substitution

You may substitute delegates at any time. Cancellations, via email, will be accepted until 10 January 2015. Cancellations after 10 January 2015 or failure to attend the event will incur costs to EuroGeographics; these will be invoiced to your organisation.

Delegates are expected to make their own hotel arrangements and several rooms have been booked for your stay at the Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana, but they must be confirmed **before 15 December 2014**. To confirm the accommodation, please use the registration form from the workshop website and send it to reservations@excelsior.com.mt.



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

Please direct any queries to Carol Agius. [carol.agius@mepa.org.mt]

GISTAM 2015 - CALL FOR PAPERS

GISTAM 2015 - 1st International Conference on Geographical Information Systems Theory, Applications and Management

GISTAM will be held from 28 to 30 April 2015 in Barcelona, Spain. The conference website is at: www.gistam.org

The International Conference on Geographical Information Systems Theory, Applications and Management aims at creating a meeting point of researchers and practitioners that address new challenges in geo-spatial data sensing, observation, representation, processing, visualization, sharing and managing, in all aspects concerning both information communication and technologies (ICT) as well as management information systems and knowledge-based systems. The conference welcomes original papers of either practical or theoretical nature, presenting research or applications, of specialized or interdisciplinary nature, addressing any aspect of geographic information systems and technologies.

Important Dates

Regular Papers – submission closed on 19 November 2014.

Position Papers

- Paper Submission: **January 9, 2015**



- Authors Notification: February 16, 2015
 - Camera Ready and Registration: March 2, 2015
- #### **Doctoral Consortium**
- Paper Submission: **February 18, 2015**
 - Authors Notification: March 3, 2015
 - Camera Ready and Registration: March 11, 2015

Special Sessions

- Special Session Proposal: **December 8, 2014**

Tutorials, Demos and Panel Proposals

- **February 18, 2015**

GISTAM 2015 is sponsored by:

- INSTICC – Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication
- INSTICC is Member of:
- WfMC – Workflow Management Coalition
- OMG – Object Management Group

Logistics Partner:

SCITEVENTS – Science and Technology Events

Keynote speakers include:

- Robert Laurini, INSA, University of Lyon, France
- José Bioucas Dias, Telecommunications Institute, Portugal
- Jordi Corbera, Geological and Cartographic Institute of Catalonia, Spain

All accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings, under an ISBN reference, on paper and on CD-ROM support. SCITEPRESS is a member of CrossRef (<http://www.crossref.org/>) and every paper is given a DOI (Digital Object Identifier). All papers presented at the conference venue will be available at the SCITEPRESS Digital Library. The proceedings will be submitted for indexation by Thomson Reuters Conference Proceedings Citation Index (ISI), INSPEC, DBLP, EI (Elsevier Index) and Scopus.

The Conference Chair is Cédric Grueau, Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal/IPS, Portugal, and Program Chair is Jorge Gustavo Rocha, Universidade do Minho, Portugal

Conference Topic Areas

Each of these topic areas is expanded below but the sub-topics list is not exhaustive. Papers may address one or more of the listed sub-topics, although authors should not feel limited by them. Unlisted but related sub-topics are also acceptable, provided they fit in one of the following main topic areas:

1. Data acquisition and processing
2. Remote sensing
3. Modeling, Representation and Visualization

4. Knowledge Extraction and Management

5. Domain Applications

For information on the Program Committee, visit:

<http://www.gistam.org/ProgramCommittee.aspx>

Please check further details at the conference website

<http://www.gistam.org/CallForPapers.aspx>

INSPIRE and Geospatial World Forum Joint 2015 Conference



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

Call for Abstracts

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

See the Proposed Scope of Presentations here:

http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/callforabstract_workshop.htm

The Submission Guidelines are here:

http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/Submission_Guidelines.htm

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline: 1 January 2015

Submit Abstracts at this link:

http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/submit_abstract.asp

Submit Workshop Proposals here:

<http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/submit-abstract-for-workshop.asp>

Proposed scope, technical themes, submission guidelines and important dates are available on conference website at:

http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/callforabstract_workshop.htm

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

Locate15 Conference 2015 - Call for Presenters

Locate15, to be held 10-12 March 2015 in Brisbane, is Australia & New Zealand's leading spatial event consolidating the top Australian spatial industry events. A central meeting point for industry, government and academia in one of the fastest growing industries. Locate15 is designed to energise the location industry, inspire both producers and consumers of location information, and drive greater awareness, adoption and innovation. Learn more here: <http://www.locateconference.com/>

Location technologies, services and data are all about inspiring us to reach new levels of understanding - about our organisations, where we live, the planet, or about ourselves. Inspiration comes from making new connections based on location information, solving social, political and economic problems, and sheer innovation and imagination in applying location technologies.

We would like to hear your inspirational stories and your experiences; economic, political, social, environmental or business problems solved; the goal of data, software and hardware; presentations with a focus on the user perspective and needs.

We invite prospective presenters to submit a brief **Executive Summary** of up to 400 words under any of the themes below - identified by practitioners, industry, researchers and users - as issues of most topical interest.

Visit the call for papers here:

<http://www.locateconference.com/abstract/request>

Please submit Executive Summaries online **by midnight 15 December 2014**, using the Word template provided at the link above.

Conference Themes:

- Environment
- Sustainable management of our natural resources
- Health
- Innovation, Research and Development
- Managing our investment in infrastructure and utilities
- Securing our Nation, Disaster and Emergency Management



Please download more information on these Theme topics here:

<https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ap-southeast-2.accounts.ivvy.com/account653/events/49155/files/544cc8319a86e.pdf>

Research Paper submissions (separate process and dates)

Research@Locate15 is the academic research stream at Locate and aims to be the premier academic meeting event in the Australasian region. Research@Locate is organised by the Australasian Spatial Information Education and Research Association, ASIERA. Research@Locate will provide a transparent full-paper peer review process, with carefully selected presentations and papers, and with its own annual, open-access proceedings.

The accepted papers will appear in the CEUR Workshop Proceedings Series (CEUR-WS.org), an open-access publication service of Sun SITE Central Europe.

Papers are welcome from researchers in geodesy, mapping, computer science, artificial intelligence, geography, geographic information science and related disciplines contributing to spatial information science. Submissions are to be of original, previously unpublished papers contributing to spatial information science. For information on themes, submission dates and to submit your abstract/paper/poster for review, please go to Research@Locate 15 here: <http://asiera.org.au/rl15.html>

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

Digital Earth Summit in Nagoya

Report by Gabor Remetey-Fulopp, Secretary-general, HUNAGI and Member of the GSDI Association - 13 November 2014

The Digital Earth Summits are biannual international fora of the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) focusing on a selected hot topic to be discussed, held since 2006. In the odd numbered years ISDE holds its international Symposia, since November 1999. The



Mission of the Society (founded in May 2006 in China) is to provide a framework for understanding evolving societally beneficial technologies, both current and newly emerging, and to revise the Digital Earth Vision in light of new developments. The Vision papers on *Digital Earth 2020* and the *Next-Generation Digital Earth* were published in 2012 by the academic journal of the Society, the *International Journal of Digital Earth*, and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA (PNAS)*, respectively, in 2012.

The 5th Digital Earth Summit (DES 2014) was held in WINCH Aichi Conference Center in Nagoya between 9-11 November 2014 under the theme: Digital Earth for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The invited keynote speakers were Prof. T.Yasunary, one of the active member of the ICSU Future Earth program who delivered a presentation of the Implications of Future



Earth in Asia and the Pacific; Prof. D. Sui of OSU, who talked on how the VGI is transforming the society; Dr. J.Trent of NASA Ames RC introducing his system approach-based concept and its realisation for sustainable development; and Dr. Mike Gould of Esri who emphasized how GIS as a platform tool can support problem-based learning and innovation.

Image: Discussion of the UAV session

The plenaries were complemented by parallel sessions with themes on ESD, environment, agriculture, cities, disaster, DE technologies, (with double session devoted to UAV), visualisation, citizen science/VGI.

Special session introduced Japans' new satellites JAXA. Poster session and an exhibition enhanced the Summit with mostly local companies (Esri Japan made continuous movie on the impressive, latest Esri User Conference), but the EDS tool *Dome* was also presented by the Library of the Denver University. Probably among the most interesting booths were those of Jaxa and Restec on the apps of the advanced land observation satellite ALOS 2.

Photo: Right to left - H. Nagai (JAXA), J. Trinder (former ISPRS President) and G. Remetey (GSDI/HUNAGI).

An impressive performance was arranged for the participants showing the NASA-JAXA movie maybe in the world largest Planetarium, followed by a social evening with culture and Japanese hospitality. The round tables brought the people closer providing exchange of ideas which might lead to further initiatives and cooperation.

The Digital Earth Summit was intentionally coupled with the high level United Nations Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) World Congress held in the impressive Nagoya Congress Center. This event was actually the Reporting Congress of the declared UN Decade of ESD (2005-2014).

This opportunity was used by Prof. Hiromishi Fukui, director and host of the 5th Digital Earth Summit to submit the message of that event to the interested ESD participants to take home.



His message was:

“The importance of DE, Geospatial Informatics and spatial planning (Geo-design) is being recognized worldwide GI, with its ability to integrate various levels of data and knowledge from many fields is acting as a bridge between various professional disciplines and citizens.

The DE Community (DEC) has a large and skilled pool of professional. The DC should be geared to be the next destination for knowledge economy and Geo-enabling society.

There is an urgent need of Digital Earth as platform of Integration, Synthesis of knowledge and ESD for System thinking and critical thinking.

We hope Digital Earth reaches out to both GIS specialists, professionals and citizens in the field of environment, disaster management, energy, utility planning and social sciences and so on.

We call all professionals and related stakeholders, to use this Digital Earth to share the data, their expertise with contributions and suggestions for the sustainable future and Future Earth project.”

After the in-depth talk of Prof. Fukui, the Chair of the Joint session of UNESCO World Conference on ESD invited three DES participants to add comments or share their opinion. Gabor Remetey-Fulopp, representing GSDI/HUNAGI (who chaired the DES Session on Agriculture), Donald Sullivan of NASA Ames Research Center and Anton Kardakov of the Estonian University of Life Sciences spoke. Gabor cited as good practice “think globally, act locally”. The case of land sustainability

investigations taking into account climate change as an opportunity to settle new vineyards was presented by Toru Otawa of the University of Idaho on the previous day at the Digital Earth Summit.

GSDI – ISDE Memorandum of Understanding

A draft GSDI-ISDE Memorandum of Understanding (see Annex) elaborated by GSDI Secretary-general Roger Longhorn was on the agenda of the ISDE Council Meeting held in Nagoya on November 8. A decision regarding the MoU will be made by the Executive Committee of ISDE. Similarly, bids for hosting the 10th ISDE Symposium and 6th DE Summits submitted so far by Australia and South Africa respectively, will be evaluated at a later stage, presumably at the 9th ISDE Symposium to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia between 6-10 October 2015.

European Regional SDI Updates & INSPIRE

EU INSPIRE



New video online - “smeSpire introduces EULF”

The European Union Location Framework (EULF) is a new initiative of the EU to promote wider use of location-based information in e-government. The part-EU-funded smeSpire project has produced a video introducing EULF to the smeSpire community in 4 steps: EULF in brief, EULF pilots, EULF & SMEs, EULF & smeSpire. Watch the video here: <http://youtu.be/gjOzBfsTK-g>

For more on EULF, visit:
http://ec.europa.eu/isa/actions/02-interoperability-architecture/2-13action_en.htm

To learn more about the smeSPIRE project, visit:
<http://www.smespire.eu/>

Eurostat's European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP)

ESTP GIS course materials are now available online. The course was held in Oslo, Norway, 7-9 May 2014, with the title: **GIS in Statistics and Preparations for INSPIRE Reporting Obligations**. All presentations can be found here:
<http://www.efgs.info/front-page/geostat/estp-2014/gis-course> .

Topics covered in the workshop included:

7 May: Introduction and Production of Data Morning Session, Theory



- GIS and the Statistical Production Chain - The process in a NSI for contributing to the GEOSTAT 2011 grid - Ola Nordbeck, Statistics Norway
- How to produce population gridded data following the aggregation approach (based on register data) - Ola Nordbeck, Statistics Norway
- How to produce population gridded data following the hybrid approach (based on various data sources as register data, land use data etc.) - Arslan Ahmedov, Statistics Bulgaria
- Brief introduction to Hands-on exercise: Production of gridded population statistics - Ola Nordbeck, Statistics Norway
Production of gridded population statistics - Ola Nordbeck, Erik Engelién, Statistics Norway
Find the manual here:
<http://www.efgs.info/geostat/1B/frontpage/appendix1-production-procedures-bottom-up>
Find the toolbox example developed in the course here: http://www.efgs.info/geostat/estp-2014/gis-course/day01_generatinggrids_toolbox
- Automatisatión of the grid production Ola Nordbeck - Ola Nordbeck, Statistics Norway

8 May: Preparations for Inspire Reporting Obligations

- Inspire for Statistical Offices - Find INSPIRE Data Specification on Population Distribution and on Statistical Units - Arvid Lillethun, Norwegian Mapping Authority
- ArcGIS for Inspire - Olav Kavli, GEODATA AS (ESRI-Distributor) - For more info:
<http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/arcgis-for-inspire>
- Harmonisation in ArcGIS - Olav Kavli, GEODATA AS (ESRI-Distributor)
Find the exercise here:
http://www.efgs.info/geostat/estp-2014/gis-course/day02_harmonisation_toolbox
- Inspire metadata in ArcGIS - Olav Kavli, GEODATA AS (ESRI-Distributor)

9 May: Spatial Analyses

- Introduction to spatial analyses - Erik Engelién, Statistics Norway
- Introduction to Hands-on exercise - Erik Engelién, Statistics Norway
Hands-on exercise (Accessibility studies) – Find the developed toolbox here:
http://www.efgs.info/geostat/estp-2014/gis-course/day03_accessibility_toolbox
- How to automate the hands-on exercise - Erik Engelién, Ola Nordbeck, Participants

GEO News

GEO-XI Week Update

The Eleventh Plenary Session of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO-XI), hosted by Switzerland, took place in Geneva 13 to 14 November 2014 at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The agenda included GEO Board and Executive Committee meetings on 11 and 12 November, with plenary sessions held on 13-14 November.

All final plenary documents and presentations can be found at this link, including the meeting outcomes and official statements by Member Countries and Participating Organizations:

<http://earthobservations.org/documents.php?smid=1100>

UN-SPIDER Monthly Updates



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

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

Download the November UN-SPIDER Newsletter here: http://www.un-spider.org/sites/default/files/Newsletter_online_0.pdf

From the November Newsletter

GSDI Member the **Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)**, based in Nairobi, Kenya, is at the forefront of promoting the use of geo-spatial technologies for disaster risk reduction in Africa. RCMRD, in collaboration with NASA SERVIR, has developed a comprehensive disaster risk reduction framework, which guides the Centre's engagement in the region in disaster management. This includes the procedures to identify projects to be implemented in Member States and strategic partnerships with development partners and collaborators working in the region. Amongst many of these partnerships is RCMRD's role as a UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office (RSO). This partnership has been



operational for several years now. Among the activities jointly implemented under the partnership is capacity building for professionals in institutions in RCMRD Member States who are involved in different aspects of disaster management including early warning, response, and mitigation. These activities also include capacity building for RCMRD's staff involved in disaster management projects through participation in international conferences and training workshops. RCMRD has actively participated in four Technical Advisory Missions (TAMs) organised by UN-SPIDER. TAMs aim to assess the current and potential use of space-based information in all the aspects of disaster risk management and emergency response and to provide specific recommendations to improve the use of space technologies.

The Sudan TAM carried out in 2011 is one example that highlights the importance of the participation of RCMRD in the TAMs in the region. During this particular mission, the TAM team identified several gaps regarding the access to space-based data for disaster risk reduction and technical capacity to use geospatial technologies for disaster risk reduction. One of the recommendations from the mission was to hold a training workshop targeting staff from the Government and from other agencies working in disaster risk reduction in Sudan. RCMRD together with UN-SPIDER organised a one-week training workshop with RCMRD sending two technical staff (a Data Specialist and a Disaster Risk Expert) and developed training material for the course.

Read the full article in the Newsletter.

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

Eye on Earth Update

On October 24-25, the Association of American Geographers (AAG) hosted a stakeholder workshop in Washington, D.C., as a key component of the Eye on Earth (EoE) FALCON project (<http://eoe.aag.org/falcon-sdi/>). The project, which has received seed funding from the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI), in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as part of the Eye on Earth Disaster Management Special Initiative (SI), is focused on supporting spatial data infrastructures for disaster management and risk reduction in the MENA (Middle East-North Africa) region.

The workshop brought together 25 experts and leaders from government agencies, NGOs, international organizations, universities, and the private sector.



Featured speakers and panelists represented the Federal Geographic Data Committee; the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; the U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security; the U.S. Geological Survey; World Resources Institute; the United Nations Environment Programme; the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Clarion University; Deloitte; Esri; the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs; Ushahidi; and the World Bank.

Presentation materials are posted on the AAG's Eye on Earth website: <http://eoe.aag.org/falcon-sdi/resources/>

Presentations and panels focused on the Eye on Earth program and the FALCON project; U.S. spatial data infrastructure resources; U.S. and international support for global disaster management and risk reduction efforts; emerging trends in geographic technologies used for disaster management; and the role of a global geospatial health network for disaster relief.

Participants also contributed ideas for the FALCON Roadmap of recommendations for SDI implementation in the region as well as discussed opportunities related to the 2015 Eye on Earth Summit, which will be held in Abu Dhabi 6-8 October 2015. For information on the upcoming *2015 Eye on Earth Summit: Informed Decisions to Sustain our World*, see <http://www.eoesummit.org/>.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

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

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

Participating in GIKNet

All members of the GSDI Association are encouraged to sign up for GIKnet, enter their personal or agency profile information in the Community Registry, and then submit documents relevant to any aspect of SDI development and deployment, globally.

GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

GSDI Member organisations, members of the GSDI Association Committees, Council and Board, and IGS members are involved in many other regional and global initiatives on an on-going basis.

- Eye on Earth – www.eyearth.org.
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – www.earthobservations.org.
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu.
- EU INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu.
- International Cartographic Association (ICA) – www.icaci.org.
- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) – www.fig.net
- International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) – Marine SDI Working Group – www.iho.int.
- International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) – www.digitalearth-isde.org.
- International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) – www.iscgm.org
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – www.iode.org.

- UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – www.ungiwg.org.

GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR

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

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS

To see the latest news from the different e-mail forums maintained by the GSDI Committees (4) and the regional SDI Newsletters (5), visit the web site at <http://www.gsdi.org/discussionlists>, choose the forum of interest and select the 'Archives' option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above.

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

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.

