

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 4, No. 4, 2014

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

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), 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 via the working group led by President-elect Dave Lovell (EuroGeographics). A first draft has been completed in document format that takes into account the comments received on earlier versions and a revised document will be circulated to the GSDI Board in May 2014.

The newly appointed News Editor, Kate Lance, assisted by vice-Chair Communications, Roger Longhorn, have produced the first version of the new GSDI SDI Regional Newsletter that now covers all six of the Association's main regions in a single monthly publication. Kate also continues to research the news and populates the various regional mailing lists. Work also continues on developing a new web site for launch later this year, which features more opportunities for all members to publish their news directly to the web using a content management system (CMS).



The O&M Committee manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has **327 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 **Facebook** account 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/gsdiaandigs).



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.

Small Grants Program Update

Thanks to financial support from GSDI member Natural Resources Canada (NR Canada), the Committee was able to launch the first call for proposals in March for continuation of the program into 2014, which resulted in 39 applications being received. These were reviewed in the first two weeks of April to select up to 4 projects for funding in cash and 4 projects to recommend to URISA GISCorps for services support. Financial support for the latest call was provided by GeoConnections, a national collaborative initiative led by Natural Resources Canada. GeoConnections supports the integration and use of the



Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI), an on-line resource that improves the sharing, access and use of open geospatial information.

The winning applications will be announced in the May issue of the Newsletter.

The proposal review team included Committee members and Mark Salling and Shoreh Elhami from URISA's GIS Corps, as the Corps provides support for some of the Small Grants Program funded activities, as reported in previous newsletters and on their web site at:

http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22&Itemid=59.



Update on projects also supported by GISCorps

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.

Further Funding Needed for Small Grants Program

Further funds to expand the Small Grants Program this year and ensure its long term sustainability into the future are still being sought from other sources, so watch this space for more news in future issues

Many of the applications for support received in response to the call earlier this year warrant funding, yet within the current Small Grants Program budget, we were only able to fund 4 grants. If your organisation can offer such support, please contact either the GSDI President, Dr. David Coleman, at dcoleman@unb.ca or the Societal Impacts Committee Chair, Carmelle Terborgh (cterborgh@esri.com) or Brigitta Urban-Mathieux (Gita Urban-Mathieux burbanma@fgdc.gov). The Small Grants Program has been one of the most successful initiatives of the Association, having funded or part-funded more than 100 projects, meetings, conferences, and training opportunities since its launch in 2003. For information on how to donate, download the program flyer at this link: http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1512.

Note: The Small Grants Program is intended as a benefit of "full membership" in the GSDI Association. We make

this opportunity available to non-members, as well, however, full members may obtain favored treatment in the instance in which two grant applications have been ranked similarly in the peer review process. Note that the annual GSDI Association membership fee for national organizations in low and very low per capita income nations may be as little as U.S. \$100 or documented in-kind contributions in lieu of dues. Please see www.gsd.org/joinGSDI for details.

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 and Natural Resources Canada (via GeoConnections) for making the programme possible.

Legal and Socioeconomic Committee

Co-chair of the Legal & Socioeconomic Committee, **Bastiaan van Loenen** (Univ. of Delft, NL), has secured the services of a student researcher from Univ. of Delft to assist the Committee in its planned work program for 2014, which can be seen on the Committee web pages at:

<http://www.gsd.org/standingcomm>

L&SE Co-chair, **Joep Crompvoets** (KUL, BE), is also actively involved in development of the GSDI Strategic Plan working group, where his input is much appreciated.

The Committee has set itself a challenging schedule of work to be completed in 2014, but the tasks involved will be of great value to the wider geo community and especially those involved in setting policy for SDI implementations and implementation best practice. The Roadmap to achieve the objectives of the work plan are:

- Overview of existing open licensing frameworks;
- Worldwide overview of application of data protection legislation to geographic information;
- Worldwide overview of status of national clearinghouses;
- Worldwide overview of status of NSDI;
- Website to accommodate the communication of the overviews in a user-friendly way.

The Co-Chairs welcome IGS and GSDI members to join Committee and help support this programme of work.

GSDI Liaison Report Presented at CEOSS WGISS-37



L&SE Committee Member (and former L&SE Chair), **Dr. Gábor Remetey-Fülöpp** (Secretary-general of GSDI Association member HUNAGI) presented the **GSDI Liaison Report** at the WGISS-37 meeting, held in Cocoa Beach, Florida, USA, April 14-18, 2014, providing



an update on selected activities since WGISS-36. His presentation (PDF format) can be downloaded at this link:

http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1520

The full agenda of that meeting can be downloaded here:
http://www.ceos.org/images/WGISS/Meetings/wgiss_37.1/WGISS-37_Agenda_Version_1.1_2.docx

WGISS (The Working Group on Information Systems and Services) is a subsidiary body supporting the Committee on Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS). WGISS promotes collaboration in the development of systems and services that manage and supply these observatory data.

WGISS-38 will be held in Moscow, Russia, September 29 to October 3, 2014. The meeting will be hosted by JSC "Russian Space Systems" and ROSCOSMOS.

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.

IGS members are automatically GSDI Association members. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. As of 31 March 2014, IGS had **405 members** - an increase of 4 members from March! The IGS web site is at:
<http://www.igeoss.org>.

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/gsdandigs/ 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.gsd.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>.

Help us reach – or beat! - our goal of 500 IGS Members in 2014 - 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 more than 300 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

ICLPST GIS and Land Management Training

The free training opportunity provided by the Societal Impact Committee, to attend the ICLPST (International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei, from 19 March to 1 April 2014 was successfully concluded and Jeremy Shen, Vice-Chair of the Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association, promises a report on the results of the course. The ICLPST sponsored the following IGS members for this excellent training opportunity, the third such provided by our member from Chinese Taipei:

- Mr. Ivar M. Ledezma Casablanca of Bolivia,
- Ms. Rosario Casanova of Uruguay, and
- Mr. Mathenge Mwehe of Kenya.

Webinars and Online Training

Readers should not forget also the many possibilities for training on specific aspects of geomatics, geoscience and SDI implementation offered by online webinars and more formal training opportunities from some of our members, not least our industry members, such as Esri and Intergraph, or association members, such as EuroGeographics, ICC (Cartographic Institute of Catalonia), UNIGIS, USGS/FGDC, EUROGI, HUNAGI, etc.

The latest information and schedule of webinars is maintained on the GSDI web site at this link:

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

and includes webinars from other agencies, not just GSDI members, including US NOAA, ICA (with whom GSDI has a Memorandum of Understanding on joint promotion), Open Geo Foundation and government agencies from various nations, to name but a few.

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

Industry Member News

Boundless Update

Earlier this month, GSDI member Boundless sponsored a panel discussion at their new Washington DC office on the role of women in the GIS industry and the challenges they face. They framed the discussion with the purposely provocative question: "Is your map sexist?"

There was a general consensus among the panel that women are in the minority when it comes to digital

mapmaking and that the geospatial industry presents the same hardships for women joining the workforce - a general lack of introduction and mentorship for women, maternity and child care issues, company culture clashes, and some issues starting as early as college.

The panel also agreed that the field suffers due to a lack of inclusion and advocated for an industry that is served by multiple perspectives. Several panelists noted that being in a minority is not only challenging but also impedes the outputs and potential progress of the industry, as it is both hard for women to work and it's stifling to innovation and the quality of work we want to produce as an industry.

From there, the discussion moved on to ways we can overcome these challenges.

Source: <http://boundlessgeo.com/2014/05/women-gis-meetup/>

See also: **The new home of Boundless**

<http://boundlessgeo.com/2014/04/new-boundless-office/>

Also, *Geoinformatics* magazine conducted a very interesting interview with Boundless' **Paul Ramsey**. Last February, open source company Boundless (formerly known as OpenGeo) announced that Paul Ramsey had been named Vice President of Product Management. In this interview, Ramsey discusses his new function and comments on the new features of the OpenGeo Suite, Boundless' flagship product. Follow this link for the full interview:

http://fluidbook.geoinformatics.com/GEO-Informatics_3_2014/#/32/

News from Intergraph

In partnership with TechnoLogica, a leading Bulgarian software company, Hexagon Geospatial's products are being used for maintaining geospatial data around port infrastructure, land, buildings, structures, road and rail terminals, warehouses, and adjacent water areas. This effort will also lay the foundation for common spatial object models for the port, as well as for maintaining an operational picture of the state of infrastructure and water area of the port.

Through the use GeoMedia, the Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company will be able to provide powerful functionality for creating, maintaining, analyzing and visualizing port data, as well as for enhancing the exchange of information between internal and external systems.



The new system will also be used to support the following functions:

- Spatial Data Management
- Inquiries and Analyses
- Web Clients Support
- Digital Drawings and Schemes Archive
- Material Assets Management
- INSPIRE Compatible Portal as a part of the National SDI

“The need for visualizing geospatial data in port environments has never been greater,” said Mladen Stojic, President, Hexagon Geospatial. *“By implementing Hexagon Geospatial’s technology, the Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company will be able to enhance operations, improve infrastructure conditions and streamline decision making processes.”*

Source: Intergraph press release.

Spatial Innovision Ltd Training Schedule Released

Spatial Innovision Ltd. has released their training schedule for 2014. The Introductory, Intermediary and Advanced levels all offer courses to meet your level of GIS needs for self-improvement or organizational growth. Offered in both Jamaica and Trinidad between June and August, Spatial Training courses allows you to be certified in Esri or Trimble software. Register today at services@spatialvision.com. Courses begin in June.

Visit the Spatial Innovision schedule here:
<http://www.spatialvision.com/spatial-announces-2014-training-schedule/>

From the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

OGC Celebrates 20th Anniversary!

OGC’s Denise McKenzie, Executive Director Communication and Outreach, and Chair of the GSDI Association’s Outreach & Membership Committee, has an excellent column in Geoinformatics magazine’s March issue. More than 200 people attended the celebration dinner held in Arlington, VA, on 27 March this year, also attended by GSDI President, Prof. David Coleman and Membership Recruitment Manager, Bruce Westcott. See the full piece here:

http://fluidbook.geoinformatics.com/GEO-Informatics_3_2014/#/30/

OGC Adopts OGC Geo and Time Extensions Standard for OpenSearch

The **Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)** Members approved "OGC OpenSearch Geo and Time Extensions" as an OGC standard. This document defines an extension to the popular OpenSearch specification so that users can easily take advantage of rich geospatial and temporal search capabilities enabled by OGC standards. OGC OpenSearch Geo and Time Extensions can be downloaded from:

<http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/opensearchgeo>.

OpenSearch (www.opensearch.org) provides a standard way of describing search engine capabilities so that they can be leveraged by search client applications such as modern Web browsers. The OGC OpenSearch Geo and Time Extensions standard provides a very simple way to configure OpenSearch for spatial and temporal queries over distributed repositories of contents having geographic and time properties, and for syndication of these search results in one large index.

Digital resources are becoming more complex and diverse, and this is especially true with respect to sensor data (including Earth images) and Web connected sensors (including webcams). Such data is increasingly becoming discoverable and usable through open interfaces that implement OGC standards (www.opengeospatial.org/standards), but most of this data remains undiscoverable via popular search engines. The OGC OpenSearch Geo and Time Extensions candidate standard specifies how to enhance search engines and configure them to access spatial data servers. Such enhancement enables users of similarly enhanced web browsers and other web applications to query resource URLs through search combinations of time extents, geographic areas or location names, and likely keywords.

The OGC OpenSearch Geo and Time Extensions standard includes work undertaken within the GENESI-DR (Ground European Network for Earth Science Interoperations - Digital Repositories) project funded by the 7th Framework program of the European (EC Grant Agreement no. 212073) and the follow-up project GENESI-DEC (Ground European Network for Earth Science Interoperations - Digital Earth Community) funded by the same program (Contract n° RI-261623). The document was further supported by the European Space Agency (ESA) Heterogeneous Missions Accessibility (HMA) initiative and related projects. For more information, visit:

www.opengeospatial.org/standards/opensearchgeo



OGC Seeks Comments on Charter for Big Data Domain Working Group

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) seeks comments on the charter for a new OGC Big Data Domain Working Group (DWG). The charter is available at http://external.opengeospatial.org/twiki_public/BigDataDwg/.

“Big Data” is an umbrella term denoting the digital data surge in terms of volume, velocity, variety and the importance of the data's trustworthiness. The widespread need to perform rapid, flexible analytics on Big Data has become a major driver in the Information and Communications Technology industry. Location-based and geospatial data applications are major contributors to this data deluge. Such applications involve, for example, high volume transactions with mobile devices and location-aware sensors, growing use of diverse high-resolution airborne, orbiting and undersea imaging devices, numerical model outputs, navigation through 3D representations of indoor and outdoor environments, and new policies aimed at preserving and reusing geoscience and environmental data. Members of the proposed Big Data DWG believe that the OGC needs to make statements and provide guidance on the use of OGC standards in managing Big Data.

The OGC Big Data DWG initiators aim to provide an open forum for work on Big Data management, analytics and interoperability. The group is being chartered to encourage collaborative development among participants representing many organizations and communities. It will ensure appropriate liaisons to relevant working groups inside and outside the OGC.

The group will consolidate findings on an OGC Big Data DWG public wiki to inform OGC members and the public and allow for feedback during and after document editing. Final reports will be submitted to OGC for publication as a Best Practice papers.

For more information: www.opengeospatial.org/contact

News from GSDI Members in the Americas

CIESIN Seeks New Associate Director

CIESIN, the Center for International Earth Science Information Network of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, seeks an Associate Director for its Geospatial Applications Division. The individual will play a leading role in the development of Internet mapping activities and the design of spatial data management systems for CIESIN, other Earth Institute centers and projects, and

external partners. He/she will promote geographic information system development, remote sensing data management, and the implementation of spatial data infrastructure and will provide technical expertise and training in implementing geographic information technologies and standards. As Associate Director, he/she will hire, supervise, and evaluate about 10 staff, ensure the smooth distribution of tasks and workloads with other CIESIN divisions, respond to requests for proposals, and seek out funding sources. The individual will work directly with researchers and others at the Earth Institute to advance their knowledge of spatial technologies and enhance research proposals and grant applications.

CIESIN, based at the Lamont campus of Columbia University in Palisades, New York, is an internationally recognized research, data, and education center working at the intersection of the natural, social, health, engineering, and computer sciences.

The position requires a MS or MA in Geography, Computer Science, or other related field emphasizing knowledge of spatial analysis techniques germane to CIESIN's ongoing and planned activities, plus 4 years of experience using GIS and related geospatial technologies.

Search will stay open for 30 days after the ad appears and will continue until the job is filled.

Please visit our online application site at <https://academicjobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=59253> for further information about this position and to submit your application. Annual salary will be commensurate with experience. Columbia University benefits are provided with this Officer of Research position. Follow this link to view our benefits:

http://hr.columbia.edu/files_humanresources/imce_shared/FOBIB-2014.pdf

Columbia University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. We only accept online applications.

US Geoplatform.gov - Data.gov Catalog Service for the Web

In March, the Geospatial Platform team announced the availability of an open standards compliant catalog service API supporting Geoplatform.gov and Data.gov. Supporting the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Catalog Service for the Web (CSW) it provides an interface for query and presentation of results regarding data, services, and applications registered with the Geospatial Platform and data.gov. Any client supporting CSW (desktop GIS, Web application, client library, etc.) can integrate the new Geoplatform.gov / Data.gov CSW



endpoints.

The CSW endpoints support the OGC CSW 2.0.2 standard as well as the ISO Metadata Application 1.0.0 Profile. The response is transmitted as XML conforming to the ISO or Dublin Core metadata schemas. Brief, Summary, and Full responses can be requested, delivering different amounts of information to the requestor based on these common standards. API documentation is available under Resources on the Geoplatform.gov site.

US Government on The Impact of Open Data

Freely available data from the U.S. Government is an important national resource, serving as fuel for entrepreneurship, innovation, scientific discovery, and other public benefits. According to a recent report, open data can generate more than **\$3 trillion** a year in additional value in key sectors of the global economy, including education, health, transportation, and electricity.

Recognizing this, over the past few years, the Administration's Open Data Initiatives have helped unlock troves of valuable data—that taxpayers have already paid for—and is making these resources more open and accessible to innovators and the public.

Today I participated on a panel hosted by the Center for Data Innovation to discuss the economic impact of open data. (See: <http://www.datainnovation.org/2014/04/the-economic-impact-of-open-data/>). At the event we discussed an array of new and exciting actions being taken to help make data easier to find and use so that we can help realize its potential value, including:

- The launch of Data.gov/Impact, which features examples of companies using open data in innovative ways, and insights about how they use open data in key sectors including education, transportation, energy, consumer finance, and consumer products;
- The launch of the [Open Data 500](#) study done by the Governance Lab (GovLab)—a research institution at New York University—of 500 companies that are using open government data to generate new businesses and develop new products and services. The initiative is designed to identify, describe, and analyze companies that use open government data in order to study how these data can serve business needs more effectively.
- The launch of a series of Open Data Roundtables with entrepreneurs and government agencies, convened by the GovLab, to help better connect business leaders who use open data, and who have ideas about ways the data could be more open and available, with government officials working to make

the data easier to find and use in order to maximize its value to the public. The first roundtable will take place this spring and feature the U.S. Department of Commerce.

- The U.S. Open Data Institute's new open authentication system, which will make it easier for data producers to get "signatures" on information without locking them into PDFs – making that data more available for innovators to use once it's released.
- The U.S. Open Data Institute's new initiative to create and implement open source software and standards for open government data related to hunting and fishing, aimed at modernizing and streamlining the \$75 billion industry.

As our discussion made clear, the impact of open data is enormous. Entrepreneurs and businesses are using open government data to make better products, more accurate maps, and data-driven recommendations for things like energy usage and health decisions, all while growing the economy. And, as we continue to make data resources easier to use and to share, more business and entrepreneurs can tap into data in innovative exciting ways that benefit Americans. Mobilizing stakeholders to understand how data is being used and how it can be made more accessible will help us realize the full potential of open data.

Erie Meyer is Senior Advisor in the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Source: US Office of Science and Technology Policy online news

News from our Asia-Pacific Members

News from PSMA Australia

2014 marks a decade of confidence in Australia's authoritative index of addresses, G-NAF. In March 2004 a selection of politicians and geospatial industry stakeholders assembled at Parliament House in Canberra to mark the birth of something new – a Geocoded National Address File for Australia, or G-NAF. The processing methodology underpinning the G-NAF dataset was a world-leading technology capable of building a quality assured national address index from ten diverse data sources.

In 2014, PSMA Australia is celebrating the 10th birthday of G-NAF. Within this brief ten years, PSMA's G-NAF has evolved from an unknown quantity utilised only by its patrons, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and Australia Post; into a dataset utilised throughout the economy. Across government and industry, authoritative address data



from G-NAF supports many policy and business systems providing important services to Australians – including emergency response, social services, insurance, telecommunications and navigation.

In the 2013 strategy paper *Advancing Australia as a Digital Economy*, the Australian Government announced its intention to explore options for providing open access to G-NAF – making it freely available to all Australians. This was recognition of G-NAF's fundamental place within the Australian digital economy and a sign of the growing acknowledgement that some flavours of national geospatial data are an essential digital infrastructure – an invisible and virtual parallel to our physical infrastructures such as the roads we drive on and the utilities that provide us with essential services.

Source: PSMA press release.

News from Europe

UNIGIS Supporting the Environment in Galapagos.

Over the last decades, the Galapagos Islands have faced a considerable rise in human activities (tourism, population growth and migration, exploitation of natural resources like fishing and agriculture) which has resulted in increased pressure on both, the marine and terrestrial ecological system of the islands.

In order to develop a GIS-based information-management system that allows controlling of human interaction with the islands' environment and adjusting human activities to its limited capacities, an international group of GIS-experts under the lead of ZGIS was invited by local authorities and the UNIGIS-partner in Ecuador USFQ to participate in a 7-day workshop at the GAIAS extension of USFQ (Universidad San Francisco de Quito) at San Cristobal Island in February, 2014, that addressed this topic in tight cooperation with local communities and citizen initiatives. For further information about this ongoing initiative, see <http://geogalapagos.blogspot.com/>

Also, the GeoCitizen Platform Galapagos opens up new opportunities for Citizen Participation in the management of the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the Galapagos Islands. If you are interested to get to know more about the GeoCitizen Platform, visit this link <http://galapagos.geociudadano.org/> and check out the paper or demo video at the links below:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B1DYBOIjBJdYVHduQVA3bHhuUUU/edit?pli=1> paper

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=HHhVePoDLgl video

EuroGeographics News

Sixty-eight delegates from 36 countries, technical producers of EuroGeographics products and the product managers, started their annual meeting on 9 April in Vienna, Austria. The meeting was hosted by the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying [BEV](#). Head of Division Surveying Services, Mr. Michael Franzen, welcomed everyone and gave the introductory presentation.



The participants, who are the experts creating the EuroGeographics pan-European products and services, heard about the developments of EuroGeographics' products and learned about what they need to produce in the coming year; they shared knowledge, experience and information – as many of them work in isolation in their organisations on European specifications – so this was a really important meeting for them, and it is always very productive and positive event. Get the full details of the meeting here:

<http://www.eurogeographics.org/news/eurogeographics-data-producers-meeting>

National mapping, cadastral and land registry authorities from across Europe demonstrated their contribution to the European Location Framework project (which is part funded by the European Union) at an exhibition in the European Parliament sponsored by Catherine Stilher, MEP. The 'Maps for the Future' event was organised by, which is a leading member of the project as well as official representative body of the Authorities - and a valued GSDI Member. See the brief report of the event in *Geoinformatics* magazine at this link:

http://fluidbook.geoinformatics.com/GEO-Informatics_3_2014/#/34/

EUROGI News

At the last EUROGI General Board Meeting, held on 26 April 2014 in Brussels, GEO-SEE Institute from Macedonia (FYROM) was admitted as a new member. At the meeting of the newly appointed EUROGI Executive Committee on Saturday, 26 April 2014, Henning Sten



Hansen (GEOFORUM Danmark, Denmark) was elected as the new Treasurer. New Members of the Executive Committee elected were: Wolfgang Steinborn (DDGI, Germany), Maurice Barbieri (SOGI, Switzerland) and the new Treasurer: Henning Sten Hansen (GEOFORUM Danmark, Denmark).

In spring 2014 two positions on the EUROGI Executive Committee (Excom) became vacant. Wolfgang Steinborn (DDGI, Germany) was re-elected as ExCom member and Maurice Barbieri (SOGI, Switzerland) was elected as the new Excom member for the term 2014-2017.

News from our Members in Africa

RCMRD/SERVIR-Africa Small Scale Applications Project call for concept papers

This Annual Program Statement (APS) invites concept papers for the SERVIR-Africa Small Scale Applications Project, carried out under the auspices of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD). This project is carried out with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Its objective is to build capacity in the region, and enhance uptake and/or add value through SERVIR Science Applications and Geo-Information Technology to better support decision-making. Eligible organizations are those within the RCMRD member states.

RCMRD/SERVIR-Africa anticipates awarding 5-10 project opportunities to successful applications submitted in response to this APS. Once awarded, the implementation phase of the contract will be 9-12 months, with one month (30 days) to close out and provide final reporting. Each Project funded under this APS will not exceed USD 50,000. Proposals in excess of this amount will be rejected as non-responsive and will not be evaluated. RCMRD/SERVIR-Africa may choose to incrementally fund the selected application(s).

Full proposals will be requested for the selected concept papers upon the first round of evaluations. It is likely that all of the available funds for this APS may be allocated to awards resulting from the first round of evaluations. This APS is seeking applicants to propose creative and effective approaches to climate change decision-making using geospatial information as outlined in the Overview Section.

Source: *SERVIR Grant Team*

UN Workshop on Data Dissemination

The United Nations Regional Workshop on Data Dissemination and Communication will be held on 13 -15 May 2014, in Niamey, Niger. The Workshop is part of a global series of workshops on data dissemination and communication, with the purpose of providing a forum for sharing national practices and experiences in the dissemination of statistical data and metadata. The Workshop will review emerging trends, innovative approaches and technological tools employed in the dissemination of data. More details here: <http://www.uneca.org/un-rwddc>

The workshop is sponsored by GSDI Association founding member, UNECA (UN Economic Commission for Africa).

Download the call for opportunities document from this link: http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1514

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 April 2014 issue of GIM International.

"SDI and the Oscars: Giving thanks for all the support"

The winners' acceptance speeches given at this year's Academy Awards ceremony once again included thanks to the many people who stood behind an individual, a film or a studio. The international SDI community is no different. If the international geospatial community were to come together to hold our own awards ceremony, you would hear members of five different groups of organizations recognized over and over again for their contributions and support.

First - our thanks go to the pioneering leaders of the early national SDI initiatives in North America, Europe and Australasia. They provided the leadership and examples of best practices (and possibly ones to be avoided...), and encouraged the early discussions and critical comparisons so important to creating our SDI community.

Second, to companies like Esri, the Hexagon group, DigitalGlobe, Google, Trimble, Microsoft, PCI, Caris and so, so many others. They continue to offer the technology, data, services, advice and user support that fire the imagination, expand the marketplace, and raise our expectations for quality and performance. Through their people and philanthropy - and often without any fanfare - they also provide the talent, treasure and time



so critical to the success of SDI implementation and education worldwide.

Third, our thanks to organizations like OpenGeo and OpenStreetMap for the creation and ongoing improvement of open source software and freely-available geospatial data. They also provide the online forums and face-to-face meetings that help sustain communities and - again - raise our expectations for the products and services we use.

Fourth - Learned societies like Digital Earth and the ten member organizations of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS - <http://www.fig.net/jbgis/>). These organizations have been instrumental for many years in promoting the geospatial community bringing together technical specialists, users and managers, as well as externally through their professional and educational outreach efforts. I am proud our own GSDI Association is a member of the JBGIS.

Finally - transnational and international initiatives and organizations like INSPIRE and Eurogeographics, EUROGI, EIS Africa, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN GGIM). Through their membership of strong public sector leaders, they have kept our community visible and maintained conversations between national mapping organizations. In that same category, I would like to recognize the tremendous work undertaken by the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC). Standards are the glue that holds data exchange and interoperability efforts together, and their use in whole or in part are essential to the success of any spatial data infrastructure. OGC is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and, on behalf of the GSDI Association, I wish our colleagues there every success for the next twenty years.

Speeches of thanks and acknowledgement are often more noticed for the names inadvertently left out rather than those mentioned. I'm sure I will be reminded that I have missed important contributors in this column, and look forward to finding ways to acknowledge them in future columns.

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>

Readers are reminded that they can subscribe to GIM International digital version completely free of charge

or the print and digital version for 39 euro per annum. Visit the subscription page online at: <http://www.gim-international.com/subscription/index.php>

Article of the Month No. 2!

"Promoting SDI Implementation at a Global Level"

The April 2014 issue of the UK *GIS Professional* magazine contains an article by Roger Longhorn, GSDI Communications and Operations Manager, and Prof. David Coleman, President, GSDI Association, providing an overview of the Association's many activities and accomplishments.

The full article can be accessed at this link: http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1515

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

Visit and contribute to GIKnet, including registering your own details or those of your organisation! The aim of 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.

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

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

The annual INSPIRE Conference this year will focus on:

- 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

Get full details on registration, accommodation, workshops, etc. at the INSPIRE Conference site at: http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2014/

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.mapps.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>

Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications October 2014

This joint conference will be held on October 6-8, 2014 at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, Toronto, Canada. The conference Registration and Online Hotel

Room Booking is now open. Register before 01 May 2014 to enjoy the early registration rates, and book your rooms before 01 August 2014 to receive \$20.00 reduction on top of the group rates from the hotel.

The **ISPRS Foundation** offers travel grants to support participation in 2014 ISPRS TC II Midterm Symposium. To apply, please visit: <http://www.isprs.org/foundation/>

The Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications is hosted by the **Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG)** and co-organized by the **International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)** Technical Commission II on Theory and Concepts of Spatial Information Science, International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geographical Information Science and Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems. With a theme on Building Connections in GISciences for Future, the conference intends to present and disseminate the research, development and the innovative applications of geographical information theory and technologies in broad areas, as well as other interested areas by the participating organizations.

This conference joins the following symposia together:

- 2014 ISPRS Technical Commission II Midterm Symposium
- 16th IGU Spatial Data Handling Symposium

ISPRS Technical Commission II Midterm Symposium is held every four years in between two consecutive ISPRS Congresses. The symposium aims to bring together scholars and professionals from the international community of geospatial information sciences and engineering to present latest research achievements and technological developments. The topics of the symposium address the focuses outlined by the Commission, stated on its website:

<http://www2.isprs.org/commissions/comm2.html>

The **International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling (SDH)** is the biennial international research forum for Geospatial Information Science, co-organized by the IGU Commission on Geographic Information Science and the IGU Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems. It commenced in 1984, in Zurich, Switzerland and has since been held biennially in Seattle, USA; Sydney, Australia; Zurich, Switzerland; Charleston, USA; Edinburgh, UK; Delft, The Netherlands; Vancouver, Canada; Beijing, China; Ottawa, Canada; Leicester, UK; Vienna, Austria; Montpellier, France; and Hong Kong, China. The International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling has become a major resource for recent advances in GIS research and is regarded as a premier international research forum for GIS.



7th URISA Caribbean GIS Conference

URISA is pleased to host the 2014 conference in the Dutch Caribbean on October 27-30, 2014 at the Santa Barbara Beach & Golf Resort, Curacao! **Deadline for abstract submissions due date was extended to 19 May.**



The conference will focus on the effective application and management of GIS and other information technologies within the Caribbean. Previous Caribbean GIS conferences have taken place in Jamaica

(2001), Barbados (2004), the Bahamas (2006), the Cayman Islands (2008), Trinidad and Tobago (2010) and Jamaica (2012). Get full details here: <http://www.urisa.org/education-events/caribbean-gis-conference/>

The objectives of URISA's **Caribbean GIS Conference** are to:

- inform broad cross-section of Caribbean users about GIS technology and applications,
- share experiences regarding GIS implementation and management issues,
- establish new relationships with the vendor/consultant community,
- provide workshops and sessions that are application driven, and are relevant to the Caribbean community of GIS users,
- foster a Caribbean GIS network,
- assess the state of readiness of national and regional Spatial Data Infrastructures,
- act on directives from the High Level Meetings held over the past several years, fostering executive support for GIS.

The Conference Program is developed through a Call for Presentations. The committee welcomes the submission of individual papers, complete sessions, panel discussions and lightning talks.

2014 Esri Health GIS Conference Update – November 2014

Big changes are coming to health and human services (HHS). And you are invited to a gathering of peers and experts where it all will be spelled out - the 2014 Esri Health GIS Conference, to be held November 3-5, at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

This major national GIS event is your opportunity to be on the geospatial cutting edge -- to experience the winds of progress ahead of your colleagues who do not attend. You'll learn state-of-the-art GIS tools, network with peers

across the health continuum, and gain perspective from industry leaders including Esri experts.

Two Ways to Participate: Present a Paper, Display a Map: Put your geospatial expertise in front of customers and peers. If you're a GIS professional in health and human services - someone with practical expertise and skills in the real world, then at the 2014 Esri Health GIS Conference, you'll have an opportunity to show your colleagues what works - or doesn't work.

Here are two ways you can help them accelerate their projects or avoid costly mistakes:

- Share your best work - give a 20-minute presentation about one of your successful GIS experiences.
- Show off your cartographic skills - put one of your GIS-based maps on display.

Submit an abstract and a map. **The submission deadline is August 1, 2014.**

Latest on Registration! The first 30 Registrants get in on a low \$300 Red-Eye Rate!

And if you're among the first 30 to register, you'll attend for only \$300 - a "Red-Eye" fee that's \$199 off the standard \$499 rate. We welcome professionals in public health, hospitals and health systems, human services, and academic health and research. The Esri Health GIS Conference is much more than any other user conference - it will put you squarely on the front line of HHS geospatial technology and best practices for 2014.

Get the details and register here:

http://www.esri.com/events/health/?WT.mc_id=EmailCampaignh21803

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

EU Public Consultation on the Green Paper on Mobile Health

In April, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the Green Paper on mobile health (mHealth), inviting comments on the barriers and issues related to the use of mHealth. Your input will help identify the right way forward to unlock the potential of mobile health in the EU. The Commission also publishes a Staff Working Document on the existing EU legal framework applicable to lifestyle and wellbeing apps, aiming at providing simple guidance to app developers on EU legislation in the field.



The objective of this consultation is to receive the views of:

- regional and national authorities e.g. health ministries, authorities dealing with medical devices/data protection,
- health professionals, carers, health practitioners, medical associations,
- consumers, users of mHealth apps, patients and their associations,
- web entrepreneurs,
- app developers and app stores,
- manufacturers of mobile devices,
- insurance agencies, and
- sports centres, health clubs, etc.

For more information please visit the website at:
<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/node/69592>

INSPIRE in Europe

Annex II+III Data Models and Schemas & Updated Annex I Technical Guidelines Published



To complement the Annex II & III amendment of the Implementing Rules on interoperability of spatial data sets and service and accompanying Technical Guidelines, the corresponding data models and XML schemas (<http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/schemas/>) were published on the INSPIRE site on the 17 April 2014.

The amendment of the Implementing Rules (which are EC Regulations, i.e. law across all EU Members States) also introduced a number of changes to Annex I candidate types and placeholders. To reflect these changes, the Annex I Technical Guidelines were updated. The updated documents have also been adapted to the common document template for data specifications and Abstract Test Suites have been added.

The changes to candidate types and placeholders in the Annex I data models also will require some of the Annex I xml schemas to be updated (Addresses, Administrative Units, Air Transport Networks and Hydro – Physical Waters). Since such changes could impact on implementation of software and existing harmonised data sets, processes need to be defined for updating and releasing XML schemas and for migrating data sets to the updated schemas. These processes are currently being discussed in task MIWP-18 XML schema maintenance of the INSPIRE maintenance and

implementation framework. This task will also propose updated schemas for the relevant Annex I models.

EU Parliament Adopts Maritime Spatial Planning Legislation

On 17 April, the European Parliament endorsed a **Directive for Maritime Spatial Planning** which should help Member States develop plans to better coordinate the various activities that take place at sea, ensuring they are as efficient and sustainable as possible. In coastal and maritime areas, many activities compete for the same space and resources: fishing grounds, aquaculture farms, marine protected areas exist alongside maritime infrastructures such as cables, pipelines, shipping lanes and oil, gas and wind installations. The new Directive will help avoid potential conflicts between such diverse uses and create a stable environment attractive to investors, thereby contributing to sustainable growth.

With rapidly increasing demand for maritime space for new activities, from renewable energy to aquaculture installations, better and coherent planning of maritime activities at sea is indeed needed. The Directive sets minimum requirements for the drawing up of national maritime spatial plans. These plans will identify all existing human activities, taking into account land-sea interactions, and the most effective way of managing them. As many of the activities run across national borders, the Directive will help Member States co-operate better.

European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Maria Damanaki and Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik said: "Today's vote in the European Parliament is an important step in creating new growth opportunities across all maritime sectors by better managing our seas and ensuring their sustainability. Only if we coordinate the various activities taking place in our seas can we make access to maritime space more predictable for investors and at the same time reduce the impact of maritime activities on the environment."

Background

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) is a cornerstone of the Commission's Blue Growth strategy and of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy. It allows improved understanding of the distribution of marine resources and offers investors greater certainty about potential economic development. With MSP, operators will know what, where and for how long an activity can take place. Maritime Spatial Planning will also reduce existing over-regulation and administrative complexity. For instance, in some countries up to nine executive agencies need to be contacted before securing a permit for an offshore



aquaculture site. Better coordination will speed up procedures which will generate economic gains. For instance by accelerating investments in offshore aquaculture or renewables by 1, 2 or 3 years, economic gains from €60 million to over €600 million could be generated by 2020.

Maritime Spatial Planning will also contribute to a more efficient implementation of EU environmental legislation in marine waters and will help Member States reach good environmental status of their waters by 2020. It should help establish coherent networks of Marine Protected Areas, for which cooperation on planning across borders is essential, and ensure the participation of all stakeholders in planning processes.

Next steps

Once finally adopted by ministers, Member States must transpose the Directive into their national legislation by 2016 and nominate the Competent Authority in charge of the implementation of MSP. Member States must also draw up their national maritime spatial plans by 2021. They are free to tailor the content of the plans and strategies to their specific economic, social and environmental priorities, and their national sectorial policy objectives and legal traditions, but must respect the minimum requirements of the Directive.

For further information, see these links:

- MEMO/14/313 : Questions and Answers on the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning:
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-313_en.htm
- Maritime Spatial Planning:
http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime_spatial_planning/index_en.htm
- The European Commission's proposal for a Directive - COM(2013) 133 final - 2013/0074 (COD):
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0133:FIN:EN:PDF>
- Integrated Coastal Management:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/home.htm>

GEO News

GSDI at the CEOS Working Week in April 2014

CEOS WGISS held Working Week (WGISS-37) from 14 to 18 April 2014 in Cocoa Beach, Florida, USA, hosted by NASA. The GSDI liaison presentation by GSDI Legal & Socioeconomic Committee member, **Dr. Gabor Remetey-Fulopp** (former Chair of the L&SE Committee) and Secretary-General of HUNAGI (the Hungarian Association for Geo-Information), is available for download at:

http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1520

CEOS (the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites) and its WGISS (Working Group on Information Systems and Services) is the operational satellite arm of GEO (the Group on Earth Observations) in developing GEOSS. GSDI and CEOS WGISS established a liaison under the ESA-NASA chairmanship of WGISS in 2006. Since that time, GSDI member HUNAGI hosted CEOS WGISS meetings two times and provided GSDI liaisons reports on a regular basis. GSDI liaison was invited by CEOS also to the GEO 'Architecture and Vision' think tank as a follow-on action of the WGISS-36 meeting hosted by ESA in September 2013.

ISPRS Supporting 'Future Earth' Initiative

ISPRS, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Surveying is providing support to the new 10-year research initiative 'Future Earth' launched by the International Council of Science (ICSU). Find out more in their column in Geoinformatics magazine at this link:
http://fluidbook.geoinformatics.com/GEO-Informatics_3_2014/#/44/

GSDI AND 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.gsd.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.gsd.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"

