

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society
Vol. 4, No. 1, 2014

"The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association - Advancing a Location Enabled World"

ASSOCIATION NEWS



GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCE 2013 A SUCCESS!

For an update on what has been called one of the most successful GSDI conferences yet, please see GSDI President Prof. David Coleman's article in GIM International magazine, reprinted in this issue's 'Article of the Month' section found later in the Newsletter.



Well done to everyone who helped to make this a successful event – on the part of the organisers, the presenters and the attendees! Special thanks go to the GSDI Association's member UN Economic Commission for Africa, who hosted the event at the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa and whose staff worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the event, supported ably by the Local Organising Committee, led by EiABC - Addis Ababa University - and the Ethiopian Mapping Agency. Special thanks also to EIS Africa whose AfricaGIS 2013 was an integral part of the conference, giving it a valuable regional focus.

And finally, many thanks to the Sponsors, without whose financial support the conference would not have been the success that it was, including Esri, Google, Intergraph, GEO (Group on Earth

Observations) and DigitalGlobe. A full conference report, with photos, is in preparation. Visit the conference web site to access the full program of presentations, abstracts and papers that comprise the Proceedings.

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.gsd.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), 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), and the newsletters of the organisations with which GSDI has MoUs – **ICA**, **FIG** and **ISPRS**

Outreach & Membership Committee

Work continues on developing the **5-year GSDI & IGS Strategic Plan**, with the working group expanded to include **Sives Govender**, President of the IGS, and **Dev Raj Paudyal**, IGS President-elect. As the private members' arm of the GSDI Association, it would be difficult to develop a strategy for IGS that did not take account of, or was included in, the GSDI's own strategic plan.

Many members of the Committee were directly involved in preparing for and working at the Global Geospatial Conference, for which special thanks to Denise McKenzie, the Committee Chair, who was a Keynote speaker at the final plenary, on the topic: **"Reflections on the Conference Sessions and Visions: Where we are, where we need to be, and are we on course for effective spatial enablement of society in support of economic development and poverty reduction?"** Committee regional vice-Chair for Europe, Joep Crompvoets, was



also instrumental in capturing much of the media that we will be presenting on the web site in the near future.



The O&M Committee manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has 307 members. If you are not already a member of this group, please join today – and tell your friends! Visit <http://www.linkedin.com> to join, then find GSDI in the 'Groups' option, to join the group or go direct to: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/GSDI-Association-3794985>.

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

Our new Facebook account created in July to help promote the GSDI Conference, has gathered a few more followers and GSDI and IGS members are encouraged to use Facebook to tell us about their activities. Visit us on Facebook at: (www.facebook.com/gsdiaidigs).



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

Societal Impacts Committee

The Societal Impacts Committee, chaired by **Carmelle Terborgh** (Esri), administers the GSDI Small Grants Program, where vice-Chair, **Brigitta Urban-Mathieux** (FGDC/USGS) supports Small Grants Program development. **Jeremy Shen** is vice-Chair, Capacity Building. The Societal Impacts Committee also supports the International Geospatial Society officers in relation to capitalizing on capacity building initiatives for IGS members, especially from developing nations.

In January, Societal Impacts Committee vice-Chair, **Jeremy Shen**, announced the results of the third GIS training opportunity in Chinese Taipei under which three GSDI or IGS members from Africa or Latin America are sponsored to participate in the International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training (ICLPST) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei from 19 March to 1 April 2014. See the announcement in the 'Capacity Building' section of the newsletter.

Also in January, Committee Chair Carmelle Terborgh presented the support statement of the GSDI to the 2014 GEO Geneva Summit meeting on 17 January that readers can find in the Newsletter section devoted to 'Participation in Global and Regional SDI Projects'.



The statement can also be downloaded from the GEO web site here:

http://www.earthobservations.org/documents/ministerial/geneva/statements/gms_gsd_i_statement.pdf

The meeting adopted the Geneva Declaration, "Integrating Observations to Sustain Our Planet" which is found here:

http://www.earthobservations.org/documents/ministerial/geneva/MS6_The_Geneva_Declaration.pdf



URISA's GISCorps works closely with the GSDI Association in providing professional GIS support in the field for the GSDI Small Grants Program. We encourage GSDI Association members and individual members of the International Geospatial Society to consider joining the GISCorps.

For updates on 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

URISA Caribbean Chapter Regional Workshop

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) Caribbean Chapter is pleased to announce its first **Regional Workshop on Open Source Technologies and Web Mapping between February 12 and 14, 2013**. The event will also feature the second staging of a High Level Meeting on **Regional SDI Integration**.

Countdown to St Maarten:

<http://countingdownto.com/countdown/447781#>

Official Workshop Site:

<http://www.urisa.org/chapters/caribbean-chapter/>

Register Online Here:

http://netforum.avectra.com/eWeb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=URISA&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=edd9aaf4-10bf-448a-996d-3ae897278257



Download Registration Form here:

<http://www.urisa.org/clientuploads/directory/Documents/Conferences/CaribbeanConference/Feb2014Event/2014CARIBWorkshopRegistration%20Form.pdf>

If you want to learn more about modern cartography, the art of transforming your GIS implementation dollars into awesome returns or discuss and address key issues affecting GIS development in the region then you cannot afford to miss this workshop.

Speakers who will be delivering training as well as keynote speeches at the workshop include:

1. George Gartner – Presenter – ICA Workshop Modern Cartography
2. Markus Jobst – Instructor – ICA Workshop on Modern Cartography
3. Greg Babinski – Presenter - URISA Workshop GIS Return on Investment
4. Valrie Grant – Co-presenter - URISA Workshop GIS Return on Investment
5. Rolando Ocampo Alcántar - Presenter, Second High Level Regional Geospatial Information Management Forum

Register for Workshop Registration rates of US\$150 for adults and US\$90 for students and get the offer on our official conference website:

<http://www.urisa.org/chapters/caribbean-chapter/>

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND:

- Explore and Learn about the latest in Open Source/Web Mapping technologies and projects from the ICA.
- With the advent of the latest trends and developments in web mapping, GIS users look toward leveraging free and open source technology (FOSS) as GIS budgets continues to shrink within organizations, justifying the ROI is becoming more prominent than ever.
- Learn how to determine the Return on Investment (ROI) for your GIS project/program. This can assist in securing support and funding for your project/program.
- Hear from experienced Speakers from ICA, URISA, UN-GGIM: Americas, etc.
- Build your GIS Network- collaborate with fellow Caribbean GIS users- meet people with similar interest and share ideas for using this technology.
- Collaborating on Open Source/ Web Mapping Ideas- provide feedback and take an active part in the development process.
- Participate in discussions on advancing GIS in the region as well as explore how to fully leverage GIS to meet your current and potential needs, from

industry best practices to available regional support. Get the details as well as the bigger picture!

- Earn GISCI education credits (attendance at this event qualifies for GISCI education Credits -16 contact hours).
- Bring your Questions - Pose your questions to technical experts, have one-on-one discussions, brainstorm, solve problems, and address issues that will foster GIS development in the region.
- Leave Equipped with Answers!
- Take a moment to relax and enjoy what beautiful St. Maarten has to offer!
- The Overall Environment to be created in SXM at the Regional GIS Workshop is not something to be missed!

For More Information regarding the workshop please Contact URISA Caribbean at the following and also check out the material available online:

Contact: Valerie Grant

Phone: 876-970-5686

Email: urisaribbean@gmail.com

Visit Us On: <http://www.urisaribbean.org>

Find Us On: www.facebook.com/URISACaribbeanChapter

Go To:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/URISA-Caribbean-Chapter-5164777/about>

Follow Us On:

First go to: <http://twitter.com/UrisaCaribbean>

Connect using: @UrisaCaribbean

Published on behalf of the URISA Caribbean Chapter.

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 Secretary General, Prof Harlan Onsrud.

Watch this space for an update on breaking news of Small Grants support arriving from Canada's GeoConnections programme!

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 GSDI home page!

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



THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSPATIAL SOCIETY (IGS)

The *International Geospatial Society* is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association and seeks individuals for membership who have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests, including professionals working in these topic areas in government, academia or industry, and students. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. As of 26 January 2014, IGS had **380 active members, an increase of 40 in the past two months**. The IGS web site is at:
<http://www.igeoss.org>.

The *IGS Member Survey* launched on 20 June was very successful, with 115 members responding (40% of the membership). Results were sent to all IGS Members for use in the discussions to define the next 5-year IGS Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2015 at the IGS Meeting held at the GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013 joint conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3 November. We would like to thank those members who did attend and contributed to that meeting. A report of that meeting is being prepared for distribution to IGS members by vice-President, *Dev Raj Paudyal*

IGS REMINDERS

Subscriptions to GIM International

Get your free subscription to *GIM International* magazine. 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>.

Subscriptions to Geospatial World Online Magazine

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

Participation in GIKNet

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

GSDI & IGS on LinkedIn and Facebook

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

Join IGS Today!

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>.

For current IGS Members – Renewal Time!

Remember that to maintain your free membership, current members must update their 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. 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 500 IGS Members – get your friends, colleagues and associates to join today! We are continually looking for ways to improve on IGS Member Benefits, so please tell us what you think would be most valuable to you, as an IGS Member – or as a potential IGS Member.

IGS Member News Needed!

IGS Members – submit your news, please, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are 380 of you out there now, so please communicate with us. News can be sent by e-mail directly to me, Roger Longhorn, Editor GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter at: ral@alum.mit.edu, or to Sives Govender, IGS President, at: sives.govender@gmail.com or to Dev Raj Paudyal, IGS President-elect, at: DevRaj.Paudyal@usq.edu.au.



CAPACITY BUILDING

2014 Training Opportunity in GIS and Land Management

The Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association provides a free training opportunity for up to three candidates from Africa or Latin America to attend the ICLPST (*International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training*) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei. The training seminar will begin on 19 March 2014 and conclude on 1 April 2014.

Chinese Taipei is the sponsor of the training program that entrusts ICLPST to carry out the project. **Mr. Jeremy Shen**, Vice-Chair of the Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association, announced the outcome of the selection process on 21 January 2014.

After reviewing applications from 29 individuals, the Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association has selected three winners to attend the free training program that runs from 19 March 2014 to 1 April 2014. They are:

- **Mr. Ivar M. Ledezma Casablanca** of Bolivia,
- **Ms. Rosario Casanova** of Uruguay, and
- **Mr. Mathenge Mwehe** of Kenya.
- **Ms. Ana Alvarez** of Uruguay is the alternate to avail of this training opportunity if any of above winners cannot attend the training program with any reason.

All recipients of the training award were required to be members of the **International Geospatial Society** (the individual members arm of the GSDI Association) or staff of **GSDI Association** organisational members. This is the third such training opportunity for attending the ICLPST Training Seminar in Taipei, for which the Association is truly grateful for Mr. Shen's on-going support.

Announcement is also on the following website:

http://ngis.moi.gov.tw/lan_en/Content.aspx?MenuID=95&SubjectID=520

New SDI Video Published by INSPIRATION Project

This video film is a result of Project INSPIRATION's awareness raising and communication activity. Its purpose is to raise awareness about spatial information and how important is to share it. Another purpose is education.

It tells a story about spatial information, spatial language made to exchange information on events in space and their location, about infrastructure that makes spatial data available and about INSPIRE Directive of EU for building a particular infrastructure for spatial

information. View the video (6:23 minutes) on YouTube here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sC-GEavq2TY>

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

New Professor Spatial Information Infrastructure at TU Delft

Jantien Stoter is appointed as full professor for the chair "Spatial Information Infrastructure" at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment. This chair studies techniques to enable sensible use of highly heterogeneous spatial data within information infrastructures.



Stoter fulfills this position together with a research position at the Dutch Kadaster, one of the main national providers of geo-information. From both organisations she

is detached to Geonovum, the Dutch standardisation organisation for geo-information. From these combinations of jobs, the past years Jantien managed to establish a research group with national and international recognition, which she will strengthen and extend from her new position as full professor.

Jantien Stoter graduated at Utrecht University (Physical Geography) and worked as a GIS consultant between 1995 and 1999. She obtained her PhD degree at Delft University of Technology (3D Cadastre) in 2004, for which she received the KNAW Prof. J.M. Tienstra Research award. From 2006 she led the research group on automatic generalization at the University of Twente. Since 2009 she fulfills a position as associate professor at TU Delft. In 2010 she received a prestigious Vidi award for her research on "5D modeling" from NWO (Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek). She chairs the commission "Data specifications" of the European Spatial Data Research organisation and she leads the national 3D Special Interest Group. She also lectures within the MSC program Geomatics.

Intergraph Wins Geospatial Innovation Award

Wichmann publishing house, Germany, selected Intergraph SG&I as the **2013 Innovation Award** winner for best product. Competing with seven other vendors, Intergraph SG&I was nominated by an independent jury of five geospatial scientists and selected by geospatial industry voters.



Intergraph submitted their Data-as-a-Service (DaaS) solution, which is based on our high-performance, image-compression format, Enhanced Compression Wavelet (ECW), designed specifically for geospatial imagery. The solution is supplemented with lightning-fast streaming via the Enhanced Compression Wavelet Protocol (ECWP).

An impressive example of these capabilities is the creation of the largest and fastest geofile of Germany, enabled by ECW/ECWP and Intergraph's cloud infrastructure. The challenge for RWE AG, one of Europe's leading utilities companies, was to handle a huge volume of data covering more than 365,000 square kilometers – the entire country of Germany. In particular, the question to be addressed: how to deliver 38 terabytes of imagery data for all of Germany at 20 centimeters ground resolution, spanning 370,000 files. In order to overcome the sheer volume of data, ERDAS IMAGINE was used to process and compress the 38 TB of uncompressed imagery down to a single 1-terabyte ECW file, while retaining full image quality and excellent performance.

Today's geospatial consumers expect instant data delivery. The highly effective lossless ECW data compression — with a compression rate of up to 95 percent, and the transmission and delivery of geospatial data via ECWP convinced the majority of voters. Intergraph's reliable 24/7 DaaS solution manages millions of geodata files, produces one ECW source and provides multiple services like WMS and WMTS, including easy data distribution via Clip-Zip-Ship. It supports desktop, web and mobile devices, and reduces network bandwidth, IT resources and costs.

Congratulations to Intergraph's product and technical teams for creating and deploying this innovative, trendsetting solution. We would also like to congratulate fellow Hexagon company Leica Geosystems for being recognized for its innovation Leica Nova MS50 multistation. Watch the video showing the power of ECW compression here:

<http://geospatial.intergraph.com/Files/14-Terapixel-Germany-ECW-mosaic.mp4>

From the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

OGC CEO Mark Reichardt reports to OGC Technical Committee and Business Value Committee members:

Recently, I briefed the OGC Planning Committee on the activities of the UN Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) including a request from the UN-GGIM Secretariat for key standards organizations – OGC, ISO and IHO - to advance a “core essential

standards guide” for use by member nations to improve their understanding of the value of standards, and guide the adoption and application of open geospatial standards to meet their geospatial missions. The Planning Committee approved this request and asked for OGC staff to work with membership to stand up a team to development this document in conjunction with our partner standards organizations. ISO TC/211 has already formed a Task Force, which will be dedicated to this task.

Our plan is to engage OGC, ISO and IHO members / staff over the next few weeks to scope the document, but the essence of this effort is to discuss the value and role of geospatial standards in the context of implementation and government mission accomplishment. The goal is an easy to understand, and relatively non-technical document focusing on communicating and educating key decision makers within member nations on topics such as:

- Role and value of open geospatial standards
- Core geospatial standards and related best practices explained
- Implementation examples
- References (national, regional and international cookbooks, SDI guides, etc.)

We are planning for an initial draft of this document to be available in late spring 2014, with ample time for a broad review and revision of a draft to be submitted for review and discussion at the UN-GGIM 4 meeting scheduled for the August 2014.

If you have an interested in supporting this activity, please reply to UNStdsGuide@lists.opengeospatial.org with your expression of interest. We anticipate that this activity will be conducted through regular virtual meetings with OGC staff facilitation of and involvement in the process. Please address any questions to me, Denise McKenzie or Carl Reed. The likely home for the effort in OGC's process will be a sub-committee of the Business Value Committee.

For background, I have uploaded the UN-GGIM Report – “Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial community” to the OGC portal: https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/?artifact_id=56897.

I look forward to working with members on this important effort.

Mark E. Reichardt, President & CEO
Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)



OGC Announces Winners of OGC Student App Challenge, sponsored by Google

In December, the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Board of Directors, Staff and 473 public sector and private sector members – government organizations, NGOs, corporations and universities around the world – congratulate Mr. Ebrahim Poorazizi of the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, winner of the inaugural OGC Student App Challenge.

For his WalkYourPlace app, Mr. Poorazizi won a Nexus Tablet donated by Google. In addition, he will be sponsored by OGC to travel to one of the next three 2014 OGC Technical Committee meetings: March 2014 in Washington, DC, USA; September, 2014 in Calgary, Canada; December 2014 in Tokyo, Japan. At that meeting he will be officially recognized at a plenary session of the Technical Committee. Also, Mr. Poorazizi's university, University of Calgary, will receive a two-year free renewal of its current OGC membership.

Second Prize went to TinySOS by Mohammad Jazayeri, also from the University of Calgary. Honorable Mentions for Cultural Impact go to Jade Lacosse and Greg Sebastian from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada for BC Place Names and Soo Jin Lee from Pukyong National University in South Korea for Android Map Application for People with Disabilities.

Ebrahim Poorazizi, Mohammed Jazayeri, Jade Lacosse and Soo Jin Lee each have a dedicated award page on the OGC Student App Challenge website featuring their application.

Open standards from the OGC create opportunities for app developers to make all kinds of location information available to users, independent of platform. Because most online sources of geographic information implement OGC standards, apps that implement OGC standards have access to thousands of geospatial services and databases. The OGC has launched the Student Map App Challenge to make entrepreneurial students aware of the enormous commercial and social potential of these open standards.

OGC's Geopackage Standard for Mobile Devices

The Open Geospatial Consortium's draft GeoPackage (GPKG) [<http://opengis.github.io/geopackage/>] standard is an open, app-independent, platform-independent, portable, interoperable, self-describing data container and API. This standard is intended to support multiple mapping and geospatial applications such as fixed product distribution, local data collection, and geospatially enabled analytics.

The standard was developed for mobile device users who require geospatial apps, but operate in environments with limited network connectivity, in other words, connection to a network may be intermittent. At present each mapping or geospatial app requires its own geospatial data store. This creates noninteroperable data silos. App-specific data silos contain the same geospatial data but are not accessible by more than one application. The Geopackage standard is intended to define a common data store that is accessible to all apps through a common API. This means that several apps can share the same data. The standard is intended to not only be app independent, but also platform independent so that it can be used by apps on iOS, Android, Blackberry, and other devices. GeoPackages provide direct access to vector geospatial features and tile matrix sets of earth images and raster maps at various scales. Direct use means the ability of apps to access and update data through an API in a "native" format without intermediate format translations. A GeoPackage is a platform-independent SQLite database file that contains GeoPackage data and metadata tables. What is allowed in a GeoPackage is entirely defined by the encoding standard specification. An Extended GeoPackage is a GeoPackage that contains additional data elements (tables or columns) or SQL constructs (data types, functions, indexes, constraints or triggers) that are not specified in the encoding standard.

The Geopackage standard is the first OGC standard to use Github [<http://opengis.github.io/geopackage/>] to host the standards development documents.

News from Canada

Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table Steering Committee seeks input

The Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table (CGCRT) is a collaboration of many players in the geomatics/geospatial sector. It was established to tackle these challenges head-on, and develop a strategy for future success. The CGCRT hope you want to learn more and contribute to that vision. How can you help? Join the conversation!

Visit the new CGCRT web site (<http://cgcrt.ca/>) and provide feedback on the seven Strategy Dimensions (<http://cgcrt.ca/strategy/>):

- Identity
- Market
- Business Model
- Leadership and Governance
- Education and Capacity Building
- Data Sources
- Legal and Policy Interoperability



Connect with CGCRT on social media:

- Follow us on Twitter for updates: @CanGeoRT
- Join the CGCRT LinkedIn group:
<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=4824554>

Contact CGCRT directly at: communications@cgcr.ca

We need your feedback to help develop a strategy to guide the future success of the Canadian geomatics community.

News from the Americas

US FGDC Steering Committee approves NSDI Strategic Plan for 2014-2016

On 17 December 2013, the FGDC Steering Committee approved the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Plan for 2014–2016.

The Plan was developed during 2013 through extensive consultation with Federal agencies, the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), and with partners and stakeholders across the geospatial community. This external input was instrumental in shaping the plan and in reflecting the perspectives of the broader geospatial community. The plan describes a shared national vision of the NSDI and includes a set of goals and objectives for the role of Federal agencies in achieving this vision:

The NSDI leverages investments in people, technology, data, and procedures to create and provide the geospatial knowledge required to understand, protect, and promote our national and global interests.

The goals and objectives in the plan define areas of critical importance to the continued development of the NSDI and provide a framework for the Federal geospatial community's responsibilities over the next 3 years.

The plan is posted at National Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2014–2016 (PDF) here:
<http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-strategic-plan-2014-2016-FINAL.pdf>

Crowd-Sourcing the Nation USA Update

The National Map Corps (TNMCorps) has just passed an exciting milestone. Using crowd-sourcing techniques, the USGS' Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) project has surpassed 25,000 manmade feature edits since 2011. Structures being updated include schools, hospitals, post offices, police stations and other important public

buildings. Tools on

TNMCorps web site explain how a volunteer can edit any area, regardless of their familiarity with the selected structures. Becoming a volunteer for TNMCorps is easy; go to The National Map Corps web site to learn more and to sign up as a volunteer.

TNMCorps web sites:

<https://my.usgs.gov/confluence/display/nationalmapcorps/Home>
<http://nationalmap.gov/TheNationalMapCorps/index.html>

MetroGIS Recommends Free and Open Access Government Data

MetroGIS (<http://www.metrogis.org/>), an award-winning collaboration, began working in 1995 as an initiative to share data across the 7-county Minneapolis-St. Paul region. From the beginning, they have struggled with fees and licenses. This year may signal the end of those problems. A formal report on Free and Open Access to Data presents enough good research to justify lowering those barriers. The report was adopted by the MetroGIS Policy Board in October. Letters encouraging the elimination of charging and licenses were sent to all county Administrators and Board Chairs on November 20th (GIS Day).

According to the NSGIC blog, "It is remarkable that the MetroGIS Policy Board is dominated by county government. The report convinced those leaders by showing them: the low revenue gained through sales, the value of work done by non-profits who were able to access the data, and the reduction in liability of free and open systems."

Others beyond Minnesota will likely appreciate this example of sharing and case law.

<http://www.nsgic.org/blog/metrogis-recommends-free-and-open-access-to-government-data/>

See:

MetroGIS recommends 7 counties make geospatial data free and open

<http://www.minnpost.com/politics-policy/2013/12/metrogis-recommends-7-counties-make-geospatial-data-free-and-open>

MetroGIS Free & Open Data Resource Page (full report, fact sheet, sample letter, links to NSGIC and other publications, etc.)

http://www.metrogis.org/teams/workgroups/free_open_data/FINAL_FREEANDOPENDOCUMENT1THRU5.pdf



This is the 75-page research report that MetroGIS compiled before making an official recommendation addressing many concerns, including cost recovery, liability, and data source control issues. The publication was used the purpose of informing the members of the MetroGIS Policy Board and Coordinating Committee and other interested parties on the debate and discussion of increasing access to publicly-produced data in Minnesota.

Users, Uses, and Value of Landsat Satellite Imagery Survey Results Published by USGS

The report "Users, Uses, and Value of Landsat Satellite Imagery - Results from the 2012 Survey of Users" by Holly M. Miller, Leslie Richardson, Stephen R. Koontz, John Loomis, and Lynne Koontz (U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2013-1269, 51 p., <http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/ofr/20131269>) has been published. You can download the report (PDF) here. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1269/pdf/of2013-1269.pdf>

Abstract

Landsat satellites have been operating since 1972, providing a continuous global record of the Earth's land surface. The imagery is currently available at no cost through the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Social scientists at the USGS Fort Collins Science Center conducted an extensive survey in early 2012 to explore who uses Landsat imagery, how they use the imagery, and what the value of the imagery is to them. The survey was sent to all users registered with USGS who had accessed Landsat imagery in the year prior to the survey and over 11,000 current Landsat imagery users responded. The results of the survey revealed that respondents from many sectors use Landsat imagery in myriad project locations and scales, as well as application areas. The value of Landsat imagery to these users was demonstrated by the high importance of and dependence on the imagery, the numerous environmental and societal benefits observed from projects using Landsat imagery, the potential negative impacts on users' work if Landsat imagery was no longer available, and the substantial aggregated annual economic benefit from the imagery. These results represent only the value of Landsat to users registered with USGS; further research would help to determine what the value of the imagery is to a greater segment of the population, such as downstream users of the imagery and imagery-derived products.

PC-IDEA SDI Manual for the Americas published

The Manual has been developed from the decisions and work of the Working Group on Planning (GTplan) of the

Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA). PC-IDEA was established based on resolutions of the 6th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (UNRCC-A) in 1997, and operates under its guidance (PC-IDEA, 2012). The primary goal of PC-IDEA is to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits of using spatial information, by exchanging knowledge, experiences and technologies of different countries, based on a common development model that allows for the establishment of an SDI in the Americas region.

Further goals of PC-IDEA include:

- The establishment and development of National SDIs in each of the member countries;
- The exchange of spatial information among all members of the community of the Americas (respecting each country's autonomy, but acting in accordance with the overarching laws and policies); and
- The encouragement of cooperation, research and exchange of experiences in the areas of knowledge related to the field of geomatics.

Following a meeting of the PC-IDEA Executive Board in New York in May 2010, GTplan was created in response to the recommendations of the 9th UNRCC-A. Canada co-chairs the working group with Chile and membership includes representatives from Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Guatemala, Colombia, Canada and Chile. In 2011, GTplan conducted a survey of all PC-IDEA member countries focused on five key areas: innovation in national cartography institutes, state of qualifications, evaluation of national SDI development, state of standards and specifications, and best practices for the implementation of spatial data infrastructures. The survey results identified further needs for manuals and best practices regarding SDI implementation and assessment, and GTplan decided to proceed with the development of this manual.

Download the manual (PDF) from the GSDI's GI Knowledge Network (GIKnet) Spatial Docs Depot here: <http://www.giknet.org/depot/?docid=97>

News from Asia-Pacific

New Zealand SDI Cookbook v1.1

This initial version of an SDI cookbook for New Zealand has been developed to provide guidance for the early stages of implementing a national SDI. These chapters are based on what is currently known about the elements typically underpinning SDIs and guided by



developments and experiences in jurisdictions internationally. This document has been developed along the lines of other geospatial reference documents like the GSDI cookbook. The chapters can be read individually, or in whichever order suits the reader.
<http://www.gsdi.org/gsdicookbookindex>

This cookbook will grow and change with your feedback, and as we get more information. To help you keep track of the most recent version if printing or saving the full PDF, the version number on the front of the document will be updated as the document changes. Download the hard copy of the cookbook Version 1.1 (PDF 979KB). The PDF excludes chapter 6 which is available online only online.

<http://www.linz.govt.nz/geospatial-office/sdi-cookbook/how-existing-systems-and-products-can-contribute-to-sdi>

Crown copyright ©. New Zealand SDI Cookbook - An SDI Implementation Guide, Version 1 by Land Information New Zealand is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand Licence.

Note: Crown Copyright© does not apply to application description material in Chapter 6 which has been submitted by suppliers of GIS and other spatial products. The different creative commons licensing applying to this material is given in Chapter 6.

See all the video “Better connecting New Zealand’s location-based information’ (including text transcript) here:

<http://www.linz.govt.nz/geospatial-office/about/projects-and-news/spatial-data-infrastructure/video>

FROM THE PRESIDENT



This has been another busy month for GSDI President David Coleman at the Global Geospatial Conference 2013 in Addis Ababa, participating in GSDI Council meeting, the GSDI Board meeting and various Committee meetings, as well as making presentations at the conference itself. See David’s contribution to the GIM International magazine’s GSDI Column later in this issue with his summary of the conference.

Awards presentations at the Global Geospatial Conference in November 2013.



ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Global Newsletter, we publish an article from the GSDI column that is published monthly by *GIM International magazine*. This month’s article is by GSDI President, Prof David Coleman, which appeared in the January 2014 issue of GIM International.

SDI in Africa: Reflections following GSDI 14

The GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013/Global Geospatial Conference has come and gone. With leading keynote speakers, an excellent technical programme, a vibrant exhibit hall and over 500 participants from 60 countries, it has already been recognised as one of the largest geospatial conferences held in Sub-Saharan Africa over the past two decades. Special thanks again to our sponsors, our speakers, workshop hosts, local organising committee members, the very capable UNECA staff, the volunteers and all the delegates that made the event such a success.



GSDI council members at the Conference

I was especially struck by three things that I saw and heard at the event in Addis Ababa, and I believe they will contribute to spatial data infrastructure efforts developing differently in that part of the world:

- The people: I was so impressed with the number of presentations by, and discussions held with, emerging young geospatial professionals based in various African private companies, government departments and NGOs. Their calibre was top notch and their enthusiasm unmatched. They have high expectations, less patience than their predecessors, and a critical mass of them are prepared to help make things happen.
- The institutions: we received so much direct and indirect support from national geospatial data organisations across Africa (and special thanks to the Ethiopian Mapping Agency and its staff). They are



working very hard with limited budgets and have much still to do. Like their counterparts in more developed countries, they are trying to simultaneously cultivate increasing demand for geospatial data, adjust to competition from new data suppliers (government, industry and volunteers) and update decades-old attitudes and practices in order to address the expectations of a new, better-informed and better-equipped generation of end users. Not an easy job.

- The absolute reliance on a different paradigm for communication: early applications of SDI efforts in more developed countries were planned and built with 'in-ground' wire or fibre-based communications in mind. That will not work in Africa, where mobile telephone infrastructure predominates and a very different set of location-based services will define what people expect from – and how they interact with – their mainstream spatial data infrastructures. Politicians have to make choices, and this may place real funding pressure on more 'traditional', government-related SDI activities and products. In addition, this introduces to the mix the values and priorities of other vitally important institutions: the telecom companies.

As is true everywhere, economic, social and in some cases security pressures facing African nations right now will influence both the choice and the 'look & feel' of SDI services and how fast they continue to roll out in each country. There is a striking need for informed, pragmatic leadership in moving SDI forward in Africa, and the risks are high. But, having said that, what an opportunity and what an inspiring group of players to watch!

Dr. David Coleman is president of the GSDI Association, a professor of geomatics engineering and dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of New Brunswick in Canada.

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

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

The aim of the Association's **Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet)** is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geographic information community. GIKNet is a participatory, user-created and maintained information commons.

The GIKNet **Community Registry** permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other institutions to record and publish details about

themselves in a central database, and to submit relevant documents to the Spatial Documents Depot, which provides a search facility for locating information and documents submitted by GIKNet 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/>.

An 8-minute background video on the purposes and goals of the GIKNet may be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/spatialinnovations>.

The main categories under which documents can be referenced in GIKNet 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 GIKnet, enter their personal or agency profile information, and then submit documents relevant to any aspect of SDI development and deployment, globally.

Entering a professional profile to GIKNet is similar to entering a professional profile on Wikipedia, except that an individual may enter and maintain their own profile (in a format similar to that found on Linked In or other social networking sites) and GIKNet is restricted to geospatial professionals, students and those involved in implementing spatial data infrastructures (SDI) at any level.

Entering information about a geospatial agency or organization is similar to an entry in Wikipedia, except that individuals affiliated with the organization enter the data and it is much easier to accomplish.

The GIKNetwork is moderated by GSDI Association volunteers who review profile submissions for relevance. In short, none of us knows as much as all of us. GIKNet is intended for collective intelligence whereby each community member acts responsibly and makes their own decisions on what and how much to contribute.

From the GIKnet Spatial Documents Depot

This month's featured document from the GIKnet Spatial Documents Depot is the book '**Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction**' (300 pages) edited by Harlan Onsrud and Abbas Rajabifard and published by GSDI Association Press, 2013, ISBN 978-0-9852444-2-2 [ePub format and Kindle formats are forthcoming]. Access the full book here: <http://www.giknet.org/depot/?docid=100>



This book is the result of a collaborative initiative between the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI), the School of Computing and Information Science at the University of Maine, and the Centre for SDIs and Land Administration (CSDILA) in the Department of Infrastructure Engineering at the University of Melbourne. The articles featured in this peer-reviewed book were mostly the result of the traditional Call for Papers for the GSDI 14 Global Geospatial Conference: Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, but also contains contributions of full articles which were solicited for publication in the book.

The authors and reviewers were advised of the theme in advance and, in most cases, they addressed this theme in their papers. Even in cases where the theme was not directly referenced, the article reflected the impact and application of spatial data infrastructures that are now being developed worldwide. The peer-review process resulted in 15 chapters that when considered together, reflect how SDIs are enabling us all today, particularly in meeting the global challenges of poverty and sustainable economic development.

Another interesting report published in the GIKnet Document Depot is "***Geospatial Information: OMB and Agencies Can Reduce Duplication by Making Coordination a Priority***" which can be accessed at this link: <http://www.giknet.org/depot/?docid=98>.

From the report:

The President and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have established policies and procedures for coordinating investments in geospatial data, however, in November 2012, GAO reported that government wide committees and federal departments and agencies had not effectively implemented them. The committee that was established to promote the coordination of geospatial data nationwide--the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)--had developed and endorsed key standards and had established a clearinghouse of metadata. GAO found that the clearinghouse was not being used by agencies to identify planned geospatial investments to promote coordination and reduce duplication. In addition, the committee had not yet fully planned for or implemented an approach to manage geospatial data as related groups of investments to allow agencies to more effectively plan geospatial data collection efforts and minimize duplicative investments, and its strategic plan was missing key elements.

Other shortfalls have impaired progress in coordinating geospatial data. Specifically, none of the three federal departments in GAO's review had fully implemented important activities such as preparing and implementing a strategy for advancing geospatial activities within their

respective departments. Moreover, the agencies in GAO's review responsible for government-wide management of specific geospatial data had implemented some but not all key activities for coordinating the national coverage of specific geospatial data.

In November 2012, GAO reported on efforts to reduce duplicative investments in geospatial data, focusing on OMB, FGDC, and three agencies: the Departments of Commerce, the Interior, and Transportation. This statement summarizes the results of that November 2012 report on progress and challenges in coordinating geospatial information and includes updates on the implementation of recommendations made in that report.

GAO is making no new recommendations in this statement. In November 2012, GAO recommended that to improve coordination and reduce duplication, FGDC develop a national strategy for coordinating geospatial investments; federal agencies follow federal guidance for managing geospatial investments; and OMB develop a mechanism to identify and report on geospatial investments. Since that time, FGDC and several agencies have taken some steps to implement the recommendations. However, additional actions are still needed. For more information, contact David A. Powner at (202) 512-9286 or pownerd@gao.gov.

Participating in GIKNet

Join the network by clicking 'Login' in the upper right corner of the GIKNet home page (<http://www.giknet.org>) and use the 'Register for an Account' link. If you are already registered, then simply 'Login' to GIKNet (in the upper right corner of the welcome screen) or use the password reminder facility. (Your Username and/or Password can be e-mailed to you, using the e-mail address that you used when first registering).

The first thing you should accomplish after registering is to add information about yourself by using the 'GI Community Registry' link in the left menu to lead you to Enter Profile for Individual. The questions are similar to those used by sites such as "LinkedIn", so you might simply cut and paste from other sites in which you already participate. Most responses are limited typically to 200 words. Don't forget to upload a photo! You have the ability to view, edit, and delete your individual profile at any time in the future through your 'My Submissions' link in the upper right corner.

After that, feel free to add profile information about geospatial agencies, companies and NGO's with which you are affiliated. In a way, this is similar to entering



basic information about geospatial organizations into Wikipedia, but much simpler.

Above all – contribute documents to the GIKNet *Spatial Documents Depot* relevant to any aspect of SDI development, implementation, monitoring, etc. so that we can build a useful repository of easily accessible information on SDI ‘best practice’ for access by all.

ASSOCIATED CONFERENCE NEWS



Geospatial Advancement Canada, 3-5 March 2014, Ottawa, Canada

Here is a brief note from our media partners, *Geospatial Advancement Canada*.

After many months of research with the Canadian Geo community, I would like to welcome you to WBR’s inaugural Geospatial Advancement Canada Summit, taking place 3-5 March, at the Ottawa Convention Centre, Ontario, Canada.

This educational seminar will bring together leaders and managers of geospatial intelligence, remote sensing, GIS data & mapping, satellite imagery and analysis within the military, governmental, and geo intelligence sectors. The aim will be to discuss the full range of geospatial concepts and ideas that addresses the unique requirements in Canada.

The agenda is now complete. You can download your own copy here [<http://wbresearch.ch/6c>] to see what will be discussed and by whom. Over 40 leaders in Canadian geomatics and the Canadian Armed Forces will be giving you their first-hand experiences and take-aways. We have specifically divided the agenda into three key themes:

DAY 1: Exploring the Latest Technology and Innovation to Overcome Interoperability Challenges

- How to use various forms of remote sensing and satellite imagery to improve your decision making
- Discover who is leading from the front with the most innovative and cutting-edge technology
- How can your organization evolve and grow by achieving interoperability

DAY 2: Developing a National Geo Strategy through Collaboration of Government and Private Industry

- Understanding how to develop and improve a GIS program
- Using GIS for operational purposes and improved decision making
- How to cooperate with other government agencies and collaborating on the use, ownership and costs of data

DAY 3: GIS Governance – Challenges & Opportunities; Policy Development, Senior-Level Buy In, Workforce

- What the future of GIS will be and how it can positively impact Canada
- Identifying critical stakeholders and the intricacies of the various business requirements
- Developing evaluation and training programs of key personnel

And lastly, but not least, we are proud to announce our partners: **Intergraph, tecconnect, BlackBridge, Applanix** and **Overwatch**.

Geospatial Advancement Canada is the ideal opportunity to review technological advances and to evaluate the multitude of ways in which GeoInt can be utilized by all facets of government operations. Attending the summit will ensure that you are up-to-date on insights from industry leaders, able to defend against critical obstacles, and are implementing effective methodologies into your GIS programs.

Find out more information:

- Call us on 1.888.482.6012
- Visit www.geospatialcanada.com
- Email us at geospatialcanada@wbresearch.com

I look forward to you joining our GIS community in Ottawa.

Neil Thompson OMM CD

Chairman – Geospatial Advancement Canada

Geospatial and Engineering International Conference, September 2104

The Conference program will feature agencies and organizations that finance, procure, coordinate, and manage geospatial and engineering projects outside the United States with presentations on their programs, budgets, requirements, and procurement procedures. Private sector professionals experienced in international business will share best practices and lessons learned. Sessions will focus on both new entrants to the market outside of the United States, as well as those experienced in overseas work. Get the program here:

<http://www.mappls.org/page/GeoInternatProgram>



Who should attend?

If you are responsible for and interested in international contracting outside of the United States for professional geospatial and engineering services, then this conference is for you. The conference will provide information and practical knowledge to enable firms to export their services, data and products to overseas clients.

What organizations are involved?

MAPPS is pleased to be hosting the Geospatial & Engineering International Conference: Entering & Expanding Global Business Opportunities on September 25-26, 2014 at the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, VA. Participating organizations include the Association of American Geographers (AAG), American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), **Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI)**, National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), and the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA).

Conference & Hotel Registration

Early rate for conference registration is available now. All MAPPS members, as well as members of all participating organizations, receive a discount. Conference registration here:

<http://www.mapps.org/events/register.aspx?id=385075>

MAPPS has secured a special hotel room rate with the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, VA. The room rate is guaranteed through September 12 or until rooms sell out, so make your room reservations today here:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1312097048&key=71A50>

Contact Information

For specific questions, contact sally@mapps.org. If you are interested in receiving updates about the conference via email, please use this link:

<http://www.mapps.org/page/GeoInternatContactUs>

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

GEO News

AfriGEOSS Launched at Global Geospatial Conference in Ethiopia

The GEO initiative AfriGEOSS was successfully launched at the Global Geospatial Conference 2013 in



Addis Ababa, at the UN Economic Commission for Africa. A full plenary session at the conference was assigned to the launch, which was followed by a reception and an associated workshop. For more information, visit <http://www.un-spider.org/about-us/news/official-launch-afrigeo-ss-africagis2013gsdi14>.

AfriGEOSS is an initiative by the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) aimed at building infrastructural capacities in Africa to benefit from geospatial data for sustainable development.

GEO states: "The intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is playing a key role by supporting the Environmental component of the Sustainable Development agenda at the global level, and also at the regional level through a dedicated initiative, focused on Africa – AfriGEOSS.

AfriGEOSS is designed to support the continent's efforts to bridge the digital divide and build a knowledge-based economy, by enhancing Africa's capabilities for producing, managing and using Earth observation data and information.

A key objective of AfriGEOSS is to strengthen the "infrastructural" capabilities of Africa, at continental, regional, and national scales. Enhanced capabilities and networks, to ensure functionality across the continent for collecting Earth observation data, generating products and services and sustaining this value chain is key.



From left to right: Dozie Ezigbalike, Abdul-Hakim Rajab Elwae, Dr. Phil Mjwara, Dr. Barbara Ryan and Ganiyu I. Agbaje. Photo credit: GEO

This objective is being pursued by coordinating existing initiatives, building on existing capacity, exploiting GEO networks and infrastructure, and by leveraging existing and planned assets and resources. The development and



implementation of a robust participatory model is an integral part of AfriGEOSS.

Regional coordinators have been identified and are surveying ongoing initiatives, as the starting point for specific plans of actions/projects in each region of the continent. These projects will include infrastructural elements, applications and services and education and training programs.

Key African actors at the continental scale are being asked to shape a coordinated satellite data acquisition strategy for Africa, together with the network of data receiving stations, to promote data democracy and data sharing.

Active participation of African countries is absolutely key for the success of AfriGEOSS. In this regard, additional country engagement beyond the current 21 GEO Member countries in Africa is needed. The contributions of African GEO Participating Organizations, such as African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE), the African Center of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD), the Environmental Information System (EIS-Africa), and UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), are also essential from a technological and coordination perspective."

Source: UN-SPIDER online news.

GSDI Statement at the 2014 GEO Geneva Ministerial Summit

The following statement was presented to the GEO Summit meeting on 17 January 2014 by GSDI Societal Impact Committee Chair Carmelle Terborgh, ably supported by Committee members Gabor Remetey-Fulopp (HUNAGI) and Ivan DeLoach (USGS).

Honorable Ministers, Secretariat Director, GEO Co-Chairs, Delegates, and Ladies and Gentleman,

On Behalf of the Board of Directors, Officers, and Members of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association and its community, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to provide our Statement today.

The GSDI Association is an organization with members from national governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and academia that are developing Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs) around the globe. These infrastructures provide access to geospatial data, information, applications and technologies - for a variety of needs in the global community. The global geospatial community is comprised of over 2 million experts - which collect, process, and/or disseminate geospatial data, products, and services.

As a Participating Organization, we would like to congratulate GEO on its 10th event and much advancement of its global initiatives and current work plan, which will help us to sustain our planet through integrated observations.

Since its conception GEO has demonstrated remarkable progress - as showcased by the events this week - especially through the many Side Events and the Exhibition, which illustrate concrete implementations supporting the societal benefit areas.

We would like to highlight and commend the work of the GEO Data Sharing Working Group to support the ongoing implementation of the Data Sharing Principles. Real change will only come if these commitments are translated into national laws and in the business models of data providers. As many of the GSDI members are engaged in this activity, the GSDI Association supports the need for open access to geospatial data for economic growth driven by governments and the private sector resulting in improved transparency, more extensive citizen engagement, and better, more efficient science. For example, in the United States and Europe, the sharing of geospatial data is facilitated by a strong policy framework with their Open Data Policies, the COPERNICUS data policy, the INSPIRE directive, as well as the Public Sector Information directive and the Horizon 2020 program, that promote research and innovation.

As a Participating Organization, the GSDI Association wishes to update the GEO community worldwide on our specific actions and contributions in relation to the GEO goals and objectives. These include efforts to advance standards and policy frameworks in order to promote geospatial interoperability and innovative applications. We have an active program to provide capacity building and resources to the GEO community including:

- The Geographic Information Knowledge Network (www.giknet.org)
- Regional monthly SDI newsletters (www.gsdi.org/newsletters) that are disseminated electronically at no cost
- Regional SDI workshops and events including:
 - The 'Global Geospatial Conference' (www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14) organized by the EIS-Africa and the GSDI Association in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 2013 assembled over 500 participants from the African region, the global community and included the launch of AfriGEOSS.
 - The recent international workshop on 'Geoinformation Networks for Societal and Commercial Acceptance of COPERNICUS'



organized by GSDI member, European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information (EUROGI), in Budapest, Hungary and hosted by Hungarian Association for Geoinformation (HUNAGI). The workshop resolution noted the need for involvement of the GI networks in earth observation programs and engagement in joint user events; and participants endorsed a COPERNICUS data policy providing free of charge and open access to Sentinel and other data including outputs from core services.

- The 'International NASA World Wind Europa Challenge' supported by the United Nations, NASA, European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), and others mobilized small and medium sized enterprises and universities to bring innovative solutions in earth observation. (<http://eurochallenge.com.polimi.it/node/11>)
- The World Bank Institute organized a "Mapping Party for Development" at the 2013 Esri International User Conference in San Diego, California, USA in partnership with OpenStreetMap, Digital Globe, and Esri – a GSDI member. (<http://maps.worldbank.org/content/article/mapping-party-development>)
- The GSDI Small Grants Program (www.gsd.org/sic1) has provided 104 grants in developing nations with financial resources and/or professional services from the GIS Corps of URISA.
- The annual capacity building program for three (3) professionals from developing nations by the International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training (ICLPST) through a two-week training seminar on 'Geographical Information Systems and Land Management'.

During the past several years, GSDI members have provided their expertise and resources to support the development of GEOSS to advance our mutual interests. Additionally, the International Geospatial Society (IGS) (www.igeoss.org) was established in order to enhance communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, and advancing SDI and related concepts.

We look forward to participating in additional GEO and GEOSS developments through our strategic alliance to promote key cross-cutting solutions in data management, data quality, interoperability, standards, and capacity building. These opportunities will serve to

provide integrated earth observations data and information to users and decision-makers in order to sustain our future.

The GSDI Association acknowledges the Geneva Declaration and its reaffirmations and commitments that we believe are essential in fulfilling the purpose of GEOSS and Spatial Data Infrastructures.

In closing, we thank the Swiss Federation for its wonderful hospitality and we congratulate them on the very successful events this week.

INSPIRE in Europe

INSPIRE Conference 2014: INSPIRE for good governance, 16-20 June 2014. Aalborg, Denmark



We are delighted to announce that call for abstracts for the INSPIRE 2014 Conference has been published. We would also like to remind you that the public consultation on INSPIRE is still open.

Seven years have passed since INSPIRE was adopted as the EU's legal framework establishing the infrastructure for spatial information in Europe serving policies and activities having an impact on the environment. During this period the framework of technical specifications necessary to underpin an interoperable infrastructure has been completed, and a major effort has taken place to implement the Directive in the Member States. It is now time for the mid-term evaluation to assess how well we are doing, and whether we are still on the right track. This conference comes therefore at a crucial stage to report on progress and get feedback from all the stakeholders involved.

Topics for which contributions are sought include, but are not limited to:

- INSPIRE supporting the implementation of environment law
- INSPIRE and the integration of environmental concern in other policy areas
- INSPIRE and climate change policy
- INSPIRE in specific environmental policy areas (e.g. marine, arctic, freshwater, noise, air, ...)
- INSPIRE for addressing environment-related threats to health
- INSPIRE to reduce environmental risk and management of natural disasters
- INSPIRE for boosting sustainable resource-efficiency and low-carbon growth
- INSPIRE supporting urban and rural sustainability



- (Smart cities, Smart rural)
- INSPIRE and public participation for social equity and environmental justice
- INSPIRE for energy efficiency
- INSPIRE for innovation and growth in the private sector and economy
- INSPIRE for education and research
- INSPIRE + Open Data + Copernicus + Social and Sensor Networks = Big Data?
- Costs/Benefits and impacts of implementing INSPIRE
- INSPIRE tales from implementation
- Technologies, methods and tools required to deliver INSPIRE
- INSPIRE based apps for Innovation – Short demonstrations
- INSPIRE capacity building
- The future of INSPIRE: Governance, policy and technology
- INSPIRE Data and Service Sharing
- INSPIRE as a component of SEIS and e-Reporting
- Integrating e-Government with INSPIRE

The deadline for submissions is **14 March 2014**. Details on how to submit are available on the INSPIRE Conference site:

http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2014/

Public consultation on INSPIRE Implementation

We would also like to remind you the public consultation on INSPIRE implementation is still open, The consultation is to seek the views of the general public and all stakeholders in order to help assess whether the actions already underway to establish an **Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community** according to the INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC are still on course to meet the objectives pursued.

The results of this public consultation will contribute to the INSPIRE interim-policy evaluation which according to the directive needs to be carried out 7 years after its entry into force. The outcome of the policy evaluation will be reported to the European Parliament and Council in 2014 and may lead to remedial policy action necessary to adapt current approaches so that they align better - in the light of a changing environment - with the achievement of the original objectives of INSPIRE.

The consultation uses a questionnaire to gather information from as many sources as possible, including governments, public sector data providers and users, commercial and non-commercial users and other interested parties on their views about the INSPIRE directive.

The consultation is open until **24 February 2014**. Full details and background information are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/inspire_en.htm.

INSPIRE in the Trenches Article

The article '**INSPIRE in the Trenches**' is an article under review for the *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research*, authored by Aoife Corcoran and Zorica Nedović-Budić. For all those involved in implementing the INSPIRE Directive across the 27 EU Member States, it makes interesting reading.

Abstract

The availability of, access to and sharing of spatial data is of increasing importance for urban areas as they face the transition towards urban resilience and sustainability in a response to challenging local and global issues. Coinciding with this, the European Commission introduced the INSPIRE Directive in 2007 which aims to improve the spatial data sharing process and interoperability of environmental spatial data across Europe. Yet how effective the INSPIRE Directive has been on an urban level remains largely unexplored. In order to examine how well INSPIRE's urban stakeholders are being impacted by the Directive this paper evaluates the data sharing process of a European Framework Programme 7 project against the INSPIRE Implementing Rules (IR). The FP7 project presents an interesting case study as it undertook a data sharing process whereby seven different data layers from across ten different European cities all within the INSPIRE jurisdiction were shared. We review the level of application of the urban data layers to the IR and the impact the local and regional considerations of the rules have on efforts to achieve technical and non-technical interoperability of spatial data on an urban level across Europe.

Download the article here (PDF).

<http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/article/view/345>.

Amendments to INSPIRE Regulations Published in December

On 10 December, Regulation (EU) No 1253/2013 (the Annex II+III amendment of the Implementing Rules on interoperability of spatial data sets and services) was published in the Official Journal. At the same time the Technical Guidelines for Annex II and III were published on the INSPIRE site. The legal act complements other INSPIRE legal acts and standards, that together form the basis of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) that Directive 2007/2/EC envisions.



As probably the world's single largest data harmonization effort for environmental information, the new Regulation is a milestone in the development of INSPIRE. It is the result of effort of hundreds of experts from across Europe that have been working together for several years to agree common definitions in important policy areas such as energy, climate change, biodiversity, the marine environment, and human health. The European Commission INSPIRE team would like to express gratitude to the experts who participated in the development of the Technical Guidelines and to those stakeholders who participated in the consultations and testing.

The INSPIRE Directive:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:331:0001:0267:EN:PDF>

Technical Guidelines:

<http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/2>

INSPIRE Legal Acts:

<http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/3>

Results of EC Consultation on PSI Guidelines

On 3 August 2013 the European Commission held a public consultation on the future Commission guidelines, particularly on recommended standard licences, datasets to be published as a matter of priority and charging for the re-use of PSI in Brussels. The Commission invited statements from stakeholders, particularly from re-users of public sector information (entrepreneurs and individuals, public sector bodies and data re-use experts).

The consultation lasted 12 week and also included a public hearing held in Luxembourg on 25 November 2013 and a meeting of the Public Sector Information Group, held in Luxembourg on 26 November 2013.

You can now access the Final Report with the results of this online consultation and you can find additional position papers, extended submissions, minutes of the public hearing and the slides presented during this hearing at this link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/results-online-survey-recommended-standard-licensing-datasets-and-charging-re-use-public-sector>

This also includes the European Thematic Network on Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information (LAPSI) License Interoperability Report that you can also find here:

http://lapsi-project.eu/sites/lapsi-project.eu/files/D5_1_Licence_interoperability_Report_final.pdf

Original news source: <http://lapsi-project.eu/results-ec-consultation-psi-guidelines-released>

Digital-earth.eu becomes digital-earth-edu.net

The digital-earth.eu project [<http://www.digital-earth.eu/>] examines the use of geographic media in schools and teacher education. Geo-media is the visualisation of information from different media sources and is concerned with digital content and its processing based on place, position and location.

Many geographic media are widely used for navigation and routing purposes. Cartographic communication has never been so easy to implement, therefore 21st century school education needs to include geo-media into daily work. Innovative approaches to teaching and learning are needed to study environments from local to global scale. The digital-earth.eu network links innovative centres around Europe where geo-media use is well developed. Products, resources, experiences and ideas are shared between the centres and opened to the public wherever possible.

A digital-earth.eu infrastructure has been developed. The European Centre and an accredited network of national and regional Centres of Excellence produced an online catalogue of materials, courses, publications, links and good practice scenarios, and are publishing a series of core publications.

The digital-earth project completed its three years of activity at the end of October 2013. The initiative continues through the work of the Centres of Excellence and new projects and innovative activities centred around the European Centre of Excellence and the web site digital-earth-edu.net. Many digital-earth.eu partners will also participate in the new network project "School on the cloud", coordinated by Doukas School from Athens, Greece. You can continue to follow Digital Earth Education on Twitter @digitalearthedu and @digitalearthedu, LinkedIn and Facebook.

The final digital-earth.eu meeting took place September 11th to 14th 2013 at Geofort, Netherlands. 33 participants from 22 partner organizations from 17 different countries including Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Estonia, Turkey, Finland, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal participated at the meeting. One third-country partner from Australia and the External Evaluator also attended the meeting.

The theme park Geofort, located on an exciting old fortress island, offered an inspiring location for the workshops and presentations. The focus was on the diverse developments of the different special interest



groups (SIGs). The Centre of Excellence also presented their activities and future plans. During the meeting active discussions on the network activities, their impact and future developments took place. With the evaluation of the activities during the meeting as well as the entire project the meeting was finalized. We thank EUROGEO for the organization and co-funding of the meeting.

GSDI INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

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

- Eye on Earth – www.eyeonearth.org.
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – www.earthobservations.org.
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu.
- EU INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu.
- International Cartographic Association (ICA) – www.icaci.org.

- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) – www.fig.net
- International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) – Marine SDI Working Group – www.iho.int.
- International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) - www.digitalearth-isde.org.
- International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) – www.iscgm.org
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – www.iode.org.
- UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – www.ungiwg.org.

GSDI 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 and the International Geospatial Society – 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. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to GSDI and IGS Member news or SDI initiatives at any level.



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

Our Vision ... is of a world where everyone can readily discover, access and apply geographic information to improve their daily lives.

Our Purpose ... is to encourage international cooperation that stimulates the implementation and development of national, regional and local spatial data infrastructures.

Our Mission ... is to advance geo-information best practices, knowledge sharing and capacity building for the improved sharing and application of geographic information.

The International Geospatial Society is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association and seeks individuals for membership that 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 Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association - Advancing a Location Enabled World"