

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Small Grants Program Awards – Proposals due by 31 October – Hurry!

The GSDI Association reminds us that applications for the Small Grants Program for the year 2011-12 are due by 31 October 2011. Proposals should lead to national or sub-national activities that foster partnerships, develop in-country technical capacity, improve data compatibility and access, and increase political support for spatial data infrastructure or earth observations application development. Awards are for \$2500 USD in cash and/or contributed volunteer professional services for the winning projects. Awards are expected to be announced in January or February 2012. For details about applying for a grant, visit this link - <http://www.gsdi.org/node/315>.

Global Geospatial Conference 2012 – Call for Papers

This event combines the GSDI 13 World Conference, the 14th GEOIDE Annual Scientific Conference, the 7th 3D GeoInfo Conference and the Canadian Geomatics Conference 2012. The conference theme is “Spatially Enabling Government, Industry, and Citizens” and it provides numerous opportunities for oral presentations as well as several refereed and non-refereed publication outlets. A reminder that there are **only six weeks left** before the deadline for abstracts and full paper. The Call for Papers may be found at <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi13/papers.html> and the deadline for abstracts and/or papers for the refereed and non-refereed publications is November 15. The conference web site is at <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi13>.

GSDI COMMITTEE NEWS

GSDI Standing Committees recommend programs of action to the GSDI Council and Board and carry out specific tasks as set out in the GSDI bylaws or as requested by the Council or the Board. Individuals

interested in contributing to the work of committees should contact the committee chairs, via the GSDI Committees web site at <http://www.gsdi.org/standingcomm>. A brief introduction to the Committee follows plus news of recent Committee activities. Profiles of the Committee Chairs and vice-Chairs are also available from the Committees web site.

Outreach & Membership Committee

The Outreach and Membership Committee supports strengthening the ability of government, commercial, not-for-profit and private citizen sectors in all nations to advance, use and sustain SDI developments that help these sectors to address important societal, economic, and environmental issues. The Committee develops and offers awareness building and learning opportunities for the broad community and members of the GSDI Association.

Chair of the Committee is Steven Ramage, Executive Director, Marketing and Communications at OGC; vice-Chair, Communications, is Roger Longhorn, editor of SDI Magazine and a senior SDI Expert; vice-Chair, Membership, is John Moeller, President of JJ Moeller & Associates following 30 years service in senior US government posts and nine years with Northrop Grumman Corporation (2002-2011) following his retirement from civil service in 2002.

Steve made presentations relating to the GSDI Association at the Geospatial Summit in Budapest in June 2011, as well as a more comprehensive overview of the membership options and other GSDI Association activities as a plenary speaker at the Africa Geospatial Forum in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2011. Steven also manages the GSDI LinkedIn Group where you can also read about upcoming events and engage in some GSDI discussions underway via this social network. Please consider joining the LinkedIn group at www.linkedin.com.



John had a very thought provoking piece published in **Communia**, titled “Mapping and Spatial Data: Infrastructures and Imagination”, which has drawn considerable attention from the SDI community and press. See the piece at the following address. <http://stipcommunia.wordpress.com/2011/09/06/guest-contributor-john-moeller-mapping-and-spatial-data-infrastructures-and-imagination/>

Roger is involved in developing the technical data specifications for the pan-European SDI – INSPIRE – and led workshops on marine/coastal SDI at the CoastGIS 2011 global conference in Oostende, Belgium, in September 2011; an INSPIRE data specifications workshop for the Flemish government in Belgium also in September; and at the 2011 INSPIRE Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, in July, he delivered papers on Coastal/Marine SDI and Valuing Geodata, plus contributed to the paper on “SDI: Lessons learned and good practice examples from European experience”, co-authored with Bruce McCormack, President of EUROGI.

Legal and Socioeconomic Committee

The Legal and Socioeconomic Committee explores the legal and economic frameworks within which SDIs are developed in individual nations and across regions, encouraging dialogue on public policy and legal issues and exploring models, approaches, and experiences to enhance cooperation among nations in sharing spatial data and spatial technologies. The committee identifies, acquires, analyzes, and reports on policies and legislation being adopted or considered by national, regional (multinational) or international law bodies that might be relevant to the goals of the GSDI Association or otherwise affect the global SDI development. One of the main projects for 2011-2012 is to develop a GSDI Licensing Framework, for presentation and discussion at the GSDI-13 global conference in Canada, May 2012.

Chair of the Committee is Bastiaan van Loenen, Ph.D., Delft University of Technology, and vice-Chair is Katleen Janssen, Ph.D., of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Law and ICT (ICRI) at the Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven (KUL).

Committee vice-Chair, Katleen Janssen led the SPATIALIST Project workshop at ICRI/KUL in March 2011, on “Legal aspects of geographic data and spatial data infrastructures” with L&SE members Paul Uhler (USA NAS) and Roger Longhorn also in attendance. Chair Bastiaan van Loenen presented “Towards a framework of standard licences for geo-information”, based on work of the Committee to date on this issue. In May, Committee members Katleen Janssen, Paul Uhler (USA NAS) and Roger Longhorn made presentations at the Legal Aspects of PSI (LAPSI Project) public conference in Milan, Italy, with other members in attendance, including former L&SE Committee Chair Gabor Remetey-Fullop. Several of the European Committee members are also involved in the week-long seminar “Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI), latest trends and research”, to be held in Leuven, Belgium, from 7-11 November 2011.

Societal Impacts Committee

The Societal Impacts Committee explores the organizational and institutional frameworks within which SDIs are developed locally and in individual nations, across regions and globally. The Committee encourages dialogue and interaction with respect to varying SDI models, approaches, and experiences with the goal to enhance cooperation among nations in sharing spatial content, including spatial data, spatially-enabled services and geoprocessing models. The Committee advises the GSDI Board with regard to funded projects, including grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts, in order to achieve the greatest societal benefit.

The Committee Chair is Carmelle Terborgh, Ph.D., Federal/Global Affairs Team Lead at Esri; vice-Chairs are Brigitta Urban-Mathieux, FGDC USA (vice-Chair, GSDI Small Grants Program), Juna Papajorgji, Univ. of Florida (vice-Chair, Developing Nations Fund) and Jeremy Shen, CIO Ministry of the Interior, Chinese Taipei (vice-Chair, Capacity Building Resources).

A major activity of the Committee is managing the GSDI Association Small Grants Awards (see announcement at the beginning of this Newsletter). Information on winners of prior year Small Grants Awards and their projects can be found at <http://www.gsdi.org/sic1>.



Technical Committee

The Technical Committee reviews technical issues affecting the development of local to global SDIs, reporting on technical topics essential to the creation of compatible SDIs, exploring technical standards issues, and disseminating technical reports, examples, case studies, and similar learning materials of interest to GSDI Association members. The Committee is also responsible for maintenance of the "SDI Cookbook", which is available as a wiki at

http://www.gsdi docs.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Page. This is a 'living document' to which additions are made by members of various GSDI Committees and other experts. Chair of the Committee is Chris Holmes, President of OpenGeo, and vice-Chairs are Doug Nebert, Senior Advisor Geospatial Technology at FGDC (USA); Arup Dasgupta, Managing Editor at Geospatial World; and Mick Wilson, UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya.

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSPATIAL SOCIETY

The International Geospatial Society (IGS) is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association whose members have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. The IGS web site is at <http://www.igeoss.org>, from where you find links to the full list of current members (and their biographies), IGS joining instructions and the IGS forum e-mail list, which can be accessed via the GSDI Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKN) at

<http://www.giknet.org/forum/topic.php?forum=1>. The IGS has an ambitious work plan for 2011-2012, involving 33 tasks, with many IGS members already involved in delivering on the many goals and outputs of the plan. The work plan can be accessed via the 'Members Only' section of the IGS web site – so join today to see how you can benefit or contribute!

One of the many initiatives currently underway is to assess the interaction between SDI and Earth Observation (EO) programmes. Issues to investigate include information policies (balancing 'free' versus 'for a fee' charging and pricing), accessibility,

sharing, responsibility, liability and use of information. Concerning SDI service architectures and underpinning metadata catalogue services, is it necessary to implement independent imagery catalogs and how to link associated geographic products to imagery as the data source? Is there a need to formulate new standard services? Other questions include how to avoid duplicating models for implementing SDI and EO programmes – or ensuring compatibility between diverse models?

The GSDI Board of Directors recently 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. The listing of low and very-low income nations may be found at <http://www.gsdi.org/RankingTable>. To join for free, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe at <http://giknet.org> and then apply for membership in IGS at <http://www.igeoss.org/join>. To maintain your free membership, simply update your professional profile each year on or about December or January. You have the ability to view, edit, or delete your individual profile at any time.

President of IGS is Mabel Alvarez and Lilia Patricia Arias is vice-President (President Elect). They can be contacted via the IGS web site.

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKN)

The goal of the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the geographic information global community. This is a participatory, user created and maintained commons. Intended users are professionals, government agencies, NGO, companies, practitioners, scholars and students across the globe who have interests in advancing the practice and science of the discipline. GIKN is intended for collective intelligence whereby each community member acts responsibly and makes their own decisions on what, and how much, to contribute.

The GIKNet Community Registry permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other



institutions to record and publish details about themselves and submit relevant documents to the Spatial Docs Depot. SDI implementation experiences from all levels of government can be published. GIKNet information can be searched and accessed via a search facility in the Spatial Docs Depot. A comprehensive list of GI/SDI related discussion lists can be accessed from a single reference page. Access the GKIN at this link: <http://www.giknet.org/>.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORMS UPDATES

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

RECENT MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

GSDI and ISPRS sign MOU on Cooperation

26 August 2011 - During the ISPRS Council Meeting in Melbourne, Australia (22-26 August 2011), a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the GSDI Association and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). Prof Orhan Altan, ISPRS President, and Abbas Rajabifard, GSDI President, signed for their respective organizations during the ISPRS Council Meeting. The purpose of the MoU is to support better collaboration and to further activities that will provide a framework for a continuing liaison between the two organizations. This will be achieved by maintaining and increasing opportunities for scientific, technical, professional, academic and educational exchanges between committees and members of the organizations and through a continuing program of sharing knowledge and expertise to the advantage of both organizations. Similar MoUs have been signed previously with the International Federation of Surveyors and the International Cartographic Association (see <http://www.gsdi.org/associnfo>).

GLOBAL GI/GIS/SDI STANDARDS NEWS

OGC and EuroGeographics Cooperation on European SDI

28 September 2011 - The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) and EuroGeographics signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to promote interoperability through open standards to benefit the European geospatial community. The organizations seek to promote compatible, standards-based SDIs from the local to global level, and the OGC is positioned to help EuroGeographics support a broad range of European stakeholders responding to Europe's INSPIRE Directive (<http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>).

Both organizations will work on outreach and communications to raise the awareness, acceptance, and implementation of open standards and related educational programs and best practices. This will include activities such as participation in international webinars; publishing papers on implementations; documenting Return on Investment; and examination and discussion of legal and policy issues associated with the use of spatial information and associated technologies. The two organizations will also work to identify, plan and convene joint workshops, conference sessions and symposia.

In addition, EuroGeographics and the OGC will seek funding and in-kind resources to advance joint OGC testbeds, pilot projects, and interoperability experiments, with a focus on advancing the European Location Framework. (<http://sharepsi.eu/papers/eurogeographics-2.pdf>)

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and EuroGeographics are both active members of the GSDI Association. Visit OGC at www.opengeospatial.org and EuroGeographics at www.eurogeographicis.org.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL SDI PROJECTS

Various members of the GSDI Association Committees and/or Board are involved in the following global initiatives or programmes:

- Eye on Earth Summit, 12-15 December 2011 – see <http://www.eyeonearthsummit.org/>



- World Bank – Spatial Data Infrastructure for Millennium Development Goals Project.
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) building the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – see http://www.earthobservations.org/ag_partorg.shtml
- EuroGEOSS (EU-funded project supporting GEO/GEOSS) – Socio-economic Benefits of Earth Observation project.
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure training and development (Ocean Teacher Academy).
- UNSDI – UNGGIM (Global Geospatial Information Management) – high-level forum meeting, 24-26 October 2011, Korea.
- UN-SPIDER (United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response) - visit <http://www.un-spider.org> for October and November events.

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

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS - News from the [GSDI Association](#) and the [International Geospatial Society](#) – is published periodically by the GSDI Association, edited by Roger Longhorn, vice-Chair, Communications, of the GSDI Outreach and Membership Committee. The Editor may be contacted at ral@alum.mit.edu. Please feel free to submit news to the Editor, relevant to SDI initiatives at the global level.

