

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



To [subscribe](#) to SDI-AP. Back issues of the newsletter are at the [GSDI website](#). You can also sign up for [GSDI News List](#) to receive alerts of special news and announcements as well as notification of new issues of the SDI-AP newsletter. To subscribe to, and access archives of, thematic or regional discussion lists [please visit](#).

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Message from the editor

Welcome to the April edition of the newsletter.

This month the SDI spotlight is an overview of the investigation of land use in Taiwan the article has been prepared by Jeremy Shen from the [Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan](#).

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

Malcolm Park and Serryn Eagleson ([Editors](#))
[Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration, The University of Melbourne](#)

Contributions

Thank you to the following people and organisations for their contributions to this issue:

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Paul Box, Kate Lance, and Baek Wonkug for news feeds, Jeremy Huang and Jeremy Shen from the Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan for the Chinese translation, and Shivani Lal, *GIS Development* and *Asia Surveying Mapping Magazine* for directly feeding into the newsletter.

SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

[State Spatial Data Infrastructure soon](#)

Kochi: The State government of Kerala has finalised plans for State Spatial Data Infrastructure, which will serve as a common centre for the storage, processing and dissemination of digital spatial data pertaining to Kerala. A project report had been prepared and the setting up of the infrastructure was approved recently. Central funding has been sought for the project and its implementation will be completed in about a year or less. A request for proposal will be called in a couple of months.

Source: The Hindu Mar 13, 2009

[Singapore's National Spatial Data Infrastructure](#)

The Singapore Government has embarked on its National Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative. The chief executive of the Singapore Land Authority, Lam Joon Khoi, told the 2009 ESRI User Conference in Singapore that the S\$12 million initiative, named the Singapore Geospatial Collaborative Environment, started in April 2008. Source: Asian Survey & Mapping

[Australian Bushfires Spark Open Data Debate](#)

Australia's southeast suffered its worst ever outbreak of bushfires last month. The fires killed more than 200 people, left thousands homeless and devastated huge swaths of the state of Victoria. In certain circles, the disaster has also sparked renewed debate about the need for open data and the role of private industry in assisting with information flows to the public in disaster situations.

...

On the contrary, questions have been raised about the flow of data to the public. [*emphasis added by editors*]

The incident that sparked the debate was another first – Google Australia's decision to create a bushfire map. 'We hope that this map is of some use to people who may be affected, and that it takes some load off other websites which are being inundated,' wrote Google Australia engineering director Alan Noble, on the Google Australia blog.

However, the map only plotted fires on private lands. It was generated via an RSS feed on the CFA website, but the CFA only has responsibility for private lands. The copyright on data for public land is held by DSE, which refused Google permission to use it.

...

Source: Asian Survey & Mapping

For more on the Victorian bushfires, see also the [ACT Emergency Services Agency Press Release](#)

[Managing Korean Land](#)

This article describes the evolution of land management in Korea.

- in 1975, the government of Korea formed the Korea Land Corporation to acquire, manage, and develop land for the government and residents. KLC implemented a GIS in 1990 and began collecting and indexing information.
- These datasets subsequently evolved into KLC's spatial data warehouse, which reduced redundancy and brought to the agency an integrated platform that made it easier to access the latest available data. In addition, its common spatial data model and metadata development improved the quality of the data and helped establish an information-based workflow.
- Today the warehouse stores more than a terabyte of data. It includes the Korea land information system, land suitability assessment, urban planning information system and the urban planning statistics system. This data, plus other datasets developed by the metropolitan governments in Seoul and Daejeon City, and other agencies, are part of South Korea's national spatial data infrastructure.

Further information is available from the *Asian Surveying and Mapping Magazine* at the link above

[JAXA images indispensable for Indonesian forests](#)

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The Forestry Ministry is hoping to continue using sophisticated images from a Japanese satellite to assess the condition of Indonesia's forests.

SOURCE: GIS Development

[Scientists to create global soil map](#)

University of Sydney scientists are behind a technology that will map most of the ice-free land surface of the globe over the next five years in order to create something akin to a "Google Earth" for soil quality.

Source: University of Sydney and [GIS Development](#)

[China publishes map collection on May 12 quake](#)

China has released a collection of maps recording the 8.0-magnitude earthquake that hit southwestern Sichuan and neighbouring provinces on May 12 last year.

With 228 maps, the collection offers a panoramic view of the disaster, including the geology of the region, disaster damage, response and reconstruction. It is the first such effort in China to record the whole process of an earthquake through maps.

Source: [GIS Development](#) & [China View](#)

[ESRI Canada to work on solutions for land admin in China](#)

ESRI Canada has partnered with ESRI China Beijing, Trimble China, International Land Systems Inc. (ILS), USA and Landstar Digital Technology, China to help demonstrate the feasibility of applying GIS and surveying technologies to solve the problem of land rights in China. Results of the recently completed pilot project may ultimately serve as the foundation for a nationwide GIS-based rural land registration and certification programme. Should the Chinese government give the go-ahead for the project implementation, it could quite potentially enhance China's ability to feed its people through the safeguarding of land rights for over 800 million farmers.

Source: [GIS Development](#)

[Risk maps show USA, China to top global ranking for economic loss due to natural disasters](#)

In 2008 natural disasters cost the world US\$200 billion. Global maps, produced by risk specialists Maplecroft, show the United States and China to bear about 90% of this burden and be the countries most susceptible to economic losses.

Source: [Maplecroft News Digest](#) < > and [GIS Development](#)

[C-DAC system to help monitor Assam \[India\] floods](#)

A flood monitoring system developed by the city-based Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) will help plan and execute efficient relief measures in the Brahmaputra (India) basin soon.

The software, aided by microwave remote sensing, will help detect and alert of rise in water levels as soon as they occur, identify inundated villages and usable roads and also provide data about villages, among other things. The C-DAC will implement the project with the help of the Brahmaputra Board and Assam's disaster management cell in June 2010.

Source: [Times of India](#) & [GIS Development](#)

[GIS mapping of properties complete in Bangalore](#)

With GIS mapping of all properties complete, the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) will soon send notices to those who filed wrong returns. With over 2 lakh applications submitted, property tax collection in Bangalore has crossed over Rs 100 crore. "This time, verification of details is more authentic as it's updated with the latest (GIS) technology. We have done it to get all property owners in the city under the tax bracket and track defaulters with greater accuracy," U A Vasanth Rao, DC, resources, said.

Source: [Times of India](#) & [GIS Development](#)

[India Moves Toward Torrens Title System](#)

The Indian government has launched a National Land Records Modernisation Program that will eventually enable it to use the Torrens title system to protect land titles throughout the Republic.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

[Land Reform in Indonesia](#)

Reform of land administration processes is central to Indonesian efforts to address the nation's poor governance of land matters. But while much wrong, there is also solid evidence that the situation is improving

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faster than ever before.

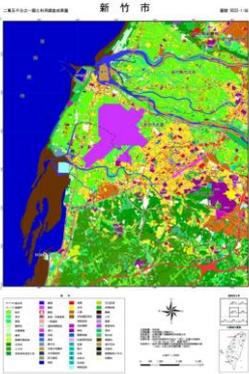
Joyo Winoto, the head of the National Land Agency, told a workshop in Washington DC there were reasons to be optimistic. The workshop, *Land Governance in Support of the Millenium Development Goals* was hosted by the World Bank and FIG, the international surveyors organisation.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

SDI Spotlight

This month the SDI spotlight is from [Jeremy Shen](#) of the [Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan](#) .

[Nationwide land use investigation of Taiwan](#)



In view of the high demand for land planning, the Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan, conducted a nationwide investigation of land use during 1993~1995 as the basis for land planning. With prosperous growth of global economy that rapidly changes the nature and complexity of land use, the 10-year old data can no longer meet people's requirements. Therefore, the Ministry of the Interior has commissioned the NLSC to plan and conduct a second nationwide investigation of land use based on categories from 2006. By taking advantage of rich contents of the aerial/remote sensing images, auxiliary GIS data and some ground survey, land use data will be obtained quickly to meet the requirement of land planning and decision analysis, and the nationwide investigation of land use data will be completed in 2009. To ensure the information being maintained and updated properly, and to make the produced land use investigation data effectively and continuously used for land planning, disaster prevention and rescuing, environment and pollution monitoring, resource exploration, geological analysis, and other fields, plans have been made for partial updating and

maintenance from 2009 to 2015.

Specific benefits realized are as follows:

1. Establishment of a database of land use which add to the richness of NGIS.
2. Constructing a regularly updated database of land use to provide up-to-date information as the basis for governmental decision making.
3. Developing a set of technology for remote sensing image automatic classification and change detection.
4. Establishing a distribution supply system for other government organizations to use the data in value-added applications.

The editors are actively soliciting contributions to the monthly "SDI Spotlight" feature for future issues.

IN THE MAY ISSUE: next month's contribution is Dr Christian Stock's "Integrating Spatial Mapping with Collaborative Virtual Environments":

The Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information together with the University of Melbourne has built a software platform called SIEVE (Spatial Information Exploration & Visualisation Environment) which allows users to explore virtual environments in a collaborative 3D space (similar to Second Life) based on spatial mapping data.

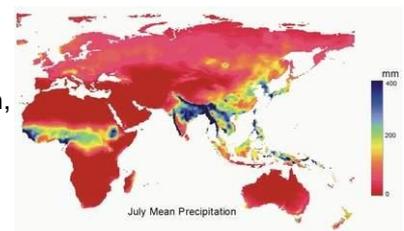
Be sure to order your copy of the May issue now – it's bound to sellout quickly !

GIS Tools, Software, Data

[World Water and Climate Atlas](#)

The IWMI World Water and Climate Atlas gives irrigation and agricultural planners rapid access to accurate data on climate and moisture availability for agriculture. The Atlas includes monthly and annual summaries for precipitation, temperature, humidity, hours of sunshine, evaporation estimates, wind speed, total number of days with and without rainfall, days without frost and Penman-Montieth reference evapotranspiration rates.

Source: International Water Management Institute (IWMI)



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[GIS technology improves decision making](#)

An Australian coal industry research project investigating practical methodology for assessing mining subsidence impacts has found that although many mines are using spatial data in a Geographic Information System (GIS), they could be using the technology more effectively across a wider spectrum of activities.
Source: Australian Mining

[Map Data Layers in Full Screen Map Tool](#) Earth Knowledge are leaders in providing environmental and scientific information. Recently they launched an enhanced website including a geospatial portal. This will allow business and community leaders, educators, students, advocates, scientists, and the general public keep pace with cutting-edge developments in the world of earth and environmental science.
Source: www.earthknowledge.net

["Exploring field vegetation reflectance as an indicator of soil contamination in river floodplains"](#) paper by Kooistra, L.; Salas, E.A.L.; Clevers, J.G.P.W.; Wehrens, R.; Leuven, R.S.E.W.; Nienhuis, P.H.; Buydens, L.M.C.

Abstract: This study investigated the relation between vegetation reflectance and elevated concentrations of the metals Ni, Cd, Cu, Zn and Pb in river floodplain soils. High-resolution vegetation reflectance spectra in the visible to near-infrared (400–1350 nm) were obtained using a field radiometer. [Read more here.](#)

[The Future of GIS According to Roger Tomlinson](#)

The February 2009 volume of GEOconnexion International has a short interview with Roger Tomlinson that takes the reader back in time to review the overlay methodology that birthed the concept of GIS and then looks forward for Tomlinson's take on developments in GIS over the next 10 years.
Source: GIS Lounge

[GIS Technology Helps Rid Southeast Asia of Landmines and UXO](#)

Southeast Asia remains one of the most heavily mined regions in the world. Cambodia, which has a 2009 deadline for the Ottawa Convention,¹ has requested a deadline extension because it will be impossible to meet its clearance obligations by then. The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority is being aided by software from ESRI, which is used to create databases, maps and charts to record the location of mines and unexploded ordnance. This information is used to more effectively locate and demine contaminated areas. As Cambodia's population increases, it is becoming more critical to clear the land of mines.
Source: Carla Wheeler:

[Iraq Plans to Map its Ethnic Divisions](#)

Iraq is planning to hold a nationwide census in October, its first in 22 years. The census will be conducted by as many as 250,000 school teachers that will go door to door throughout the country. While the estimated total population count is 28 million, there's no reliable details about the breakdown of population in the country or the ethnic and religious makeup of its people. This census will help the country allocate its budget, and will most certainly be politically charged.
Source: Vrctor 1 Media and [Reuters](#)

[China to Build Indonesian Satellite](#)

The Chinese government decided last week to give Indonesia a remote sensing satellite to help monitor the seas surrounding its islands. The satellite would be owned and operated by Bakorkamla, the Maritime Security Coordinating Board, but its data could be used by other national agencies.
Source: Asian Survey and Mapping

[NASA](#) has made a [new remote sensing tool, Giovanni](#), available online. "Giovanni is a Web-based application developed by the GES DISC that provides a simple and intuitive way to visualize, analyze, and access vast amounts of Earth science remote sensing data without having to download the data. Giovanni is an acronym for the GES-DISC (Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center) Interactive Online Visualization ANd aNalysis Infrastructure."

Source: [UCLA Library blog](#) & *GIS Development Weekly*, March 16, 2009

The release of [Version 2.0 of the Fire Alert System](#) (FAS), which provides near real-time delivery of active fire data from NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites for Bolivia, Peru, Indonesia and Madagascar. FAS users can subscribe to receive reports, maps, and email notifications with custom jpeg images, text files, ArcGIS

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shapefiles and GoogleEarth KML files of fires occurring within user-defined areas of interest. For a no-cost subscription, please visit the [Conservation International Website](#).

Fire Alert System Release 2.0 contains the following enhancements:

- Complete redesign of the subscription website
- Automated daily or weekly alerts for three new countries: Indonesia, Bolivia and Peru, in addition to Madagascar
- Two new languages: Spanish and Indonesian, in addition to English and French
- Incorporation of country-specific "areas of interest", including protected areas, key biodiversity areas, indigenous areas, vegetation and forest cover types, administrative boundaries, and forest concessions
- Ability to select multiple areas of interest to better target alerts
- On-line access to monthly and multi-year reports and maps
- Links to CI's Fire Risk website

The Fire Alert System was developed in collaboration with the University of Maryland's Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS), NASA's MODIS Rapid Response System, International Resources Group (IRG), Madagascar's Ministry of Environment, Forests and Tourism (MEFT) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID). For more information, please contact [John Musinsky](#).

[Haryana gets satellite images evidence of illegal Aravalli constructions](#)

Haryana's Forest department has said that it has begun receiving satellite images clearly depicting construction closed on the Aravalli Hills in areas falling under Sections 4 and 5 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) 1900. Prepared by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), these images are open to public scrutiny as the department has extended an invitation for those interested in seeing the maps.

Source: Hindustan Times and [GIS Development](#)

[Worries over Bhuvan – India's version of GoogleEarth](#)

India is launching its own version of Google Earth for urban planning, officials said, amid worries that it could be misused after the Mumbai attacks probe showed militants had studied Google images of targets. India's version of Google Earth called Bhuvan, ... It is expected to go one better than Google Earth, helping viewers gauge the soil type and ground water potential across the mainland with high resolution images and data from satellites.

Source: [Reuters](#) & [GIS Development](#)

[GPStogo](#)

GPStogo is a scheme for providing GPS receivers, for the purpose of contributing to OpenStreetMap, to people in developing countries where the cost is otherwise prohibitively expensive.

The OpenStreetMap Foundation, who are the operators of this scheme, aims to lend GPS units, on a long-term basis, to suitably qualified people in any developing country.

The initial goal is to purchase one GPS unit per month and loan it for a minimum period of 6 months to individuals in developing countries who are committed to surveying and creating OpenStreetMap data.

Recipients

Individuals in any developing country who would like to obtain a GPS receiver under this scheme will need to fulfill the following conditions:

You must be a permanent resident in a developing country.

You must have already made some contribution to the OSM project, either by tracing features from Yahoo! imagery, landsat or other allowable source. The tracing does not necessarily have to be of the area where you live. Other contributions such as wiki maintenance, software development, dataset uploads etc will also be counted as contributions to the project.

You must be a registered OSM user, and your edits must be made public so that OSM can identify and confirm your contributions.

Subscribers

You can help this programme by creating a regular subscription of ?5 (USD 10, EUR 10) per month to the GPStogo scheme. To set up a regular donation follow the instructions online.? If you want an idea of who the recipients are likely to be you can take a look at the list of qualified candidates.

One-off donations are, of course, also welcome.

If you have an old GPS receiver that you no longer use then it may be possible to donate this to someone directly.? Please consult the list of qualified recipients to see if you can match your GPS with someone's requirements.

Source: Thanks to KL for this item

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[Razaksat Arrives at Launch Site](#)

The Malaysian satellite Razaksat has arrived at Omelek Island in the Republic of Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean. It will be launched from the island on a Falcon-1 rocket built by SpaceX. The launch is slated for 21 April. The remote sensing spacecraft, which carries an optical payload, will pioneer an almost equatorial, low inclination orbit that will allow it to take advantage of breaks in Malaysia's notorious cloud cover.

SOURCE: Asian Surveying & Mapping and [another source](#) provided by Wonkug Baek.

[gvSIG Mobile 0.2 pilot is now available](#)

A new version of the gvSIG Mobile pilot have been released. The main new features of this version are the alphanumeric and graphical CAD-like edition, and the installation over a PhoneME virtual machine.

It's available from the Downloads section of gvSIG Mobile < >.

Check the new features included in this version from the New features section.

[GPS/GIS enabled tree census successfully tested \[India\]](#)

Dr. Ramesh Madav, Chairman, Enbitech and CEO of Terracon Ecotech Pvt Ltd, successfully tested the Tree Census Methods, using GPS and GIS. The testing was done in presence of various technocrats, Municipal Corporation and Government representatives.

Source: [Hamara Photos](#) & [GIS Development](#)

News from abroad

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

[Bluesky Airborne Lasers Assess Flood Risks](#)

Highly accurate 3D digital maps, captured from aircraft mounted lasers, are being used to assess the risk of flooding at critical utility sites across the UK. The project, undertaken by Ambiental on behalf of one of the UK's largest water companies, used LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data supplied by aerial survey specialist Bluesky to help examine the likelihood, extent and depth of potential flooding as part of a review of flood defence measures at each of the five sites.

Source: Geoconnexion



[OGC forms a spatial law and policy committee](#)

The Board of Directors of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) has chartered a committee of the Board to specifically address the "spatial law and policy issues" which will influence development requirements of the Consortium's technology process.

In the past, legal issues associated with spatial data and technology were primarily a concern for lawyers that worked with or for the government. Now, both public sector and private sector users and providers of geospatial data and technologies face a wide range of legal issues associated with growth in consumer and business applications for spatial technology. Such applications include Earth browsers, satellite navigation devices in cars and PDA's, location-based services associated with cell phones, business intelligence, social networking and satellite tracking of vehicles and equipment. All of these applications raise issues that involve intellectual property rights, liability, privacy, and national security. In many cases, the existing legal and policy framework is inadequate to provide governments, businesses and consumers clear guidance on these issues.

Source: GIS Development & [Open Geospatial Consortium press release](#).

[Is the Government Crime mapping initiative failing UK communities?](#) Cimex study finds fundamental flaws in UK Police crime maps which potentially undermine Government objectives.

One of the major initiatives from the Government's 2008 policing green paper was the requirement for Police authorities around the UK to develop interactive crime maps deliverable by the end of 2008.

Top 50 digital agency, [Cimex](#) has just completed a study to explore how well UK crime maps are serving the public and at which points users face the biggest obstacles in the data provided by the different police forces. The findings are alarming and reveal that, far from helping users, the current crop of crime maps is in fact leaving us more bewildered and confused than before.

Source: Cimex Press Release & Directions Magazine

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[2008 USGS Africa Remote Sensing Study released](#)

Global Marketing Insights, Inc. has completed the "2008 Africa Survey and Analysis of the Remote Sensing Market, Aerial and Spaceborne-10 Year Trends" and delivered the final report to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The USGS contracted Global Marketing Insights to conduct a research study of the Africa remote sensing market as it relates to aerial and satellite data technologies. Global Marketing Insights created a series of extensive on-line surveys encompassing trends impacting the remote sensing industry as well as application usage, and data needs concerning aerial film, aerial digital, aerial sensors and satellite data. These surveys were completed between January 2008 and January 2009. They received 377 responses from over 30 countries. ([interactive map - responses by country](#))

Participants in all segments of the geospatial industry can find valuable market insight in the USGS 2008 Africa Remote Sensing Survey report. Some of these trends and insights include:

- There is a positive movement in the use of remote sensing and opportunities for the use of geospatial data to make an even greater societal contribution to Africa's sustainable development in the near future.
- The private sector is starting to drive the process of developing geospatial data on the continent.
- Respondents believe they have an adequate amount of remote sensing expertise but they need a greater number of accessible geospatial data sets. Data becoming a commodity is the number one trend to impact them.
- Overall, the respondents believe that greater ground resolution is the technical advance that will impact their businesses the most followed by improved GPS units and increased data storage capabilities.

Thanks to KL

[MarineMap](#), a project of the Marine Science Institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara, supports geospatial marine data collection and dissemination projects. Below is an example of an application built for the [Marine Life Protection Initiative](#), which supports the goals of California's Marine Life Protection Act. Below is a map showing the islands of Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz off the coast of Southern California, showing marine mammals and sea birds. Used with permission.

Click for larger view.

Source: [Directions Magazine "Off the Beaten Path"](#)



[KML in Research Award to thematicmapping.org](#)

Today, [Google announced](#) that one of *Thematic Mapping's* KML visualisations won a prize in the [KML in Research contest](#). The animated prism map shows Global Infant Mortality from 1960 to 2005. The statistical data was downloaded from [UNdata](#), a great resource for global statistics.

SOURCE: Thematic Mapping blog ([congratulations](#) from SDI-AP !)

[Change Detection on the Moon](#)

NASA's upcoming robotic mission to the Moon, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) will join orbiters from China, India and Japan is all about making a good map.

Planners will use data from the 12-month mapping mission to begin picking a site for the human outpost that is the current U.S. human-exploration goal by 2020.

Another use: change detection: "We want to image some of the area mapped by the Apollo program with our high-resolution camera in order to see how many impacts have occurred there in the past 30 years, and that will help us to improve the understanding of the meteor flux onto the Moon," says Richard Vondrak, LRO project scientist and deputy director of the Solar System Exploration Div. at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

SOURCE: Directions Magazine

[Pentagon plans blimp to spy from new heights](#)

Giant dirigible would use radar to closely and constantly monitor activity on the ground from 65,000 ft.

Reporting from Washington — The Pentagon said Thursday that it intends to spend \$400 million to develop a giant dirigible that will float 65,000 feet above the Earth for 10 years, providing unblinking and intricate radar surveillance of the vehicles, planes and even people below.

"It is absolutely revolutionary," Werner J.A. Dahm, chief scientist for the Air Force, said of the proposed unmanned airship -- describing it as a cross between a satellite and a spy plane.

The 450-foot-long craft would give the U.S. military a better understanding of an adversary's movements, habits and tactics, officials said. And the ability to constantly monitor small movements in a wide area -- the Afghanistan- Pakistan border, for example -- would dramatically improve military intelligence.

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"It is constant surveillance, uninterrupted," Dahm said. "When you only have a short-time view -- whether it is a few hours or a few days -- that is not enough to put the picture together."

SOURCE: *Los Angeles Times*

The Dangers of Map Making

Most people think that cartography is a pretty cushy job. Walk around and meticulously note the land on a scale such that whole countries can fit onto a piece of paper. No chance of being shot or arrested or killed. One of the biggest online mapping outlets is Google and to most people this is what map making is all about. Cruising around the streets taking photos for people to use to get better directions when driving from point A to point B. Mapping has a darker side, it has to do with knowledge and collection of said knowledge. Another word for knowledge is intelligence and is tied to spying. Prior to satellite photography, the easiest way to collect information was to fly a plane over the area in question and take a few snapshots to remember the occasion. This usually required permission of the country that owned that airspace, or a covert under the radar flight that if caught may lead to a bit of a diplomatic problem.

SOURCE: PenguinMartini blog

CarbonTools PRO Implements GML 3.2

The Carbon Project is a software and technology company specializing in spatial data infrastructure applications and innovative geosocial solutions. The Carbon Project serves professionals, software developers, government agencies and businesses that develop mapping solutions or use geospatial data. Headquartered in Burlington, MA with offices in Virginia, The Carbon Project is a privately owned company backed by individual investors. For more information please visit the link above.

Source: [GIS User](#)

Infoterra to map and classify oil slicks

Infoterra, has been appointed to undertake an oil slick mapping and interpretation project over Baffin Bay for Nunaoil, the National Oil Company of Greenland. This project will begin in July and extend through to October, with the acquisition of approximately 480 radar satellite images over the 240,000 km² area.

Source: [GIS Development](#) & Infoterra & [V1 Magazine](#).

PCI Geomatics supports Egyptian library, provides Geomatica

PCI Geomatics, developer of software and solutions for geospatial imaging applications, announced its support for the New Library of Alexandria, Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) in Egypt. Committed to education and community development, PCI Geomatics has provided the library with 2 copies of its premiere software suite Geomatica. The new library is dedicated to recapturing the spirit of openness and scholarship while connecting Egypt's history to the world via cutting edge technology such as Geomatica. Its mission is to be a center of excellence for the production and dissemination of knowledge, and to be a place of dialogue and understanding between cultures and people.

The BA is not only a library, but also a beehive of knowledge that includes an internet archive, six specialized libraries, three museums, a planetarium, an Exploratorium, four art galleries, a conference center and many other admirable offerings.

Source : [PCI Geomatics press release](#) and [GIS Development](#)

The Global Land Cover Network team is pleased to announce the launch of the new GLCN portal, which can be found at the [URL](#). This website, together with the [AFRICOVER](#) one, represents a source of essential materials, insights, and expertise on land cover-related topics.

Publications, tools and data on GLCN activities are accessible to visitors by browsing the numerous dedicated sections available at the site:

- The **Activities** section collects global, regional and national initiatives and case studies on land cover mapping under the GLCN umbrella.
- The **Land Cover Ontology** section describes concepts and approach of the Land Cover Classification System, including its future direction (LCCS version 3).
- The **Software** section lists, describes and makes available for download the applications (GLCN tools set) developed for and functional to the implementation of land cover mapping and analysis initiatives.
- The **Databases** section includes references to global, regional or national data sets available for or produced by initiatives on land cover mapping and change detection. LCCS legends and other supporting materials, as well as information on the global distribution of LCCS, are provided.

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- The sections **Publications** and **Resources** provide downloadable files (newsletters, series, manuals, country profiles etc.), and references (news, events, links etc.) to information and materials generated by GLCN or useful to the land cover community.

We invite you to browse the site to get acquainted with its structure and contents. Also, we recommend you to return frequently and check out the regular updates that we are continuously implementing.

Any comments are more than welcome and can be directed to < <mailto:glcn@fao.org> >.

Additional information

For a summary of the GLCN activities and outputs, visit the [newsletters archive](#) and see the latest (March-April 2009) edition which has been just uploaded.

Source: Thanks to [Craig von Hagen](#)

US agencies Buy Smart, announcing issuance of new Geospatial SmartBuy Request for Quotation

Very soon United States federal agencies will have access to a single ordering schedule for geospatial software. Released on Friday March 6, 2009, under a broad initiative supported by the Department of the Interior (DOI), many Federal agencies will be able improve their efficiency and save taxpayers money by consolidating their purchases of geospatial technology under the government-wide Geospatial Line of Business (LoB).

Source: Thanks to Wonkug Baek

Probe will unearth planet's secrets

By tracking variations in Earth's gravity, a satellite can detect currents and even oil deposits

A EUROPEAN spaceship is to show scientists the inner workings of Earth, from the movements of ocean currents to the location of oil deposits. Its data will enable them to detect the flows of molten rock that underlie the movements of tectonic plates and cause earthquakes. The Goce probe, launched last week, will measure tiny anomalies in Earth's gravity, caused by anything from mountain ranges to subterranean lava flows or ocean trenches.

Rune Floberghagen, Goce mission manager, said: "Imagine a snowflake, which weighs a fraction of a gram, falling onto the deck of a supertanker. The impact the supertanker experiences from that snowflake is comparable to the sensitivity of our instrument."

Scientists have long known that the Earth's gravity varies all over its surface — and that measuring those changes could give insights into the planet's inner workings. However, designing an instrument capable of measuring them, which would also survive the rigours of blast-off, has until now proved impossible.

This weekend, Goce, short for Gravity field and steady-state Ocean Circulation Explorer, was declared operational.

"Goce will yield details of the Earth's gravity field to an accuracy and resolution that is simply unobtainable by existing terrestrial and space techniques," said Professor Philip Moore of Newcastle University, who specialises in gravity research.

From the [Sunday Times \(London\), March 22, 2009](#) , [European Space agency](#) , [GIS News](#)

UPDATE: [Asian Surveying & Mapping](#)



Danish, Canadian scientists set to map Arctic Ocean

Canada and Denmark are set to launch a joint aerial mapping mission over the Arctic Ocean that could help extend the territorial reach of the two countries to the Pole - or beyond. Canadian and Danish scientists have already begun assembling at an ice camp on Ward Hunt Island, Canada's northernmost piece of land, for this weekend's launch of the mission

Source: [GIS News](#) and [Canada.com](#)

Model the future by studying the past

The Earth Trends Modeler (ETM) is specially designed for the analysis of image time series from earth observing systems.

Source: [GIS News](#) and [Earth Systems Trends blog](#)

New Maps for Senegal, Zimbabwe, Mauritius and Seychelles

The maps include substantial user generated content - in many ways, maps by Africans, for Africans!

SOURCE: [Google Africa blog](#) and [GIS News](#)

[Satellites Measure Sea Surface Roughness & Soil moisture content](#)

In Britain, the Centre for Earth Observation Instrumentation is supporting a revolutionary project aimed at developing a prototype instrument capable of measuring the sea surface roughness and soil moisture content.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

[FAO-GeoNetwork's purpose is:](#)

- To improve access to and integrated use of spatial data and information
- To support decision making
- To promote multidisciplinary approaches to sustainable development
- To enhance understanding of the benefits of geographic information

GeoNetwork opensource allows to easily share geographically referenced thematic information between different organizations.

[Eyes on the Earth 3D](#) - Explore input from more than a dozen NASA satellites in an immersive 3D environment.

Source: [V1 Magazine](#)

[Sea levels rising twice as fast as predicted](#)

Melting ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica force UN scientists to issue dramatic warning

Source: [The Independent](#)

[Amazon Rainforest Carbon Sink Threatened By Drought](#) The Amazon is surprisingly sensitive to drought, according to new research conducted throughout the world's largest tropical forest. The 30-year study, published in *Science*, provides the first solid evidence that drought causes massive carbon loss in tropical forests, mainly through killing trees.

Source: [Science Daily](#)

[Vision 2030 for sustainable cities worldwide](#)

Cisco has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Metropolis, an association of 106 of the world's largest cities, to develop its "Vision 2030" for sustainable cities around the world.

"The 21st century will be the century of metropolises. Today, more than half the world's population lives in urban areas, and this phenomenon is set to rapidly increase. The main priority of Metropolis today is to offer the best to these metropolises and their populations. Signing with Cisco is very important for our network to develop the best way to build sustainable cities and to strengthen our goal, which is the exchange of information and experience."

SOURCE: Geospatial Today - Thanks to WB for this item.

[The Geographic Information Support Team \(GIST\)](#) is an inter-agency initiative that promotes the use of geographic data standards and geographical information systems in support of humanitarian relief operations. In support of their global data management and integration needs, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) funds the GIST Data Repository hosted by Information Technology Outreach Services (ITOS) of the University of Georgia. The GIST website provides a data exchange platform where the registered users can download data. Data contributions are also welcome; individuals wishing to distribute data through the GIST portal should contact [the administrator Karen Payne](#).

The most recent publications at the Repository include a suite of datasets from the from the Sudan, Darfur Region USAID Groundwater Exploration Project. Users wishing to find all data from this project can either search the repository to find all data from Sudan, or use the "Browse" tab at the top of the search page and select Countries/Sudan/ USAID Darfur Groundwater Exploration Project to find only those documents associated with this project.

[South-East Asian climate map reveals disaster hotspots](#)

An attempt to map the potential effects of climate change across South-East Asia has found Cambodia to be unexpectedly vulnerable to disasters.

The map, which considers the region's risk of exposure to climate hazards as well as its ability to adapt to such threats, found that Cambodia's poor ability to deal with disasters dwarfs its relatively low exposure to the risks. The project, 'Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping for Southeast Asia', was carried out by the International Development Research Centre's Economy and Environment Program for South-East Asia (EEPSEA) as part of

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a larger-scale study.

Source: SciDev.net, <http://tinyurl.com/d6l2nh> and [GIS Development](#)

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Articles

[Planning in an urbanizing world: Market is not enough](#)

"The world's urban population is expected nearly to double by 2050, increasing from 3.3 billion in 2007 to 6.4 billion in 2050, making it the same size as the world's total population in 2004 (United Nations, 2007)." This article provides a discussion on population increase and distribution across Asia. In particular the focus of the article is on the need for planning at all levels from national to city to avoid spatial inequalities.

Source: Andi Irawan, *The Jakarta Post*

[Space tech is effective decision making tool for sustaining earth:](#) Dr K Kasturirangan, Director, NIAS and Member of Parliament, India) interviewed.

Source: GIS Development

[Are we going around a circle?](#) by [Prof David W. Wong](#), George Mason University, Fairfax, USA

It has been almost half a century since the first GIS, the Canadian Geographic Information System (CGIS), became operational. CGIS was developed with the objective to build and maintain a land inventory of the vast Canadian territory so that the government can manage the environment and natural resources more efficiently. However, the issue of sustainable development was not a main societal concern at that time.

Source: GIS Development

[Editorial: "Democratisation of geospatial data](#) by [Dr Hrishikesh Samarnt](#)

"... geospatial - for the people - by the people - of the people..."

Source: GIS Development, 23 March, 2009

[The view from over here - India and NSDI](#) by [Prof AR Dasgupta](#)

SOURCE: [GIS Development](#)

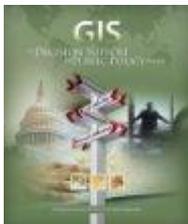
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Books and Journals

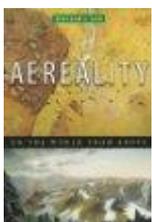
[Open Geospatial Consortium News](#)

To subscribe [send mail](#) with "subscribe" (no quotes) in the subject

[GIS for Decision Support and Public Policy Making](#)



Elected officials and department heads are increasingly relying on geographic information system (GIS) technology to make efficient and accurate decisions when and where it counts. *GIS for Decision Support and Public Policy Making* presents 27 case studies and eight exercises that demonstrate the positive impact of incorporating GIS methodology in daily operations of the public sector. Discover how GIS has improved communications, collaboration, and decision making in the organizations featured in this book. A return on investment matrix is also included as a resource to evaluate cost and time savings due to the increased productivity that a GIS allows. From ESRI Press, 2009.



[Aereality: On the World from Above](#)

William Fox's writing for the last several years has been focused on how we construct aerial views, either physically (by flying) or in our imaginations. In *Aereality*, he flies over earthworks in Nevada and Utah, soars through the world's largest open pit mine, and surveys Los Angeles, circumnavigating large swaths of true American urban sprawl. On the East Coast, he examines the elevated art of the Hudson River Valley and New York City. And finally, in Australia, Fox examines the history and current practice of both Euro-Australian and Aboriginal aerial views,

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and searches for the cognitive roots of our aerial imagination. From Counterpoint, 2009.

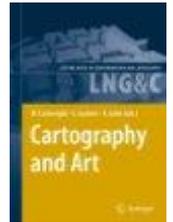
[GIS Tutorial for Health, Third Edition](#), - Contains Lessons in How to Use GIS Software to Analyze Public Health Data and Formulate Policies

—The newly updated *GIS Tutorial for Health*, Third Edition, from ESRI Press, provides hands-on training in geographic information system (GIS) software for public health professionals and students.

The third edition of this popular textbook trains readers on how to use ESRI's ArcGIS Desktop software to manage, analyze, and map data to reveal spatial patterns and trends. The lessons were recently updated to be compatible with ESRI's latest software release, ArcGIS 9.3.

[Cartography and Art](#)

The contributions in this book address the use of 'different' geo-communication tools that could allow for improved visualization of geography- by incorporating ART. It is envisaged that the work of this book will help to re-define how we can better visualise Space and Place, considering: Science, Technology and Art. The book is therefore a celebration of the 'meeting point' between Art and Cartography. It provides a starting point for a journey that will explore innovative methods and techniques for representing our world using the complementary techniques from Art, Science and technology. From Springer, 2009.



Just for Fun !

[Britta Gustafson's](#) beautiful "art book," [Summer Map Book](#) was entered into the Information Aesthetics [Paper-Based Visualization Competition](#). (The other entries were also very cool and worth looking at, but were not map-oriented.)



Writes Britta: "This is a handmade map-based visualization of my travels during three summers, with familiar areas painted darker and labeled in more detail than unfamiliar areas. It is both flat and three-dimensional, since it opens three times to zoom from (1) a view of California, including my non-summer school and home, to (2) a view of the Bay Area with my summer work and home, to (3) a view of San Francisco, my summer city, to (4) a view of the Mission and Castro, my home neighborhoods during two of the past three summers."

SOURCE: [Directions Magazine](#)

The *Atlantic Monthly* for March 2009 has an article [How the Crash Will Reshape America](#) by Urban theorist Richard Florida explaining how the current meltdown will forever change the US urban geography. The [online version](#) has an [interactive map](#) showing time variations across America wrt to patents (1975 – 2002), income (2001 – 2006) & population of the 30 biggest cities(1860 – 2007).

[Lonely lady wolf looks for love in all the wrong places](#)

[MAP: Wolf's trek to Colorado](#)

Call it the power of love. A female wolf has wandered more than 1,000 miles through five states in search of a mate and is now in Colorado's Eagle County, wildlife officials in Colorado and Montana said Wednesday. The wolf, known only as 314F, set off on her lonely quest in September when, for reasons unknown, she became unhappy with the male prospects among the pack of seven animals she was born into 20 months earlier.

Since then, 314F has followed her heart from the Paradise Valley north of Yellowstone National Park through Wyoming, Utah and Idaho. She has trotted past areas where other wolf packs are known to live toward a state that has not had a wolf population for 60 years.

Montana officials follow her progress with a global positioning device on a collar that was fitted to her neck in July.

Source: Rocky Mountain News, [MapHawk blog](#)



[The Valles Marineris](#) is a system of canyons located just south of the Martian equator. The system is about 4000 km long, and, if on earth, would extend all the way across the United States. The view in the picture is looking eastwards with the sun illuminating the northern face of the valley. It has been created using Google Mars.

Image credit : **Google Mars**

Source: < <http://astrogeology.usgs.gov/Projects/VallesMarineris/> > & *GIS Development* "[Image of the Week](#)"

NASA applies GIS to its inner spaces

The GIS team at NASA's Langley Research Center is applying geospatial tools to the task of finding more efficient ways to allocate space at the research facility.

Source: [GIS Development](#) and [Government Computer News](#)

Because it is out-of-date the Editors decided not to include this item under "Books & Journals".

The 2007 University of Melbourne [Geomatics Undergraduate Survival Manual](#) is available for [download](#).

[Penn State Public Broadcasting is launching a "Geospatial Revolution Project"](#) that will include a 60-90 minute public TV program and an educational outreach initiative. An interesting trailer for the project is available. Source: [Directions Magazine](#)

Earth is BEAUTIFUL

[NASA Earth Observatory](#), opens up the opportunity for us to witness the beauty of Earth. It is a website run by EOSPSO, NASA's Earth Observing System Project Science Office. The website contains many high quality imagery from many different satellites with detailed descriptions and articles. Now Flexijourney blogger Philip Ze can understand how much fun an astronaut has.

Source: [Flexijourney blog](#)

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Training Opportunities

[Pre-Conference WORKSHOPS at the 2nd International Conference on Earth Observation for Global Changes \(EOGC2009\)](#) 25-29 May 2009, Chengdu, China

Pre-Conference workshops include:

W1: Satellite Observation of Biomass Burning

W2: Remote Sensing of the Coastal Ecosystems

W3: Land-cover Classification using High-resolution Satellite Images

[Fourth International Workshop on "Geographical Analysis, Urban Modeling, Spatial Statistics" \(GEOG-AN-MOD 09\)](#)

<<http://www.lisut.org/workshop/GEOG-AN-MOD09/>> in conjunction with

[The 2009 International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications \(ICCSA 2009\)](#)

June 29th to July 2nd, 2009

Kyung Hee University-Global Campus, Yongin (Korea)

Important dates

16 February 2009: Deadline for full paper submission

24 March 2009: Notification of acceptance

12 April 2009: Deadline for Camera Ready Papers

June 29 - July 2, 2009: ICCSA 2009 Conference.

[Association of American Geographers offers membership at reduced rate for eligible professionals](#)

Geographers and others whose work involves Spatial Data Infrastructure, GIS, remote sensing, and geospatial data issues in Asia and the Pacific may be eligible to join the Association of American Geographers (AAG) for \$20 per year. This new reduced dues rate is open to professionals who earn less than US\$25,000 per year and are both citizens of and residents in certain countries throughout Asia and the Pacific. [A full list of these countries is available.](#)

The AAG developing regions membership category offers all regular AAG member benefits, with the exception that publications are provided only in digital format.

For more [information on this membership program](#), or [contact Matthew Hamilton](#).

For more information on the [Association of American Geographers](#).

[Advanced Training in Remote Sensing & GIS](#)

Inter-Islamic Networks on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET) is an inter-state, non political and non

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profit making agency. It is an independent, autonomous and self governing institution under the umbrella of the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH). SUPARCO is the host organisation of ISNET.

Institute: National Center for Remote Sensing and Geo-Informatics (NCRG), Karachi, Pakistan

[Application deadline & Form](#): 1 June 2009

Starting Date: 13 July 2009 (2 weeks)

The course aims at providing knowledge and skills in state-of-the-art remote sensing technologies and their applications. It will also focus on concepts of digital image processing techniques, development of image processing algorithms to achieve various image processing tasks. It will also attempt to explore functionalities of various off-the-shelf commercial systems and their comparison. Hands-on training will be imparted to develop practical skills in image processing. The course will touch upon latest developments in remote sensing both in space and ground segments.

ISNET will sponsor participants on the basis of evaluation of the course organising committee and also consider the criteria of first come first served basis. Usually only 4-5 participants can be accommodated in each Course. Sponsorship for workshop will depend on the availability of sponsorship funds for that particular workshop. Thanks to Kate Lance for bringing this to our attention.

WMO/RCUWM/UNW-DPC Training Workshop on Integrated Flood Management

The Training Workshop on Integrated Flood Management (IFM), to be held on 11-14 May 2009 in Tehran, Iran, is being developed by the World Meteorological Organization in cooperation with the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management-Tehran and UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) for flood-prone countries, cities, and communities, with the aim of scaling-up action on integrated flood management to contribute to a minimization of losses of life from flooding and to an efficient use of flood plain resources. The course will provide participants an in depth exposure to the social, economic, environmental and institutional dimensions of flood management and allow them to develop an integrated perspective on floods, floodplains and the development process in their own country.

This three-day workshop has been designed for top and mid-level managers/professionals in water resources management, disaster management, land use management and spatial planning, from several countries in Western Asia and Arab region including Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, Oman, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Yemen.

[Contact](#) or [visit](#) for further information.

Thanks to Kate Lance for bringing this to our attention.

United Nations University – ITC - School for Disaster Geo-information Management Capacity Building for Disaster Geo-Information Management



Worldwide we are faced with a rapidly growing impact of disasters, due to increased vulnerability and climatic extremes. There is an urgent need to include the concepts of disaster risk management into planning, sustainable development and environmental impact assessment. The evaluation of the expected losses due to hazardous events requires a spatial analysis, as all components differ in space and time, using tools that handle spatial

information, such as geographic information systems (GIS).

One of the important requirements to carry out an effective disaster risk management is capacity building and training of disaster management experts and professionals.

For 2009 the following courses are scheduled:

§ [Short course GIS for Disaster Risk Management](#)

In collaboration with: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and Geoinformatics Center of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand;

§ [Distance Education course Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment](#)

§ [Master of Science degree course in Geo-information for Spatial Planning and Risk Management](#), with the University Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

§ [MSc and Postgraduate diploma course in Applied Earth Sciences](#) – Geo-hazards stream

§ [MSc and Postgraduate diploma course in Geo-hazards](#), with IIRS, Dehra Dun, India.

For more information go to [Website](#).

Workshop on quality, scale and analysis aspects of city models

Lund, Sweden, December 3-4, 2009

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Topics

- Multiple representation modelling, storage and analysis of city models
- Integration of 2d and/or 3d-models, as well as image data
- Quality-based generalization: control and evaluation
- Semantic generalization of data models
- Understanding uncertainties in spatial data
- Presentation of quality information by metadata in GIS
- Use of images in quality assurance
- Spatial reasoning process
- Quality of spatio-temporal data and models in urban environment
- All other topics that relates to the theme and the urban context

Important dates

30 June 2009: submission of extended abstracts.

31 August 2009: Notification of acceptance.

1 October 2009: Last day for registration.

1 November: Submission of full papers.

3-4 December: Workshop.

Submission guidelines

Papers must be written in English and must be formatted strictly according to the [ISPRS guidelines](#). The maximum length of the extended abstract is restricted to 5 pages, including all figures and references. The submission of papers is in ms-word format only.

Publications

All accepted full papers will be published on a workshop CD.

Selected papers will be reviewed for publication in a special issue of ISPRS journal, which is planned to be published in early 2011.

[Workshop website](#)

At this website you can register and submit abstract/papers. [Questions](#)

About Lund

Lund is an old city in Southern Sweden. The city is believed to have been founded around 990, when the Scanian lands belonged to Denmark. It soon became the Christian center of Northern Europe with an archbishop and with the towering Lund Cathedral, built in 1103.

The atmosphere of Lund is much formed by Lund University, one of the largest universities in Scandinavia. Lund University, established in 1666, has around 42,000 full or part-time students. As late as the 1940s, Lund was a relatively small city with few large-scale industries, covering only about a fourth of the current urban area and was dominated by the cathedral and the university. Since then, the student population has increased about twelvefold, many industrial companies in the chemical, medical or electronics branches and, more recently, within information management, have set up establishments in the city, and the town's population, architecture and pulse has been transformed.

Contact: Lars Harrie, GIS Centre, Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystems Analysis, Lund University

Sölvegatan 12, SE-223 62 Lund, Sweden, Tel: +46 46 222 01 55, [Email](#)

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Funding Opportunities, Awards, Grants

[The 8th Geospatial Solutions Applications Contest](#)

Enter the Geospatial Solutions Applications Contest for your chance to win GeoExpress Tools software from LizardTech, a GPS Bluelogger with XMap 5.2 Professional software from DeLorme, or an ERDAS TITAN GeoHub!

Plus, top entries will be published on the *Geospatial Solutions* Web site. To enter submit a 500-word (approx) description of your innovative or cost-effective application of geospatial technologies, use the form and instructions available from the website.

(Source: Geospatial Solutions)



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[China Scholarship at UNSW](#)

The China Scholarship Council will award an unspecified number of post doctoral scholarships at the University of New South Wales. The scholarships are for study under Dr Linlin Ge, a world renowned expert in the use of space-based interferometric synthetic aperture radar

Source: [Asia Survey Magazine](#)

[PhD Scholarships in China](#)

Professor Xu Aigong is seeking PhD students to study under him at Liaoning Technical University in Fuxin, China. His subjects of interest include geodesy and geomatics, GNSS, GIS and intelligent transportation systems. Students may be eligible for support under the 2009 Liaoning Provincial Government Scholarship Program. Email [Prof. Xu](#).

Note: Closing date for intending 2009 students is April 30. Professor Xu welcomes enquiries from students seeking information for later years.

Source: Asian Survey & Mapping

[URISA's 3rd annual student paper competition](#)

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) is sponsoring its third annual student paper competition. The objective of the competition is to challenge undergraduate and postgraduate students to demonstrate development and effective use of information systems in both their field of study and the community. The competition is open to all eligible students but particularly those interested in careers using geographic information systems, information technology, geospatial technology, planning and/or community development.

The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2009.

Source : URISA

[Intergraph Opens Nominations for 2009 Carl Pulfrich Award](#)

Award to Honor Outstanding Achievement in Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Earth Imaging

Intergraph is now accepting nominations for its biennial Carl Pulfrich Award to recognize significant design and manufacturing contributions to the industries of photogrammetry, remote sensing and earth imaging. The award is dedicated to honorees in memory of Dr. Carl Pulfrich, a key member of the scientific team at Carl Zeiss, Inc., who from 1890 to 1927 oversaw the design of the company's first stereo photogrammetric and surveying instruments. Carl Zeiss, Inc. later teamed with Intergraph to create Intergraph's Z/I Imaging photogrammetry division.

Professionals in the photogrammetry, remote sensing and earth imaging industries may nominate candidates for the Carl Pulfrich Award, which will be presented during the 52nd annual Photogrammetric Week, Sept. 7-11, 2009, in Stuttgart, Germany. The recipient will be granted a monetary reward of up to \$7,500.

"Intergraph has been presenting the Carl Pulfrich award to deserving earth imaging and remote sensing experts since 2001," said Dr. Mostafa Madani, chief photogrammetrist at Intergraph and chairman of the Carl Pulfrich Award Council. "We are thankful to be able to continue offering the award this year. It is very motivating for Intergraph and our peers in the community to simultaneously honor the memory of a true earth imaging pioneer while recognizing the top contributors of this generation."

Nominations for the Carl Pulfrich Award must be received by 5 p.m. (CST) on July 1, 2009. For more detailed information on nomination guidelines and procedures, [please visit](#) .

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Employment Opportunities

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

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Conferences, Events

[Call for Papers for GSDI 11](#)

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 15-19 June 2009

- all FULL PAPERS submitted to this joint conference arriving on or before **1 December 2008** will be considered for inclusion in a refereed BOOK to be distributed at the conference or in a refereed SPECIAL ISSUE of the International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructure Research (IJS DIR) to be published after the conference. Additional full papers received by **1 April 2009** also will be considered for the Special Issue of IJS DIR.

Source:

For upcoming events of global or major international interest, please visit the [upcoming conference list](#) on the GSDI website.

Date	Location	Event
April 2009		
April 8-9, 2009	Toronto, Canada	DMTI Spatial announces registration for Expedition 2009 DMTI Spatial (DMTI), provider of solutions for location intelligence, announced that registration is now open for its annual customer and partner conference, Expedition 2009. The Conference is scheduled for, at The King Edward Hotel in Toronto
26-28 April	Dubai, UAE	Map Middle East
15-17 April	Moscow region	III International conference Remote Sensing - the Synergy of High Technologies
19 -22 April	Tampa, FL, USA	Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference 2009 The Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) is very pleased to announce that an expanded slate of topics will be covered in more than 100 sessions during GITA's 2009 Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference E-mail
22-23 April	Penang, Malaysia	Map Malaysia 2009 Theme -'Geospatial for All - All for Geospatial' ,it will explore manners and ways in which geospatial tools can reach out and benefit the country in the future
26 – 8 April “NEW”	Abu Dhabi, UAE	Map Middle East 2009 E-mail
28 – 9 April “NEW”	New Delhi, India	10th ESRI User Conference 2009 Email
May 2009		
3-8 May	Eilat, Israel	FIG Working Week and XXXII General Assembly – New Horizons across the Red Sea – Surveyors Key Role in Accelerated Development Contact
4-6 May	Khobar, Saudi Arabia	The Fourth National GIS Symposium in Saudi Arabia
4-6 May	Denver, Colorado, USA	ESRI Business GIS Summit
4-8 May	Stresa, Lago Maggiore, Northern Italy	33rd ISRSE (The 33rd International Symposium on ‘Remote Sensing of the Environment’)
08-11, May	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Remote Sensing Arabia
May 21-22	Ibaraki, Japan	GEOSS Sensor Web Workshop
25-29 May	Chengdu, China	EOGC2009 (the Second International Conference on Earth Observation for Global Changes) The deadline for abstracts closed on 31 December, 2008. Contact: Xianfeng Zhang, Ph.D., Conference Secretariat, EOGC2009 Institute of Remote Sensing & GIS, Peking University

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		Beijing 100871, China Tel: 86-10-62759123
May 28-30	Molde, Norway	ISO/TC211 28th Plenary
June 2009		
01 – 04 June	Vancouver, BC, Canada	GeoTec Event 2009 E-mail
2-5 June	Hannover, Germany	Call for Papers for the 12th AGILE International Conference Deadline of pre-conference workshop proposals: November 30, 2008; Deadline for full paper submissions: December 12, 2008; Deadline for short paper and poster submissions: January 16, 2009
15-16 June “NEW”	Canberra, Australia	spatial@gov Conference 2009 Abstract submission deadline: 16 March 2009 The 2009 spatial@gov Conference is a new event for the spatial community and will focus on the importance of spatial information in enhancing the business of all tiers of government. This conference will focus on the benefits of using “place” or “location” as a powerful enabler to support policy development, service delivery and internal business processes. The program will cover government spatial activities in the areas of national priority including Social Inclusion, Climate Change and a range of other government activities.
15-19 June Theme: Spatial Data Infrastructure Convergence - Building SDI Bridges to address Global Challenges	Rotterdam, The Netherlands Information: (English) and (Dutch)	11th International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI 11) The first call for papers is published at http://www.gsdi.org/gsd11/papers.html . If you want to secure your participation in the GSDI 11 World Conference, it is now possible to register here as well! DEADLINES: 1 December, 2008 and 1 April, 2009 Contact information: PCO agency GSDI 11 (BlomBerg Instituut/Geonovum) Esther Stukker , tel. +31 (0)73 - 684 25 25
17-19 June	Newport Pagnell, UK	The British Cartographic Society's Annual Symposium , Mapping At Work. This 3-day event is an opportunity for mapmakers, users, librarians and enthusiasts to share information about recent mapping projects, research and know-how.
22 June 2009	Nottingham, UK	CFP - FIRST OPEN SOURCE GIS UK CONFERENCE 2009 The Centre for Geospatial Science of University of Nottingham, Open Source Geospatial Foundation (UK Chapter), ICA Working Group on Open Source Geospatial Technologies, SOSoRNET and Open Knowledge Foundation are organizing the First Open Source GIS UK Conference Abstracts (max 500 words) can be submitted before 15 March 2009. IMPORTANT DATES: * Final papers delivered by: 15 May 2009 * OSGeo UK Live Software demo submission deadline: 30 April 2009 * Notification of acceptance: 15th May 2009
June 29-30, “NEW”	Ulaanbaatar , Mongolia	The National University of Mongolia will be holding the 3rd International and National workshop “Applications of Geo-informatics for Mongolian Natural Resource and Environment” Participants are invited to electronically submit their abstracts and interest of attendance. The abstracts should be submitted as an email attachment to or alternatively to . Abstracts must include title, authors (first name, surname), indicating the presenter by underlining their name, and providing lead author's contact details: affiliations, department, full address (street, city, state/province, and country), telephone, fax, and email. Student paper session will be held during the workshop.

		Important Dates: Abstract Deadline: April 26, 2009 Full paper Deadline: June 5, 2009 Registration Deadline: June 26, 2009 Conference Dates: June 29-30, 2009
29 June – 2 July	Yongin, Korea	Fourth International Workshop on "Geographical Analysis, Urban Modeling, Spatial Statistics" (GEOG-AN-MOD 09) in conjunction with The 2009 International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (ICCSA 2009) June 29th to July 2nd, 2009 Kyung Hee University-Global Campus, Yongin (Korea) *Important dates *16 February 2009: Deadline for full paper submission *24 March 2009: Notification of acceptance *12 April 2009: Deadline for Camera Ready Papers *June 29 - July 2, 2009: ICCSA 2009 Conference.
June 29-July 10	Florence (Firenze), Italy	Vespucci summer institute 2009: 7th Annual Summer Institute on Geographic Information Science
July 2009		
7-10 July "NEW"	Salzburg, Austria	GI Forum 09
7-11 July	Cape Town, South Africa	2009 IEEE International Geoscience & Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS)
13-14 July	Oxford, UK	GEOSENSOR NETWORKS 2009 Sponsored by: University of Oxford Papers to be published by Springer IMPORTANT DATES: Paper Submission: 3 April 2009 Notification of Acceptance: 27 April 2009 Camera Ready Papers Due: 5 May 2009 Conference: 13-14 July 2009
13-17 July	San Diego, CA, USA	29th ESRI International User Conference The deadline for abstract submissions has CLOSED
13-17 July	Cairns, Australia	18th IMACS WORLD CONGRESS MODSIM09 International Congress on Modelling & Simulation "Interfacing Modelling and Simulation with Mathematical and Computational Sciences" Early Bird Registration closes Friday 13 March 2009 Submission and Acceptance of Abstracts has CLOSED Final papers submitted Friday 13 March 2009
24-6 July "NEW"	Hyderabad, India	3rd International Conference on HealthGIS 2009 Email Call for papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstract Deadline 10th April 2009 • Full Paper Deadline 10th May 2009 • Early Registration 19 th June 2009
July 27-31	Vancouver, Canada	GeoWeb2009 GeoWeb 2009 organizers are currently seeking submissions for presentations and workshops. Details: All abstracts must be less than 200 words and be submitted via the online form no later than February 27, 2009. For all questions regarding the submission of abstracts and agendas please contact Julie Eckhart . Complete information on the call for papers process and conference may be obtained at http://www.geowebconference.org .
August 2009		

4 - 6 August "NEW"	Fairbanks, Alaska	<p>The GeoNorth 2009 conference is a unique opportunity to discuss issues and present current research related to geospatial activities in the arctic environment. This conference provides an opportunity to present results associated with the International Polar Year (IPY), environment and climate change monitoring and geographic analysis, geospatial standards and their application, and the construction of virtual collaborative networks including Arctic mapping and the virtual Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI). The conference is coordinated by the USGS, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the IPY Program Committee. Sessions are planned for the following themes with a focus on the development, publication, and application of interdisciplinary data for analysis and re-use in the Arctic context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Societal, cultural, and indigenous mapping of local and traditional knowledge * Imagery, remote sensing, and sensor networks for the arctic landscape * Virtual globes, geo-browsers, and spatio-temporal data exploration * Ocean data access and analysis * Natural resource assessment in the Arctic * Understanding and assessing changes on land and ice * Climate and atmospheric data, trends, and analysis * Forum on arctic mapping and the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure * Geosphere and hydrosphere modeling * Understanding geospatial standards and their application <p>The following website includes information on the conference, the Call for Papers, and registration details. We look forward to your participation!</p>
4 - 7 August	Bali - Indonesia	<p>10th South East Asian Survey Congress (SEASC '09) Hosted by Bakosurtanal (Indonesia's land information agency) Contact</p>
3-14 August	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<p>XXVII General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union</p>
7 – 8 August "NEW"	Darwin, Australia	<p>2009 IMTA Asia Pacific Conference Call for Papers</p> <p>The International Map Trade Association is hosting an Asia Pacific conference and trade show. The theme is 'Connecting the Business of Maps in Australia's Top End'. The organisers have issued a call for presentations. Presentations may address any topic closely related to the geospatial industry. The deadline for applications is 24 April.</p> <p>International Map Trade Association contact Damien Demaj</p>
August 12-14, 2009	Fairfax, Virginia, USA	<p>The 17th International Conference of Geoinformatics (Geoinformatics 2009) George Mason University,</p>
August 13-14 "NEW"	Perth, Australia	<p>2009 Australasian Mine Surveying Conference</p> <p>The event will bring together mining industry surveyors and spatial professionals from Australia, South East Asia and the South Pacific. It is a joint venture between the Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors and the Spatial Sciences Institute. Email</p>
August 16-19 "NEW"	Hong Kong	<p>10th Asian Urbanisation Conference</p> <p>Email</p>
24-9 August "NEW"	Dresden, Germany	<p>1st International Conference on 3-D Maps http://kartographie.geo.tu-dresden.de/true3Dincartography09/</p>
27-8 August	Bishnek, Kyrgyzstan	<p>GISCA '09 Conference (3rd Central Asia GIS) Call for Papers announced for GISCA'09 Conference</p>

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		<p>Submission of contributions: May 1 - Submission of abstracts (min 500 words) June 1 - Notification of acceptance July 1 – Camera-ready copy of full papers (see authoring instructions!) Aug 1 – Registration for poster exhibit</p> <p>Pre-conference events: Aug 14-16 Joint ICA-UNIGIS summer school in Kashgar Aug 17-23 ICA-led field trip Kashgar-Lhasa return Aug 24-26 pre-conference summer school and various workshops in Bishkek</p>
28-9 August	Bangalore, India	<p><u>The iGeoMap 2009 conference on urban infrastructure and geoinformatics.</u> The Indian Institute of Science and GIS Consultancy Sky Group are calling for paper submissions. The conference will address urban infrastructure issues and GIS practices.</p>
September 2009		
9-12 September	Beijing, China	<p><u>6th International Symposium on Digital Earth</u> <u>E-mail</u> The deadline for abstract submissions for the 6th International Symposium on Digital Earth (9-12 September, Beijing) has been extended to 30 April Secretariat, The 6th International Symposium on Digital Earth 14F, Kedian Tower, No.9 Beiyitia Road, Zhongguancun, Beijing, 100190, China Tel: 86-10-58887298, Fax:86-10-58887406 <u>Email for ISDE</u> <u>ISDE WEBSITE</u></p>
14-16 September	Beijing	<p><u>Emergency Management Conference</u> The international conference on Geospatial Solutions for Emergency Management (GSEM 2009) is being held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping. The organisers are calling for papers on themes including data and image fusion, disaster management and new sensors. The deadline for abstracts is 31 March.</p>
21-25 September	Venice, Italy	<p><u>OceanObs '09</u></p>
October 2009		
5-7 October	Westminster, Colorado	<p>More information will be forthcoming but we ask you to "save the date" for the <u>Location Intelligence Conference 2009</u>. We'll be at the Westin Westminster Hotel in Westminster, Colorado, just outside of Denver toward Boulder from Oct. 5-7</p>
19-22 October	Hanoi, Vietnam	<p><u>7th FIG Regional Conference</u> <i>awaiting Timeline for registration and submission of abstracts, papers, and presentations</i> <u>Conference Website</u> Electronic submission of papers by June 2009</p>
20-23 October "NEW"	Sydney, Australia	<p><u>FOSS4G 2009 Call for Abstracts</u> <u>Email</u> The Organising Committee would like to welcome all interested participants to submit abstracts for presentations for the <u>Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial conference (FOSS4G)</u>, being held in Sydney, Australia October 20-23. <u>FOSS4G</u> offers participants an opportunity to learn from and share your knowledge, experience and ideas with a group of like minded individuals representing a wide array of industries, governments, technologies and nationalities. Presentations are open to all those interested and will comprise a 30 minute slot which includes hand-over, introductions and 5 minutes for questions. Presentations will be selected which have a strong "Open Geospatial" theme to them. The committee is looking</p>

		for a mixture of technical and non-technical presentations. Email2
26-29 October	Kampala Uganda	AFRICAGIS 2009; International Conference Theme of the conference "GEO-SPATIAL INFORMATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA; FACING CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL CHANGE"
November 2009		
10-12 November	St Petersburg, Florida, USA	Fifth National GIS in Transit Conference This biennial conference will focus on the growing role of GIS in supporting planning, service delivery, and decision making in public transit. The Programme Committee will organise an educational programme based upon the abstracts submitted through the Call for Participation. All abstract submissions, received by February 27, 2009, will be reviewed and considered for this conference. The Program Committee encourages abstract submissions in one or more of these four general categories - Applications, Tools, Data, and Management & Policy. Website: http://www.urisa.org/gis_transit
15-22 November	Santiago, Chile	XXIV International Cartographic Conference First call for papers Deadline for Abstracts: 16 January, 2009
17-20 November	Denver, USA	7th William T. Pecora Memorial Remote Sensing Symposium E-mail
30 November - 2 December	Sydney, Australia (Univ NSW)	GeoComputation 2009 Call for Papers The 10th International Conference on GeoComputation Contributors are invited to submit extended abstracts, which will be reviewed for inclusion in the conference program. The abstracts should be sent as either Word documents or pdf files to geocomputation@unsw.edu.au Files larger than 1Mb should be sent as zipped archives. The submission deadline is 30 June 2009 . Authors will be notified of acceptance/rejection in the end of August 2009. Any questions regarding the submission and publication process should be addressed to geocomputation@unsw.edu.au
December 2009		
1 – 3 December "NEW"	Gold Coast, Australia	Organisers of the International Global Navigation Satellite Systems Society's (IGNSS) 2009 symposium and exhibition (1-3 December, Gold Coast, Australia) are calling for papers. Abstracts should be submitted by 17 July 2009. The Society will present three award plaques on the last day of the symposium for the best papers and exhibition booth. IGNSS 2009
1 – 3 December "NEW"	Moscow, Russia	Scanex 4th International Conference "Earth from Digital Space – the most effective solutions" Email
April 2010		
11-16 April	Sydney, Australia	International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Congress 2010 Contact email The deadline for submission of abstracts is 22 September 2009. Alternative URL:
Date to be announced	Taipei	ASIA GIS 2010 Conference further details to be announced

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