

## GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 3, No. 2, 2013

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

#### GSDI 14 Conference Update

Preparations are now well underway for the joint **GSDI 14 World Conference** and **AfricaGIS 2013 Conference** to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the UN ECA Conference Center, 4-8 November 2013. Primary organizers and hosts of this conference include the GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, EiABC - Addis Ababa University, and the International Geospatial Society. The conference will be held at the UN ECA Conference Centre in Addis Ababa. The conference theme is "**Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction**".

This joint 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.

#### Call for Papers

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 September 2013**

Deadline for Full Conference Registration Payment for All Presenters: **15 September 2013**

Conference Dates: **4-8 Nov 2013**

#### Conference Links

Joint Conference Call for Abstracts and Papers:

<http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/papercall.html>

Conference Website: <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14>

Past GSDI World Conference Proceedings:

<http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences>

Past open access Books affiliated with the conference:

<http://www.gsdi.org/openaccessbooks>

Other Important Dates:

<http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/dates.html>

We look forward to seeing you in Addis Ababa in November 2013!

**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, see: <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences>.

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 at <http://gsdi.org/gsdi14> for further information on the Call for Papers and details about the program, facilities and sponsorship opportunities. Come prepared to engage, learn and enjoy! More news on the conference in future issues!

### GSDI COMMITTEE NEWS

To keep abreast of what is happening in SDI and related fields around the globe, be sure to check out the various newsletters downloadable from the GSDI website (<http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters>). These include the **GSDI Regional Newsletters** for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America & Caribbean; the **GSDI & IGS Global News** (covering GSDI Association and IGS Member activities), **FGDC Newsletter** (USA SDI news), EuroGeographics and **EUROGI Newsletters** (covering Europe), **EIS-Africa** (environmental news from Africa), **SALB Newsletter** (Second Administrative Level Boundaries from the



UNGIWG project) and, now, the **UN-SPIDER Newsletter** (the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, published by UNOOSA – UN Office for Outer Space Affairs).

### **Outreach & Membership Committee**

Committee Chair, **Mark Reichardt** (OGC) is a keynote speaker at the EUROGI imaGIne Conference in Dublin, Ireland, 7-8 March, where vice-Chair, **Roger Longhorn** will be facilitating the plenary session on 7 March. Longhorn is also attending the 1<sup>st</sup> Eye on Earth User Conference in Dublin, Ireland, on 4-6 March 2013, where other GSDI and IGS members will be in attendance, including OGC's **Athina Trakas** and IGS Founding Member Mr **Suha Ulgen**, of the UNSDI initiative. Vice-Chair, Europe, **Joep Cromptvoets** and Longhorn also provided the GSDI column in GIM International magazine's March issue (see "Article of the Month" later in this issue).

**Nancy Aguirre**, Committee vice-Chair, South America, visited Brazil at the end of January seeking collaboration between INPE (Brazil) and the Humboldt Institute (Colombia) for the establishment of a Biodiversity Monitoring System.

Vice-Chairs Longhorn and Cromptvoets launched a survey of GSDI Members mid-February, seeking feedback on several membership issues. The results will be used by the Board and Executive Committee to help improve service delivery of benefits to Members and to address any other issues they have raised as a result of the survey.

The Outreach & Membership Committee also manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has 241 members. If you are not already a member of this group, please join today – and tell your friends! Visit <http://www.linkedin.com> to join, then find GSDI in the 'Groups' option, to join the group.

### **Legal & Socioeconomic Committee**

Committee member (and former Chair), **Dr Gabor Remetey-Fülöpp** (HUNAGI) is attending the 13th Plenary of UNGIWG "Free the Data", where he was invited by the UNGIWG co-Chairs to deliver a presentation on the NASA World Wind Europa Challenge that we mentioned in the last issue of the Newsletter. Gabor will also be attending ISDE-8 - the 8th International Society for Digital Earth Symposium: "Transforming Knowledge into Sustainable Practice", at the Borneo Convention Centre, in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, 26-29 August 2013. Note that the deadline for submission abstracts has been postponed

until 31 March - so get those abstracts submitted! For latest news, visit the web site at:

<http://isde2013kuching.com/>

L&SE Committee co-Chair, **Katleen Janssen**, has been involved with the EU's ePSIplatform since its formation several years ago by the European Commission, who have now launched a "**Consultation on Open Data**". Given that all government created and held geospatial information is also Public Sector Information (PSI) first, feedback from the geo community is sought on the issues at stake. The European Commission (DG CONNECT) is making a call for evidence and for your help – see the link below:

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/help-us-improve-our-analysis-measurement>.

Please take 10 minutes to help DG CONNECT improve analysis and measurement of the actions and priorities for 2013, amongst which is open data. Fill out the public consultation survey at the link above.

The ePSIplatform 2013 Conference was also a great success, with over 300 people from 30 countries registered for the Conference held in Warsaw. With 40 speakers in 12 sessions, it was a day full of lively interaction and discussion. The conference committee is in the process of publishing the proceedings (videos and presentations) at this link:

<http://epsiplatform.eu/proceedings2013>.

In the past two years the ePSIplatform team has worked on helping to move open government data forward in Europe, connecting with many in the geospatial information government data community. The current team is handing over the stewardship of the ePSIplatform.eu to a new team, led by P.A.U. Education in Barcelona. Several other L&SE Committee members have also been directly involved with the ePSIplatform and associated Legal Aspects of PSI projects in Europe, as noted in previous Newsletters.

### **Technical Committee**

Among other activities, Technical Committee Chair, **Eric van Praag**, Regional Coordinator, GeoSUR Program of the Latin American Development Bank (CAF), is also speaking at the 1<sup>st</sup> Eye on Earth User Conference in Dublin, Ireland, on 4-6 March 2013, in the session "**From regional to global: streamlining environmental information**".



Note: The Technical Committee is also responsible for updating of the **GSDI SDI Cookbook**, a wiki maintained at: [www.gsdidocs.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.gsdidocs.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Page).

### **Societal Impacts Committee**

The Societal Impacts Committee administers the GSDI Small Grants Program and focuses on capacity building.

In our last issue we published the details from Societal Impacts Committee vice-Chair (Capacity Building) **Jeremy Shen**, Director of the Information Center at the Ministry of Interior in Chinese Taipei, about the sponsorship opportunity to attend the 2013 ICLPST (International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei this year. Each selected participant receives a round-trip air ticket, an allowance and lodging expenses during the training period.

After review by the Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society, the three selected participants for the 2013 ICLPST Training Seminar are:

- Ms Karishma Busgeeth (South Africa)
- Ms Jannett Ibañez (Bolivia)
- Mr Juan Ardila Lopez (Colombia)

If any of above cannot attend the Training Seminar for any reason, the selected alternate is Mr. Zakaria Ngereja (Tanzania). The Training Seminar will take place in Taipei from 20 March to 2 April 2013 in Taipei. See the full announcement on the web at:

[http://ngis.moi.gov.tw/lan\\_en/Content.aspx?MenuID=95&SubjectID=473](http://ngis.moi.gov.tw/lan_en/Content.aspx?MenuID=95&SubjectID=473)

Consider joining the IGS by visiting the web site at <http://www.igeoss.org/> and look at the **Benefits of Joining the IGS** on the GSDI and IGS web site at: <http://www.igeoss.org/BenefitsOfJoining>.

### **GSDI Small Grants - URISA GISCorps Support**

**Gita Urban-Mathieux**, FGDC Grants Coordinator and vice-Chair of the GSDI Societal Impacts Committee, reports that 2011-12 GSDI Small Grants project reports have been received from the following regions:

**Central America - Gulf of Fonseca Surveying and Nautical Charting Stand Up and Planning Meeting**; Pan American Institute of Geography and History Institutional, Strengthening and Technical Cooperation Committee:

- Hosted a meeting that resulted in the creation of a steering committee to guide further action complete

Gulf of Fonseca Hydrographic Survey and Nautical Charting.

**Rwanda - Use of GIS and SDI in promoting coffee quality in Maraba Sector South Province of Rwanda**; Center for Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing (GIS&RS) Research:

- Variety of maps for Rwanda and metadata can be retrieved via their GeoPortal, [www.cgis.nur.ac.rw](http://www.cgis.nur.ac.rw).
- Presented results at three workshops held in Rwanda.

**Albania - Increasing the understanding of SDI within the Albanian geo-society by promoting and distributing SDI Cookbook 2009 in Albanian language**; South-East European Research Association on Geo Sciences (Geo-SEE):

- Translated and edited "SDI cookbook 2009 in Albanian" and "SDI cookbook 2012 in Albanian" in electronic form.
- Disseminated SDI Cookbooks among the Albanian geo community in Macedonia (FYRoM), Kosovo and Albania.
- Increased the knowledge and utilization of SDI among the Albanian geo community.

**Zimbabwe - Strengthening the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Effort in Zimbabwe Through the Establishment of Requisite Institution and Technological Structures**; The NSDI steering committee - Department of Geoinformatics and Surveying, Faculty of Engineering:

- Held an NSDI governance structure consensus workshop in Zimbabwe that resulted in several recommendations and a path forward.

**Macedonia- Non-Governmental Organizations for Spatial Data Infrastructure (NGO4SDI)**; Association for Geospatial Information in South-East Europe (AGISEE):

- Conducted research and analysis of non-governmental organization use of SDI.
- Organized workshop at AGISEE workshop at 8th Cartography and Geoinformation Conference, SDI Days Zagreb 2012.

**South Africa - Developing a framework for South African SDI education and training**; Centre for Geoinformation Science, Department of Geography, University of Pretoria:

- Conducted a survey of available SDI education and training material and previous research and projects that resulted in a paper title "A Survey of Books for Potential Use in SDI Education and Training in South



Africa” that was submitted to the International Cartographic Conference (ICC).

- Created a database of available SDI education and training materials.
- Hosted three-day workshop with 12 South African experts.
- Held a workshop on Spatial data infrastructures at GISSA Ukubuzana conference (South African GIS conference).

**2010-11 Project Reports** were received from:

**Nigeria - Sensitization Program for the GRDC Metadata Clearinghouse Node and the Extension of its Present Capabilities.** Primary Contact: Geographical Resources for Development Centre (GRDC):

- Created GRDC metadata clearinghouse awareness leaflets.
- Conducted awareness and sensitization programs for the clearinghouse.
- Adopted NGDI standards for their metadata development and sensitizing the public on its applied use.
- Have been requested by several institutions/private companies to conduct training on metadata, data management and the use of the GRDC clearinghouse.

### URISA GISCorps Support for Small Grants Projects

Two major project reports have been published by URISA for GSDI Small Grants projects supported by GISCorps volunteers. We reproduce the introductions below, with links to the full, detailed online reports, which include much additional information, photos and imagery.

**GSDI Mission in Tanzania - “Assessing Land Use/Land Cover Change in the Eastern Arc Mountains in Morogoro Region”**

The project was coordinated by Mercy Ojoyi, Environmentalist, University of Kwazulu-Natal and Wami Ruvu Basin Office, Tanzania with technical support by GISCorps Volunteer, Imroz Raihan.

This project was initiated as a small grant request from the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) by the University of Kwazulu-Natal and the Wami Ruvu Basin Water Office in Tanzania. The application requested a Remote Sensing Specialist who works for the United Nations to provide technical assistance in assessing land use change. As a partner of GSDI in its small grant program, GISCorps recruited and deployed Mr Imroz Raihan, a Remote Sensing Specialist, to conduct image processing and analysis. Mr Raihan contributed a very

specific part of the project which includes vegetation change analysis. In line with his contribution it is expected that there will be further exploration using Remote Sensing techniques to assess effects of land use and land cover change using LANDSAT and then apply high resolution images to assess fragmentation effects on the ecosystem.

Vegetation dynamics are considered to be of primary importance for assessing ecosystem fragmentation. This research tries to employ multispectral remote sensing data to measure vegetation change. Tri-decadal Landsat images were processed to extract vegetation coverage at 3 different time periods. Extracted vegetation coverage for the years 1991, 2000, and 2011 were overlaid to delineate the process of deforestation in the selected study area. To improve the extraction of vegetation coverage, raw Landsat images were calibrated and atmospheric corrections were applied using the radiative transfer model 'MODTRAN4'. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) values were calculated from the processed images. By selecting different threshold levels from NDVI values, four different land cover classes were developed. These included bare soil, grassland, shrubs, and dense forest. In parallel to this, unsupervised classifications were applied and compared with the NDVI analysis. Finally, year-wise land cover class statistics were calculated and compared in order to present the vegetation dynamics within the time frame.

See the full report of this mission at this link:

[http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131&Itemid=59](http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131&Itemid=59)

**GSDI Mission in Russia – “Lecturer on GIS Development and Practices in the US: A GISCorps Mission in Russia”** by Bill Huxhold.

In November 2011, South Ural State University in Chelyabinsk (SUSU), Russia, applied to the GSDI, seeking the assistance of a seasoned GIS expert to lead a discussion of GIS practices in the United States. The goal was to have the volunteer participate in a two-to-three day international seminar, presenting an overview of how GIS is practiced in the U.S. in regard to major application areas, particularly in land management, cadastral data, surveying, and geodesy. Of particular interest was a discussion of issues and trends in how GIS technology and GIS cadastral data systems have developed and been deployed within organizational, institutional, and governments settings. In July, William Huxhold, GISP, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Urban Planning, responded affirmatively to the GISCorps call for a professional and the GISCorps' 101<sup>st</sup> mission commenced its planning phase.



The seminar proposed by Lyudmila Shestakova, Associate Professor and Vice-director for Research Educational Center "Geoinformation Systems" and Valentina Nikolaevna, Associate Professor and Director of Scientific and Educational Center "Geoinformation Systems" included the following topics:

- History of geographic information systems in the U.S.
- Overview of in the US, including federal, state, local government activities and the for-profit vendor place and role in the industry.
- GIS development issues at the present stage of development in the U.S.
- Use of GIS in land management and cadastral databases .
- Examples of municipal/county enterprise GIS organizations, including functions/applications, organizational structures, funding resources, data integration, software issues, staffing and training, etc.
- The role of universities in the U.S. GIS industry.
- Major public and privately provided GIS databases such as local cadastral systems, TIGER, and environmental, economic, and transportation databases, remotely sensed data.
- Comparisons and examples of major GIS software systems.
- Application geoportals and web-based mapping, including issues of updating content data and metadata.
- GIS service providers in the public sector
- Spatial data infrastructure, geodata exchange standards.
- Integration of various GIS, distributed storage of Geodata.
- Usage of remote sensing of Earth (satellite scanning, aerophotography, usage of unmanned aircrafts).

Read the full mission report at this link:

[http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=130&Itemid=59](http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=130&Itemid=59).

For information on the support from the **URISA GISCorps** volunteers on behalf of the GSDI Small Grants awards, and other URISA GISCorps activities, visit the GISCorps Ongoing Projects website at:

[http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=62](http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=62)

### NEW SMALL GRANTS FUNDERS NEEDED!

The GSDI Association Board and Members are seeking funding to help ensure that the Small Grants Program can be continued in 2013 and for the future. Anyone who can help with future financial support, please contact the

Association President, Prof David Coleman, or Executive Director, Prof Harlan Onsrud.

A working group has been formed and a new information leaflet defined, to be used for fund raising (see the GSDI web site). This was finalised in October and fund raising actions are now underway, seeking contributions from both the industry and government agencies, plus major cooperation aid funding bodies, academic and research institutions – anyone wishing to offer support for this very worthwhile and highly visible GSDI Association activity. Watch this space for future reports on our success!

To see the final reports and for more information on the Small Grants Program visit our web site at <http://www.gsdi.org/sic1>. Those wishing to make donations to the Small Grants Program in any amount will now find a 'Donate' button on the web pages!

As always, we express the Association's grateful thanks for the past support of the US Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and current support from the URISA GISCorps for making the grants programme possible.

### THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSPATIAL SOCIETY (IGS)

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

### IGS Reminders

Election of new IGS officers is underway. The term of the first president, Mabel Alvarez, has expired and the former president-elect had to step down due to a change of jobs. Many thanks to Mabel for her excellent work in shepherding IGS through its early stages!

The nominations committee consists of:

- Mabel Alvarez, Past-President, International Geospatial Society (Argentina)
- Bas Kok, Past-President, GSDI Association (Netherlands)
- Santiago Borrero, Past-President, GSDI Association (Mexico)
- Abbas Rajabifard, Past-President, GSDI Association (Australia)
- David Coleman, President, GSDI Association (Canada)



This committee will select two to five nominations to be placed on the ballot for each of the two open positions. If more than two candidates are listed, ranked instantaneous runoff voting will be used.

Nominations closed on 15 February and the voting process will begin shortly. The term of President is for two years. The elected president will serve from the date of election in 2013 until 31 December, 2014. The elected vice-President/President-elect will serve as vice-president until 31 December, 2014 and then President from 1 January, 2015 through 31 December, 2016.

Details of the election process were given in last month's Newsletter. Remember, if you are required to pay dues, don't forget to pay your 2013 dues at <http://igeoss.org/join> if you plan to vote in the elections!

### Publication of IGS '120 Theses'

**Mabel Alvarez**, outgoing President of the International Geospatial Society reports on successful acceptance to publication of IGS "**120 Theses**". The International Geospatial Society (IGS), as part of its first Work Plan, promoted the compilation of MSc and PhD theses related to geospatial information, covering topics like SDI, GIS, remote sensing and cartography. The aim of this publication was to achieve Work Plan objectives including:

- -Making known International Geospatial society (IGS) and the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKnet) through publications open to public access.
- -Working as a network between members of IGS and outside collaborators.
- -Generation of publications on topics of interest, aimed at a particular target audience.
- -Generation of Spanish publications aimed at Spanish-speaking countries.
- -Contribution to scientific production dissemination.

The first version of the publication "**120 Theses**" was developed as a collaborative task by some members of IGS and outside collaborators, being uploaded to GIKnet on 17 December, 2012.

The publication consists of two parts, one of about 63 theses in Spanish, available at:

<http://www.giknet.org/depot/?docid=8>

and the other 57 theses in English available at:

<http://www.giknet.org/depot/?docid=78>.

Since these theses were available at GIKnet, dissemination strategies were implemented in order to share this publication with society. As a result of the dissemination strategies of the theses, to date they have

been distributed by other means, including: the GSDI & IGS Newsletter, the SDI-LAC Newsletter and the Newsletter IDE Iberoamérica; in the GIKnet forum (topics of general interest in English and Spanish), Blog del Profe José (Argentina), Blog IDEE (Spain) and Mundogeo (Brasil). Additionally, information about the theses was sent to specific groups, thematic networks, universities and other potential stakeholders.

The publication "**120 Theses**" has been downloaded 860 times (589 in Spanish and 271 in English) from GIKnet, so far, in just over two months. The number of downloads of the theses is a clear indicator that the expected objectives have been achieved and that the IGS initiative has been a contribution to a useful resource for many people.

### IGS Reminders – Membership Renewals

As of January 2013, it was time to renew your membership in the International Geospatial Society (IGS).

#### IGS Activities and Benefits

The International Geospatial Society (IGS) is the global society for geospatial specialists who want to affiliate with, help support, learn from and communicate with peer professionals across the world. Without the base financial support and volunteered personal time and effort of members the numerous activities in which IGS engages would not be possible. See a description of member benefits and the range of activities in which members have been engaged at:

<http://www.igeoss.org/BenefitsOfJoining>.

The organization has been able to implement a program to allow geospatial specialists in developing nations to provide services in lieu of dues. Those services consist of providing or updating each year a personal professional profile in the geographic knowledge network. This effort has provided a much broader geographic distribution of representation in the organization. See the full list of members at: <http://www.igeoss.org/members>.

The next face-to-face meeting of the International Geospatial Society will occur during the GSDI 14 World Conference 4-8 November 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. All IGS members are cordially invited to attend the IGS meeting, where much of the business of the organization will be accomplished. (See updates as they occur at <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14/>).

#### Submitting Your Dues or Maintaining Free Membership

In order to renew your membership, please go to <http://www.igeoss.org/join> and pay the dues of \$US 50



by credit card (\$25 for students). Dues payment is available only through use of a credit card. In the event that you are a citizen of and live within a qualifying economically disadvantaged nation (details on the web site), the online membership application at <http://www.igeoss.org/join> will provide you with the option of applying for free membership in IGS. The primary obligation is to create your professional profile in the GIKNetwork and then provide the URL link to your profile information.

### Subscriptions to GIM International

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

### Participation in GIKNet

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

- Topics of general interest (English)  
<http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=41>
- Topics of general interest (Spanish)  
<http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=42>
- Task 5. Promote the work of IGS members as a network sharing information, knowledge and publications among IGS members  
<http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=12>

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

### LinkedIn IGS Sub-Group

If you have not already signed up for the IGS sub-group on LinkedIn (see prior Newsletters), please do so ASAP! To date, we now have nearly 300 members in IGS – yet only 26 have joined the LinkedIn group. If you are already a member of the GSDI group, then you can request to join from the *Subgroups* page by clicking “Groups” at the top of your home page. Then click the parent group’s name (GSDI). Under the “More” dropdown menu, select *Subgroups*. The click “Join this subgroup.” You can view the status of your membership from the Your Groups page at: <http://www.linkedin.com/myGroups>.

### Joining IGS

Remember that individuals in low and very low income nations can apply to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. The listing of low and very-low income nations may be found at <http://www.gsdi.org/RankingTable>.

To join for free, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe on the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) at: <http://giknet.org> and then apply for membership in IGS at <http://www.igeoss.org/join>.

**To maintain your free membership, simply update your professional profile at the beginning of each year. You have the ability to view, edit, or delete your individual profile at any time.**

Members who joined IGS via this route, i.e. without paying the annual members fee, are reminded to update their information annually, or lose their membership of IGS.

**Help us reach our goal of 1000 IGS Members by November 2013 – get your friends to join today!**

**IGS Members** – submit your news, please, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are nearly 200 of you out there now, so please communicate with us. News can be sent by e-mail directly to Roger Longhorn, Editor, GSDI & IGS News at [ral@alum.mit.edu](mailto:ral@alum.mit.edu).

## ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

### EUROGI Holds imaGIne Conference, Dublin, Ireland

Several GSDI and IGS members will be present at the **EUROGI imaGIne Conference**, to be held in Dublin, Ireland, 7-8 March 2013. The conference is organised by GSDI Association member, EUROGI, whose President, **Bruce McCormack**, also sits on the GSDI Board. Other GSDI or IGS members present include keynote speaker, OGC President Mark Reichardt, speaking on "Emerging Trends: How they might interact to shape a new Geospatial Environment". Panelists during the event include IGS Founding Members **Suha Ulgen** and **Danny Vandenbroucke**, and OGC’s **Athina Trakas**. GSDI O&M vice-Chair, Communications, **Roger Longhorn** (also an IGS Founding Member), is facilitator for the plenary session on 7 March: "**Identifying Tasks/Actions needed to exploit existing GI using existing geotechnologies**". The next issue of GSDI & IGS Newsletter will carry a brief report of the event.



## Esri Donates ArcGIS Online for Organization (AGOL) to GISCorps

The donated software will be utilized in various short term projects and particularly in post disaster missions. Members of GISCorps Core Committee and Stand-By Task Force attended an AGOL workshop in Redlands in January (see photos below) and following the workshop, GISCorps' home page was launched at:

<http://giscorps.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

The GISCorps Volunteer Map and Missions Map can be viewed at the link below:

[http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=132&Itemid=63](http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=132&Itemid=63)

### CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Don't forget to check out the GSDI Association's **Capacity Building Resources** web pages at <http://www.gsdi.org/sic3> to view some of the videos relating to SDI implementation provided by our members. Also visit the Webinars page at: <http://www.gsdi.org/webinars>

If you have any videos to contribute, or webinars to suggest, then please notify us by contacting Roger Longhorn ([ral@alum.mit.edu](mailto:ral@alum.mit.edu)).

### ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Newsletter, we are re-publishing the *GIM International* magazine GSDI column from March, by Outreach & Membership Committee vice-Chairs, **Roger Longhorn** (Communications) and **Joep Crompvoets** (Europe).

#### **SDI Best Practice in Chinese Taipei**

In mid-August, Joep Crompvoets and Roger Longhorn were guests of the Government of Chinese Taipei, invited to present the keynote speeches at the day-long seminar launching the Taiwan Geoportal One Stop (TGOS) web portal (see the link at:

[http://tgos.nat.gov.tw/tgos/EngWeb/TGOS\\_ENG\\_Home.aspx](http://tgos.nat.gov.tw/tgos/EngWeb/TGOS_ENG_Home.aspx)).

Longhorn spoke on the value of geospatial data and of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) – to the economy, to businesses and to citizens, and presented a list of recommendations of how to value SDIs. Crompvoets presented the assessment of the current SDI of Chinese Taipei. He made use of the following four SDI-assessment approaches: SDI-Readiness of Tatiana Delgado Fernández, INSPIRE State of Play (Danny Vandenbroucke,

et al), Clearinghouse Suitability Index (Joep Crompvoets), and Organisational (Bastiaan van Loenen), in order to have a comprehensive assessment, and compared the assessment results with other SDIs around the world.

The assessment shows that the SDI of Chinese Taipei is highly advanced, having been under development for more than a decade, with strong government support from the Ministry of the Interior. The pre-conditions to undertake SDI were very good, especially organisational and technological readiness. Clear SDI leadership, vision and operational communication channels make the organisation of the Chinese Taipei SDI very strong. The TGOS portal is highly suitable for discovering, viewing and disseminating spatial data. Numerous web services are implemented based on international, open standards. Based on the assessment, the SDI of Chinese Taipei can be considered one of the top SDIs in the world – an excellent example of best practice, offering valuable lessons. The topics needing attention for sustainable development of the SDI relate to legal issues, sustainable funding and metadata implementation.

The August visit was well organised, hosted by **Jeremy Shen**, Director of the Information Centre, Ministry of the Interior, who is also an active member of the GSDI Association Societal Impacts Committee. During the visit, meetings were held with Minister of Interior Dr Hong-Yuan Lee, and Deputy or vice-Ministers from the Council for Economic Planning & Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of Science and Technology, the National Space Organization, the Taiwan Geographic Information System Center in Taipei, and the GIS Research Center at Feng Chia University – all of whom have an important part to play in the success of the NSDI. Special emphasis in Chinese Taipei is on disaster planning, monitoring and mitigation, due to the number of typhoons and earthquakes to which the island nation is subjected, with accompanying serious flooding and landslide incidents.

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### THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

The aim of the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (**GIKNet**) is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geographic information community. The GIKNet



Community Registry permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other institutions to record and publish details about themselves and submit relevant documents to the Spatial Documents Depot, which provides a search facility for locating information and documents submitted by GIKNetwork members. A comprehensive list of GI/SDI related discussion lists can be accessed from a single reference page. Access the GIKNetwork at this link: <http://www.giknet.org/>.

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

### **PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL SDI PROJECTS**

#### ***First Eye on Earth User Conference, March 2013, Dublin, Ireland***

Several GSDI Association and IGS Members will be present at the 1st Eye on Earth User Conference, to be held in Dublin, Ireland, 4-5 March 2013. Board Member **Bruce McCormack**, President of EUROGI, was on the organizing Committee and **Eric van Praag**, of CAF, GSDI Board Member and Chair of the GSDI Technical Committee, will be presenting on the GeoSUR programme in South America. **Roger Longhorn**, vice-Chair, Communications, GSDI O&M Committee, will also be attending, to prepare a report of the event for the next Newsletter, in March. The event is being prepared with support from Association industry Member, **Esri**, as well.

### **GSDI INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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) – visit [www.digitalearth-isde.org](http://www.digitalearth-isde.org).
- Eye on Earth – visit [www.eyeonearth.org](http://www.eyeonearth.org).
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – see [www.earthobservations.org](http://www.earthobservations.org).
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see [www.eurogeoss.eu/default.aspx](http://www.eurogeoss.eu/default.aspx).
- INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – [inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu](http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu).
- International Hydrographic Organisation – Marine SDI Working Group – see [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int).
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit [www.iode.org](http://www.iode.org).
- UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit [ggim.un.org](http://ggim.un.org).
- UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit [www.ungiwg.org](http://www.ungiwg.org).
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit [www.iode.org](http://www.iode.org).
- UNSDI – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit [ggim.un.org](http://ggim.un.org).
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit [www.ungiwg.org](http://www.ungiwg.org).

### **GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS UPDATES**

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

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

**GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS** - News from the [GSDI Association](http://www.gsdi.org) and the [International Geospatial Society](http://www.internationalgeospatial.org) – is published 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](mailto:ral@alum.mit.edu). Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to GSDI and IGS Member news or SDI initiatives at any level.

