

Spatial Data Infrastructure – Asia and the Pacific (SDI-AP) is a free electronic newsletter from the [Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association \(GSDI\)](#) which is available in both English and Chinese language versions. 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 synchronising these 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 use [this link](#). 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 and access archives of thematic or regional discussion lists [please visit](#).

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## Message from the editors

Welcome to the December issue of the newsletter.

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 25<sup>th</sup> 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: Kate Lance, and Baek Wonkug for news feeds, Jeremy Shen and Bruce Lan and colleagues for the Chinese translation as well as Shivani Lal, *GIS Development*, *GeoSpatial World* and *Asia Surveying & Mapping* magazine for directly contributing to the newsletter.

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### GSDI News

#### **International Geospatial Society (IGS) Free Memberships**

At its recent meeting, the GSDI Board of Directors passed a motion that allows individuals in low and very low income nations to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. To join, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe. Benefits of membership in IGS are listed at <http://www.igeoss.org/benefits>. For further information, contact [Harlan Onsrud](#), Executive Director, GSDI Association.

#### **Nominations for Global Citizen Award of the GSDI Association**

The GSDI Association desires to receive nominations to recognize globally an individual who has provided exemplary thought leadership and substantive worldwide contributions in (1) promoting informed and responsible use of geographic information and geospatial technologies for the benefit of society and/or (2) fostering spatial data infrastructure developments that support sustainable social, economic, and environmental systems integrated from local to global scales.

**PROCESS:** Nominations are accepted prior to each major global conference of the GSDI Association. The nominations letter should describe explicitly and in detail how the nominee meets the criteria. No specified format is required. A web link to a full resume for the candidate should be provided in the letter or, alternatively, a resume may be attached. Please send your letters of nomination on or before 1 December 2011 to Harlan J. Onsrud, Executive Director, GSDI Association at <[onsrud@spatial.maine.edu](mailto:onsrud@spatial.maine.edu)> with a copy to Abbas Rajabifard, President, GSDI Association at <[abbas.r@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:abbas.r@unimelb.edu.au)>. Expect a confirmation of receipt within two days.

#### **SDI requires long term support: GSDI President (interview)**

Given its pro-active role as both initiator and advocator of SDI developments worldwide, Prof Abbas Rajabifard, President of GSDI, shares with FutureGov how GSDI is helping societies and governments to be spatially enabled, his thoughts on standards and how the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) fits in an e-government programme.

Source: Asia-Pacific FutureGov and [Geospatial World Weekly](#)

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### SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

#### **Delhi State Spatial Data Infrastructure Act in effect from Nov 15th**

NEW DELHI: The government is preparing to implement the Delhi Geographical Spatial Data Infrastructure Act 2011 from November 15. Under the Act, all state departments and civic agencies have to mandatorily access, to use and share information on all projects and update Delhi's spatial database.

The database, an interconnected 3D global information system, captures the demographics of the capital and utilities like storm water drains, sewer lines, roads, infrastructure and urban planning projects through secured communication networks.

Geospatial Delhi Limited, with the chief secretary of Delhi as its chairman, will be in charge of maintaining and updating the database. Constituted about two years ago, the company has now sought applications from experts trained in handling the specialized database. It proposes to hire 30 to 40 geo-spatial advisers on contract for one year. Each adviser will be paid Rs 70,000 per month.

According to senior officials of the Delhi government, the specialized staff will be required to manage and ensure that the database is updated regularly. The information technology secretary, Rajendra Kumar, said that once the Delhi Geographical Spatial Data Infrastructure (Management, Control, Administration, Security and Safety) Act, 2011, was implemented, all departments would be expected to share information on the status of the projects and also update the database on a monthly basis.

Each department and civic agency will have a dedicated section where the database can be accessed and updated. "For instance, if the PWD is making a road, the status of the project must appear on the database and on a monthly basis, the status will have to be updated. This will not only help track a project and prevent delays but also help other agencies planning utilities to coordinate their processes," Kumar said.

Source: Kate Lance

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### [Lutz Shares A Must Read- Geospatial Data Sharing Guidelines for Best Practices](#)

Recently on the [All About Data blog](#), Dale Lutz of Safe Software shared an interesting post. In his thread Dale discussed a colleague who recently attended the NSGIC annual conference and touted the new Geospatial Data Sharing Guidelines for Best Practices document.

Of particular interest, Dale commented, "The document itself is clearly targeted at the much broader audience than just the geospatial professionals who normally rub shoulders to talk about these sorts of things. For example, I may start using the definition it provides for Geospatial Data the next time I'm asked at a dinner party what I do for a living."

Dale goes on to describe the meat of the document and why it will be of interest to you. Of particular interest I thought was Dale's mention of the 3 myths about the open sharing of geospatial data:

- organizations can pay for GIS operations through data charges
- potential security risk of making data available.
- the issue of perceived liability from the use of open data

Continue reading [Dale's entire post HERE](#) and be sure to grab the [NSGIC document \(PDF\)](#)

Source: GISUser

### [Feasibility Study for a National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Jordan](#)

This report, which is funded by *infoDev's* Korean Trust Fund on ICT for Development, contains a comprehensive summary of all activities related to spatial data infrastructure in Jordan. The study, which includes practical recommendations and 15 local case studies, is executed as a Technical Assistance project by the World Bank Group.

Source: [infoDev](#)

### [Sustainability is key to land administration](#)

The World Bank has been supporting the implementation of land administration and management projects throughout the world. This article highlights the importance of building National SDIs which are based on sound policy and governance.

Source: Geospatial World

### [China's Beidou Navigation Satellite System Aiming at Transportation](#)

China's Beidou Navigation Satellite System continues to grow as it approaches 10 satellites in space, marching onward toward it's 2012 mainly China operational status with global coverage targeted for 2020.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

### [Malaysian Surveying Initiative Continues in Sarawak](#)

A new initiative on Native Customary Rights (NCR) land has continued with the handover of the Section Six Gazette Notification of the Sarawak Land Code. The government is issuing ownership titles on NCR land surveyed by the state Land and Survey Department (JTS).

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

### [European Council of Spatial Planners](#)

Founded in 1985, ECTP-CEU (European Council of Spatial Planners-Conseil européen des urbanistes) brings together 25 professional town planning associations and institutes from 23 European countries as well as corresponding members. It is an umbrella association providing its members with a common framework for planning practice, planning education, continuing professional development and the definition of professional responsibilities.

Source: V1 Magazine

### [Geospatial Awards: Submit nominations before 15th January 2012](#)

As you are aware, 'Geospatial World - Your Geospatial Industry Magazine' has been encouraging and recognizing excellence in the various projects, innovations and policies that have helped shape the future of the geospatial industry. We do this by inviting nominations globally for the Geospatial World Excellence Awards in the following categories:

- [Geospatial Application Excellence Awards](#)
- [Geospatial Technology Innovation Awards](#)
- [Geospatial Policy Implementation Awards](#)

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The process of nomination is now open, and I invite you to help us recognize the best of the projects, policies and innovations in our domain. **The last date for filing your nomination is 15th January 2012.** The awards will be presented to the winners selected by an International Panel of Judges, on the auspices of the awards function during [Geospatial World Forum 2012, 23 - 27 April, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.](#)

**We request you to register yourself and complete the online nomination process by visiting <http://awards.geospatialmedia.net>**

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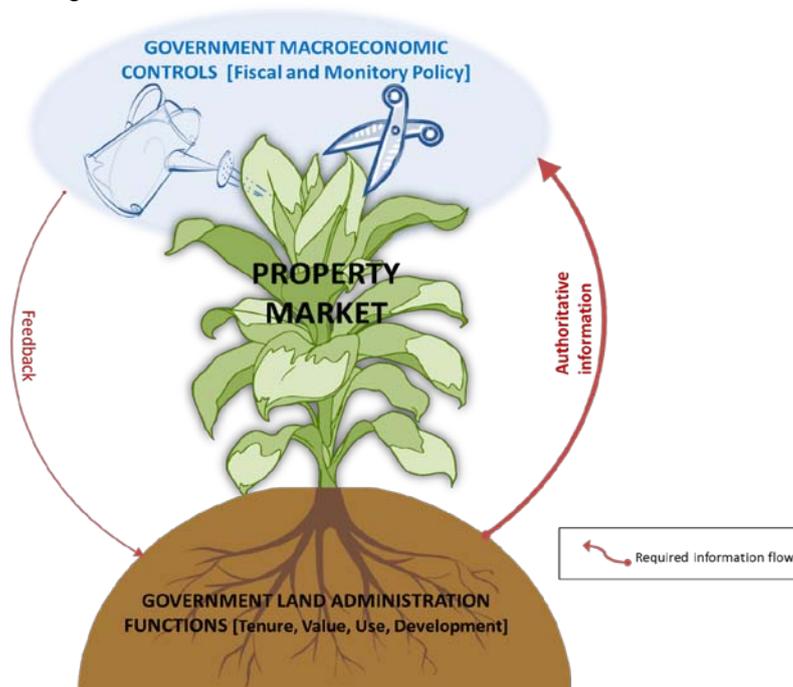
## SDI Spotlight



This month's "Spotlight" feature is from Nilofer Tambuwala, a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne CSDILA.

### The Property Market Tree

In federated market economies where macroeconomic policies are managed at federal level and land administration functions at state level, there is a need to initiate a paradigm shift regarding the importance of national property information. For efficient fiscal and monetary policy, the large federal departments and agencies need national information about market transactions and taxable objects, which are currently held in separate jurisdictional databases in these countries. The Property Market Tree has been created as a new model to advocate better information access for improved federal policy making with regards to the property market: Figure 1.



**Figure 1:** The Property Market Tree

The Property Market Tree illustrates the need for adequate information flows between the government land administration and policy departments, in order to sustain a healthy land market. A healthy market can be growing or retracting, as circumstances suit. Traditionally strategies favoured local, regional and national authorities administering data development, acquisition and storage independently. These silo approaches resulted in redundant, inflexible and occasionally counter-productive processes that were deemed myopic. Government land administration agencies tend to work more or less independently within their fields of responsibility, and information production is often specific for limited sectors. Currently there is little coordination

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or aggregation of information within land administration. Co-ordination and integration require continuous, constructive action.

Other approaches support the paradigm shift recommended by the Property Market Tree. The nodal approach to land database configuration and the popular and well-known concept of the multi-purpose cadastres to integrate land related data from individual land administration sectors was explained in the 1980's. More recently, the absence of a reliable property rights infrastructure in the United States was found to have contributed to the collapse of its land market.

Like the United States, in Australia too land administration datasets cater primarily for internal information needs within individual agencies, and co-ordination at a national level is very limited. As the Property Market Tree suggests, government policies targeted at the land market should be based on authoritative market information. What Australia needs is a national land administration and information infrastructure to support layered property markets that are increasingly national in focus.

The editors remind our subscribers and readers that we welcome contributions for the *Spotlight* feature.

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### GIS Tools, Software, Data

#### [Brisbane City Council releases free data, announces 'hack' competition](#)

Brisbane City Council (BCC) has added a further 50 datasets to the over 750 datasets freely available through data.gov.au. The datasets include bus stop locations, bin collection days, CityCycle locations, parking areas, Eat Safe ratings, and dog parks, among others. All released datasets are available under a Creative Commons 'CC BY' license.

In celebrating the release of these datasets to the public, BCC has announced the hack: Brisbane competition, which challenges software developers to help improve Brisbane with creative new apps or websites that use Brisbane City Council data. There are two main prizes of \$10,000 to be won, with entries closing on 16 March 2012. More information is available at <http://data.brisbane.qld.gov.au/index.php/about-hack-brisbane/>

Source: Spatialsource



#### [One-second Digital Elevation Model for Australia](#)

The one-second Digital Elevation Model project has developed consistent elevation datasets from shuttle radar topographic mission data, targeting hydrological applications at a resolution of approximately 30 metres across the Australian continent.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

#### [United States - Supreme Court justices on Tuesday expressed concerns about the police secretly putting GPS devices on vehicles to track suspects' movements, comparing it to the Big Brother police state of the novel "1984."](#)

If the Obama administration wins its case to allow vehicles to be tracked by global position system, Justice Stephen Breyer said, "Then there is nothing to prevent the police or the government from monitoring 24 hours a day the public movement of every citizen."

A government win would "suddenly produce what sounds like 1984," Breyer said in a reference to the famous George Orwell novel of 1949 that depicted pervasive government surveillance.

Source: Reuters

#### [GIS Technology Helps Health Care Industry Save Lives](#)

The US health care industry is using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) to save lives.

By analyzing geographical health care data, public health and hospital officials are able to make better decisions for patients, increase accessibility to services and prevent future disease outbreaks.

American Sentinel University has identified four ways GIS is improving the health care industry.

#### **Interactive Mapping**

The health care industry has long mapped events for epidemiological research. But now with GIS technology,

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hospitals can map where their patients are coming from and the most prevalent disease processes and procedures. GIS plays a crucial role in tracking diseases and contagions so governments can better track and respond to outbreaks.

#### **Nursing Case Management**

Kathy K. Wright, MSN, RN, C-PNP, assistant professor, nursing at American Sentinel University says using GIS for public health and nursing case management can be a tremendous asset to the community.

The use of GIS technology can actively address disparities in access to health care. And GIS tools can grant health care resources to more of the community without exhausting public resources.

#### **Human Resources for Nursing**

The nursing shortage has been well documented, but traditional HR routes don't always work to find good nurses. That's why Stanford University Medical Center used GIS to analyze the nurse population density of various geographic areas.

#### **Geomedicine**

In its free Geomedicine e-book, 'Geomedicine: Can Geographic Information Make Me Healthy,' Esri notes that patients benefit from a more precise clinical understanding of the links between their health and where they live, work and play and found that there is currently little health-relevant geographical information available to the clinician.

Source: GISUser

#### **[Scans reveal how the brain's GPS helps us navigate from A to B](#)**

Brain scans have revealed the workings of the brain's GPS that underpin our decisions as we navigate towards a destination. Two areas of the brain appear to take turns as our internal global positioning system and work together to steer us through the environment. The brain regions take on different roles to meet our needs, with one keeping track of the distance to our destination as the crow flies, and the other chipping in to calculate the actual distance of the route ahead when we reach a junction. Researchers pinpointed the neural systems by scanning volunteers' brains as they watched movies shot on the streets of Soho in central London

Source: The Guardian

#### **[Japanese Earthquake - aftermath](#)**

##### **[Mobile Mapping System Provides Detailed Damage Assessments in Japan](#)**

The Great East Japan Earthquake of 9.0 magnitude on March 11, 2011, caused a tsunami with wave heights of 133 feet (4.5 metre), traveling up to 6 miles inland. There were 15,800 deaths. Extensive structure damage in Japan with 42 square kilometers of liquefaction, and 561 square kilometers of inundation. Kokusai Kogyo Co. (KKC) provides a wide range of mapping and surveying services in Japan, and they have been very busy assessing the impact, including using high-resolution mobile mapping vehicle-based lidar.

##### **[Maps of Radiation in Japan Provide Peace of Mind](#)**

There are many things that we map that we consider critical, but it's hard to think of anything more critical to our peace of mind than the mapping of radioactive contamination. The invisible and incremental build-up of radiation in our bodies makes it a slow and silent killer that curtails the quality and quantity of life, and it's not easy to map as wind, rainfall and topography are among the factors that impact its spread. Given, the tsunami damage in Japan that also crippled the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, releasing radiation into the surrounding areas, the mapping of this contamination was a critical first step toward recovery.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

#### **[RICS Crowdsourcing and land administration research goes live](#)**

A groundbreaking RICS research report investigates the possibility of using crowdsourcing to improve land tenure security in poor communities worldwide. Author Robin McLaren MRICS recently presented to an UN 'Spider' crowdsourcing invite only event in Geneva to an audience of over 60 UN officials, scientists, World Bank and other sectoral Non Governmental Organisations such as Ushahidi, Oxfam and OpenStreetMap. Only 1.5 billion of the estimated 6 billion land parcels worldwide have land rights formally registered in land administration systems. Many of the 1.1 billion slum dwellers and further billions living under social tenure systems wake up every morning to the threat of eviction. These people are excluded from any form of security of tenure: they are trapped in poverty. Increasing global population and urbanisation is only going to turn this gap into a chasm.

A [collaborative research project](#) from RICS and Know Edge explores one potential solution to the security of tenure gap: establishing a partnership between land professionals and citizens through 'crowdsourcing'. This would encourage and support citizens to directly capture and maintain information about their land rights. The

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research presents a vision of how this might be implemented and investigates how the risks associated with this collaborative approach could be managed.

Crowdsourcing is a concept that uses the internet and online tools to get work done by obtaining input from, and stimulating action by, citizen volunteers. It is currently used to support scientific evidence-gathering and record events in disaster management, such as witnessed in the recent Haiti and Libya crises. These applications are emerging because society is increasingly spatially enabled.

The latest [crowdsourcing research](#) sets a new standard for RICS output and has already been presented at a number of United Nations' and other international events.

The closing of the 'security-of-tenure gap' is of critical importance to the future of the developing world and for global economic progress. Crowdsourcing, combined with other UN-supported initiatives such as professional capacity building, may be a real solution to this problem.

This research also contains case studies from Haiti, Kenya, South Sudan and Canada.

### [Geospatial web portal for the Tibetan Plateau ecological safety data services](#)

**Presented at 19th International Conference on e-informatics, 4-26 June 2011, Shanghai, China**

This paper proposes a geospatial web portal for the Tibetan Plateau ecological safety data services based on web services, portal technology and GIS technology. It serves as an online data supporting platform for geospatial data integration, management, submission, publishing and sharing. Its framework presents a three layer architecture consisting of data resource layer, data service layer, data representation layer based on ASP.NET MVC2 and ArcGIS Server 9.3. As employed in the portal implementation, Microsoft Silverlight technology and Bing Map technology, add rich geospatial represent characteristics and interactive performance to the client. The geospatial web portal is an important step in establishing an eco-environment-oriented SDI (Spatial Data Infrastructure) for Tibetan Plateau, which will promote collaborative effort to build, share, and disseminate geospatial information resources for the national ecological safe shelter protection and construction.

### [Exploring cities in 3D](#)

Since a few months, Nokia Maps<sup>1</sup> provides stunning photorealistic flyovers of cities, based on the technology from the Swedish company C3 Technologies. After the partial purchase of C3 by Apple this summer<sup>2</sup>, there is no doubt that this type of user experience will become widespread. Closer in nature to long-existing "two and a half dimensions" digital terrain models - 2.5D cannot support multiple points on the same vertical line - than to genuine 3D models, these maps only allow distant views, since they are not able to capture details such as overhanging façades and roofs, building or monument ornamental features (balconies, door and window frames, etc), undersides of bridges and trees, interiors, objects, etc.

In contrast, professionals are expecting true-to-life 3D models allowing to dive from the sky into the very heart of cities. Applications demanding such fidelity are numerous: architecture, engineering & construction, intelligence & defense, manufacturing, media & entertainment, e-commerce, scientific analysis, cultural heritage.

Hopefully, the process of creating true-to-life 3D models is entering a new era with smart3Dcapture, a breakthrough technology by acute3D (<http://www.acute3D.com>), which allows to build real-3D, high resolution models from simple photographs. The acquisition step has near-zero shooting constraints, and the processing step, designed with high scalability and performance in mind, can be performed within minutes or hours, without any human intervention. This technology is stemming from 15 years of research at two major European academic institutes.

Going far beyond photorealistic 2.5D flyovers of cities generated from tightly-controlled aerial imagery, smart3Dcapture allows, in a completely automated manner, to turn various image sources (aircraft, helicopter, UAV, street-level, ...) into a consistent and accurate real-3D model encompassing all sc

Snapshot of a video explaining the differences between photorealistic 2.5D and true-to-life real-3D. Watch video here: <http://youtu.be/7cIYBI-1OKw>

Snapshot of a video showing the extended possibilities offered by source versatility. Watch video here: <http://youtu.be/ADVQso0KZzo>

smart3Dcapture is already available as a custom software solution which can be integrated by 3D software vendors into their products, or deployed on industrial 3D production lines. It is at the heart of Autodesk's groundbreaking 123D Catch<sup>3</sup> web service (formerly Photofly<sup>4</sup>)

Source: GISUser

### [GIS mapping gaining popularity ... enables conservation science, economic development and planning](#)

A system of digitising spatial data, where numerical information can be layered on satellite imagery, is gaining popularity with government agencies and private companies for various studies. The technology, called

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Geographical Information System (GIS), is revolutionizing the way we study and analyse areas of habitation, experts say.

Source: The Economic Times (India)

### [Geodesy: Out with the Old, In with the New](#)

By Chris Rizos, Professor and Head, School of Surveying & Spatial Information Systems, UNSW, Australia; President of the International Association of Geodesy

We should promote a new geodesy that does not instil fear into our students, but instead seeks to convey the excitement of Modern Geodesy

Source: Coordinates e-magazine

### [Improving the administration of marine and coastal spaces](#)

By Michael Sutherland, Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management, University of the West Indies St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

A marine cadastre, preferably built on the multipurpose cadastre concept, is one such instrument that ideally can provide thematic and spatial data and information to support efficient decision making with regard to coastal and marine spaces

Source: Coordinates e-magazine

### [gvSIG 2.0 ready to test \(gvSIG News Office\)](#)

After a long development period and a deep refactoring, gvSIG 2.0 is becoming a reality.

By releasing gvSIG alpha2, gvSIG officially start the stabilization period of this expected version. gvSIG encourages you to test it and to report bugs and feature requests in [the mailing lists](#) always taking into account that it is not recommended to use development distributions in production environments.

For further [information](#). Download of [gvSIG 2.0 alpha2](#)

### [The gvSIG Campus community has just been born \(gvSIG News Office\)](#)

gvSIG are pleased to announce the creation of a new community within the gvSIG project called gvSIG Campus. This community is a new group of community created by the gvSIG Project and its main aim is to be a meeting point between students and tutors from tertiary training institutions (Bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees, Doctorate and so on) who want to use gvSIG to make their final projects.

Those projects are thought to be linked to different areas of knowledge: development of new tools, a comparative with other software, specific applications of the use of GIS tools and so on.

For more information about gvSIG Campus, please visit its [web page](#).

If you are interested in joining this community, we invite you to subscribe to its [mailing list](#) because it is used by the members of the gvSIG Campus to communicate each other.

Moreover, a new section called Campus has been created on the [Outreach website](#). This section includes a database with information on the final projects that the members of this community are making. Through the new Campus section any people can search not only projects that are on the way right now but also finished final projects and some ideas to implement new projects in the future.

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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.*

### [Avenza creates online marketplace for map publishers as consumption of paper maps decline](#)

Avenza Systems Inc., producers of MAPublisher<sup>®</sup> cartographic software for Adobe<sup>®</sup> Illustrator<sup>®</sup> and Geographic Imager<sup>®</sup> geospatial tools for Adobe Photoshop<sup>®</sup>, is charting new territory in the mobile app space with its launch of the PDF Maps app and its opening of the Avenza Map Store on the Apple iOS platform, making it available to devices including the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. With the launch of the PDF Maps app, cartographers and map publishers now have access to a largely untapped audience of consumers that rely on smartphones and tablets as the consumption of paper maps continue to decline.

Source: GISUser

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## [World Bank Soil Carbon Sequestration website](#)

Soil carbon sequestration through sustainable land management technologies offers triple win by enhancing agricultural productivity and reducing rural poverty, offering effective solutions for limiting greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, and building natural soil capital and minimizing the variability of agricultural ecosystems to climate change and variability.

The web-tool provides the carbon sequestration potential of different land management practices. Information on carbon sequestration potential of a location can be derived by point-and-click or by searching using place name. The database allows user to download and integrate Geographical Information System data with other information to estimate soil carbon stock changes for different agricultural projects.

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## Articles

### [How developing countries can derive value from the principles and practice of geodemographics, and provide fresh solutions to millennium development challenges](#)

Journal of Geography and Regional Planning, Vol. 4(9), pp. 505-512, 4 September, 2011

Geodemographic segmentation systems are area classifications that use multi-criteria and geostatistical analytics to group places and people into clusters of similarity. The benefits of these geocomputation techniques have been largely embraced by countries in the developed world where the origins of geodemographics lie. In spite of identified value of segmentation techniques for driving efficacy in policy making in developed societies, numerous developing countries still lack these systems. At the very basic level, some of the reasons for this paucity may appear obvious; however some more pertinent issues like the misunderstanding of the significance of data infrastructure has often been overlooked. In this paper, we provide some background on the antecedents of geodemographics and focus on the challenges and benefits of spatial segmentation as an option for driving evidence-based policy making within developing countries.

**Key words:** Developing world, geodemographics, geographic information systems, millennium development goals, public policy.

### [Unmistakable Marks: Just a Mere Survey?](#) by Kristopher M. Kline

Land surveyors, by virtue of licensure, are given the responsibility of performing certain tasks suited to their unique expertise. This can give rise to a false belief in the extent to which our professional judgment can be applied to unilaterally solve problems or bring about a particular outcome for our client. In an unfortunate blow to our collective ego, a signed and sealed survey taken alone frequently has less effect than we would prefer to believe.

Source: Point of Beginning

### [Tech Talk: A Vision for Photogrammetry](#) by Joseph V. R. Paiva

Photogrammetry is a catch-all term for making all kinds of measurements from photographs. For many surveyors, photogrammetry has evolved into a process that seems a bit like "black art."

Source: Point of Beginning

### [New Approaches to Flood Risk Management](#) by Jeff Thurston in *Asian Surveying & Mapping*

The number and severity of flood events throughout Asia has increased in recent times. Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Burma and Vietnam have all experienced major flood disasters recently. Integrated flood management is emerging as a comprehensive approach for flood planning that takes into account population pressures, ecosystems, meteorology and other factors within entire river basins.

### [Redrawing the political map](#)

UNITED KINGDOM - Jamie Justham casts an eye over the planned changes to constituency boundaries and how GIS techniques will help weigh the implications for democracy.

Source: GeoConnexions

### [Location based library concept](#)

The spatial dimension of reading is an interesting aspect in so far as to how far it can actually become the main subject. A lot of narratives make extensive use of space and place description and the location is often as

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important as the characters who really come to live from the description of spatial interaction and as to how they are set in the place.

Source: Urban Tick blog

### [Wireless for Surveyor Solutions](#) by Jeff Thurston in *Asian Surveying & Mapping*

Wireless technology has been innovating at a rapid rate and can now be found throughout the geomatics and geospatial sector. There are several advantages to using wireless, some more obvious than others. Because it does not involve long connections that include wiring, flexibility and cost savings are the immediate gains. However, time saving figures into surveying related work prominently and the ability to connect to the Internet directly support field-to-office activity.

[Using Supply Chain Management as a Tool to Manage GIS Projects](#) by Peter Schmitz in V1 Magazine Society will become more spatially enabled, meaning that geography and GIS will become and in some instances already embedded in mainstream decision-making and incorporated into enterprise systems such as Oracle and SAP and as demonstrated in Oracle (Dangermond, 1999; Tomlinson, 2000; and Mann as interviewed by GEO World, 2004).

One of the challenges according to Dangermond (1999) and Tomlinson (2000) for GIS units in the 21st century is to be able to manage themselves successfully in order to deliver the right product at the right time to the right customer (Pulsani, interviewed by GEO World (2004)). Tomlinson (2000) also indicated that there will be several management tools available to assist GIS units to enable them to manage themselves successfully. One of these tools to address the management issue is supply chain management as used in industry.

### [Voyage of the Koo Koo Sint & Paddle Song](#)

In 1811, David Thompson, surveyor and fur trader for the North West Company reached the Pacific Ocean, adding the Columbia River as the final leg of the Fur Trade Highway from Hudson's Bay and Montreal to the Pacific Ocean and becoming the first person to survey and map the Columbia River from its source near Invermere, British Columbia to its mouth at Astoria, Oregon.

On June, 3, 2011, ten 25-foot voyageur canoes left Invermere, British Columbia on a six week, eleven hundred mile trip to Astoria, Oregon via the Kootenai, Clark Fork, Pend Oreille, and Columbia Rivers. We arrived in Astoria, Oregon on July 15, 2011, 200 years to the day after David Thompson's arrival in 1811.

Two of the ten canoes were entered by a group of us called the North American Land Surveyors. Our two canoes were named the "Koo Koo Sint" (Coast Salish for "stargazer" or "one who looks at the stars" for David Thompson) and "Paddle Song" named for David's wife of 56 years, Charlotte Small (from a book called Woman of the Paddle Song).

Source: The American Surveyor

### [Refinement of the Geoid—The Gravity Probe B Experiment](#) by Marc Cheves in The American Surveyor

Long before GPS and the reliance on geoids to establish orthometric heights, surveyors' plumb lines were being affected by local gravity variations, such as nearby mountains. Today, about the best angular accuracy we can achieve is on the order of tenths of a second. Stanford University's Gravity Probe B, with its capability of resolving angles to the tenth of a millarcsecond, will explore the fine structure of the Earth's gravitational field. Whether you first learned it in an early science class, or recall it twirling across the opening episodes of *The Twilight Zone*, Einstein's  $E=mc^2$  formula expressed a special theory of relativity. Based on that theory, the development of nuclear energy was made possible, and with it, the atomic bomb.

But it is Einstein's general theory of relativity that has been more difficult to understand. Proposed more than 40 years ago, and based on work stretching back to the 1800s and Einstein's 87-year-old theory, the Gravity Probe B (GP-B) experiment brings together an incredible array of new technology, without which the experiment would not be possible.

From a layman's point of view, Einstein's lesser-known theory postulates that as an object in space (such as the Earth) travels through space, it drags space-time along with it. It may be hard to conceive of the applications for this verification here on Earth, but it has enormous implications for understanding our universe—such things as black holes, for example. The theory also suggests that the planets are not moving in elliptical orbits around the Sun, but rather are following straight lines through curved space-time.

### [Experiences from world bank development support for land reform](#) by Keith Clifford Bell

This paper discusses the World Bank support for sustainable land reform, focusing on the East Asia Region, with particular emphases on initiatives in land governance, land development investment, tenure security, NSDI,

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e-government, land tax, spatial planning, disaster response and mitigation. We have published the first part of the paper in the last issue. We present here the second part of the paper  
Source: Co-ordinates e-magazine

### [Survey Accuracy - Furthering Dialogue on 'Towards Cadastre 2034'](#)

Renewed debate on the nature and role of the cadastre was sparked in 2010 through the forums of FIG 2010 in Sydney, Australia, and GIM International. Six design elements for 'future cadastres' were discussed, one of them being 'survey accuracy'. The wide range of responses regarding this design element implied that the topic required further clarification. Here, we hope to provide such clarification and further the dialogue on 'Towards Cadastre 2034'.

By Rohan Bennett and Paul van der Molen, ITC, The Netherlands (GIM International)

### [Algorithmic Incorporation of Geographical Information Technologies in Road Infrastructure Maintenance in Uganda](#)

**Abstract:** Geographical Information Technologies (GITs) are underutilized for Road Infrastructure Maintenance (RIM) in Uganda, thus the necessity to rationally incorporate their use as decision support tools in the participating organizations. GITs herein include: Remote Sensing, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and web based tools such as Google earth. This paper is rooted in research undertaken to assess the use of GITs as decision support tools in RIM in Uganda. Basing on results from interviews, field visits & measures and participant observations, the gaps and limitations to the usage of GITs for RIM in Uganda are discussed. Data requirements for RIM are stipulated. The paper suggests an algorithmic approach to accentuate the usage of GITs in the RIM process. This involves: a policy on data collection guidelines emphasizing the use of GPS, satellite imagery and GIS, capacity building in the theory and use of GITs, establishment of local spatial data infrastructures for road maintenance data and setting aside yearly budgets for the defined activities. The dynamic segmentation data model is considered a superior data storage strategy within the GIS.

**Keywords:** Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Geographical Information Technologies (GITs), Road infrastructure Maintenance (RIM), Uganda

### [How developing countries can derive value from the principles and practice of geodemographics, and provide fresh solutions to millennium development challenges](#)

*Journal of Geography and Regional Planning* Vol. 4(9), pp. 505-512, 4 September, 2011

Geodemographic segmentation systems are area classifications that use multi-criteria and geostatistical analytics to group places and people into clusters of similarity. The benefits of these geocomputation techniques have been largely embraced by countries in the developed world where the origins of geodemographics lie. In spite of identified value of segmentation techniques for driving efficacy in policy making in developed societies, numerous developing countries still lack these systems. At the very basic level, some of the reasons for this paucity may appear obvious; however some more pertinent issues like the misunderstanding of the significance of data infrastructure has often been overlooked. In this paper, we provide some background on the antecedents of geodemographics and focus on the challenges and benefits of spatial segmentation as an option for driving evidence-based policy making within developing countries.

**Key words:** Developing world, geodemographics, geographic information systems, millennium development goals, public policy.

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## **Books and Journals (including Videos and Web publications)**

Robin McLaren FRICS, Prof Peter Dale OBE FRICS

**Title:** *Land Markets & the Modern Economy, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition launch and lecture*

**Synopsis:** All living creatures need access to food, water and shelter. We are all dependent on the land for our survival. But who should own the land and how should access to it be controlled for the benefit of all?

Some argue that governments should determine who is allowed to own land. Others maintain that, although a regulatory framework should be established by the state, the best way to achieve the optimum form of land use is through the operation of free market forces.

This lecture and paper looks at the reasons why buying and selling rights in land are important, and suggests ways in which the efficiency and effectiveness of land markets can be improved. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is fully updated

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to reflect the changing economics of the world economy due in part to the financial crisis and the emergence of global powers such as India, China and Brazil. It also contains several key issues that nations who wish to engage and promote effective land markets need to think about. The new edition also contains several new case studies and is also due to be presented at forthcoming World Bank and UN land orientated events.

[Thoughts on the Geospatial industry, Open Standards and Open Source](#) Cameron Shorter's blog

[SDI Magazine](#)

[Mother Pelican: A Journal of Sustainable Human Development](#)

The August 2011 issue has been posted:

[LiDAR News, Vol 1, No 22 \(November 2011\)](#)

[Think Quarterly](#) – Google's new on-line magazine

[Coordinates](#) monthly magazine

[SERVIR-Africa community news](#)

[The American Surveyor newsletter](#) (2 December)

[GISuser - GIS and Geospatial Technology News](#)

[Connecting the Dots Between Surveying & GIS](#)

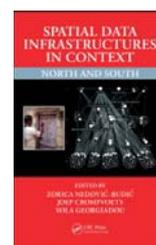
ESRI's Brent Jones, Surveying and Engineering Industry Manager, interviewed by Jeff Thurston for *Asian Surveying & Mapping* (V1 Media)

The relationship between surveying and geographic information systems (GIS) is integral for the development of most spatial data applications. Accuracy and precision in measurement matter. While the numbers and types of surveying related tools for measurement has grown, they in turn must interoperate with GIS, empowering applications to deliver results. ASM editor Jeff Thurston interviewed Brent Jones - Surveying and Engineering Industry Manager, Esri to discuss the relationship of surveying to GIS, and to learn more about how Esri is meeting the challenge to support and empower surveyors with GIS tools.

[Spatial Data Infrastructures in Context - North and South](#)

Reviewed by Jeff Thurston in V1 media

*Spatial Data Infrastructures in Context - North and South* discusses both technological and non-technological obstacles, policies and mechanisms with respect to the implementation of spatial data infrastructures (SDI). With an emphasis on non-technology issues such including legal, policy, copyright, liability and compatibility factors, the editors provide a wealth of information aimed at improving access, interoperability and affordability with reference to SDI. This book contains content that is applicable to both public and private participants



[Upcoming exhibitions - Finding Antarctica: Mapping the last continent](#)

**State Library of NSW Sydney Galleries, 3 December 2011 - 19 February 2012**

This landmark exhibition reveals the myths, legendary voyages and heroic efforts made to map the last continent on earth. View over 100 rare and contemporary maps from the 15th to the 20th century, as well as photographs, sledging diaries, sketchbooks, films, relics and the latest satellite imagery of Antarctica. The exhibition also celebrates the centenary of the historic Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-14.



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## Just for Fun!



### [Crooked USA-Canada border](#)

What is the longest straight-line international boundary? Why, that has to be the American-Canadian border between Lake of the Woods (Minnesota/Manitoba) and Boundary Bay (Washington State/British Columbia), which runs for 1,260 miles along the 49th parallel north. Right? **Nope.**

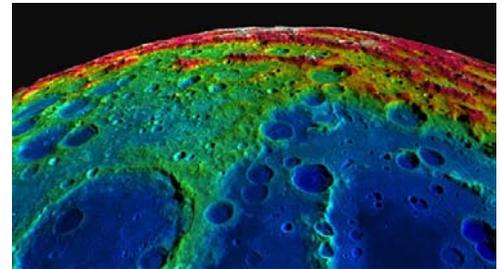
Source: NY Times

[Where in the World – Google puzzle \(part 1\)](#) and [\(Part 2\)](#)  
from the Atlantic Monthly



Last month we brought you [This Is Probably as Close as You'll Get to Being an Astronaut](#) courtesy of the Atlantic Magazine and NASA. This month, again thanks to the Atlantic Magazine and NASA, we bring you another time-lapse video [Perhaps the Best HD View of Earth from Space Ever.](#)

Source: The Atlantic Monthly magazine and [NASA](#)



For further time-lapse video produced from NASA stills **SEE ALSO**  
[The Moon – up close](#)

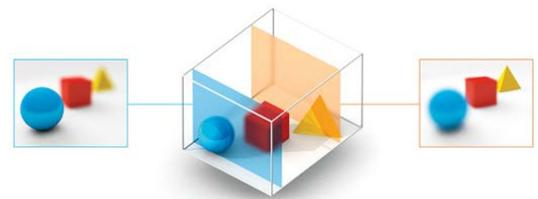
Source: Geospatial World Weekly & DLR Portal News:  
[Flying over the three-dimensional Moon](#)

Last month, from the *New York Times*, we brought readers [Lytro's Camera Shoots First, Focuses Later.](#) Further [The Revolution in Photography](#)

When a set of online teasers for a new camera called the Lytro appeared earlier this year, you could have been forgiven for seeing the invention as just another gimmick. The camera's attention-grabbing feature is a kind of after-the-fact autofocus: with a click, any blurry portion in a picture can be snapped into sharpness—another step in the march of idiot-proof photography.

In fact, such image correction is merely a side effect of what is genuinely different about the technology. The Lytro, scheduled to reach buyers early next year, creates a wholly new kind of visual object, one that both exemplifies and exploits the way images are consumed in the digital era.

Source: The Atlantic magazine



### [Study Finds Smartphones Are Most Popular Home Device, and Growing use as Scapegoat](#)

A New Yahoo! Mobile/Razorfish Study Finds Smartphones Are Most Popular Home Device, and Growing Scapegoat in Many Social Situations.

In an always-on, connected world with a surplus of new devices fit for every function, location and context it's no surprise that mobile phones are helping people multi-task and even duck out of awkward situations. A recent Yahoo! Mobile/Razorfish study reveals interesting gender differences in usage and ranks the smartphone as the highest rated device in the home with 75% of votes.

Source: GISUser

## Training Opportunities

### **11th NCCR Climate Summer School, 9-14 September 2012, Ticino, Switzerland**

The NCCR Climate, Switzerland's Centre of Excellence in Climate and Climate Impact Research, invites young scientists to join leading climate researchers in a scenic southern Swiss Alpine setting on the occasion of the 11th International NCCR Climate Summer School 2012.

The Summer School is focusing on the theme "the water cycle in a changing climate". This theme has been chosen due to its paramount importance in terms of both scientific challenges and pressing societal concerns. The specific topics to be addressed include:

- Observed variations of the water cycle.
- Physical processes governing the hydrological response to climate change,
- Scenarios of the water cycle in a changing climate,
- Anticipated impacts.

The Summer School invites young researchers from all fields of climate research. The courses cover a broad spectrum of climate and climate impact research issues and foster cross-disciplinary links. Each topic includes keynote plenary lectures and workshops with in-depth discussion in smaller groups. All summer school participants present a poster of their research and there will be ample opportunity for discussion.

The Summer School is open to young researchers (PhD students and Post-Docs) worldwide. Participation is highly competitive and will be limited to a maximum of 70. The registration fee (1400 CHF) includes half board accommodation, excursion and teaching material. A small number of grants will be available for students from developing countries (i.e. non-OECD countries).

**Deadline for applications:** 20 December 2011. Successful applicants will be notified in February 2012.

Detailed information and the application form are available at

[http://www.nccr-climate.unibe.ch/summer\\_school/2012/](http://www.nccr-climate.unibe.ch/summer_school/2012/).

Contact: University of Bern, NCCR Climate Management Centre, Zähringerstrasse 25, CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland, mailto: [nccr-climate@oeschger.unibe.ch](mailto:nccr-climate@oeschger.unibe.ch)

Telephone +41 31 631 31 45, Telefax +41 31 631 43 38.

### **Large-Scale 3D Laser Scanning: The Complete Process**

Don't worry if you missed the live webinar, "Large-Scale 3D Laser Scanning: The Complete Process". It's now available online for you to watch any time!

### **e-Learning for the Open Geospatial Community**

We are pleased to inform that the course repository for the ELOGeo (An e-Learning Framework for Using Geospatial Open Data, Open Source and Open Standards) project is ready.

ELOGeo is a JISC-funded project based at the Centre for Geospatial Science, the University of Nottingham in partnership with the Mimas Centre of Excellence at the University of Manchester. ELOGeo main collaborators are Open Source Geospatial Foundation, Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Ordnance Survey, Open Nottingham, International Cartographic Association (ICA) and gvSIG Association.

[More details of ELOGeo.](#)

### **gvSIG Training platform opens with a first course for gvSIG users**

The gvSIG Association tries to increase its learning offer through online courses, publishing a new learning platform: gvSIG Training. In parallel, the gvSIG Association launches its official certification program.

It's a step forward in the training processes in free geomatic, creating an online training centre, that contributes to the spreading as well as to the sustainability of the gvSIG project. Training without geographic barriers, and with the best professionals.

In this platform, you will find courses in several languages to learn to use the different applications of the gvSIG project, in a user level as well as in a developer one. The courses list will be extended gradually with different gvSIG and free geomatic specialization courses (databases, map servers...), with the objective of covering the different needs of the Community.

The courses offered by gvSIG Training are part of the training routes that are required to obtain the gvSIG official certification.

For further information:

- gvSIG Training: <http://gvSIG-training.com/>

- gvSIG Certifications: <http://www.gvsig.com/services/certification>

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### **GIS Courses by Distance Education NSW Riverina Tafe**

The courses listed below are all full Geographic Information Systems courses which can be studied over a number of semesters by distance study pathways.

[Certificate III in Spatial Information Services \(GIS\)](#)

[Certificate IV in Spatial Information Services \(GIS\)](#)

[Diploma of Spatial Information Services \(GIS\)](#)

Source: [NSW River](#)

### **[Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication Training Kit now available on-line](#)**

Co-published by CTA and IFAD in English and Spanish, the Training Kit is a unique product that can be tailored to meet user needs, ensuring that employees get the best training available on Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication.

The online version was launched at the beginning of March 2011. The DVD version was launched in December 2010. The Training Kit contains 15 Modules, each presented through a series of Units. Modules cover the entire spectrum of good developmental practice – from mobilising communities to developing a communication strategy based on the outcome of participatory mapping activities. The Modules touch on topics such as the fundamentals of training, ethics and community groundwork and processes as well as the more technical low-, mid- and high-tech participatory mapping methods.

Users decide what they want to cover and when. The product has been developed using the Multimedia Training Kit (MMTK) approach – which allows you to pick and choose those Modules, Units and components that best suit your particular requirements and develop a curriculum to suit your specific needs.

**Publishers:** Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA), Wageningen, The Netherlands and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, Italy

Source: [The Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation](#)

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## Funding Opportunities, Awards, Grants

### **[Award to encourage young geospatial scientists](#)**

To encourage young researchers working in the areas of geospatial science and technologies, Rachapudi Kamakshi Memorial Trust has instituted the Rachapudi Kamakshi Memorial Gold Medal for 'Young Geospatial Scientist™.' The award, consisting of a gold medal, citation plaque and a certificate of merit, will be awarded annually during the biggest congregation of geospatial community in the country, India Geospatial Forum (previously known as 'Map India') during 8-9 February 2012.

Source: Geospatial World Weekly

### **[UNU-INRA Visiting Scholars Program 2012](#) Application deadline: [March 15, 2012](#)**

The United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa announces its Visiting Scholars Programme 2012 and a call for the submission of proposals from interested candidates from Africa and the world.

The main objective of the program is to provide qualified scholars an opportunity to undertake research on topics related to the development and management of natural resources in Africa, to participate in UNU-INRA activities, and to contribute to UNU-INRA publications. The program is also designed to enhance the dissemination of UNU-INRA research and to contribute to the UNU-INRA's outreach program.

The program will NOT support any field work aimed at collecting data. It is suitable for researchers who have data available and need workstation facilities and financial support to analyze and publish the results of their research.

UNU-INRA will provide a monthly stipend of \$US1, 500 as a contribution towards travel, accommodation, medical, and other out-of-pocket expenses.

Interested candidates should please read the announcement and all other relevant documents attached to this call CAREFULLY before applying.

[UNU-INRA Strategic Plan 2011 - 2014](#)

[Africa Green Economy Initiative](#)

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### [Research opportunities on 'Sensors, Empowerment, Accountability in Tanzania \(SEMA\)'](#)

The research programme "Sensors, Empowerment, Accountability in Tanzania (SEMA)" is funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) under the WOTRO-Global Science for Development Programme.

Three PhD candidates, one postdoctoral scientist and one software developer will be recruited.

**The deadline for applications is 31 December 2011.**

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## Employment Opportunities

### [GIS Specialist, Afghanistan Water and Agriculture Project](#)

Tetra Tech ARD currently is accepting expressions of interest from qualified candidates for senior and mid-level staff positions on a multi-year year USAID-funded water management and agriculture project in Afghanistan.

The GIS Specialist will be responsible for supporting communication, outreach, awareness-building, planning, and M&E activities of the project by developing and delivering GIS based information products in multiple locations. The GIS Specialist will work closely with sub-contractors and grantees, providing oversight to any GIS work performed. The Specialist will also have a role in coordinating project activities with local and national GoIRA representatives as well as community leaders. The Specialist will work on an interdisciplinary team and collaborate closely with professionals from natural, technical and social sciences sectors. The Specialist will engage in strategic planning, design of technical interventions, and provide training to field-based project staff and counterparts in the use of appropriate geospatial tools and methods. The Specialist will supervise the field work of junior staff and will support the design and administration of applicable subcontracts or grants for local implementers. The duty location is to be determined.

\* Candidates must be fluent in Dari or Pashto and in English.

### [What Do You Consider To Be the Hottest Jobs In The Geospatial Sector Today?](#) by Jeff Thurston

Spatial data can be found in many business processes and work flows today. Geospatial technologies are constantly innovating, and social pressures and environmental concerns are driving new solutions and applications. The pace of change is increasing, and austerity measures around the world are causing new forms of spatial data use to rise as demanding challenges become more prevalent. A perfect storm for the geospatial community is on the horizon and approaching, and it is hungry for people with geospatial knowledge, skills and eagerness to participate. What do you consider to be the hottest jobs in the geospatial sector today?

Source: Vector 1 Media

### [GIS Job Board Launches New Website: \[www.gisjobboard.com\]\(http://www.gisjobboard.com\)](#)

New Site Provides Employers and Job Seekers Tools to Post and Search Jobs and Resumes in the GIS and Geospatial Disciplines

GIS Job Board has launched a new website specifically dedicated to GIS and other geospatial disciplines. The new site makes it simple for employers and job seekers to post and search for jobs and resumes. The site was created to serve the growing needs of the GIS community and help with recruiting and job seeking efforts. The website offers:

- Post Jobs (free)
- Post Resumes (free)
- Search for Jobs (free)
- Search Resumes (free)
- Post Priority Jobs (job posting will be displayed above other listings in search results and marked with a different color)
- Post Priority Resumes (resume posting will be displayed above other listings in search results and marked with a different color)
- Post Featured Jobs (job posting will be featured in the home page and will include the priority listing)
- Become a Featured Company (company logo will be shown on the home page of the website)

The site home page provides visitors and opportunity to quickly search for jobs and/or resumes. Visitors can also do an advanced search which allows them to search by a number of different variables which can narrow their search. Users have the option to register to post jobs or resumes. They can create an account on the site or can sign in using their Facebook, LinkedIn or Google accounts, which can streamline the registration

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process.

Visitors also have the option to view the site in a different language if they choose, making it easier for them to have access to the content

Registered users can receive jobs or resumes by email. They can also flag jobs and resumes as well as save searches, setup resume alerts, and save resumes and jobs. Users have the capability of private messaging other users in case they ever want to communicate with someone.

For more information about GIS Job Board, please visit their website at [www.gisjobboard.com](http://www.gisjobboard.com)

P.O. Box 531335

San Diego, CA 92154

Thanks to GISUser

### [Research opportunities on 'Sensors, Empowerment, Accountability in Tanzania \(SEMA\)'](#)

The research programme "Sensors, Empowerment, Accountability in Tanzania ([SEMA](#))" is funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) under the WOTRO-Global Science for Development Programme.

Three PhD candidates, one postdoctoral scientist and one software developer will be recruited.

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## Conference Proceedings



### [2nd International Workshop on 3D Cadastres organized by FIG, EuroSDR and TU Delft](#)

(16-18 November 2011, Delft, The Netherlands). Papers & Presentations available [here](#)

### [Sino-African High-Level Seminar on Drought Risk Reduction](#) – (24-6 September, 2011)

#### **Africa and China step up cooperation on drought risk**

From 24 to 26 September 2011 over 40 officials from China, African countries and the United Nations took part in a three-day "Sino-African High-Level Seminar on Drought Risk Reduction" which is calling for drought risk reduction to be on the agenda of the next year's Sino-African Summit for Development Cooperation. Delegates at the seminar also included heads of national meteorological services, disaster managers, national DRR (disaster risk reduction) coordinators and academics and scientists from China and 11 African countries, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Participants shared knowledge and scientific approaches, practical methods in drought monitoring, early warning and management of agricultural drought. For further information contact: [Shirish Ravan](#).

### [Webcast presentations of Open Source GIS Conference 2011](#)

The webcasts of presentations of Open Source GIS 2011 Conference (OSGIS 2011) including the plenary presentations from OGC-OSGeo Interoperability day are now available.

### [INSPIRE 2011 Conference Report](#)

27 June – 2 July, Edinburgh, UK



### [2011 Esri Asia Pacific User Conference Proceedings](#)

### [ISDE Working Group Meeting on Digital Earth Vision to 2020](#)

In March 2011, the International Society for Digital Earth held a working group meeting in Beijing on a Digital Earth Vision to 2020. The meeting brought together a diverse group of experts in an attempt to imagine how Digital Earth might evolve over the next decade. The Vision to 2020 is an updated reevaluation of the Digital Earth concept presented by Al Gore in 1998. This new vision takes into account the advances in technology made so far in the 21st century, considers changes in society and the ways people interact with technology, and anticipates the drivers that will affect future development.

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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 – as this conference list will be reserved for conferences within or with specific interest to the Asia Pacific Region.

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

### [Call for Expression of Interest to host AARSE 2014 and future Conferences](#)

Call for Expression of Interest to host the 10th biennial International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) in October 2014 and future Conferences. The 9th conference will be held in Morocco in October 2012.

Date	Location	Event
<b>December 2011</b>		
<b>5 - 7 December</b>	Hue City, Vietnam	<p><u><a href="#">The 9th International Conference on Advances in Mobile Computing and Multimedia (MoMM2011)</a></u>            15 July 2011: Full Papers (8 pages), Short papers, Demos and work in progress (5 pages)            15 September 2011: Acceptance Notification            15 October 2011: Camera-Ready Papers and Authors Registration            The submitted papers should not exceed 8 pages and must follow the <a href="#">ACM guidelines</a>. <a href="#">Contact</a></p>
<b>6 - 9 December</b>	Singapore	<p><u><a href="#">18th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-18)</a></u>  <a href="#">PDF Brochure</a> <a href="#">Contact APRSAF Secretariat</a>            APRSAF serves as an active forum to promote concrete cooperative space-related activities at the regional, Asia-Pacific level. APRSAF also aims to expand the peaceful uses of space technologies and their applications for sustainable development of countries in the region.            APRSAF-18 is being jointly organized by the Singapore Space and Technology Association (SSTA), Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing (CRISP) of the National University of Singapore, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).</p>
<b>11 – 14 December</b>	Abu Dhabi, UAE	<p><b>CALL FOR PAPERS</b>  <u><a href="#">The 6th International Conference for Internet Technology and Secured Transactions (ICITST-2011)</a></u>            The ICITST is an international refereed conference dedicated to the advancement of the theory and practical implementation of secured Internet transactions and to fostering discussions on information technology evolution. The ICITST aims to provide a highly professional and comparative academic research forum that promotes collaborative excellence between academia and industry.  <b>Full Paper Submission Date:</b> June 30, 2011  <b>Extended Abstract (Work in Progress) Submission:</b> July 31  <b>Early Registration Deadline (Authors only):</b> September 30, 2011  <b>Late Registration Deadline (Authors only):</b> November 15, 2011  <b>Participants Registration:</b> May 01 to December 01, 2011            For more <a href="#">details</a></p>
<b>January 2012</b>		
<b>10 – 12 January</b>	University of BC, Vancouver,	<u><a href="#">Eighth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability.</a></u>

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<b>16 – 18 January</b>	Canada	<b><u><a href="#">EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TECHNOLOGY, KNOWLEDGE AND SOCIETY</a></u></b>								
	UCLA, Los Angeles, USA	<p>Presenters may choose to submit written papers for publication in the fully refereed International Journal of Technology, Knowledge and Society. If you are unable to attend the conference in person, virtual registrations are also available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication in this fully refereed academic Journal.</p> <p>The <b>deadline</b> for the next round in the call for papers (a title and short abstract) is 11 October.</p> <p>Proposals are reviewed within two weeks of submission.</p>								
<b>February 2012</b>										
<b>7 – 9 February</b>	Gurgoan, India	<b><u><a href="#">India Geospatial Forum</a></u></b>								
		<p><b>Important Dates to Remember</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Abstract Submission</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">November 11, 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Abstract Acceptance</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">November 30th, 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Author Registration</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">December 9th, 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Full Paper Submission</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">December 16th, 2011</td> </tr> </table> <p><b><u><a href="#">Award to encourage young geospatial scientists</a></u></b></p> <p>To encourage young researchers working in the areas of geospatial science and technologies, Rachapudi Kamakshi Memorial Trust has instituted the Rachapudi Kamakshi Memorial Gold Medal for 'Young Geospatial Scientist™.' The award, consisting of a gold medal, citation plaque and a certificate of merit, will be awarded annually during the biggest congregation of geospatial community in the country, India Geospatial Forum (previously known as 'Map India') during 8-9 February 2012.</p>	Abstract Submission	November 11, 2011	Abstract Acceptance	November 30th, 2011	Author Registration	December 9th, 2011	Full Paper Submission	December 16th, 2011
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Author Registration	December 9th, 2011									
Full Paper Submission	December 16th, 2011									
<b>April 2012</b>										
<b>11 - 13 April</b>	Lancaster, UK	<b><u><a href="#">Call for Papers, GISRUK2012, Lancaster University, 2012</a></u></b>								
		<p>We are pleased to invite you to submit short (~1500 word) papers for the 20th annual GIS Research UK conference (GISRUK). We welcome papers covering all aspects of theoretical and applied GIS research, particularly those within the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Geoinformatics</li> <li>• Open-Source GI</li> <li>• Web2.0</li> <li>• Qualitative GIS</li> <li>• Spatial Ecology</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Emergency Response</li> <li>• Landscape Visualisation</li> <li>• Geospatial Semantics</li> <li>• Location-Based Services</li> <li>• Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry</li> </ul> <p><b>The closing date for submissions is 25th November 2011.</b> All papers will be subject to peer review with accepted papers allocated to oral and poster sessions accordingly. Conference proceedings including all papers accepted for oral and poster presentation will be made available as a free e-book (with ISBN) and as hardcopy for purchase via <a href="http://www.lulu.com">http://www.lulu.com</a>.</p> <p>The conference will be preceded by a Open Source GeoSpatial software workshop and a Young Researchers Forum commencing on Tuesday 10th April 2012.</p> <p>The keynote speakers for the conference will be:</p>								

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		<p>- Pete Atkinson, University of Southampton, UK          - Mei-Po Kwan, Ohio State University, USA          - Tyler Mitchell, Executive Director, OSGeo, USA</p> <p>For more information and submission details please visit the conference website: <a href="http://www.lancs.ac.uk/gisruk2012">http://www.lancs.ac.uk/gisruk2012</a> or contact members of the local organising committee via <a href="mailto:gisruk2012@lancs.ac.uk">gisruk2012@lancs.ac.uk</a> . We look forward to receiving your submissions and welcoming you to Lancaster in 2012.</p>
<b>23 – 27 April</b>  <b>“AMENDED”</b>	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	 <b>Geospatial World Forum</b> <b>Theme: Geospatial Industry &amp; World Economy</b>  <b>Register before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012 for early bird discount</b>
<b>May 2012</b>		
<b>13-17 May</b>	Quebec City, Canada	<p><b>2012 Joint World Conference</b>  <b><a href="#">GSDI 13</a> and <a href="#">Canadian Geomatics Conference (CCC)</a></b>          hosted by <a href="#">GEOIDE</a> Network</p> <p>GSDI 13 invites presentations/papers covering the full range of practice, development and research experiences that advance the practice and theory of spatial data infrastructure development and spatial enablement of society. GSDI 13 will support three primary forms of publication:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) a normal conference proceedings with abstracts and full articles (non-refereed and refereed), published on a USB drive or CD and archived on the web,</li> <li>(2) a pre-conference published book of fully refereed articles titled "Spatially Enabling Government, Industry and Citizens: Research and Development Perspectives" to be distributed to all conference participants and archived on the web, and</li> <li>(3) a post-conference special edition of the International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research (IJS DIR) with full articles selected from the proceedings and then fully refereed and revised after the conference.</li> </ol> <p><b>In addition</b>, two separate calls arising from the joint conference are being issued for chapter submissions to two additional books:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) "The Added Value of Scientific Networking: GEOIDE Network Experiences" to be distributed to all conference participants (Call for chapters at <a href="http://www.geoide.ulaval.ca/call-for-chapters.aspx">http://www.geoide.ulaval.ca/call-for-chapters.aspx</a>), and</li> <li>(2) "3DGeo Info Conference Proceedings" (Springer) to be mailed after the conference to all 3DGeo Conference participants which will be a single track on Wednesday and Thursday (Call at <a href="http://www.3dgeoinfo2012.ulaval.ca/?page_id=48">http://www.3dgeoinfo2012.ulaval.ca/?page_id=48</a>).</li> </ol> <p><b>IMPORTANT LINKS</b>          Conference Website: <a href="http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi13">http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi13</a>          Past GSDI World Conference Proceedings: <a href="http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences">http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences</a>          Past open access Books affiliated with the conference: <a href="http://www.gsdi.org/openaccessbooks">http://www.gsdi.org/openaccessbooks</a>          Other Important Dates: <a href="http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi13/dates.html">http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi13/dates.html</a></p>
<b>June 2012</b>		
<b>3-5 June</b>  <b>“NEW”</b>	Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia	<p><b><a href="#">The International Conference on Informatics &amp; Applications (ICIA2012)</a></b></p> <p>The proposed conference on the above theme will be held at University Sultan Zainal Abidin, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia, From June 3-5, 2012 which aims to enable researchers build connections between different digital applications.</p> <p>Important Dates</p>

		<p>=====</p> <p>Submission Date: April 1, 2012          Notification of acceptance: April 15, 2012          Camera Ready submission: May 2, 2012          Registration: May 2, 2012</p>
15-17 June  "NEW"	Hong Kong	<p><a href="#"><u>20th International Conference on Geoinformatics</u></a>          (Geoinformatics 2012)  <b>Abstract/Paper submission deadline:</b> 15 November 2011          In response to the increasing concerns on global changes and natural disasters, the 2012 conference theme is "Global Change, Adaptation and Risk Management". Earthquakes, floods, droughts, pollutions and many other natural and man-made disasters are severe threats to the mankind. Geoinformatic technologies shall play an essential roles to mitigate damages of the disasters. This conference will provide an excellent opportunity for professionals and students in the geographic information science area to exchange innovative ideas, discover cutting-edge technologies, and present inspiring applications. Meanwhile, 2012 will be the 20th Anniversary of the International Association of Chinese Professionals in Geographic Information Sciences (CPGIS, <a href="http://cpgis.org/">http://cpgis.org/</a>) and its Annual Conference (the Geoinformatics series), the organizing committee cordially invite geoinformatics professionals and scholars all around the world, review and celebrate our accomplishments and to develop our vision for the next 20 years.</p>
25-30 June	Istanbul, Turkey	<p><a href="#"><u>World GIS Summit</u></a>  <b>"The World GIS Summit" has been postponed to June 25-30, 2012."</b></p>
<b>July 2012</b>		
23-27 July	San Diego,  USA	<p><a href="#"><u>Esri International User Conference</u></a>  <b>Now Accepting Presentation Submissions</b>          Participation from the GIS community makes the Esri International User Conference (Esri UC) &lt; <a href="http://www.esri.com/events/user-conference/index.html">http://www.esri.com/events/user-conference/index.html</a> &gt; much more than just another technology user conference. It's a place to collaborate with your colleagues and get inspired by their work.          What do you know that could help others make the most of ArcGIS? Here's your chance to share tips, strategies, and accomplishments with fellow GIS professionals. Both new and seasoned ArcGIS users are encouraged to submit presentation abstracts for consideration. Of particular interest are proposals related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying ArcGIS to new problems in innovative ways</li> <li>• Leveraging new capabilities of ArcGIS 10</li> <li>• Extending your GIS to a broader audience through web and mobile applications</li> <li>• Driving GIS advancements in your industry</li> <li>• Collaborating inside and outside your organization to increase efficiency, share data, and maximize geospatial resources</li> </ul> <p>Review the <a href="#"><u>session topics</u></a> to see how your contribution can fit into this year's agenda.  <b>Abstract submission deadline:</b> 4 November, 2011.  <b>Submit Your Abstract at</b> <a href="http://www.esri.com/events/user-conference/participate/presentations.html">http://www.esri.com/events/user-conference/participate/presentations.html</a> .</p>
<b>August 2012</b>		
25 August – 1 September	Melbourne, Australia	<p><a href="#"><u>XXII International Society for Photogrammetry &amp; Remote Sensing Congress</u></a></p>

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		Email: <a href="mailto:isprs2012@icms.com.au">isprs2012@icms.com.au</a>
<b>September 2012</b>		
<b>9-14 September</b>	Ticino, Switzerland	<p><b>11th NCCR Climate Summer School, 2012</b></p> <p>The NCCR Climate, Switzerland's Centre of Excellence in Climate and Climate Impact Research, invites young scientists to join leading climate researchers in a scenic southern Swiss Alpine setting on the occasion of the 11th International NCCR Climate Summer School 2012.</p> <p>The Summer School is focusing on the theme "the water cycle in a changing climate". This theme has been chosen due to its paramount importance in terms of both scientific challenges and pressing societal concerns. The specific topics to be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observed variations of the water cycle.</li> <li>• Physical processes governing the hydrological response to climate change,</li> <li>• Scenarios of the water cycle in a changing climate,</li> <li>• Anticipated impacts.</li> </ul> <p>The Summer School invites young researchers from all fields of climate research. The courses cover a broad spectrum of climate and climate impact research issues and foster cross-disciplinary links. Each topic includes keynote plenary lectures and workshops with in-depth discussion in smaller groups. All summer school participants present a poster of their research and there will be ample opportunity for discussion.</p> <p>The Summer School is open to young researchers (PhD students and Post-Docs) worldwide. Participation is highly competitive and will be limited to a maximum of 70. The registration fee (1400 CHF) includes half board accommodation, excursion and teaching material. A small number of grants will be available for students from developing countries (i.e. non-OECD countries).</p> <p><b>Deadline for applications:</b> <u>20 December 2011</u>. Successful applicants will be notified in February 2012. Detailed information and the application form are available at <a href="http://www.nccr-climate.unibe.ch/summer_school/2012/">http://www.nccr-climate.unibe.ch/summer_school/2012/</a>.</p> <p>Contact: University of Bern, NCCR Climate Management Centre, Zähringerstrasse 25, CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland, mailto: <a href="mailto:nccr-climate@oeschger.unibe.ch">nccr-climate@oeschger.unibe.ch</a>        Telephone +41 31 631 31 45, Telefax +41 31 631 43 38.</p>
<b>October 2012</b>		
	Morocco	<p><b>10th biennial International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)</b></p>
<b>2014</b>		
	Malaysia	<p>Malaysia will be hosting the (International Federation of Surveyors) FIG Congress in 2014. The decision was taken at the recently concluded FIG Congress 2010 in Sydney, Australia.</p>

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