

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



To [subscribe](#) to SDI-AP. Back issues of the newsletter are at the [GSDI website](#). You can also sign up for [GSDI News List](#) to receive alerts of special news and announcements as well as notification of new issues of the SDI-AP newsletter. To subscribe to, and access archives of, thematic or regional discussion lists [please visit](#).

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Message from the editor

Welcome to the August edition of the newsletter, in this edition the SDI spotlight provides a summary of the GSDI conference held in Rotterdam in June and includes the concluding address by the incoming President of the GSDI Association.

If you have news or information related to SDI, GIS, RS or spatial data that you would like to share with the community (e.g. workshop announcements, publications, reports, websites of interest etc.), [kindly send us the materials by the 25th of the each month](#) for your contribution to be included in the next newsletter.

Malcolm Park and Serryn Eagleson ([Editors](#)), at the [Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration](#), The University of Melbourne.

Contributions

Thank you to the following people and organisations for their contributions to this issue:

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Paul Box, Kate Lance, and Baek Wonkug for news feeds, the staff of the Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan for the Chinese translation, and Shivani Lal, *GIS Development*, *Asia Surveying Mapping Magazine* for directly feeding into the newsletter.

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SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

[Coordination of Spatial Data in Abu Dhabi is contributing Dhs230m savings in government expenditures](#)

H.E. Mohammed Ahmed Al Bawardi, Secretary General of Abu Dhabi Executive Council has confirmed that the Spatial Data Initiative (AD-SDI) launched in July 2007 has succeeded in achieving the desired objectives of facilitating geospatial data sharing between government entities and other concerned entities.

Source: AME Info

[Tender for SDI in Brunei](#)

Tenders are invited for the implementation of Phase 2 of the Brunei Darussalam Spatial Data Infrastructure. The Brunei Survey Department says the contractor will study and make recommendations for improvements to the existing infrastructure. These include technologies for expansion, policies to enable the use of spatially referenced data, human resources and standards.

Source: Asia Surveying & Mapping Magazine

[Intergraph® Launches New Spatial Data Infrastructure \(SDI\) Application](#)

Intergraph® has introduced new spatial data infrastructure (SDI) application software to ensure harmonised geospatial data exchange within the enterprise and between government, businesses and the public for improved communication, collaboration, productivity, ease of maintenance and reduced costs.

Source: [Association for Geographic Information](#)

[New Zealand: new licence improves access to environmental data](#)

There is new lease of life for two fundamental environmental databases

The Ministry for the Environment made the Land Cover Database and the Land Environments New Zealand classification available online, for free and with an unrestricted license. This is part of a strategy to make public sector data more accessible.

Both are spatial databases containing geographic boundaries and descriptions of the types of land cover and the environment they exist in. The databases are already used in central and local government for analysis and planning so that better management decisions for our environment can be made.

Source: Kate Lance

[Online community for Earth Sciences professionals.](#)

The [eCognition Community](#) is part of the Definiens, the Enterprise Image Intelligence company, new geospatial website, [earth.definiens.com](#), and provides an integrated environment for collaboration and knowledge transfer, along with social networking facilities. Registration to the eCognition Community website is open to all geospatial professionals and academics. The website enables its members to collaborate and share knowledge in blogs, discussion boards, ruleware exchange, video and audio file sharing facilities, a knowledge wiki, and private conversation space.

Source: GIS News and [Definiens](#)

[Moves to free Victoria \(Australia\) public sector information](#)

The Victorian Parliament's Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee in Australia tabled a report on for improved access to Victorian Government information. The Committee was asked to report on the benefits and costs of maximising access to and use of Government information for commercial and non-commercial purposes. The Committee's key recommendation is that the Victorian Government establish an Information Management Framework (IMF), with open access to Government information at no or marginal cost as the default position. See [full report](#).

Source: Kate Lance

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[Identification of Malaria Hot Spots for Focused Intervention in Tribal State of India: a GIS Based Approach](#)

Aruna Srivastava and her team from India's National Institute of Malaria Research worked with colleagues from the National Vector Borne Disease Control Program and the State Health Department to use GIS to pinpoint trouble spots for timely preventive action. She said, "This is the first time that GIS has been used in a national control program for tribal malaria. The system identifies hotspots from which malaria flares up every time conditions favorable for transmission occur." This article, published in BioMed Central's open access *International Journal of Health Geographics*, describes the creation of the GIS and its implementation in the malaria-stricken Madhya Pradesh region.

Link provided by [Directions Magazine](#)

[Satellite map by NATO helps predict floods](#)

Germany: NATO's satellite imaging experts have created a map that predicts likely flooding patterns and areas in Afghanistan, making it possible to plan preventive action for future flood seasons.

Source: [GIS News](#)

[Isro preparing satellite to map climate change](#)

Kolkata: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is working on a geostationary satellite, which it plans to hand over in two to three years to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to help it unravel climate change trends.

Source: [GIS News](#)



[Vietnam's first ground station to receive satellite images](#)

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) opened Vietnam's first ground station to receive satellite pictures in Hanoi's Tu Liem District. The station, the fifth of its kind in Southeast Asia, can receive five kinds of satellite images with high resolution, including those transmitted by Envisat - an Earth-observing satellite built by the European Space Agency. The station is part of a national project to set up a system to monitor local natural resources and environment, the ministry declared at the opening ceremony.

The project, invested in by the ministry's National Remote Sensing Center, also includes a center to process satellite photos, maintain a database as well as a network of 17 organisations applying the database with remote sensing technology. The station will work to support related agencies to monitor the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and compile statistics on land and forests nationwide.

Source: Kate Lance

[Bangladesh extends digital mapping project](#)

The Bangladesh government is set to bring all major cities under an extended digital mapping project, to better execute development programmes. An ECNEC meeting on chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the 'Improvement of the Digital Mapping System of Survey of Bangladesh' at an estimated cost of Tk 181.43 crore. The digital topographic survey will be launched by the Bangladesh Survey Department at all divisional headquarters across the country. The project paper states that the aim is to prepare and supply highly detailed digital topographical data to better plan and execute public and private sector development programmes.

"The revised mapping project is likely to be completed in 2016 under the new project, 160 digital topographic maps of 1:5000 scale and 160 databases will be created in the five other divisional headquarters" said planning secretary Habibullah Majumdar.

Source: GIS Development

[Swine Flu Map of China](#)

SuperMap in China has published what it calls an 'Intelligent H1N1 Analysis Web Map System'. The map tracks outbreaks of the virus known as 'swine flu' around China. It features source attributions, report dates, and current known status. It is updated as daily reports of the latest suspected and confirmed cases are made available.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

Also from [GIS News](#):

[Spatial data supports swine flu pandemic planning](#)

NHS emergency planners in Bristol and the Avon region are developing their swine flu pandemic response strategy with spatial data from Dotted Eyes. The work involves four primary care trusts and is part of a national drive to co-ordinate the distribution of antiviral stocks in the event of a major disease outbreak.

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Dotted Eyes data has been used to identify the optimum number and locations of antiviral collection points. Key factors are population statistics and travel times to community pharmacies.

[DigitalGlobe Crisis Event Service](#)

DigitalGlobe has launched a web service providing pre- and post-event satellite imagery for emergency planning, response and recovery. Imagery is collected from the QuickBird and WorldView-1 satellites, and will be available online within 1-3 days of the event. Imagery from WorldView-2 will be added once the satellite is launched and as products become available.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

[India Monitors Coasts Using Satellite Imagery](#)

The Indian government is proposing to use satellite imagery to monitor environmental violations along its coast.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

[The First Korea & Japan Symposium on Aerial Laser Mapping](#)

The application of laser mapping have been widely recognized in geomatics as well as other fields such as defense, environment, resource management, archaeology, remote sensing and geophysics. In order to meet the increasing demand, the first Korea-Japan symposium on laser mapping with aerial photography was held on July 3th at University of Seoul(UOS), Korea. The UOS and Japanese Association of Precise Survey and Applied Technology(APA) arranged the symposium with support of Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration (KHOA) and Korean Society of Surveying, Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography(KSGPC).

Ten experts made talks on lidar data processing and various applications. Japanese experts' topics were the procedure of laser data and the various methods for quality assurance and quality control. Applications on laser Mapping were introduced on riparian and coastal management, urban building modeling implementation, forestry and environment. On the other hand, experts from Korea focused on how to fuse lidar data with aerial photographs for the better DSM and to what national programs laser mapping geomatics have been applied such as National Framework data for contour lines, 3-D geoSpatial Information Implementation Program and the Integrated Survey of Coastal line. Discussion Session was made with the agenda on the institutional and technical plan for the regular exchanges between two countries. About one hundred fifty experts from academic side and geomatics industry attended and expected the next symposium.

This symposium provided systematic educational daily program on cutting-edged laser technology as well as upgraded Korea-Japan international cooperation in Geomatics.

Materials and Presentations from the Symposium are available from [HERE](#) and [ALSO HERE](#)

Source: Yunsoo Choi (Professor in Dept. of Geoinformatics, The University of Seoul) & Wonkug Baek

[NGIS China Wins Australian Award](#)

NGIS China has won a major award in Australia for creating a 3D environmental assessment tool for Chinese engineering company, CISDI. The planning tool integrates environmental modelling with 3D and spatial technologies. It allows decision-makers to assess the potential social and environmental impacts of major construction projects in the densely populated region of Chongqing. The Award was by the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute in Perth.

Source: NGIS

[Emerging trends in geospatial technology](#)

Dr. R. Ramachandran, Centre Director, National Technical Research Organisation, India chaired the post lunch session of the Geo intelligence Conference where the topic of discussion was "Emerging Trends"

Source: [GIS Development](#)

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SDI Spotlight

Between the 15th and 19th of June the 11th Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) conference was held in Rotterdam. The theme for the conference was Spatial Data Infrastructure Convergence: Building SDI Bridges to Address Global Challenges. A number of news reports about the conference are now available and have been

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(Source: [GIM International](#))

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assembled below. Readers should note that the GSDI 12 Conference has been set down for Singapore on 18-22 October, 2010. This month's "Spotlight" feature includes a **Summary of GSDI 11** by Rohan Bennett and the concluding address by the incoming President of the GSDI Association.

[GSDI 11 – Special Report](#) courtesy of GIS Development Weekly

[GSDI Conference Underway](#) courtesy of GIM International

GSDI 11 World Conference

Spatial Data Infrastructure Convergence: "Building SDI Bridges to address Global Challenges"

Summary and Perceptions from CSDILA members

- **Europe:** GSDI11 was quite Euro-centric as INSPIRE ran along side GSDI11. This was a good thing as it provided a rich contextual understanding of the European context, its key initiatives and main challenges. The Europeans have established a very strong collaborative environment in terms of standards and metadata development. Legislative strategies for achieving collaboration appear to be working
- **Champions:** The important role of 'champions' was a recurrent theme through the week. Gary Nairn set this agenda item on Tuesday and it remerged in sessions to do with selling the discipline to students, attracting funding and setting R&D agendas
- **Metadata:** Seemed to be touched upon in most sessions including the 3 dedication sessions and 1 workshop. INSPIRE initiative appears to have taken a lead role in metadata development. Australia also had a number of presentations focused specifically on metadata management and tool development
- **SDI and Land Administration:** Stig chaired a session specifically on devoted to LA and SDI. This has particular relevance to our group. Our RRR presentation received good feedback in the following plenary session. Paul van der Molen and Peter O also delivered updates on the core cadastral domain model. Other presentations were delivered from Russia, Stig (Land management paradigm) and the Netherlands (Developing a 'European' cadastre for SDI)
- **Volunteered Data:** This is an emerging area. Developing SDI from the ground up. Key questions answered: Who are the types of people creating spatial data? Why do they share it? How useful is their data? How can it be incorporated into SDI? Can we try to manage this process?
- **Legal and Policy Aspects:** A few very good papers here. Flaws or inadequacies in EU policy statements exposed. Also: creative commons and licensing explained.
- **Funding SDIs:** A really crowded session. Could not get into the room. A few must read articles in this workshop.
- **Future of SDIs:** Current and future developments in SDI were discussed. CSDILA were mentioned here: 1 of the 3 key international research groups leading developments in SDI.

Closing Speech by the Incoming President, GSDI Association, Associate Professor Abbas Rajabifard, Friday 19 June 2009

Dear colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to assume the role of President of the GSDI Association.

The Association plays a critical role in helping to address societal problems through the use of spatial capacity. Therefore I commit to provide the leadership the Association requires in order to achieve its objectives and implement its strategies, and commit to listen and respond to your needs as members and work very closely with our GSDI Board.

We have come along way since the GSDI initiative began in 1996 and the Association came into existence in 2002.

The scope of the Association has broadened considerably in this relatively short time. This reflects the expanding uses to which spatial capacity is now able to be deployed, the increasing diversity of organisations and skills now using this capacity, and the corresponding expansion in demands of Association members.

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Those who have steered the Association along this dynamic road have done so in a responsive and measured way, ensuring appropriate adjustment and continuity in Association affairs. Many people have contributed to this outcome, far too many people to mention here by name.

However there are a few individuals I must recognise – Bas Kok, for his leadership and friendship during his term as President, Harlan Onsrud for his dedication and vision over the years, and Al Steven for his input and contribution in the planning and organization of GSDI conferences and activities of the association over many years.

I would also like to recognize our outgoing GSDI board members:

- Past President Jarmo Ratia (Land Survey of Finland)
- Non-Profit Gabor Remetey-Fulopp (Hungarian Association for Geo-information)
- Region - Africa Olajide Kufoniyi (Regional Center for Training in Aerospace Surveys, Nigeria)

Also, I would like to congratulate and welcome to our new and re-elected board members.

This conference is a milestone in our GSDI journey. So, as incoming president I would like to take opportunity and thank our partners for this conference, particularly Alessandro Annoni and his team in the INSPIRE program, and Rob van de Velde and Jacqline Meerkerk and their team in the Dutch Geonovum program and Dutch Space for Geo Information program.

As Professor Kok stated in his opening Conference address, the conference theme, ***SDI Convergence: Building Bridges in Support of Local to Global Challenges*** tells us what we aspire to do and why we seek to do it. Bas' hope was that we focus in this conference on investigating and sharing how we can apply our expertise to build bridges across disciplines and borders to make life better on this planet we all share. In my mind the conference has met and exceeded these expectations.

The huge size of the conference program points to the relevance and level of interest in the subject areas of the conference partners.

The conference has shown, once again, the essential requirement for the Association to partner in order to delivering credible outcomes, with INSPIRE and Geonovum at this event, as we did with FIG in GSDI 9.

Through the various plenary, parallel and poster sessions the conference has presented material covering a multitude of topics:

- Societal challenges;
- Convergence and collaboration (GEO/GEOSS, GEOSS/OGC/GSDI, the UNSDI, and, government, business and the scientific community);
- SDI development (national, regional, continental -INSPIRE, and in the marine environment);
- SDI applications;
- Technical issues (data interoperability and harmonisation, ...);
- Research and development;
- Policy and governance (SDI assessment, data sharing, return on investments; business models); and
- Capacity building (GSDI knowledge network, regional newsletters, future spatial skills, International Geospatial Society, Rotterdam Geo Youth Capital 2009; Master Classes).

We have a strong strategic focus in the Association. This shows we are an organisation strong on teamwork and an organisation on the move.

- Our activities are dedicated to international cooperation and collaboration in spatial data infrastructure development to address the social, economic, and environmental issues confronting the world;
- We regularly offer conferences such as this one to enhance communications among practitioners as well as among the leadership of other geospatial organizations. We purposefully take our conferences to different parts of the globe in order to serve all parts of the planet;
- We publish monthly newsletters within and for various regions of the globe in multiple languages in order to keep all geospatial specialists aware of opportunities to become engaged and participate in their own regions;

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- We offer a regular small grants program in furtherance of SDI development in developing nations;
- We are expanding support of our working committees that are actively addressing technical, legal and socioeconomic, social impact, and communication issues;
- An important priority for us is to enhance our inclusivity so that we better respond to the individual needs of members, are open and accommodating to the ideas of others, and draw people from different backgrounds into our Association. **The creation of an International Geospatial Society** which is an individual Arm for our Association and this is an excellent example of this strategy.

I believe the essence of what we do in the Association is help to create an enabling environment that enhances outcomes in societies, economies and the global environment. **The betterment of societies through spatial enablement is one of my goals as President.**

Spatial enablement will assist both developed and developing countries to pursue sustainable development objectives and it will ensure better productivity and efficiency.

Therefore, I would like us all to consider as a theme for the GSDI Association in the next period, and the GSDI 12 conference in Singapore in October 2010 (jointly with the PCGIAP) – **“Realizing Spatially Enabled Societies”**.

‘Spatially Enabled Society is a scenario for the future. Because we are living in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world.

Our relationships with our physical world and the way we use our social networks are changing as we deploy technology in new ways to create new ways of interacting with each other.

Spatial information and technologies are key tools in this transformation because we define our relationships by place. The ‘spatial enablement’ that these tools create can reshape our lives.

I look forward to working with you and receiving your contributions,

But before I finish, please let me to call to the podium Mr Bas Kok to come and receive a token of our appreciation, which can be worn to identify him as one of the significant GSDI past leaders.

This is part of a new culture that we started from this conference to recognize and acknowledge the contribution of the past President. The other past presidents in our Association have also received these recognitions on Wednesday.

Once again thank you for your support and look forward seeing you in Singapore next year.

Thank you, Abbas Rajabifard, Friday June 19, 2009, GSDI-11 World conference, Rotterdam

* * *

Additionally, July saw the conduct of the “Land Administration Intensive Course” which was conducted by the University of Melbourne for the Indonesian government for which we intend to include some of the course materials in a later issue of the newsletter. Below is a brief description of the course.

The Centre for SDIs and Land Administration, The Melbourne University hosted a group of Indonesian professionals and academics for a specialist training course in land administration. The course ran from 13-17 July 2009 and the participants include personnel from the National Land Agency of The Republic of Indonesia (BPN) and Gadjah Mada University and the Institute of Technology Bandung (ITP) which are Indonesia’s two leading universities in the field of engineering. The course was sponsored by the Indonesian Land Administration Agency and the World Bank. The objectives of the course were to update members of National Land Agency of The Republic of Indonesia and staff members of Gadjah Mada University and Bandung Institute of Technology on modern land administration systems and the need for an effective and efficient cadastre. This included a review of a variety of technologies for developing and maintaining such systems, and to understand and analyse a range of approaches to land administration in both developed and developing countries.

The editors are actively soliciting contributions to the monthly “SDI Spotlight” feature for the September and subsequent issues.

GIS Tools, Software, Data

[Yashada Maps Pune, India](#)

The Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (Yashada) has begun mapping all the districts in the Indian city of Pune. The maps will provide detailed data on health, education, nutrition, housing and employment. They will also include other information on rainfall, cropping pattern and sanitation.

Source: Asia Surveying Mapping Magazine

[Garmin-Asus nüvifone™ Available for Purchase in Asia](#)

Garmin-Asus, a co-branded alliance between Garmin® Ltd. (NASDAQ: GRMN) and ASUSTeK Computer Inc. (TAIEX: 2357), announced that the Garmin-Asus nüvifone G60 will go on sale in Taiwan on July 27, and in Singapore and Malaysia by the end of August. Also in August, the Garmin-Asus nüvifone M20 will go on sale in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

"The Garmin-Asus nüvifone series is a breakthrough product line that integrates navigation and location based services (LBS) like no other phone in the market today."

Source: GIScafe

[RapidEye Releases Sample Images](#)

The German remote sensor, RapidEye AG, says it have released sixteen images generated by the RapidEye system. The samples of the RapidEye Standard Image Products show a variety of areas around the world, including agricultural, forestry and urban. Potential customers can test the products free of charge via the company's website.

Source: Asia Surveying Mapping Magazine

[Mobile phone alerts to warn of disaster in Bangladesh](#)

A pilot scheme testing mobile phone messaging as an early warning system for natural disasters is underway in Bangladesh. The country has signed an agreement with mobile phone operators Grameenphone and Teletalk to provide 'early warning alerts' to its 46 million mobile phone subscribers. Unlike normal text messages, which go into message boxes, the warnings flash automatically on the phone's screen without users pushing a button - making the system user-friendly.

See also: [TeleTalk, GP to trial disaster alerts](#)

Source: Kate Lance

[Malaysian Flood Map](#)

The Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency and the Drainage and Irrigation Department have co-operated to produce a flood map of the country. It covers the most significant events of the last five years. The maps were produced from satellite imagery and depict the full extent of flooded areas.

Source: *Asian Surveying & Mapping* magazine

[Protecting Vietnam's Forests](#)

The Vietnamese government says it will commit all necessary resources to protecting the country's forests against fires. Vietnamese forest managers are engaging many techniques, including satellite remote sensing, in an effort to get on top of the problem. Between 1990 and 2005, the country lost a staggering 78 per cent of its primary forests.

Source: *Asian Surveying & Mapping* magazine

[2009 Geospatial Technology Report available](#)

The Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) announced the publication of the 2009 Geospatial Technology Report. This 144-page report contains detailed information on the complexity, direction, and completeness of GIS projects being implemented at 515 organisations—a 9% increase in participation from the 2008 edition.

Source: [GIS News](#)



[Singapore's CRISP Receives GeoEye](#)

The remote sensing station at the National University of Singapore has begun downloading images from the GeoEye satellite under the terms of an agreement signed last year. The Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing

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and Processing received its first data in May. CRISP is likely to benefit from GeoEye's new polices, which are aimed at increasing the use of the imagery.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping Magazine

Indonesian Scientists Track Disease

A group of veterinary scientists from Indonesia is learning to track the spread of animal-borne diseases in a three-week program hosted by the University of Sydney. The program is part of an Australian Aid Agency (AusAid) Australian Leadership Awards Fellowships program.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping Magazine

GIS to monitor greenhouse gas in New Zealand

The New Zealand Ministry for the Environment is implementing GIS software from ESRI to analyse, measure, and report greenhouse gas emissions and land-use change.

Source: [GIS News](#) and [ESRI](#).

ESA Monitors Chinese Earthquakes

A joint Chinese-European team is using satellite radar data to monitor ground deformation across major continental faults in China.

Source: [Asian Surveying & Mapping](#)

Topographic map of earth from NASA

Washington: NASA and Japan released a new digital topographic map of Earth that covers more of our planet than ever before. The map was produced with detailed measurements from NASA's Terra spacecraft.

Source: [GIS News](#) and [NASA](#).



Air Quality Improves Over Beijing

Chinese and Dutch researchers have found that the measures introduced to improve Beijing's air quality ahead of the 2008 Olympic Games succeeded in reducing the levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) above the city by about 60 per cent. The project is part of the European Space Agency's Dragon 2 program.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping Magazine

Chandrayaan-1 develops serious fault

India's first moon mission Chandrayaan-I, launched in October last with a two-year life span, has lost a major sensor and may meet a premature end, ISRO said.

Source: [GIS News](#)

Release of GeoNetwork opensource 2.4.0.

GeoNetwork opensource is a standards based geospatial catalog application that helps people and organizations to organize and publish their geospatial data through the web. It is currently used in numerous Spatial Data Infrastructure initiatives across the world.

Important improvements have been made to ease of use, advanced metadata editing, performance and interoperability making it one of the most advanced, if not the most advanced geospatial metadata catalog available on the market today.

The software provides an easy to use web interface to search geospatial data across multiple catalogs, combine distributed map services in the embedded map viewer, send annotated interactive maps to friends by email, publish geospatial data using the online metadata editing tools and optionally the embedded GeoServer map server. GeoNetwork opensource is part of the [Open Source Geospatial Foundation](#) (OSGeo) software stack, providing software you can trust to be free, open and sustainable. Voluntary support is provided through mailing lists, websites and online forums. Several companies also provide commercial support to help organizations to implement, integrate and maintain the software. You can find them in the Service Provider directory on the OSGeo website.

Source: Jeroen Ticheler of [GeoCat](#)

Topographic maps of Indian coalfields to be prepared

The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), an arm of the Coal India Limited, signed an MoU with the Survey of India for preparation of the large scale updated topographical maps of 28 major coalfields of the country, based on remote sensing technique.

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Source: [GIS News](#)

The Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc. (OGC®) announces the [release of on-line videos](#) that document the recent final interoperability demonstration of the OGC Web Services Initiative, Phase 6 (OWS-6) Testbed. The SWE, GPW and DSS portions of the demo show how standards-enabled interoperability supports coordinated responses to a hypothetical disaster scenario involving an airport hostage crisis and fire explosion. The AIM demonstration showed the use of web services for flight navigation, taking into account weather, diversions, and other event notifications.

For more information about OWS-6, see [the initial announcement](#). OGC and prospective sponsors are planning the next OGC Web Services Initiative, OWS-7, which is expected to begin in the fall and end next summer (details to be announced).

Source: OGC press release

[Webcasts of presentations](#) (Stream 1) of The First Open Source GIS UK Conference at Centre for Geospatial Science at for the benefit of the wider GIS community.

Source: [Suchith Anand](#)

[TASMAP receives International Award for GIS Technology](#)

TASMAP, the Tasmanian (Australia) Government's base mapping arm managed by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment received the international award for its vision, leadership, and innovative use of Geographic GIS technology at the 2009 ESRI International UC.

Source: Tasmanian Government Press Release.

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News from abroad

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

[Geographic Profiling Podcast](#)

Listen to a conversation on BlogTalkRadio with Dr. Kim Rossmo, from the Texas State University Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation, and Deborah Osborne, in which they discuss geographic profiling, investigative failures, and crime and intelligence analysis. Geographic profiling has been utilized in many serial killer investigations but also has applications in analysis of serial arsons, burglaries and sex crimes. This podcast was recorded on Sept. 4, 2008.

Source: [Directions Magazine](#)

[Satellite monitoring of Caspian Sea to be carried on](#)

ScanEx Research and Development Center and the Kazakh Agency of Applied Ecology (KAPE) initiated the second stage of satellite-based radar monitoring of the northern and middle part of Caspian Sea.

Source: [GIS News](#) and [Scanex](#).



[Seychelles completes oil slick mapping project](#)

 Infoterra Ltd has completed an oil slick mapping and interpretation project of offshore Seychelles in collaboration with Seychelles Petroleum Company (Seypec). This is the largest slick mapping project ever undertaken offshore Seychelles - with the acquisition of over 150 radar satellite scenes across the 500,000 sq km area - the project was undertaken during April and May to take advantage of the optimum weather window.

Source: [GIS News](#)

[New online mapping application for public health](#)

United Kingdom: PublicHealthMaps is an innovative web application that combines the familiarity of Google Maps with the power of thematic shading. Users can easily overlay shaded areas to show deprivation and social classifications, along with NHS boundaries and points.

Source: [GIS News](#)

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GIS Helps Yosemite National Park (USA) Improve Emergency Operations

The world of twenty-first-century emergency operations is turning with ever greater frequency to high-tech tools for more effective response. Today, ArcGIS from ESRI supplies Yosemite Search and Rescue (YOSAR) with a new and improved method for carrying out a number of operations. The agency uses ArcGIS to outline initial search strategies, refine exploration as time progresses, and keep information continuously flowing from the field to the incident command post and back again.

Source: [V1 Magazine](#) .

Dutch National GeoRegistry Launched

A new Dutch National GeoRegistry has been launched. Using a web map based interface, the registry provides geoinformation for The Netherlands in Deutsch, English, French and Dutch languages.

Source: [V1 Magazine](#)

First American Spatial Solutions Unveils First Comprehensive National Cadastre (USA)

First American Spatial Solutions (FASS), a member of The First American Corporation (NYSE: FAF) family of companies and a leader in spatial and natural hazard risk solutions, announced today that it has digitally mapped more than 120 million of America's property parcels—something no other public or private entity has been able to accomplish previously.

Source: [V1 Magazine](#)

Volcano Eruptions in Russia's Far East to Be Available Online

Volcano watchers will get the opportunity to observe Russia's Far East volcanoes in action online from September, the head of a local station said on Wednesday.

Source: [V1 Magazine](#)

Using inland “lake analysis” to avoid catastrophes

INTERESTING reading

WHEN John Cabot dropped anchor off the coast of Newfoundland in 1497, his crew reported that they needed only to dip a bucket into the water to catch cod. For centuries the fish of the Grand Banks that he had discovered remained in plentiful supply. Even the introduction of modern fishing techniques from the 1950s onwards did not seem to be doing too much harm.

Then, in 1992, the cod population of the Grand Banks suddenly collapsed, throwing 40,000 people out of work. Fisheries ecologists had long warned that the species was threatened by over fishing but their words fell on deaf ears—in part because earlier predictions of doom had proved incorrect. Now their successors are trying to develop ways of telling when a collapse is imminent, in order to avoid crying “wolf” when no wolf is at the door.

Source: [The Economist \(UK\)](#)

The First Global Map of Ammonia Emissions Measured from Space

The first complete map of global ammonia emissions has recently been achieved using satellite data. It reveals an underestimation of some of the ammonia concentrations detected by current inventories, and identifies new hotspots.

Source: [V1 Magazine](#) and [Phys.org.com](#)

Tainted data hides the cost of Africa's upheavals by Michael Holman and Greg Mills

This article from [the Financial Times](#) May 24, 2009, touches on the issue of the reliability of African statistics and was provided by Kate Lance.

Most statistics [available for Africa] are treated as authentic because the United Nations or the World Bank is their source. A few seconds' reflection should undermine the credibility of such figures. Who accepts that in the failed state of Somalia it is possible to determine the infant mortality rate? Yet according to the World Bank it stayed at 133 per 1,000 between 2000 and 2005 (World Development Indicators, 2007).

In fact, barely an African statistic is not tainted: the product of a statistician's sucked thumb, a politician's self-interest, UN guesswork, a non-governmental organisation's fundraising drive or a lobbyist's agenda. It is difficult – nay, impossible – to generate an accurate figure for growth when the informal sector accounts for the bulk of African economic activity and output.

U.S. NTIA UNVEILS PROGRAM TO HELP STATES MAP INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) July 1, 2009 announced details of a grant program to fund collection of state-level broadband data, as well as state-wide broadband mapping and planning, which will assist NTIA in creating a national broadband map. This

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initiative will provide consumers with better information on the broadband services available to them and inform efforts to increase broadband availability nationwide

The Program will provide approximately \$240 million in grants to assist states or their designees to develop state-specific data on the deployment levels and adoption rates of broadband services. These data, including publicly available state-wide broadband maps, will also be used to develop the comprehensive, interactive national broadband map that NTIA is required by the Recovery Act to create and make publicly available by February 17, 2011.

Source: Thanks to BW.

Massachusetts Law: New Company Phone Systems Must Locate Floor/Building of Phone User

Massachusetts has a new law this month that details what E-911 capabilities companies that add new or upgrade phone systems must have. In particular:

For businesses, in particular, multi-line telephone systems must transmit to public safety answering points, or "PSAPs," the street address and an emergency response location that provides at least the building and floor location of the caller.

This means opportunities for some businesses and I'm sure other states are watching the legislation as well.

Source: Directions Magazine blog.

Government releases spy satellite images of Arctic ice

USA: Federal scientists released hundreds of historical spy satellite images of Arctic sea ice. The U.S. Geological Survey website's opening immediately followed National Research Council report, also released, calling for "immediately" disseminating the spy satellite images to scientists.

Source: [GIS News](#)

Canada Establishes Two ISO Standards on Geospatial Data

Canada established two standards on geospatial data. They are designed to help users across all government departments to locate, understand, use and share geospatial data. The primary idea here is to achieve greater efficiency through reuse.

Source: V1 Media

North American Profile of International Standard on Geographic Information Metadata Now Available

United States and Canada collaborate to publish regional profile of ISO 19115

The InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) and its Subgroup on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) announced the publication of INCITS 453-2009, the North American Profile (NAP) of ISO 19115: 2003, *Geographic Information – Metadata* on July 7, 2009.

Through effort for collaboration, U.S. and Canadian scientific volunteers from the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards Technical Committee L1 (INCITS/L1) and the Canadian General Standards Board Committee on Geomatics (CGSB-COG) developed the geographic metadata content needed to tailor the International Standard ISO 19115 to meet the requirements of both countries.

ISO 19115 is an International Standard that enables its users to locate, access, evaluate, deliver, and integrate geographic and geospatial datasets through the consistent use of metadata entities. The NAP is intended to consistently and effectively catalogue traditional geographic datasets and dataset series for both the United States and Canada, as well as services, clearinghouses, features within datasets, and even the attributes of features, if desired.

Source: The InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards press release.

Reports from the ESRI International User Conference & More Reports from the ESRI International User Conference

Source: Directions Magazine

The **Plenary Videos from the ESRI International User Conference** last week are available for viewing [here](#).

Source: Carmelle Terborgh, Federal/Global Affairs Team Lead and Account Manager, ESRI - Washington, DC.

Arctic Images Derived from Classified Data Should be Made Public to Scientists

Hundreds of images derived from classified data that could be used to better understand rapid loss and transformation of Arctic sea ice should be immediately released and disseminated to the scientific research community, says a new report from the National Research Council. The committee that wrote the report emphasized that these Arctic images show detailed melting and freezing processes and also provide

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information at scales, locations, and time periods that are important for studying effects of climate change on sea ice and habitat -- data that are not available elsewhere.

Source: Vector1Media

[NOAA findings could improve Tsunami forecasting](#)

NOAA scientists have demonstrated that tsunamis in the open ocean can change sea surface texture in a way that can be measured by satellite-borne radars. The finding could one day help save lives through improved detection and forecasting of tsunami intensity and direction at the ocean surface.

Large tsunamis crossing the open ocean stir up and darken the surface waters along the leading edge of the wave, according to the study. The rougher water forms a long, shadow-like strip parallel to the wave and proportional to the strength of the tsunami. That shadow can be measured by orbiting radars and may one day help scientists improve early warning systems. The research will be published online this week in the journal, *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*.

Source: [GIS News](#)

[Bathymetric survey of the Bulgarian coastline in the Black Sea](#)

Blom has been awarded a bathymetric laser scanning (LiDAR) contract by the Center for Underwater Archeology for a survey of the coastline of the Black Sea in Bulgaria. The Center for Underwater Archeology is the public organisation in Bulgaria responsible for the protection and preservation of the Bulgarian underwater cultural heritage. The project is established to identify archaeological sites on the Bulgarian coastline to enhance maritime cultural resource preservation and protection and enable further scientific research.

Source: [GIS News](#)

[Moon in Google Earth launched](#)

Forty years ago on July 20, 1969, the world watched as the crew of Apollo 11 took the first human steps on the surface of the Moon. In celebration of this historic occasion, Google launched Moon in Google Earth, an interactive 3D atlas of the Moon, viewable with Google Earth 5.0.

Source: [GIS News](#)

[Dutch Kadaster Tackles European INSPIRE Initiatives for Spatial Data Infrastructure](#)

The Dutch Kadaster is the agency responsible for managing land records and a host of other duties for the Netherlands. It is also responsible for maintaining geospatial information for its participation in the European INSPIRE program, which is establishing a framework for the EU's spatial data infrastructure. Editor in Chief Joe Francica spoke with Arco Groothedde, executive board member of the Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster), to better understand how his organization is supporting INSPIRE.

Source: [Directions Magazine](#)

[U.S. Congressional Research Service's Reports on Land Parcel Data](#)

The U.S. Congressional Research Services(CRS) which last month reported [on geospatial information and GIS](#), has released a report on "[Issues Regarding a National Land Parcel Database](#)" on July 22, 2009. The report written by Peter Folger, a Specialist in Energy and Natural Resources Policy is posted as a PDF file on the web site of the [Federation of American Scientists](#)(FAS).

According to the Summary section of the report, cadastre(land parcel data) is an important part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure(the NSDI). Why a national land parcel database? The National Geospatial Advisory Committee(NGAC) observed that the federal government's land parcel data is missing an arrangement for acquiring the detailed property-related data necessary to make decisions during times of emergency, such as a natural disaster. In addition to emergency response to disasters, other perceived needs for a national land parcel database include responding to the home mortgage foreclosure crisis, dealing with wildfires, managing energy resources on federal lands, dealing with the effects of climate change, and possibly more.

SOURCE: FAS & Wonkug Baek

[Satellites imagery to study Lyme disease](#)

Six University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) students and two students from other universities are using satellite imagery to identify possible habitats in Alabama for the black-legged tick that carries and transmits Lyme disease.

Source: [GIS Development](#)

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Articles

[Urban Land Cover Change Detection: a case study of Asmara, Eritrea](#)

by Yikalo H. Araya, Pedro Cabral , Christian Hergarten

Source: [GIS Development](#)

[Usability and the GeoWeb](#) by By Brian Noyle & DTS Agile

Source: Directions Magazine

[A GIS Based Assessment of Waste Storage System and Identification of Waste Bins](#) by [Samra Fatima](#)

(College of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of the Punjab, Lahore)

Article available from [GIS News](#)

[Elimination Of Shadow Using Topographic Normalization Technique for Landcover Mapping](#)

by [Nizam-ud-Din](#), The Urban Unit, Gov.of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan

Introduction

Satellite imagery has become a powerful tool for landcover identification and area estimation with reasonably good accuracy. It is, therefore, widely used for natural resource conservation and for many other applications such as mineral explorations, forest identification, wetland mapping, urban planning, environmental change detection etc.

When satellite sensor captures a view of the earth surface, some shadow also appears in the image along with different landcover types, which is due to the sun's angle and topography of the terrain. The shadow is more visible in the imagery of mountainous regions.

Article [available from GIS Development](#)

[Graphic communication & balance in map design](#) by Brig (Retd.) M.C. Dhamija, K.D Sood

Article [available from GIS Development](#)

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Books and Journals

[Proceedings Available: GI2009 Dresden Symposium](#)

The GI2009 cross border symposium 2009 – "The European Year of Creativity and Innovation" was held at the Technical University Dresden – ZINT – AgroCampus, Dresden on the 14th and 15th May 2009.

Proceedings: Final edition published at 7th June 2009 (Thanks to C. Corbin) Abstracts, Posters and

Summaries: 132 pages (5,62 MB / PDF Format)

[Download](#)

Source: [V1 Magazine](#)



[Advances in GIScience: Proceedings of the 12th AGILE Conference](#)

This book combines fully peer-reviewed papers covering topical research in GIScience. Included are papers on fundamental GIScience issues (e.g. interoperability, ontology, data interpretation and data generalization), emerging new topics like the handling and analysis of moving objects, as well as state-of-the-art applications. Furthermore aspects of remote sensing and image understanding are addressed. The compilation of research papers addresses researchers, practitioners, and students interested in current findings in GIScience. From Springer, 2009.

[Australia - Multi-View Framework to Assess Spatial Data Infrastructures](#)

[The Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration](#) at the University of Melbourne has published the book *Multi-View Framework to Assess Spatial Data Infrastructures*. Edited by Joep Crompvoets, Abbas Rajabifard, Bastiaan van Loenen and Tatiana Delgado Fernández, the individual chapters can be [downloaded in PDF](#) format.

The University of Mississippi's Enterprise for Innovative Geospatial Solutions (EIGS) announced the release of [Mississippi's Guide to Geospatial Technology](#) a magazine-style publication about geospatial technology.

The guide provides information about how geospatial technology offers everyday solutions for everyday

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business areas including homeland security, real estate, agriculture, utilities, natural resource management, recreation, transportation, and public health among others.

Source: [GIS News](#) and [EIGS](#)

The U.S. Congressional Research Service(CRS) has published a report entitled "[Geospatial Information and Geographic Information Systems \(GIS\): Current Issues and Future Challenges](#)". The report includes a primer on GIS that would be useful in introducing GIS to new audiences, particularly among policy-level leaders. It also presents the examples of uses of geospatial information and explores the issues of geospatial data coordination, governance, and data sharing. The CRS provides research support to members of Congress and to congressional committees.

SOURCE: Thanks to BW.

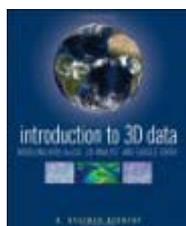
[ISO/TC 211 Standards Guide \(2009\)](#)

This ISO/TC 211 Standards Guide is compiled from text and diagrams from published ISO/TC 211 standards and intends to provide a concise reference document comprised of general overviews and Unified Modeling Language (UML) diagrams that depict the relationships of the internal components of the standard as well as the relationships of that standard with the other standards within the ISO/TC 211 – ISO 19100 family of standards.

Source: Thanks to KL.

[Spatial Data Quality: From Process to Decisions](#)

This book provides an up-to-date overview of research being done in the field of spatial data quality, which looks at understanding, measuring, describing, and communicating information about the imperfections of geographic data used by GIS and other mapping software. It presents results from a number of current research projects in this area, from the assessment of data accuracy to legal aspects relating to the quality of geographic information. The international contributors focus on the relationship between the quality of geographic data and the quality of decisions based on such data. From CRC, 2009.



[Introduction to 3D Data: Modeling with ArcGIS 3D Analyst and Google Earth](#)

Written as a self-study workbook, *Introduction to 3D Data* demystifies the sometimes confusing controls and procedures required for 3D modeling using software packages such as ArcGIS 3D Analyst and Google Earth. Going beyond the manual that comes with the software, this profusely illustrated guide explains how to use ESRI's ArcGIS 3D Analyst to model and analyze three-dimensional geographical surfaces, create 3D data, and produce displays ranging from topographically realistic maps to 3D scenes and spherical earth-like views. From Wiley, 2009.

[Remote Sensing of Global Croplands for Food Security](#)

As 80 percent of all freshwater is used for irrigation, monitoring this usage is critical to any global strategies regarding conservation. At present, considerable uncertainty exists about the spatial distribution of irrigated areas due to the absence of global mapping as well as problems with the accurate reporting of irrigation. Emphasizing practical mapping technologies based on remote sensing, this book provides actionable approaches for estimating water use from irrigated and rain-fed croplands on a national, continental, or global basis. Written by leading experts working at the forefront of this critical area, it offers case studies from a variety of continents highlighting the subtle requirements of each. From [CRC](#), 2009.

[You Are Here: Why We Can Find Our Way to the Moon, but Get Lost in the Mall](#)

A fascinating exploration of human navigation, both feat and foible, in the age of GPS and GoogleEarth. We live in a world crowded by street signs and arrows. With the click of a computer mouse we can find exact directions to just about anywhere on earth, and with a handheld GPS we can find our precise latitude and longitude, even in the remotest of places. But despite all our advancements, we still get lost in the mall, can't follow directions to a friend's house and, on camping expeditions, take wrong turns that can mean the difference between life and death. From Doubleday, 2009.



[UNIGIS International Association Best MSc Thesis Award](#)

UNIGIS International Association (UAI) has decided for the first time in its history to award the best MSc theses. The winner André Coleman from UNIGIS Amsterdam was invited by UIA and GI_Forum to present his thesis

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with the topic "Adaptive Classification of Landscape Process and Function: An Integration of Geoinformatics and Self-Organizing Maps". The second place went to Tobias Fleischmann (UNIGIS Salzburg). The third award went to Christopher Needham (UNIGIS UK) who also presented here in Salzburg.
Source: Vector1Media

This month's [GIS Development's Global Magazine](#) is a special issue on Africa.

Geospatial Technology and the Role of Location in Science



Globalization has not led to the 'death of geography.' Intensified relations between communities in different parts of the world have only highlighted the need for understanding and managing phenomena on a variety of geographic scales. From global warming to the credit crunch, and from epidemics to terrorism, causes and solutions are sought on local, regional, national as well as inter-continental levels. With the advent of geospatial technology, scholars, policymakers and entrepreneurs have valuable tools in hand to proceed. This book offers the first systematic account of the science behind this mental and technological revolution. Tracing the adoption and dissemination of geospatial technology in a range of disciplines, it examines the impact this technology has had, and is likely to have, on the explanation of spatial behavior, phenomena and processes. At the same time, stressing innovative usage, it explores scientific contributions to technology advancement. From Springer, 2009.

ESRI Map Book, Volume 24

The *ESRI Map Book* is an annual volume published to exhibit the most innovative and well-crafted maps displayed at the ESRI International User Conference. This volume continues the tradition of acknowledging the outstanding efforts of GIS users in their respective fields. With more than 20 categories represented by more than 100 full-color maps, the *ESRI Map Book, Volume 24* tells the story of how GIS professionals are boldly shaping the world that they map. From ESRI Press, 2009.

The SAGE Handbook of Remote Sensing



Remote sensing acquires and interprets small or large-scale data about the Earth from a distance. Using a wide range of spatial, spectral, temporal and radiometric scales remote sensing is a large and diverse field for which this Handbook will be the key research reference. Illustrated throughout, an essential resource for the analysis of remotely sensed data, *The SAGE Handbook of Remote Sensing* provides researchers with a definitive statement of the core concepts and methodologies in the discipline. From Sage Publications Ltd, 2009.

The Geography of Transport Systems

This second edition offers new topics and approaches that have emerged as critical issues in contemporary transport systems, including security, energy, supply chain management and GIS-T. From Routledge, 2009.



World's biggest atlas wins 'Book of the Year'

Australia: The winners of the 2009 Galley Club Awards have been announced. In their 33rd year, and held at Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia, they celebrate excellence in book and magazine production. Book of the Year went to *EARTH*, the limited edition, leather bound World Atlas published by Millennium House and distributed by Global Mapping in the UK where only 200 copies are allocated for sale at a price of £2,400 each.

Source: [GIS Development](#)

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Just for Fun !

Measuring the Great Wall of China

How long is China's Great Wall? Recently, the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing sponsored a project to determine the true length of the wall. ISPRS president Chen Jun was the chief scientist on the project. He led a team of about 800 professionals from geomatics and cultural heritage disciplines.

Source: Asia Surveying & Mapping

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Google Maps “causes” greatest MARITIME DISASTER since the *Titanic* struck an Iceberg in 1912

The gremlins have burrowed into Google Maps again, seemingly causing a ferry collision and a boat to sink in Circular Quay.

Google Maps explorers spotted both oddities when scouring through the site's satellite images of Sydney Harbour.

The ferry "collision" [appears](#) right beside a giant cruise liner - either the Queen Elizabeth 2 or Queen Mary 2 - which was docked at Sydney Cove when the photographs were taken.

The image appears to show a ferry travelling at full speed colliding with a smaller boat. Metres away, another boat appears submerged under water except for the tip of its nose.

A Google Australia spokesman said both cases were "image stitching errors" and "the ferries in Circular Quay have definitely been brought to our attention".

Source: [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

Find Your Latitude-Longitude

If you are looking for a fast, easy way to find a latitude-longitude, visit the ESRI GIS Education Community's Latitude-Longitude Finder in the new [Community Web Mapping Tools](#) area. This geocoder uses ArcGIS Online to find latitude-longitude from street addresses in the US, Canada, and most of Europe. It also includes world place names and multiple base maps. For those collecting data in the field, dragging the map while switching base maps between street, imagery, and topographic should allow you to obtain a reasonably precise location without a GPS.

Source: Baek Wonkug

For SDI fashionistas

Wow, this dress is amazing! The fabric portrays a Massimo Vignelli 1970s-era New York City subway map. Available at Nordstrom, the "Francis Subway Map Print Silk Dress" is on sale for \$249! Via the Village Voice blogs.

From ["Off the beaten path"](#), Directions Magazine



"Le Tour" has "Le Cool" Maps

If you Google for a map of The Tour de France you'll find the same map issued by the tour itself...a basic route for the race. The mainstream media has essentially replicated that map without much enhancement. [USAToday](#) took the route and posted it to Google Maps but the interactivity is minimal.

However, the [Tour's own website](#) is very cool. Each stage has the day's segment in a small map but the most nifty part is the "real-time" update of the riders portrayed against a topographic profile map. Lead riders and the peleton are shown in a "cartoon-like" portrait of the race along a road segment and the map is updated every minute or so. The map is updated with the leader's speed, the position along the post (in Km) and the remaining distance. Riders can be individually identified by their avatar in the cartoon.

Source: MapHawk blog

Niharika Hariharan is a recent MA graduate from the University of the Arts, Central Saint Martins, in London who is interested in understanding how design practices intersect with community, art and sciences. Her [Wandering Geography website](#) is a "mental map" she describes as, "an online project that presents a platform for people to explore and navigate through the city, relying on their own inherent knowledge of self, environment and community."

Source: [Directions Magazine](#) "Off the Beaten Path"

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Training Opportunities

[Upcoming ITC Refresher Courses](#)

[Use of low cost earth observation data in environmental and climate monitoring applications: taking further the African Union - AMESD initiative](#), Rwanda, starting 5 October 2009 (2 weeks). A number of fellowships are available for eligible candidates. **Application deadline: August 20, 2009.**

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[Geospatial Sciences RMIT Mid-Year intake](#)

Research based, the two year full time (four year part time) Master of Applied Science and four year full time (eight years part time) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) cover a wide range of areas. The programs include surveying, multimedia cartography, satellite positioning, land and geographic information systems (LIS/GIS), photogrammetry, remote sensing, sustainable development and resource management.

Source: RMIT

[SLA First Scholarship](#)

Singapore Land Authority, the island's national mapping authority, plans to give scholarships to undergraduates who want to pursue geospatial science and technology-related disciplines. The scholarships will be available for study in both Singapore or overseas. SLA is also working with secondary school students to make them more aware of geospatial technology.

Source: Asia Surveying & Mapping Magazine

[MacArthur Foundation to Support Sustainable Development Master's Programs Around the World](#)

Supporting rigorous professional training for future leaders in the field of sustainable development, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced today grants totaling \$7.6 million to nine universities in seven countries to establish new Master's in Development Practice (MDP) programs.

Source: [V1 Magazine](#)

[Forestry GIS User Group Opens for Membership](#)

ESRI has launched a new user group specifically for its forestry and timberland management customers. The newly formed ESRI Forestry Group (EFG) will build opportunities for foresters to learn about business solutions, network with like-minded professionals, and develop professional growth.

Source: Vector1Media

[UNIGIS MSc now in Australia](#)

The international UNIGIS MSc postgraduate degree is now offered in Australia through the UNIGIS study centre at the University of Canberra, ACT. Students are invited to enrol in a joint programme combining the capacities from the University of Canberra and University of Salzburg, Austria.

This new UNIGIS study centre is led by Prof. George Cho at the Institute of Applied Ecology, University of Canberra. It offers in-service distance education for professionals interested in GIS and Geoinformatics. Courses towards the MSc will be launched with an on-site workshop in later in 2009 and lead students to recognized international academic degrees.

Source: <http://www.unigis.net>

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Funding Opportunities, Awards, Grants

[The 2009 European Satellite Navigation Competition](#)

[GRACE](#) (GNSS Research and Applications Centre of Excellence) of the University of Nottingham is holding a workshop for organisations and individuals planning to submit an entry into the 2009 European Satellite Navigation Competition.

ESNC (European Satellite Navigation Competition) Ideas Workshop - University of Nottingham, 1st July 2009

Entry into the competition closes on the 31st of July and this is your opportunity to;

- learn more about this year's competition
- hear from the experiences of previous winners
- have confidential one on one discussions about your idea with
- Competition judges
- GNSS experts
- Business advisors

The overall winner will receive a €20,000 prize and this year, GRACE will provide the winner of the UK competition with up to £5000 worth of support in developing their idea further.

Judging of the UK winner will take place during September 2009 with the overall European winner being announced at the Munich Systems Fair on the 21st of October 2009.

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Further [details about the competition](#).

More [details of the event](#); You can [book online](#) - Places are limited; To enter the competition, [please visit](#)

Visualisation Competition

Entries for the 2009 International Science and Engineering Visualisation Challenge are now open. Awards categories include photographs/pictures, illustrations/drawings, informational/explanatory graphics, interactive media and non-interactive media. Winning entries will be published in the journal *Science*, on *Science Online* and on the National Science Foundation's website. One winning entry will appear on the journal's front cover. Entries close 15 September 2009.

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Employment Opportunities

Spatial Jobs Online (Australia) Because of tight application closing dates the editors provide these websites for employment seekers to access directly: < <http://www.spatialjobs.com.au/> > and < <http://www.GISjobs.com.au> >

Looking for a GIS - Geomatics Job in Canada? (from V1 Magazine)

Here are some links:

1) [Geomatics Canada Job Site](#); 2) [GeographyJobs.ca](#); 3) [GoGeomatics Canada](#); 4) [Geomatics Employment Center](#)

Positions at Singapore Earth Observatory

The Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) is a Research Centre of Excellence, funded by Singapore's National Research Foundation, Ministry of Education, and Nanyang Technological University. Research at EOS focuses on understanding Southeast Asia's dynamic oceans, atmosphere and tectonic plates and characterizing the tectonic, volcanic and climatic processes responsible for these hazards. These scientific characterizations will promote forecasts of natural processes that will aid governments, communities and businesses to anticipate and adapt creatively to these environmental challenges, as well as develop and implement visionary policies. Dynamic and competent individuals are invited to fill the following positions:

Research:

- Research Fellow / Research Associate in Tsunami Evacuation Simulation
- Research Fellow in Regional Climate Modeling
- PhD student in Regional Climate of Southeast Asia
- Research Fellows in Computational Seismology and Site-Response Analysis (3 positions)

Technical:

- GPS Analyst

Education & Outreach:

- Curriculum Development Specialist

More information about the Observatory and job opportunities can be found at www.earthobservatory.sg . Interested applicants are invited to submit a full CV, including academic qualifications, research records and names and contact details of two referees, to: eos_humanresources@ntu.edu.sg .

Selection will commence immediately.

Thanks to KL for bringing these positions to our attention.

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Conferences, Events

For upcoming events of global or major international interest, please visit the [upcoming conference list](#) on the GSDI website.

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[FIG 2010 Pre-Congress Program](#)

Online registration is now open for the FIG surveying congress to be held in Sydney, 11-16 April 2010. A local surveyor, John Brock, has arranged a history seminar on the two days leading up to the congress (9-10 April). Technical tours have also been organised, including a boat trip to historic Fort Denison.

Source: [Asia Surveying and Mapping Magazine](#)

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

Date	Location	Event
August 2009		
4 - 6 August	Fairbanks, Alaska	The GeoNorth 2009 conference The following website http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/geography/IPYGeoNorth/ includes information on the conference, the Call for Papers, and registration details. We look forward to your participation!
4 - 7 August	Bali - Indonesia	10th South East Asian Survey Congress (SEASC '09) Hosted by Bakosurtanal (Indonesia's land information agency) Contact Website: http://www.seasc2009.org/
10 and 11 August *New*	Crowne Plaza Mutiara Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Joint 8th International Symposium and Exhibition on Geoinformation 2009 & ISPRS Symposium on Spatial Decision Support System and LBS 2009 The joint ISG 2009 & SDSS/LBS 2009 is the premier educational event for professionals involved in geoinformation technologies, which include Geographical Information System (GIS), Geomatics, Global Positioning System (GPS), Remote Sensing, Surveying and Mapping, Hydrography, Photogrammetry, Location Based Services, Geodetic, e-Cadaster and Astronomy. The primary objective of the ISG 2009 & SDSS/LBS 2009 is to gather professionals and industry experts from the geoinformation field globally to disseminate their knowledge and share their expertise and vast experience with participants. This is a venue for the steady flow of latest technology in geoinformation. Theme Geoinformation for all.
11-13 August *New*	Incheon, Korea	Building a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction Email: Joo Noh, Incheon Metropolitan City < eonjoo@gmail.com >
3-14 August	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	XXVII General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union
7 - 8 August	Darwin, Australia	2009 IMTA Asia Pacific Conference Call for Papers International Map Trade Association contact Damien Demaj
August 12-14, 2009	Fairfax, Virginia, USA	The 17th International Conference of Geoinformatics (Geoinformatics 2009)
August 13-14	Perth, Australia	2009 Australasian Mine Surveying Conference The event will bring together mining industry surveyors and spatial professionals from Australia, South East Asia and the South Pacific. It is a joint venture between the Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors and the Spatial Sciences Institute. Email
August 16-19	Hong Kong	10th Asian Urbanisation Conference Email
August 18-20	Singapore	Map Asia 2009 Email
24-27 August	Canberra, Australia	SEGS '09 (Spatially Enabled Government Summit) Email
24-9 August	Dresden, Germany	1st International Conference on 3-D Maps http://kartographie.geo.tu-dresden.de/true3Dincartography09/
27-8 August	Bishnek,	GISCA '09 Conference (3rd Central Asia GIS)

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	Kyrgyzstan	Call for Papers announced for GISCA'09 Conference Contact
28-9 August	Bangalore, India	The iGeoMap 2009 conference on urban infrastructure and geoinformatics . The Indian Institute of Science and GIS Consultancy Sky Group are calling for paper submissions. The conference will address urban infrastructure issues and GIS practices.
September 2009		
2 - 4 September	Nottingham, UK LBS 2009	6th International Symposium on LBS & TeleCartography Contact or Mrs Stella Fuller , Centre for Geospatial Science, Sir Clive Granger Building, University of Nottingham, Nottingham. NG7 2RD Tel: 0115 95 15445
2 - 5 September	Baška, Krk Island, Croatia	The Royal Institute of Navigation, London, UK, and the Institute of Engineering Surveying and Space Geodesy, University of Nottingham, UK have a pleasure in inviting you to participate to the 2nd GNSS Vulnerabilities and Solutions Conference to be held on 2 - 5 September 2009 in Baška, Krk Island, Croatia.
7-11 September	Windhoek Namibia	SADC Regional Conference on Sustainable Land Management Sustainable Land Management in the Dry lands of Southern Africa: the Practicalities Contact: Ms. Birga Ndombo , and cc Ms Linda Fillemon , & Mr. Chris Tjitjapura .
8 September	Jena, Germany	The workshop "Performance Evaluation of Pattern Recognition in Remote Sensing" of the ISPRS Intercommission Working Group III/VII "Pattern Recognition in Remote Sensing" will be held in Jena, Germany, on 08th September 2009 in conjunction with the DAGM Symposium 2009 . Author notification – 20 July Camera ready manuscript – 3 August Workshop – 8 September
8-10 September	Tsukuba, Japan	International Workshop on the Revision of Specifications for Global Map Version 2 The details will be informed on the ISCGM Website as soon as determined.
9-12 September	Beijing, China	6th International Symposium on Digital Earth E-mail Email for ISDE ISDE WEBSITE
14-16 September	Beijing	Emergency Management Conference The international conference on Geospatial Solutions for Emergency Management (GSEM 2009) is being held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping.
16-18 September	Johannesburg, South Africa	Map Africa Email
21-25 September	Venice, Italy	OceanObs '09
22 – 24 September	Stratford-upon-Avon, UK	GeoCommunity 2009 is the annual conference (Sept. 22-24) of the AGI (Association for Geographic Information), the UK's principal membership organization for individuals, companies and government working with GI. Now in its third year, GeoCommunity is a residential conference (a conference where people stay in the conference hotel so that they are wrapped in conference activity and fervor), which replaced the conference and exhibition format the AGI had successfully run for many years. Delegates and sponsors felt that the old model was becoming stale, and the size and cost of central London venues for the event had become a

		limiting factor.
24-25 September	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	4th ESRI Eastern Africa User Conference Abstract submission deadline: 30 June 2009.
October 2009		
4-8 October,	Cleveland, Ohio, USA	NSGIC(National States Geographic Information Council) 2009 Annual Conference
5-7 October	Westminster, Colorado	Location Intelligence Conference 2009 . Westin Westminster Hotel in Westminster, Colorado.
October. 6-8	Manchester, UK	Registration for the Fourth Annual International Airport GIS Conference is open announced IAAE and AAAE. Drawing airport GIS, government officials, consultants and vendors from around the world.
7 - 9 October 2009	Taipei, Taiwan	GIS in the Humanities and Social Sciences 2009 International Conference. Alternative URL Abstract deadline: June 15, 2009.
12-16 October	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting and one-day International Symposium
15 October 2009	Taichung, Taiwan	2009 Urban Geographical Information System Forum Contact
19-22 October	Hanoi, Vietnam	7th FIG Regional Conference <i>awaiting Timeline for registration and submission of abstracts, papers, and presentations</i> Conference Website Electronic submission of papers closed 10 June 2009 FIG Regional Conference FAO Workshop Friday, 17 Jul 2009 05:29 AM 7th FIG Regional Conference (19-22 October, Hanoi) will include a 2-day regional consultation meeting on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for responsible governance of tenure of land and other natural resources. The conference will also include a special workshop on Asia Pacific Reference Frame. Early bird registration closes 15 August 2009.
20-23 October	Sydney, Australia	FOSS4G 2009 Call for Abstracts Email The Organising Committee would like to welcome all interested participants to submit abstracts for presentations for the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial conference (FOSS4G) , being held in Sydney, Australia October 20-23. FOSS4G Email2 Abstract submission closed 8 June 2009 . (Note the deadline has been extended a week.) Early Bird Registration closes 7 August. Latest Press Release For more information or to keep informed from the FOSS4G Organising Committee, join the email list or twitter feed at: < http://2009.foss4g.org/contacts/ >.
25 October	Bangkok, Thailand	16th Meeting of ISCGM (International Steering Committee for Global Mapping)
26-30 October	Bangkok, Thailand	18th UNRCC AP/15th PCGIAP Meeting
26-29 October	Kampala Uganda	AFRICAGIS 2009: International Conference
November 2009		
10-12 November	St Petersburg, Florida, USA	Fifth National GIS in Transit Conference Website: http://www.urisa.org/gis_transit
15-22 November	Santiago, Chile	XXIV International Cartographic Conference First call for papers Deadline for Abstracts: 16 January, 2009

16 – 19 November	San Antonio, Texas, USA	ASPRS / MAPPS 2009 Fall Conference
17-20 November	Denver, USA	7th William T. Pecora Memorial Remote Sensing Symposium E-mail
25-27 November	Hyderabad, India	ISPRS Workshop on Geospatial Data Cyber Infrastructure The ISPRS is inviting abstracts for an international workshop on Geospatial Data Cyber Infrastructure and Real-time Services, with an emphasis on Disaster Management (25-27 November, Hyderabad). Themes include web-based geospatial services, data management, predictive modelling for disaster management, decision support systems and participatory mapping using high resolution imagery. Abstracts are due 15 August 2009.
30 November - 2 December	Sydney, Australia (Univ NSW)	GeoComputation 2009 Call for Papers The 10th International Conference on GeoComputation Contributors are invited to submit extended abstracts, which will be reviewed for inclusion in the conference program. The abstracts should be sent as either Word documents or pdf files to geocomputation@unsw.edu.au Files larger than 1Mb should be sent as zipped archives. The submission deadline is 30 June 2009 . Authors will be notified of acceptance/rejection in the end of August 2009. Any questions regarding the submission and publication process should be addressed to geocomputation@unsw.edu.au
December 2009		
1 – 4 December	Suva, Fiji	Pacific GIS and RS User Conference University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji Website Since the first Pacific GIS & RS Conference in 1999, this annual event has attracted many participants, from near and far. Each year the range of GIS & RS technologies presented cover an array of applications including the management of resources of the small island Pacific nations. Shallow water bathymetry derived from satellite imagery, forest function maps to identify areas for to be protected, areas identified for developments in flood zones are some of the applications where the development of GIS & RS in the region have been applied in various sectors. As with previous conferences, there are no fees levied for those wishing to attend.
1 – 3 December	Gold Coast, Australia	Organisers of the International Global Navigation Satellite Systems Society's (IGNSS) 2009 symposium and exhibition (1-3 December, Gold Coast, Australia) are calling for papers . Abstracts should have been submitted by 24 July 2009. The Society will present three award plaques on the last day of the symposium for the best papers and exhibition booth.
1 – 3 December	Moscow, Russia	Scanex 4th International Conference "Earth from Digital Space – the most effective solutions" Email
2 – 4 December	Feria Valencia, Spain	The 5th Edition of the gvSIG Conference organized by the Regional Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (CIT), will be held at the Feria Valencia Convention and Exhibition Center, and will once again host the eclipseDay. The call for papers for the Fifth Edition of the gvSIG conference is now open. As of today communication proposals can be sent to the email address to be evaluated by the scientific committee as to their inclusion in the conference program. There are two types of communication: paper or poster. Information regarding to regulations on communication presentations can be found in the report's section . Abstracts will be accepted until September 21st .

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		See also < http://jornadas.gvsig.org/how-to-collaborate > email to .
17 – 18 December	Ahmedabad, India	ISPRS International Workshop on "Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture" The Last Date for Abstract Submission Extended to 31-July-2009
February 2010		
2-4 February	Torino, Italy	Gi4DM 2010 Call for Papers Organisers of the International Symposium on Geo-information for Disaster Management (Gi4DM 2010) have issued a call for papers related to the conference theme, 'Remote Sensing and Geo-Information for Environmental Emergencies'. Invitation is also open for contributions covering crisis management in any phase. The deadline for abstracts is 31 July 2009.
April 2010		
11-16 April	Sydney, Australia	International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Congress 2010 Contact email The deadline for submission of abstracts is 22 September 2009. Alternative URL: UPDATE: FIG 2010 Pre-Congress Program Online registration is now open for the FIG surveying congress to be held in Sydney, 11-16 April 2010. A local surveyor, John Brock, has arranged a history seminar on the two days leading up to the congress (9-10 April). Technical tours have also been organised, including a boat trip to historic Fort Denison.
25-29 April	Phoenix, Arizona	2010 GITA Submit your abstract for the 2010 Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference! The deadline is August 31, 2009.
Date to be announced	Taipei	ASIA GIS 2010 Conference further details to be announced
May 2010		
26-28 May	Kong Kong	The 14th International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling Organisers are inviting abstracts related to the theme Theory, Modelling and Concepts in Geospatial Information Science. The event will explore topics such as digital cartography, data modelling for social science and interoperability. The deadline for abstracts is 31 August. Pdf flyer available at International Symposium Announcement
July 2010		
5 – 7 July	Vienna	100 Years ISPRS: Call for Papers Organisers of the ISPRS Commission VII Symposium (5-7 July 2010, Vienna) are inviting papers relating to the theme, 100 Years ISPRS – Advancing Remote Sensing Science. They are particularly seeking contributions that critically review major research areas in remote sensing. The deadline for full-paper review is 28 November 2009. The deadline for abstract-only review is 28 February 2010.
October 2010		
18 – 22 October	Singapore	GSDI 12 World Conference – Realising Spatially Enabled Societies In conjunction with the 16th PCGIAP Annual Meeting.

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