

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



To subscribe to SDI-AP use [this link](#). 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 and access archives of thematic or regional discussion lists [please visit](#).

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Message from the editors

Welcome to the May issue of the newsletter.

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](#)), at the [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: Baek Wonkug for news feeds, Sean Lin and colleagues for the Chinese translation as well as Shivani Lal, *GIS Development*, *GeoSpatial World* and *Asia Surveying & Mapping* magazine for directly contributing to the newsletter.

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GSDI News

[GSDI and IGS Global News, Issue 3 Volume 3 for 2013](#)

GSDI 14 Conference Preparations

Preparations continue for the joint [GSDI 14 World Conference and AfricaGIS 2013 Conference](#) scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the UNECA Conference Center, 4-8 2013 in partnership with GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the International Geospatial Society, EiABC - Addis Ababa University and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

AfricaGIS is the largest regularly occurring GIS conference in Africa with participants from the whole continent. The GSDI World Conference moves to sites across the globe to offer geospatial specialists from all parts of the world opportunities to better exchange ideas and learn from peers in building spatial data infrastructure. [For past conferences.](#)

The selected theme of the conference is "Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction" The pressing needs of African nations, their citizens, and the needs of economically disadvantaged nations generally are a particular emphasis of the conference and include such concerns as:

- sustainable development,
- economic development,
- business intelligence and business geographics,
- disaster prevention, warning, management, response, and recovery,
- alleviation of poverty and crime,
- lessening the digital divide including access to information technologies,
- ensuring food security,
- support of transportation, health and communication systems, and
- facilitating land ownership.

Substantial reduction in registration fees will be available for local participants, members of EIS-Africa and members of the International Geospatial Society who are from low income per capita nations. Substantial reductions in Exhibit and Sponsorship fees will be available for companies and agencies that are members of the GSDI Association.

Consult the [web site](#) as the Call for Papers and details about the program, facilities and sponsorship opportunities become available.

We are now only two weeks away from the deadline for abstracts (for presentations) and full papers for peer reviewed publication – 15 May 2013!

This combined and fully integrated conference offers numerous opportunities for oral presentations and refereed and non-refereed publication outlets. We invite presentations covering the full range of practice, development and research experiences that advance the practice and theory of spatially enabling citizens, government, and industry. The conference theme is Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction.

This call for papers supports two primary forms of publication:

- (1) a Conference Proceedings, with Abstracts for all accepted submissions, and refereed and non-refereed Full Papers for some of the submissions, and
- (2) a pre-conference published book containing fully refereed articles. The tentative title is "Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction: Research, Development and Education Perspectives". The book will be published as an open access book in various e-reader formats.

*** IMPORTANT CONFERENCE DATES ***

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 15 May 2013

Deadline for Submission of Full Papers for Refereed Publications: 15 May 2013

Deadline for Submission of Full Papers for Non-refereed Publications: 1 Sept 2013

Deadline for Full Conference Registration Payment for All Presenters 15 Sept 2013

Conference Dates: 4-8 Nov 2013

*** IMPORTANT CONFERENCE LINKS ***

Joint Conference [Call for Abstracts and Papers](#), [Conference Website](#): [Other Important Dates](#).

Past GSDI World Conference [Proceedings](#). Past [open access Books](#) affiliated with the conference.

* JOIN the GSDI Association or International Geospatial Society to enjoy conference fee reductions! *

Substantial reduction in registration fees will be available for local participants, members of EIS-Africa and members of the International Geospatial Society who are from low income per capita nations. Substantial reductions in Exhibit and Sponsorship fees will be available for companies and agencies that are members of

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the GSDI Association.

Consult the [web site](#) for latest information and details about the program, facilities and Sponsorship opportunities. Come prepared to engage, learn and enjoy! More news on the conference in future issues!

International Geospatial Society (IGS) Free Memberships

At its recent meeting, the GSDI Board of Directors passed a motion that allows individuals in low and very low income nations to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. To join, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe. Benefits of membership in IGS are listed at <http://www.igeoss.org/benefits>. For further information, contact [Harlan Onsrud](#), Executive Director, GSDI Association.

Outreach & Membership Committee

Committee vice-Chair, Roger Longhorn has joined the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Marine SDI Working Group (MSDIWG) and attended the Marine SDI Open Forum meeting in Copenhagen (remotely!) and the following two-day workshop of the MSDIWG, hosted by the Danish Hydrographic Service. The MSDIWG, which has existed since 2009, is setting its new workplan for 2013-2014 and is interested in developing a stronger relationship with non-marine SDI development initiatives at national, regional and global levels. Longhorn will explore this with the GSDI Board and Executive Committee at the next opportunity. The Outreach & Membership Committee also manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which has added seven new members in the past month, for a total of 229 members today. 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.

Technical Committee

Technical Committee Chair, Eric van Praag, Regional Coordinator, GeoSUR Program of the Latin American Development Bank (CAF), along with USGS, has nominated the GeoSUR Topographic Processing Service (TPS), built with ESRI's AG Server 10.1, for the AAG Stanley Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography. See more news later in this issue.

The Technical Committee is also responsible for updating of the GSDI SDI Cookbook, a wiki maintained at: http://www.gsdidocs.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Page.

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

- [Digital Earth](#) (International Society for Digital Earth).
- [Eye on Earth](#).
- [Group on Earth Observations \(GEO\) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems \(GEOSS\)](#).
- [EuroGEOSS](#) – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union.
- [INSPIRE](#) – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community.
- [International Hydrographic Organisation](#) – Marine SDI Working Group.
- [UNESCO IOC](#) – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development.
- [UNSD \(Statistics Division\) – UN-GGIM \(UN Global Geospatial Information Management\)](#).
- [UNGIWG](#) (UN GI Working Group).
- [UNESCO IOC](#) – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development.
- [UNSDI – UN-GGIM](#) (UN Global Geospatial Information Management).
- [UNSDI – UNGIWG](#) (UN GI Working Group).

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SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

SDI Cookbook update

The SDI Cookbook, in its wiki version, now has an updated Chapter 10 to reflect the latest slate of standards and popular version numbers. We seek contributing editors for the other Chapters to also bring them up-to-date. About three months prior to the next GSDI Conference we will seek to affix a date and snapshot the Cookbook into a "SDI Cookbook 2013" PDF version. By saving a PDF and giving it a date of publication, it will clarify the

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reference and citation of the document and provide a time context.

If you are interested in helping update any of the chapters, please contact [Douglas Nebert](#).

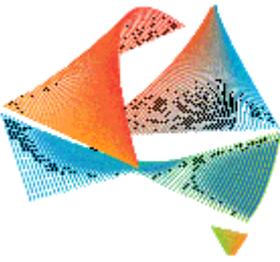
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SDI Spotlight

In lieu of this month's "Spotlight" feature, editor Serryn Eagleson provides a brief overview of Australia's Disaster Management Platform.

THE AUSTRALIA DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLATFORM (ADMP) - 2013

Spatial Data Infrastructures are key to the process of gathering data and providing information for effective risk management, early damage assessment and dispatching resources in an emergency situation. Recognising the need for timely data and models which interact to predict disastrous events. On the 14th of March the University of Melbourne, IBM and NICTA announced that they are collaborating on developing completely new IT technologies that represents a step change in the world's ability to manage disasters, save lives and protect communities. This innovative, integrated, open standards based whole-systems disaster-management platform is a major undertaking which partners will design and implement in stages over the next few years. The platform known as the Australian Disaster Management Platform (ADMP) will enable all those involved in the planning for, responses to and the recovery from multi-hazard disasters including communities to make swift, effective decisions, based on comprehensive, accurate, real-time information.



The platform will be developed using the core principles of a Spatial Data Infrastructure which will provide access and sharing of vast amounts of data. Further information relating to this initiative are available from the [project website](#).

The editors remind our subscribers and readers that we welcome contributions for the *Spotlight* feature.

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GIS Tools, Software, Data



[A Satellite Map Capable of Erasing All the World's Clouds](#)

Illustration: The city of Guayaquil, with more than 2 million people, sits on the estuary of the Guayas River in the northwest of the image. On the left the city is hidden by cloud cover.

The world is a surprisingly cloudy place when you step back and view it from space, sharing the vantage point of satellites. But while pictures like the one on the far left have a beauty in their own right, they're particularly problematic for map-makers more interested in the

obscured details of the earth's surface than its atmosphere.

Methods for "erasing the atmosphere" have been imperfect. Sometimes satellite maps will awkwardly stitch together side-by-side images taken months apart in different seasons (Google Earth is full of such seams). Loyd and MapBox, though, appear to have finally come up with an imperceptible method of removing clouds.

Instead of stitching together views of the world like a patchwork quilt, Loyd and colleagues have mined two years' worth of images from those NASA satellites mentioned above for the single clearest *pixels*. Those satellites capture any given location on the earth twice a day, creating around 730 images of a single place over the course of a year (or more than 1,400 in a two-year time period).

Source: The Atlantic "Cities"

[University of Central Asia \(UCA\) builds GIS capacity in region](#)

The University of Central Asia (UCA) is working to strengthen the capacity and use of Geo-Information Systems (GIS) in Central Asia. Through a partnership, which was funded by the Scientific Cooperation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland (SCOPES), UCA developed technical and training resources and supported the participation of Central Asian scholars in conferences and advance degree programmes.

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UCA also is currently participating in the Trans-European Mobility Programme for University Studies - Geoinformatics: Managing Energy, Resources, Environment (Tempus-GEM) to develop and implement an international, interdisciplinary postgraduate curriculum in Geoinformatics, with a focus on Central Asia. The project is coordinated by the Centre for Geoinformatics, University of Salzburg and the Austria-Central Asia Centre for Geoinformatics.

In 2013, UCA's Mountain Societies Research Centre (MSRC) will be strengthening its GIS and remote sensing capacity in partnership with international and regional partners. Work has begun on a socio-economic atlas of the Kyrgyz Republic. A sound data base will be developed by collecting available data and assessing information gaps. In the future, MSRC will increasingly link research to spatial information and increase support to other UCA programmes with comprehensive GIS and remote sensing information. [For more information.](#)

[A High-resolution Geospatial Surveillance-response System Aims to Eliminate Malaria in the Pacific](#)



A high-resolution surveillance-response system has been developed within a geographic information system (GIS) to support malaria elimination in the Pacific. The application of a GIS-based spatial decision support system (SDSS) to automatically locate and map the distribution of confirmed malaria cases, rapidly classify active transmission foci, and guide targeted responses in elimination zones, is taking place in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and [Malaria Journal](#)

[Google Technology to Help Prevent Deforestation](#)

Google, in partnership with the University of Maryland and the UN Environment Programme, has developed a tool to help prevent deforestation.

Global Forest Watch 2.0, which will launch later this year, is an interactive, real-time, forest monitoring system. It uses satellite technology, data sharing and human networks around the world to provide information to better managing forests.

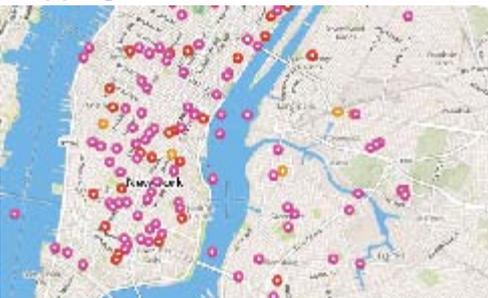
Source: Environmental Leader and [Geospatial World Weekly](#)

[Singapore's Land Transport GIS Hub Informs Operations and the Public](#)

Singapore's Land Transport GIS Hub is both an enterprise tool to coordinate engineering design and improve construction safety, as well as a tool to communicate details to commuters and motorists. With its limited land space and increasing population, Singapore faces many challenges to improve transportation efficiency, making the best use of available lands, and being conscious of quality of life.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

[Mapping Car Crash 'Near Misses' Could Help Prevent Real Collisions](#)



Every day in New York City, car crashes *nearly* happen. Cabs barely avoid clipping pedestrians. Cars on poorly signed roads all but careen into each other. A biker, somewhere, veers onto a sidewalk and out of the way of a speeding truck. These almost-events are even more ubiquitous than actual accidents, and in the aggregate they're meaningful signs of an unsafe street. But in the eyes of city officials and police reports, such close calls are more or less invisible. "The near-miss and minor crash data just doesn't exist," says Jennifer So Godzeno, the associate director for community research at the New York advocacy group [Transportation](#)

[Alternatives](#). "There is no way to capture it because it is, by nature, unofficial." Such data, though, might have real value in helping to head off future more costly crashes. "I've heard from so many citizens that 'I see people almost get hit here all the time, and how come we have to wait until somebody gets killed in order to fix it?'" Godzeno says. Actual crash data, though, is the only metric officials have to prioritize where to target infrastructure improvements or stricter traffic enforcement.

Source: The Atlantic "Cities"

[Land Mine Mapping Needed to Address Southeast Asia Issue](#)

Southeast Asia is particularly plagued by the land mines and unexploded bombs, destructive remains from war that often kill or maim children or impoverished villagers, despite ongoing efforts to curtail the impact. Of the 10 members of ASEAN, unexploded ordnance remain a



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major issue for Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and the Philippines. Now there is call for a regional initiative to deal with this issue.

Unmanned aerial vehicles have been outfitted with radiometry technology that can pick out the tiny electromagnetic reflections emitted by buried objects from as high as 200 feet in the air. This technology can be used in landmine detection and with a GPS scan-to-map system, a detailed map can be created that then can be acted upon to eliminate the mines. This system and method is more effective and less dangerous than the systematic probing of minefields that is the standard practice.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping, [The Diplomat](#), and [UN News](#).

[Australian researchers develop 3D mapping system to protect cultural heritage sites](#)

Australian researchers developed a mobile laser 3D mapping system called Zebedee to preserve some of the country's oldest and most culturally significant heritage sites.

According to a statement from CSIRO, this new joint research initiative between CSIRO and The University of Queensland aims to collect detailed 3D maps of historic sites of Moreton Bay. With the assistance of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services, the research team has collected data from a number of heritage sites including the 19th century Brisbane River defences at Fort Lytton and Peel Island's leper colony buildings.

Source: [English.news.cn](#)

[Priority for Remote-Sensing Planes After Disasters](#)

Remote-sensing planes should get increased rights to use the airspace after serious natural disasters, so they can play a more effective role in rescue and relief efforts, an expert say.

Every second is important after the first 72 hours after a disaster such as an earthquake, and a remote-sensing plane can provide valuable and timely information for the government's decision-making efforts in disaster relief operations, Guo Huadong, director of the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, says ahead of the fifth anniversary of the 8.0-magnitude earthquake that hit Sichuan province in 2008, causing more than 80,000 dead or missing.

"After disasters, remote-sensing planes have to wait until military planes take off first, as military forces usually have priority in the use of airspace," Guo says.

Source: LaboratoryEquipment.com and [Chinese Academy of Sciences](#)

[Indonesia to set up satellite-based oceanography centre for sustainable management of marine resources](#)

The seas around Indonesia are a part of the Coral Triangle, which encompasses the waters of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and West Timor. The triangle is a major reservoir of the planet's biodiversity, containing some 30% of all coral reefs and the largest known nurseries of tuna. Since the 1970s, almost 40% of these coral reefs and mangroves have been lost. These changes could lead to an ecological disaster with rapid and dramatic consequences for the local economy.

But how to monitor a maritime region the size of Europe? One solution is by satellite, with the support of CLS (Collecte Localisation Satellites) expertise in acquiring, processing, analysing and interpreting of satellite data, combined with 20 years experience and expertise in space-based oceanography and the modelling of marine ecosystems.

The Indonesian government has chosen CLS and entrusted it with the creation of its national centre for the monitoring and sustainable management of marine resources. This national centre, commissioned at a cost of almost \$30M, will include a research and surveillance centre, a receiving station for the acquisition of high-resolution radar satellite imagery, models for forecasting the evolution of tuna populations and a training programme for scientists.

The data processed and stored will be acquired from observation and surveillance satellites covering the entire maritime region around Indonesia.

[India to take collaborative route on National GIS project](#)

The Indian government has decided to take a collaborative approach for its ambitious National GIS project. The Rs 30,000-crore project, which envisages a national data repository, was handed over to the Department of Science and Technology (DST) last year. However, now it has been decided that the DST will implement the project in active collaboration with three other departments: the Department of Space, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Department of Electronics and Information and Technology (DEIT). Survey of India will be the nodal agency from DST, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) from Department of Space and NIC from DEIT

Source: Geospatial World, April 22, 2013

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[Fine for national map violations in Vietnam](#)

According to the draft decree of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, violations related to national maps may be given a pecuniary fine of up to VND50 million (US\$2,400).

That is the largest fee noted in the document and is triggered by "administrative violations in the field of hydrometeorology, meteorology and cartography" including omitting specific islands from maps of the sea territories. The same fine is applied to "incorrect national borders, sovereignty, land and sea territories" on maps. There are warnings and fines for not including source information on maps.

The ministry is asking for feedback on the draft before submitting it to the government for evaluation and perhaps approval.

Source: Directions magazine

See also: Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the national focal point to exchange information and implement international agreements on natural resources and environment

The Government has recently issued Decree 21/2013/ND-CP regulating functions, tasks, responsibility and organizational structure of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE).

[China Quickly Distributed Satellite Imagery of the Ya'an Earthquake](#)

After the magnitude-8 earthquake hit Wenchuan in Sichuan province in 2008, it took two days for rescuers to get remote sensory images of the affected sites. But on Saturday, when disaster struck Ya'an in the province, images of quake-hit areas were provided the same day.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and [ChinaDaily.com.cn](#)

[38,000 Historical Maps to Explore at New Online Library](#)

The Digital Public Library of America announces the addition of a vast treasure trove of maps.



More than three decades ago, David Rumsey began building a map collection. By the mid-90s he had thousands and thousands of maps to call his own -- and his alone. He wanted to share them with the public.

He could have donated them to the Library of Congress, but Rumsey had even bigger ideas: the Internet. "With (some) institutions, the access you can get is not nearly as much as the Internet might provide," [Rumsey told Wired](#) more than a decade ago. "I realized I could reach a much larger audience with the Internet."

Bit by bit, Rumsey digitized his collection -- [up to 38,000 maps and other items](#)-- along the way developing software that made it easier for people to explore the maps and 3D objects such as globes online. Today, the Digital

Public Library of America announced that Rumsey's collection would now be available through the DPLA portal, placing the maps into the deeper and broader context of the DPLA's other holdings.

Source: The Atlantic and Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) [press release](#)

[Spatial identity crisis](#)

The perception about acceptance of the existence of a nation, has as much a virtual dimension as the physical. The physical aspect is the actual existence, geographical spread, governance executed through military might and the belief of its citizen who will rally around a common flag. On the other hand, the existence of a nation in the virtual dimension is today more about a polygon on a digital earth and its acceptance among the internet user community. So, he who creates the digital earth assumes the licence to draw, modify or even erase the polygon, which can result in a spatial identity crisis. If the fears expressed by [Eric Schmidt](#) about the 'religionist digital earth' are real, then quite a few polygons will change topologies, a few will disappear and new ones will come to existence.

Does the actual existence of a 'Nation' depend on cartographic manipulations? The steep fine that [Vietnam](#) is imposing for possession or publication of maps with erroneous boundaries of its territorial claim makes us believe so. The expected deletion of Israel from Iran's '[Basir](#)', may at the most cause jingoistic outcry, but as history is witness, a cartographer with a bayonet has always won over the one with a stylus.

Source: [Geospatial World editorial](#)

News from abroad

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

[USA National Map Corps to Help Crowd Source the National Map](#)

Details of a crowd-sourcing effort is being touted by the USGS and partners in the National Map. The agency is looking for crowd participants to help enhance the National Map and currently has some 18 States open for data editing, updates, and new features. Participants will become part of the National Map Corps. Collaborative pilot projects in Colorado were recently used to test the concept of crowd-sourcing. Over a trial period of ten months, 143 volunteers collected, improved, or deleted data on more than 6,400 structures in Colorado.

Source: AnyGeo blog

[Your Very Own Balloon Mapping Kit from PublicLab](#)

Balloon mapping, you've seen and heard about this cool, crowd-sourced effort to capture aerial imagery and low-altitude aerial photography. Well now, thanks to PublicLab (an awesome effort) you can buy your very own balloon mapping kit for just \$95. These tools are being developed to provide a low cost, easy to use, and safe methods for making maps and aerial images.

Source: AnyGeo blog



[TomTom's Annual Congestion Index provides accurate insight into the world's most congested cities](#)

TomTom today announces the results of its 2012 Congestion Index, which measures traffic congestion in 161 cities across five continents and compares it to congestion levels in 2011. The annual Congestion Index also examines the congestion in 59 metropolitan areas with a population of more than 800,000 across North America, and found Vancouver continued to be the most congested city in Canada.

Source: GISuser.com (thanks to AnyGeo blog for pointing out this item)



[Blinded by the Light: Light pollution from our cities](#)

A citizen science research project known as the [GLOBE at Night](#) suggests that much of urban humanity—which now constitutes more than half the 7 billion people on the planet—cannot observe the opalescent band of stars, our galactic home, in the vast void of the universe. Instead, we confront a yellowish haze that constitutes modern night, pricked by the occasional extra-

bright star or planet.

The problem, of course, is [artificial illumination](#) that makes night into day.

In a bid to better understand the extent of light pollution, an international consortium of researchers has used [satellite data](#) to [map artificial light](#) around the world by capturing cross-sectional slices of atmosphere. The most light-polluted areas are major cities, of course, whether the megalopolis that stretches from Boston to Washington, D.C., or the glittering lights of Shanghai's Bund. The map might serve to better locate ground-based telescopes and other instruments for [observing the nocturnal firmament](#), among other dark sky concerns such as animal behavior.

Source: Scientific American

[NASA Satellite Images Provide Clues to Understanding Fire across the Globe \[Slide Show\]](#)

For two weeks in April the world was ablaze. NASA satellites documented these infernos, both wild and controlled, as they burned from the U.S. to Australia.



Wildfires can start spontaneously; vegetation can become so dry that sunlight can ignite it. Farmers also set deliberate, controlled fires, usually to clear crop residue in preparation for a new planting season. All of those fires play a role in the planet's carbon cycle, which is why in October 2011 the newly formed NASA Fire and Smoke initiative began using NASA's MODIS (Moderate-Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) to track them. The MODIS project consists of two electromagnetic measuring instruments observing Earth's surface from the satellites Terra and Aqua, which are in polar orbits but

travelling in opposite directions; together, they monitor wildfires and agricultural burns across the planet. This month was the first time ever that MODIS captured fires raging almost simultaneously around the globe.

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Source: Scientific American

[4 of the World's Great Cities Like You've Never Seen Them Before](#)

Late last year, Nokia asked the San Francisco-based design and technology studio [Stamen](#) to help the company think about how to engage web developers in using its colossal cache of mapping data. It's a portfolio that includes, among other things, driving directions and [LIDAR surveys](#) revealing the 3D shape of buildings for cities all over the world.

You may have seen the results bounding around the Internet for the last few days. They're pretty spellbinding, recasting the cities of London, San Francisco, Berlin, and New York (seen above), as if in three dimensions of photo realism, watercolor painting, or wire models. And the trippiest part? Navigate around – and change the perspective – on London's Tower Bridge here.

Source: The Atlantic "Cities"



[Historic Maps of the Day: The Louisiana Purchase's 210th Birthday](#)



Two-hundred-and-ten years ago today, U.S. and French officials signed the Louisiana Purchase.

It was a big deal: President Thomas Jefferson bought 820,000 square miles of land from Napoleon, and what directly followed from this expansion — Lewis and Clark, the Trail of Tears, the Mexican War, and so on — is the text of your U.S. history book.

But whether or not you think history has turned for the better since that fateful day, it is as good an occasion as any to take a look at some of these great maps from the [David Rumsey Map Collection](#)

Source: The Atlantic "Cities"

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Articles

[Open geospatial data: an assessment of global boundary datasets](#) by Charles Bigham, Steven Gilbert & Qiyang Xu

Abstract: The visualization of sub-national data is a phenomenon that is shaping conversations in the context of development. The World Bank has published interactive maps of sub-national project locations and development indicators in 142 countries on its Mapping for Results (M4R) platform. This paper evaluates the accuracy and usability of three global administrative boundary datasets used in geovisualizing data: (1) Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL), (2) Database of Global Administrative Areas (GADM), and (3) the United Nations Second Administrative Level Boundaries dataset (UNSALB). [See paper.](#)

[Assessment of quality of life using GIS](#) by Osakpolor Esosa Stephen

Introduction

"The quality of life of a person is what he/she perceives it to be" (Zaid and Popoola, 2010). Quality of Life (QoL) has been studied in geography, criminology, urban planning, and sociology as a multidisciplinary subject (Michalos and Zumbo 2000). As the concept of QoL itself is multifaceted and loosely-defined, literature studies have revealed that no universal framework for assessing and describing QoL and human well-being currently exists (Leidelmijer et al. 2002). The definition of QoL by Foo (2000) who defines urban Quality of life as individuals overall satisfaction with life is adopted for the purpose of this research.

QoL is often measured using either subjective or objective indicators. Foo (2000), subjective indicators have lower data reliability and higher validity. This research uses subjective indicators and the purpose is to assess QoL using GIS approach for poverty alleviation decision-making. The research uses twelve indicators under various domains of life in order to assess QoL, and reveal areas that consist of people with low QoL as this will aid poverty alleviation decision making process since policy makers are interested to know the most effective means of improving individuals' life. The outcomes of this study is expected to help city planners to understand and prioritize the problems that the community face.

Published: Geospatial World Weekly 15 April 2013

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[International Journal of Digital Earth Editors' Choice](#)

To give you a taste of the content in International Journal of Digital Earth, the Editors have highlighted a selection of significant articles to aid your research. These articles have been made FREE for you until the end of 2013.

[How does geospatial technology help lessen the footprint of humans on Earth?](#) by Matt Ball

Geographic information systems (GIS) and related inputs from remote sensing technologies had their start in the same era as the first Earth Day. In fact, the very first blue marble image of Earth from the moon, taken by the Apollo program, is the image on the official Earth Day flag. This symbolic image, marking a lasting technological achievement for a new perspective for humans, has changed the way that we view our planet. The image also serves to symbolize the promise of geospatial technology to provide a planetary view into our practices, with greater understanding of their resulting impacts, providing increasing knowledge so that we might reverse degradation and improve our environment.

[What are the parallels between the brain mapping initiative and mapping in general?](#) by Matt Ball

In April the Obama administration announced a plan to invest \$100 million to begin mapping the brain. While much of this work is ongoing in many disciplines, the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies or [BRAIN Initiative](#) has been touted as an investment in basic scientific research for greater understanding and better public health with job creation and economic returns. The Human Genome Project to map all human DNA is reported to have returned \$140 for every dollar invested, and similar returns are hoped for in this effort.

Source: Sensorsandsystems.com

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Books and Journals (including Videos and Web publications)

[3D Visualisation World](#) (February 2013 newsletter)

[SDI Cookbook update](#)

The SDI Cookbook, in its wiki version, now has an updated Chapter 10 to reflect the latest slate of standards and popular version numbers. We seek contributing editors for the other Chapters to also bring them up-to-date. About three months prior to the next GSDI Conference we will seek to affix a date and snapshot the Cookbook into a "SDI Cookbook 2013" PDF version. By saving a PDF and giving it a date of publication, it will clarify the reference and citation of the document and provide a time context.

If you are interested in helping update any of the chapters, please contact [Douglas Nebert](#).

[2013 GIS in Local Government Benchmark Study - Preliminary Report](#)

The 2013 GIS in Local Government Benchmark Study: Preliminary Report is the culmination of a collaborative effort between Australia's councils, SSSI and Esri Australia. The Report, which contains the Study findings, was compiled by an independent research agency.

It provides an outline of how councils across the country are currently using GIS and also how they plan to use it in years to come.

The Report also highlights new trends and areas of growth for the sector.

Most importantly, it provides the opportunity for councils to share knowledge and insights with each other that will impact future technology strategies; and support collaboration in areas from community engagement to emergency response.

A copy of the Report has been provided exclusively to Study participants - however, you can read an overview of the findings in the articles at the link above.

[GSDI and IGS Global News, Issue 3 Volume 3 for 2013](#)

[NewGeography website](#)

[Mapping London blog](#)

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[LandScan: a news update from Land Information New Zealand, Issue 64 \(March 2013\)](#)

In this issue...

- International acclaim for the LINZ Data Service
- Property rights reputation remains high
- LINZ establishes Crown Land Centre of Expertise
- Location-based information to boost Canterbury recovery
- First new nautical paper chart produced in-house
- LINZ takes learners on a geospatial adventure
- Stakeholder survey - thanks for your feedback

[Borderlines blog from the New York Times](#)

Countries are defined by the lines that divide them. But how are those lines decided — and why are some of them so strange? Borderlines explores the stories behind the global map, one line at a time.

by Frank Jacobs

Frank Jacobs is a London-based author and blogger. He writes about cartography, but only the interesting bits. His other blog is [Strange Maps](#)

Blog of [Ragnvald Larsen, geographer](#)

Geographer working with maps at the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management. Part of his job is to contribute to development aid projects.

[International Society for Digital Earth](#) - August, 2012 [Newsletter](#)

[Thoughts on the Geospatial industry, Open Standards and Open Source](#) Cameron Shorter's blog

[New Zealand - SDI Cookbook Chapter 6 – Government and Industry, moving forward.](#)

[Carnival Of The Geospatialists #3 - Musings and Down-Right Cool Things Shared by the Geo Faithful](#)

[Open Planet 5, the magazine published for the International gvSIG Conference is now available in electronic format](#)

[SDI Magazine](#)

[Mother Pelican: A Journal of Sustainable Human Development](#)

The December 2012 issue has been published

[LiDAR News, Vol 3, No 1](#) (January 2013 Newsletter)

[LiDAR News magazine](#) (Vol 3, No 6, 2013)

[Think Quarterly](#) – Google's new on-line magazine

[Coordinates](#) monthly magazine - [PDF](#) (February 2013)

[SERVIR-Africa community news](#)

[GISuser - GIS and Geospatial Technology News](#)

[National Geographic website](#)

[The Atlantic Cities website](#) including [Maps](#)

[Professional Surveyor](#) magazine

[The American Surveyor](#) newsletter (March 27)

[My Co-ordinates e-zine](#) – October issue (PDF)

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[UN-SPIDER](#) March 2013

[Thematic Mapping blog](#)

Terrain mapping with Mapnik

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Just for Fun!

[Boston Wants You to Design a Better Transit Map](#)

You don't have to be a professional designer to point out some of the flaws in [Boston's transit map](#). The five-legged Green line is too cramped to fit all the station names. The Silver line looks like a subway line even though it's a bus rapid transit system. The key local bus lines are great to have, but one suspects they aren't terribly useful to anyone who doesn't already use them.

And the MBTA agrees the map can be improved, because this week it [announced a public competition](#) to do just that. From now through the end of April, Boston's transit authority is accepting design submissions on individual aspects of the map as well as complete renderings. Winners will be selected for their creativity, aesthetic presentation, and informative quality, and announced in mid-May as part of National Transportation Week.

Source: The Atlantic "Cities"

[The amazing satellite image which shows how one tiny town \(pop. 14,716\) has fracked enough oil and gas to light up 'Saudi America'](#)

America is on track to be energy independent in five years and become 'Saudi America' – potentially overtaking Saudi Arabia as the world's biggest oil producer within a decade. The satellite image above shows how one tiny town Williston in North Dakota has become the fracking capital of the US.

Northwestern North Dakota is one of the least-densely populated parts of the US. Cities and people are scarce, but satellite imagery shows the area has been aglow at night in recent years. The reason: the area is home to the Bakken shale formation, a site where gas and oil production are booming. The image above highlights a night-time view of fracking in action. The towns of Williston (pop 14,716) and Stanley (pop 4,000), 75 miles away, are at the epicentre of the Bakken boom.

Source: The Daily Mail and [Geospatial World](#)



[The Frustration of San Francisco's Mass-Transit Riders, Visualized](#)

If one were to somehow take a mental-health reading of San Francisco's public-transit riders at 6:30 p.m. on a Monday, it might look something like this:

Large knots of people are angry about overcrowded vehicles along Haight Street and Divisadero at Castro, perhaps due to swarms of techies disembarking from Google and Apple shuttles. Folks in Lower Nob Hill are P.O.ed about schedule delays. Traffic jams are ticking off riders in the Crocker-Amazon neighborhood, and over on Balboa Street in the Richmond District, people are seething over a perfect storm of bad service involving slow, late vehicles packed tighter than cans of Italian olives.

Source: The Atlantic "Cities"



[University of Waterloo Open Data API Enables Goose Dodging Map](#)



This is awesome.. at the U of Waterloo (that's in Ontario Canada) they have an open API and have recently come out with a pretty awesome map service that enables students to quickly create a map that routes you between buildings in a way that avoids goose droppings! The map service was developed in a matter of hours and does a fine job at routing students and faculty around goose "hot spots" and get to class safely!

Thanks to AnyGeo blog for bringing this to our attention

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[Canada Post Suing Over the use of the Postal Code](#)

An interesting issue is unfolding in Canada and quite frankly its darned amazing! This coming from the owner of the website [geocoder.ca](#) who has been named as a defendant in an ongoing legal action from Canada Post (aka. The Government of Canada). The story unfolds like this – the Government is laying claim to ownership and rights etc... to the term “Postal Code” and since this poor dude at geocoder.ca has an e-commerce website that serves up a map where users can search a region by Postal Code.

The blogger signs off with this comment: *I had to laugh when a Twitter follower commented to me that perhaps Australia will follow suit or perhaps get a letter from Canada over their use of the Postal Code!*

Source: AnyGeo blog

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Training Opportunities

[Arizona State University GIS Lab](#)

A good place to get a sense of where the geographic information system (GIS) field is headed is Lattie F. Coor Hall at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. That's the home of the 30-credit-hour Masters of Advanced Study in GIS (MAS-GIS) Program within ASU's School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning. Here, students are exposed to not only the latest GIS concepts but also ever-evolving technologies.

Source: The American Surveyor

[Maps and the Geospatial Revolution](#) Coursera course offered by Penn State University

Learn how advances in geospatial technology and analytical methods have changed how we do everything, and discover how to make maps and analyze geographic patterns using the latest tools.

Workload: 6-9 hours/week **Next Session:** Jul 17th 2013 (5 weeks long)

The past decade has seen an explosion of new mechanisms for understanding and using location information in widely-accessible technologies. This Geospatial Revolution has resulted in the development of consumer GPS tools, interactive web maps, and location-aware mobile devices. These radical advances are making it possible for people from all walks of life to use, collect, and understand spatial information like never before.

This course brings together core concepts in cartography, geographic information systems, and spatial thinking with real-world examples to provide the fundamentals necessary to engage with Geography beyond the surface-level. We will explore what makes spatial information special, how spatial data is created, how spatial analysis is conducted, and how to design maps so that they're effective at telling the stories we wish to share. To gain experience using this knowledge, we will work with the latest mapping and analysis software to explore geographic problems.

Free Webinar: Taking Web GIS to the next level Wednesday, May 8, 2013 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM PDT

With iVAULT, users have a centralized web based GIS tool that provides access to all required information in a secure and easy-to-use application.

In this 30-minute free webinar, Steve Eder and Jeff Lamb will be demonstrating some of the key benefits of iVAULT, that allow users to:

- Configure site properties, system access, maps, data, tools
- Generate detailed data editing forms
- Configure the Windows Active Directory integration to enhance system security
- Get access to Google, Bing and other online base maps
- Easily search all data sources using the global search feature
- Link to documents, images and other reports
- View crowd sourced information coming from Social Media feeds

[Registration Link](#)

Free Webinar: Web GIS tools for data integration and analysis Wednesday, May 22, 2013 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM PDT

A free 30-minute webinar to find out more about some powerful Web GIS tools for data integration and analysis:

- GPS Location: users can track and map their location in the Web GIS
- Load ESRI Shapefile: upload a shapefile to your Web GIS site, enabling you to add ad hoc layers for

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comparison and analysis

- Query Builder: enables users to create, validate, and submit complex database queries
- Select Nearest: find map features on a user-specified layer based on their distance from a specified location
- Proximity Analysis: identify map features based on their proximity to an "Area of Interest" specified in four different ways
- Spatial Data Export: export the selected map features to an ESRI shapefile, AutoCAD DWG or SDF format, so that data can be used by other applications or shared with other organization or groups as appropriate.

[Registration Link](#)

[Free Webinars on Solving Data Challenges](#)

Sign up for future webinars and view past recorded webinars

[Course Spotlight: Master of Spatial Information Science](#)

The University of Melbourne [Course Spotlight: Master of Spatial Information Science](#)

Spatial information is an essential and indispensable part of any economy's infrastructure. It is needed in all walks of life and on many scales, with applications in land tenure systems, environmental modelling, food production, disaster management, climate change modelling, engineering, architecture and urban planning. Current industry shortfalls in spatial information practitioners combined with a growing demand in Australia and internationally, ensure graduates a range of well-paid job opportunities.

Find out more about the [Master of Spatial Information Science](#), as well as our [scholarship opportunities](#).

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Funding Opportunities, Awards, Grants

[Singapore Government launches app competition](#)

The Singapore Government announced the launch of [Apps4SG](#), an app development competition promoting the use of government data in developing innovative applications. **The Competition is open to all Singapore residents.**

To be eligible for the competition, a developer must create either a mobile or web-based application featuring the use of at least one government dataset.

The government is offering three attractive cash prizes to winners - the first prize is SG\$10,000, the second SG\$5000, and the third SG\$3000. In addition, all apps will be eligible for consideration to receive seed funding.

The government will provide free cloud services to each participating team.

Participants are encouraged to participate in hackathons to get a headstart in conceptualizing ideas and prototypes. Apps that are developed from these hackathons can be submitted to Apps4SG.

Health Up! - May 2013

Environment Up! - April 2013

Apps4SG Hackathon - June 2013

Workshops on app development and government data will be organized for participants to attend.

Register your interest with us and be kept informed! <http://www.data.gov.sg/apps4sg/reg.aspx>

Submission deadline: October 1, 2013.

[OGC Student Spatial App Challenge sponsored by Google](#)

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) is challenging students who have software development skills to create new applications that use OGC standards in innovative, interesting and fun ways. For example, the software application can do some or all of the following:

- Mash up data from a variety of existing geospatial Web services that provide location data
- Provide access to new sources of location data (including, for example, sensors, computer models, webcams, 3D urban models, mobile devices, or spatial databases) to support innovative applications.
- Provide access to original new Web services that provide processing capabilities for innovative applications that use new or existing location data.

The three applicants to the OGC Student Spatial App Challenge that best satisfy the competition criteria will receive an award and the opportunity to have their apps featured on the OGC website and in other media channels. In addition, the first place winner will:

- Be sponsored by OGC to receive an award in front of the OGC membership at a quarterly OGC Technical Committee meeting.

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- Have a dedicated award page on the OGC website featuring the winning application.
- Be cited in an OGC press release acknowledging the award.
- Receive a Nexus Tablet donated by Google.
- Receive, for the student's academic institution, a two-year OGC membership or two-year free renewal if the institution is an existing member.

The estimated total value of the prize to be awarded is \$1,500 plus round trip travel to the winner's selected OGC TC meeting. The OGC Map App challenge is open to any university student at the undergraduate or graduate level who is enrolled part or full time as of July 15, 2013. Submissions to the challenge are by individual only. Submitters must be 18 years or older at the time of submission.

Applications must be submitted by midnight EST, July 15th, 2013.

[OGC Press Release](#)

[For registration details.](#)

[Asia Geospatial Excellence Awards 2013](#)

Nominations are invited for Asia Geospatial Excellence Awards 2013 under the auspices of Asia Geospatial Forum 2013 (Kuala Lumpur 24-26 September). The awards shall be conferred to the exemplary geospatial applications development, technology innovations and policies/programs in the region.

Submission Deadline: 30 June 2013

[2013 IEEE Data Fusion Contest](#)

Recently, the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society announced plans for its **2013 Data Fusion Contest**. The Contest, which helps connecting students and researchers around the world, evaluates existing methodologies at the research or operational level to solve remote sensing problems using data from various sensors. The Contest is open not only to IEEE members, but to everyone, and consists of two parallel competitions: Best Paper Award and Best Classification Award.

The winning teams will receive an iPad, an IEEE Certificate of Appreciation, and a free open access publication in an IEEE GRSS Journal. Final results will be announced at the 2013 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium in Melbourne, Australia, in July 2013.

Thanks to AnyGeo blog



[Ideas Challenge](#)

The Ideas Challenge is at the core of the GMES Masters competition. It invites students, entrepreneurs, start-up companies and SMEs to submit their ideas for an innovative commercial use of GMES to a secure online database on the GMES Masters website. The best idea for a commercially viable business idea using GMES data will be rewarded. The winner will be rewarded with a cash prize of EUR 10,000 as well as the chance to get his idea further developed in one of the six ESA Business Incubation Centres (BICs). The incubation package has a value of up to EUR 60,000.

[ESA App Challenge](#)

The European Space Agency (ESA) will award the ESA App Challenge to the best application idea for the usage of GMES on mobile phones. Proposals shall address one or more GMES main thematic areas (land, marine environment, atmosphere, climate change, emergency management). ESA is looking for ideas that can be implemented quickly into a profitable business. The application should consist of a base app containing info and news on GMES, as well as one or more specific content modules that provide relevant location-based data to users in real time. The winner will be considered for support by one of the six European Space Agency's Business Incubation Centres (ESA BICs) across Europe (value up to EUR 60,000).

[European Space Imaging High-Res Challenge](#)

European Space Imaging (EUSI) is Europe's leading provider of Very High-Resolution (VHR) satellite data. EUSI will award the best application idea using the most advanced VHR satellite data. Application ideas which are easily implementable, sustainable, cut costs and create efficiencies are of high interest. Participants are required to submit detailed application ideas including business concepts. The winner will be awarded a data package of EUSI satellite data worth up to EUR 20,000 for use in further developing the winning application.

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[DLR Environmental Challenge](#)

DLR is looking for new applications in Earth observation, especially proposals addressing the mapping of the environment and climate. Ideas for using Earth observation to manage sustainable supplies of energy are also welcome. In addition to any kind of non-satellite geoinformation, proposals should be based on existing or imminent Earth observation satellite data that is available either for free or under commercial terms. The product or service generated from the idea should support either professionals from organisations and companies in environmental assessment, or the general public and consumer-oriented markets. Both regional and global applications and services are possible. Innovative ways to link the service with users are especially encouraged. The ideas should also describe a realistic scenario for their implementation involving either the general public or commercial benefits. The winner(s) will receive a voucher for a workshop or initial coaching according to what further realisation of the idea requires.

[Best Service Challenge](#)

The Best Service Challenge invites service providers to upload profiles of their existing services within the main thematic areas of GMES to the GMES Masters competition website. The Best Service Challenge aims at increasing the awareness of existing Earth Monitoring Services and their benefits to European citizens. The winner of the Best Service Challenge will benefit from a substantial satellite data quota made available with financial support by the European Commission.

[T-Systems Cloud Computing Challenge](#)

T-Systems will award the prize for its Cloud Computing Challenge to the best GMES application or service idea that will make use of the cloud computing model Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) to provide Earth observation data on demand via user-oriented web portal or mobile devices. T-Systems will assist the winner in getting the awarded project off the ground. They will support the winner to realise an innovation project, which could lead to a long-term partnership.

[Challenge to spur the geospatial industry](#)

The Singapore Land Authority has launched OneMap Challenge that seeks to promote the development of innovative map-based desktop and mobile applications by businesses and the community.

The OneMap Challenge provides a platform for application developers to showcase their creativity through the apps they develop to an increasingly tech-savvy population and enterprises, including those represented by the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (ASME) which is one of the competition promotion partners. The Challenge also aims to facilitate collaborations between potential business partners for creating location-based apps that are useful for business enterprises and the general community.

With two top prizes of \$20,000 cash each and other attractive prizes up for grabs, the OneMap Challenge is divided into two categories – Web Applications for applications that run on web browsers and Mobile Applications for those that run on smart phones, tablets and other portable devices.

Visit <http://www.sla.gov.sg/OneMapChallenge> to learn more about OneMap Challenge and check out the OneMap Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OneMap.

Source: Geospatial World and [SLA press release](#)

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Employment Opportunities

[GIS Job Board Launches New Website: \[www.gisjobboard.com\]\(http://www.gisjobboard.com\)](#)

New Site Provides Employers and Job Seekers Tools to Post and Search Jobs and Resumes in the GIS and Geospatial Disciplines

GIS Job Board has launched a new website specifically dedicated to GIS and other geospatial disciplines. The new site makes it simple for employers and job seekers to post and search for jobs and resumes. The site was created to serve the growing needs of the GIS community and help with recruiting and job seeking efforts.

Visitors also have the option to view the site in a different language if they choose, making it easier for them to have access to the content

Registered users can receive jobs or resumes by email. They can also flag jobs and resumes as well as save searches, setup resume alerts, and save resumes and jobs. Users have the capability of private messaging other users in case they ever want to communicate with someone.

For more information about GIS Job Board, please visit their website at www.gisjobboard.com

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Conference Proceedings

3D Malaysia 2013

The First 3D Malaysia 2013 conference with the theme “3D Data for Sustainable Development” was jointly organized by DES Mapping and Intermap, USA. in Parkroyal Kuala Lumpur on January 22nd. Over 120 participants from relevant Government agencies, private sectors and academia attended the event. The one-day seminar showcased innovative technology and application using NextMap Malaysia – out of the box high resolution 3D terrain data for Malaysia, in addressing the challenges of National Development such as Infrastructure development, Natural Resource Management and Disaster Management. The keynote addresses by JUPEM, DES and Intermap were highly informative and educational.

Modernization of land administration and management systems Uganda: 17-18 January 2013



Implementation of land information systems (LIS): sharing experiences, innovations and good practices.

Throughout the two day conference, discussions focused on technical issues related to the choice of the solutions adopted, the methodologies to be implemented and the technical equipment installed. Other topics included issues of protection against hacking, the importance of training local people, the communication targeting administrative staff and the public, and the importance of measuring concrete benefits of such projects and their returns on investment. Several presentations

focused on the use of aerial photography or satellite imagery in cadastral projects. As the cost of a geographic dataset depends heavily on its accuracy, it is essential to define the data sources that will be used for the establishment of the cadastral reference from the start.

Picking up a key point of discussion on the theme of the added value of NSDI projects for developing countries at the regional conference IGN France International held in April 2012 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) **the link between land projects and National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) was also addressed. Land projects are sometimes considered the cornerstone of NSDI initiatives.** However the situation varies considerably from one country to another. Clear links exist between LIS projects and NSDI initiatives; however, some countries initiated NSDI projects without systematic land initiatives, while others have taken advantage of LIS projects to develop national spatial data infrastructure.

Most agreed that the highest authorities must play a determining role in the definition of public policies legal frameworks and the way these projects move forward. Without this strategic vision, both LIS and NSDI projects encounter difficulties fail to get off the ground or are not become sustainable. **The completion of a geographic data set appears to be an essential component for both LIS or NSDI projects** and should be taken into account from the very beginning.

In her final intervention, the Minister of Lands insisted on the added value of the LI project led by IGN France International. Securing land titles will reduce poverty and enhance economic development in Uganda. More details on the regional conference and the programmes will be available at: www.lis-uganda.go.ug and at www.ignfi.com

Conferences, Events

For upcoming events of global or major international interest, please visit the [upcoming conference list](#) on the GSDI website – as this conference list will be reserved for conferences within or with specific interest to the Asia Pacific Region.

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

[Call for Expression of Interest to host AARSE 2014 and future Conferences](#)

Call for Expression of Interest to host the 10th biennial International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) in October 2014 and future Conferences.

Date	Location	Event
May 2013		
1 – 3 May	Tainan, Taiwan	8th International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology (MMT 2013) MMT is an academic conference officially recognized by International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing MMT 2013 Symposium: 1st May-3rd May, 2013 MMT 2013 Summer School: 29th-30th April, 2013 Contact : http://conf.ncku.edu.tw/mmt2013/index.htm
6-10 May	Abuja, Nigeria	The FIG Working Week The Working Week will bring surveyors and land professionals from all over the world together to meet while specific focus will be given to Africa. The conference is organised jointly by FIG and the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors, NIS , one of the three FIG member associations in Nigeria.
13-14 May "NEW"	Sydney, Australia	Virtual Australia and New Zealand (VANZ) Conference
13-16 May	Rotterdam, The Netherlands	Register before 15th Feb 2013 to avail complementary Awards Night and Gala Dinner Ticket Geospatial World Forum is a conference cum exhibition which has always invoked the geospatial community with its relevant and thought-provoking themes. This year, the conference which is scheduled from 13-16 May 2013 at Beurs World Trade Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands aims at increasing our understanding of the concept of Monetising the value added by geospatial industry so far with its theme " Monetising Geospatial Value and Practices ". Please submit your abstracts. For queries .
13-16 May	Minneapolis, MN	Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial North America (FOSS4G-NA) Conference The Call for Presentations closed February 15, 2013.
21-24 May POSTPONED	Denver, Co POSTPONED	National Map Users Conference POSTPONED
22-24 May "NEW"	Minneapolis, USA	FOSS4G-NA 2013
23-25 May "NEW"	Wuhan University, China	China - GeoComputation 2013
30 May - 1 June	Hong Kong	8th International Symposium on Spatial Data Quality 2013 The Symposium provides an interdisciplinary forum for leading scientists and young researchers to present their latest research developments and share their experience in this field. The Symposium will include keynote speeches and parallel sessions. Themes - Uncertainties in real world entities and ontology

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spatial accuracy assessment - Accuracy evaluation for DEM - Temporal uncertainty in spatial data - Incompleteness of spatial data - Logical consistence in spatial database - Semantic uncertainty in geographic data - Uncertainty in remotely sensed image processing - Uncertainty versus scales - Quality assessment in spatial data generalization - Spatial data models for uncertain objects in GIS - Model validation with imperfect ground truth data - Assessment of quality of crowdsourcing spatial data - Uncertainty propagation in spatial analyses and operations - Spatial querying and reasoning with uncertain data - Uncertainty in geographical and environmental analysis - Spatial data quality and decision making - Spatial statistics - Geostatistical methods for spatial data quality assessment - Stochastic spatial simulation - Spatial data quality and web- and mobile-based services - Uncertainty in geovisual analytics - Quality of spatial data visualization - Meta-data and model for GIS data
June 2013		
3-6 June "NEW"	Las Vegas, USA	<u>Hexagon 2013 Conference</u> For more information, contact: <u>Angelique Ortega</u>
8 – 9 June	San Francisco, USA	<u>State of the Map - US</u> Workshop – June 7 and OSM Hack Day – June 10
10 June "NEW"	Colombo, Sri Lanka	<u>Sri Lanka Geospatial Forum</u>
12-13 June "NEW"	New Delhi, India	<u>Geointelligence India 2013</u>
18-20 June "NEW"	Manila, Philippines	<u>12th South-East Asian Survey Conference</u>
19 – 21 June	Manila, Philippines	<u>14th Annual Global Development Conference</u>
23-25 June	Tainan, Taiwan	<u>3rd International Conference on Earth Observations and Societal Impacts (ICEO&SI)</u>
24 – 27 June	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	<u>Eighth International Conference on "Geographical Analysis, Urban Modeling, Spatial Statistics" GEOG-AND-MOD 13</u> in conjunction with The 2013 International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (<u>ICCSA 2013</u>) Submission - papers should be submitted at: http://ess.iccsa.org/ [please don't forget to select " Geographical Analysis, Urban Modeling, Spatial Statistics GEOG-AND-MOD 13 " workshop from the drop-down list of all workshops.] Important dates 31 January 2013: Deadline for full paper submission 10 March 2013: Notification of acceptance 6 April 2013: Deadline for Camera Ready Papers June 24-27, 2013: ICCSA 2013 Conference
24 – 27 June	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	<u>1st International Workshop on Agricultural and Environmental Information and Decision Support Systems (AEIDSS 2013)</u> in conjunction with The 2013 International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (<u>ICCSA 2013</u>)

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		<p>Deadline for Full Paper submission: extended to February 1, 2013 Notification of Acceptance: March 10, 2013</p> <p>Workshop description: Monitor and manage sanitary risks, study climate change, environmental impacts in connexion with agricultural practices (the use of pesticides, for example), mapping the good ecological status of rivers, simulate spread of forest fires ... are environmental and agricultural challenges for which Information and Decision Support Systems represent effective solutions. New theoretical and technical challenges emerge from the integration of several scientific domains such as agronomy, mathematics, information technology and computer science. The objective of the proposed workshop is to show how the latest advances in research in information and decision-support systems can be applied to environmental and agricultural matters.</p> <p>Information and Decision Support Systems topics (include but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Database, Data Warehouses * Geographic Information Systems * Cloud/Grid Computing * Distributed information systems * Interoperability between information systems * Data Integration * Geovisulization Knowledge management * Spatial Big Data * Geosensor network * Software Engineering * Data Mining ... <p>Proceedings and Journal special issue: Accepted papers of the Workshops will be included in a Springer-Verlag Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) volume. Selected papers will be invited to submit extended versions to a special issue of the Ecological Informatics journal.</p>
24-26 June "NEW"	Washington, DC, USA	GIS for Government: Addressing the Challenges of Funding and Interoperability
25-27 June "NEW"	Vienna, Austria	RIEGL LIDAR 2013
July 2013		
2 – 5 July	Salzburg, Austria	<p>GI Forum 2013 – Creating the GISociety</p> <p>The international GI Forum attracts an interdisciplinary audience interested in discussing progress and new ideas in GIScience. The GI_Forum communicates innovative research and learning in Geographic Information Science with focus on hardware, software, orgware and brainware for the GISociety, and their inter-relationships. Young researchers are especially invited to contribute and discuss their research. Together with recognized scientists they will find a vibrant community from academia, business, and education ready to embrace new ideas and explore new research directions. GI Forum runs concurrently with the highly regarded German language conference on Applied Geoinformatics – AGIT. The two symposia share some 1200 participants, the innovative AGIT EXPO exhibit and stimulating social events.</p> <p>Submission deadline February 1, 2013. Contact.</p>
8-12 July "NEW"	San Diego, USA	Esri International User Conference
16 – 18 July	Gold Coast, Australia	<p>IGNSS 2013</p> <p>The International Global Navigation Satellite Systems (IGNSS) Society Inc. is pleased to announce IGNSS 2013</p>

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		<p>Closing Date for Submission of Abstracts: Monday 4th February, 2013: Information regarding on line submission of abstracts and abstract templates will be updated in due course on the IGNSS Society website .</p> <p>Submission of Peer Reviewed and Non Peer Reviewed Papers: Information regarding On Line Submission of Peer Reviewed and Non Peer Reviewed Papers will be updated in due course on the IGNSS Society website (Click here).</p> <p>IGNSS Free Membership: There is no fee to register for Membership of the IGNSS Society. Complete the On Line Membership Form . Benefits of Membership include reduced Symposium Registration Fees.</p> <p>Contact : http://www.ignss.org/</p>
21 – 26 July	Melbourne, Australia	<p>IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS) On behalf of the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society and the IGARSS 2013 Local Organising Committee, we are delighted to invite you to Melbourne, Australia for IGARSS 2013. We are looking forward to welcoming leading scientists, engineers and educators from the diverse disciplines that make up the Geoscience and Remote Sensing community. We also hope to attract new delegates from the Asia-Pacific and Oceania regions. We will be offering a world class technical program encompassing traditional IGARSS topics and new topics reflecting the theme of the 2013 Conference, "Building a Sustainable Earth through Remote Sensing". This theme was selected to emphasize the issues that most affect the Earth's environment, and the human impact on the planet. We welcome both seasoned and new delegates to Melbourne in July 2013.</p>
22-24 July "NEW"	Mountain View, California, USA	<p>Geo for Higher Ed Summit What: Geo for Higher Ed Summit When: July 22-24, 2013, deadline to apply is May 1st, 2013. Where: Google Headquarters, Mountain View, California This special 3-day, hands-on technical workshop is designed for mapping and technology instructors and researchers in higher education institutions, who are actively working on projects related to mapping. To find out more and apply, visit.</p> <p>Details: Google will be hosting a special three-day hands-on technical workshop at the Googleplex in Mountain View. This Summit will bring together instructors and researchers in GIS and remote sensing technologies from higher education institutions. You will connect with Google instructors and engineers, and get resources for using these tools in your research and teaching.</p> <p>Cost: Attendance is free, following acceptance into the workshop through Google's application process. Breakfast and lunch on these 3 days will be provided free to participants.</p>
August 2013		
26-29 August	Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia	<p>The 8th International Symposium on Digital Earth (ISDE8) with the theme of "Transforming Knowledge into Sustainable Practice" will be held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.</p>
30 August - 1 September "NEW"	Beijing, China	<p>International Conference 2013 on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Abstract deadline closed: 15 April 2013.</p>

September 2013								
2 – 4 September	Jakarta, Indonesia	UN/Indonesia Workshop on Climate Change No website/URL at this stage						
12-14 September	Enschede, NL	<p>GISDECO: URBAN FUTURES. Multiple visions, paths and constructions</p> <p>Deadline for abstract submission: 15 April 2013 Notification of acceptance: 15 May 2013 Deadline full paper submission: 15 August 2013 ?</p> <p>The upcoming GISDECO (GIS for Developing Countries) conference is being hosted by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-Information Management (PGM) (Faculty ITC, University of Twente) and jointly organized with N-AERUS (Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South).?</p> <p>CALL FOR PAPERS</p> <p>Some pre-conference workshops/meetings can be arranged for a small fee can also be facilitated. Should there be a desire for these please contact the local organization committee before 31 March 2013.</p> <p>For any further information or communication regarding the conference please only use this email.</p>						
23-27 September	TSUKUBA, Japan	<p>ASPAR 2013 The 4th Asia-Pacific Conference on Synthetic Aperture Radar</p> <p>"Overcoming the Hardships: Responding to Disasters with SAR"</p>						
24-26 September	Kuala Lumpur	<p>Asia Geospatial Forum 2013</p> <p>CALL for ABSTRACTS Contact</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Abstract Submission</td> <td style="background-color: #008080; color: white;">30 May 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abstract Acceptance / Non-Acceptance</td> <td style="background-color: #008080; color: white;">15 June 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Authors' Registrations</td> <td style="background-color: #008080; color: white;">30 June 2013</td> </tr> </table>	Abstract Submission	30 May 2013	Abstract Acceptance / Non-Acceptance	15 June 2013	Authors' Registrations	30 June 2013
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October 2013								
15 – 17 October	Coombe Abbey, Warwickshire, UK	<p>1st call for papers for the 9th International Workshop of the EARSeL Special Interest Group (SIG) on Forest Fires. The workshop is organised by the University of Leicester with support from the Laboratory of Forest Management and Remote Sensing, Faculty of Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Contact</p> <p>EXTENDED deadline for abstract submission is 15 April 2013.</p>						
November 2013								
4-8 November	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	<p>GSDI 14 and AfricaGIS 2013:</p> <p>The GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the International Geospatial Society, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are pleased to announce a close partnership in offering the joint GSDI 14 World Conference and AfricaGIS 2013 Conference.</p> <p>The theme of the conference is Spatially Enabling Africa in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction.</p> <p>IMPORTANT DATES</p> <p>Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 15 May 2013 Deadline for Submission of Full Papers for Refereed Outlets: 15 May 2013 Deadline for Submission of Full Papers for Non-refereed Outlet: 1 Sept 2013</p>						

		Deadline for Full Conference Registration Payment for All Presenters: 15 Sept 2013
2014		
	Malaysia	Malaysia will be hosting the (International Federation of Surveyors) FIG Congress in 2014. The decision was taken at the recently concluded FIG Congress 2010 in Sydney, Australia.

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