

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

GSDI 14 Programme Update!

The GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the International Geospatial Society, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are pleased to announce a close partnership in offering the joint **GSDI 14 World Conference** and **AfricaGIS 2013 Conference**. The combined conference is planned to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4-8 November 2013. Pre-conference and post-conference workshops, meetings and seminars will also be supported. The theme of the conference is "*Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction.*"

AfricaGIS is the largest regularly occurring GIS conference in Africa with participants from the whole continent. The GSDI World Conference moves to sites across the globe to offer geospatial specialists in all parts of the world opportunities to better exchange ideas and learn from peers in building spatial data infrastructure. For past conferences, see: <http://www.gsd.org/gsdConferences>.

The conference program is being designed to accommodate opening and closing plenary sessions with keynote speakers, daily plenary sessions focused on the conference theme and related topics, technical paper sessions in several parallel tracks, and pre-conference and post-conference workshops freely open to all registrants. The conference program will also include a poster exhibit and competition, an exhibition area highlighting agency initiatives and corporate product and service offerings, and numerous organized round table discussions to allow people from common regions of Africa or the globe or with common interests to present, discuss, and share issues, experiences and plans.

The selected theme of the conference is "*Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction*" The pressing needs of African nations, their citizens, and the needs of economically disadvantaged nations generally are a particular emphasis of the conference and include such concerns as:

- sustainable development,
- economic development,
- business intelligence and business geographics,
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- disaster prevention, warning, management, response, and recovery,
- alleviation of poverty and crime,
- lessening the digital divide including access to information technologies,
- ensuring food security,
- support of transportation, health and communication systems, and
- facilitating land ownership.

GIS, spatial data infrastructure concepts, and affiliated tools and technologies are being utilized worldwide to help address all of these issues.

Flights are readily available from across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Substantial reduction in registration fees will be available for local participants, members of EIS-Africa and members of the International Geospatial Society who are from low income per capita nations. Substantial reductions in Exhibit and Sponsorship fees will be available for companies and agencies that are members of the GSDI Association.

Consult the web site at <http://gsdi.org/gsd14> as the Call for Papers and details about the program, facilities and sponsorship opportunities become available. Come prepared to engage, learn and enjoy! More news on the conference in our next issue!

GSDI COMMITTEE NEWS

To keep abreast of what is happening in SDI and related fields around the globe, be sure to check out the various newsletters downloadable from the GSDI website (<http://www.gsd.org/newsletters>). These include the **GSDI Regional Newsletters** for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America & Caribbean; the **GSDI & IGS Global News** (covering GSDI Association and IGS Member activities), **FGDC Newsletter** (USA SDI news), EuroGeographics and **EUROGI Newsletters** (covering Europe), **EIS-Africa** (environmental news from Africa), **SALB Newsletter** (Second Administrative Level Boundaries from the UNGIWG project) and, now, the **UN-SPIDER Newsletter** (the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, published by UNOOSA – UN Office for Outer Space Affairs).



Outreach & Membership Committee

During October, vice-Chair, Communications, **Roger Longhorn**, attended the European User Conference of GSDI industry member Esri, participating in the SDI and Education streams. Contact was made with Dr Karl Donnert, the leader of the EU funded Digital-Earth project (www.digital-earth.eu) which examines the use of geographic media in schools and teacher education. "Geo-media" is the visualisation of information from different media sources and is concerned with digital content and its processing based on place, position and location. They are interested in exploring ways to work with GSDI Association in relation to wider awareness of, and education for use of, geospatial data. (This is not to be confused with the International Society for Digital Earth – www.digitalearth.org).

Bruce Westcott, from Intergraph, was nominated to be the regional vice-Chair for North America, while **Nancy Aguirre** of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) will be vice-Chair for South & Central America. The two will cooperate on outreach activities for the Caribbean region, which spans North and Latin America, in scope. All nominations have been proposed to the GSDI Board for approval.

Committee vice-Chair, Europe, **Joep Crompvoets**, participated in the "SDI Days" in Zagreb, Croatia, from 25-29 September, which comprised the 2nd Regional INSPIRE Training (25-26 September); the 1st Regional INSPIRE Forum and 4th Croatian NSDI and INSPIRE Day (27 September); and the 8th Cartography and Geoinformation Conference, 28 September.

Committee vice-Chair, Middle East and India, **Dr Khalid Al-Haidan**, Director of GIS Directorate (CITO) in Bahrain, hosted the "OGC Workshop on Open Standards, Policy and Business Value for Benefit of Geospatial entities in the Kingdom of Bahrain" on 18 September. See the short report later in this Newsletter.

The Outreach & Membership Committee also manages the **GSDI Group on LinkedIn**, which now has 220 members. If you are not already a member of this group, please join today – and tell your friends! Visit <http://www.linkedin.com> to join, then find GSDI in the 'Groups' option, to join the group.

Legal & Socioeconomic Committee

Between 2-4 September 2012, at the 4th Digital Earth Summit, GSDI Legal and Socioeconomic Committee member **Gabor Remetey** of HUNAGI presented a paper on the EU Project Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information of project manager Cristiana Sappa (Torino Law School) and Patrick Hogan (NASA Ames Research

Center). The Conference was held in Wellington was hosted and supported by the Land Information New Zealand and attracted over 400 people from over 20 countries. Major keynotes of the event on video: <http://www.youtube.com/user/4DigitalEarth12/feed?filter=2>. Just before the conference the Executive Committee of the International Society of Digital Earth held a meeting where the relationship with GSDI Association was also discussed.

At the 10th annual Light-Space-Imagery Conference on 28 September, organised by GeoIQ Ltd and hosted by OGC member Koroly Robert College (KRF) in Hungary, HUNAGI representative Gabor Remetey provided information for the audience, which comprised about 90 experts in GIS, RS and photogrammetry, which highlighted the GSDI's IGS, GIKNet and Regional Newsletters. Themes of the conference included:

- Remote Sensing projects of KRF
- Recent remote sensing activities of FOMI
- ENVI 5, the next generation of image analysis
- The advantages of local tasking with the WorldView satellite
- RS+GIS application in control of agricultural subsidies
- TerraSAR technology and solutions
- DTM and it's applicability
- Hungary (FOMI) in the GEO Land program
- The Curiosity mission
- Sub-pixel vegetation assessment using hyperspectral space imagery
- Multidisciplinary UAV and UAS sensing applications

Technical Committee

Technical Committee Chair, **Eric van Praag**, the GeoSUR Program Coordinator and South American Representative on the GSDI Board of Directors, participated in the Third Iberian SDI Conference that took place in Madrid, Spain from 17-19 October. Eric provided the closing key-note presentation of the Conference, where he presented the



GeoSUR Program and an overview of the links of this Latin American SDI initiative with INSPIRE, the Spanish SDI and Eye on Earth. The Conference provided an opportunity to review potential areas of collaboration with Iberian agencies, in particular with the National Center for Geographic Information (CNIG), part of the Spanish National Geographic Institute. You can see a short video of Eric (in Spanish) on GeoSUR, presented at the JIDEE meeting here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpzBm-HJVdg&feature=plcp>.



The Technical Committee is also responsible for updating of the **GSDI SDI Cookbook**, a wiki maintained at: http://www.gsdi.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Page.

This month, **Julie Binder Maitra** of USGS, editor of Chapter 10 of the Cookbook, "Standards Suites for Spatial Data Infrastructure", announced the chapter update, which addresses the questions:

- What standards make up the SDI standards baseline?
- Which versions of core standards should be cited in the SDI standards baseline?
- What tests shall be performed to make sure that software standards are compliant with standards?

Although Chapter 10 was initially developed under the auspices of the GSDI, it is scalable for SDIs worldwide, from local to regional to national to transnational to global SDIs. The previous version of Chapter 10 was last updated in 2010. We would like representatives from various SDIs to identify what core standards they use in their SDIs. This information will go into an appendix to Chapter 10.

Societal Impacts Committee

Training Seminar on GIS in Taipei

The Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association provided a free training opportunity for three candidates to attend the ICLPST (International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training) training Seminar on Geographical Information System and Land Management in Taipei. Applicants needed to be either members of the International Geospatial Society (IGS), the individual membership division of the GSDI Association, or members of staff from official GSDI Association member organizations.



After reviewing by the GSDI Association's Societal Impacts Committee, the three attendees selected to attend the training in 2012 were Patricia Kay Llanos (Bolivia), Leticia Hissa (Brazil), and Norval Alfanscio Young (British Virgin Islands). *Societal Impacts Committee vice-Chair Jeremy Shen is 2nd from left.*

The seminar was held successfully from 12 - 25 September 2012 in Taipei. All the participants shared experiences from different parts of the world and enjoyed the time they encountered with people of similar working background. They were happy to have built up the capacity in SDI development and/or GIS management which they believed one of the best practices for their own countries.

According to **Jeremy Shen**, Director of the Information Center at the Min. of Interior, in 2013 the same training opportunity will be offered again. Each selected participant will receive a round-trip air ticket, allowance and lodging expenses during the training period.

For those interested in this excellent training opportunity in Taipei, view the guidelines below. The guidelines for the candidates to participate in the training seminar are:

1. Candidates must be an individual member of the International Geospatial Society (IGS) or must be affiliated with an organization that is a member of the GSDI Association.
2. Candidates must be proficient in both spoken and written English in order to be able to follow lectures and instructions conducted in English.
3. Candidates must be persons who are presently working as an administrator, planner or project analyst in areas such as land use and management, urban planning, land surveying, spatial data infrastructure, geographic information systems, etc.
4. Candidates must be under the age of 55.

For more details, please watch for the formal announcement on the GSDI Association's website early next year (www.gsdi.org).

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

Small Grants Update from Rwanda

Eng. Hitimana Jean Pierre, from the National University of Rwanda, reports on a paper produced from the the GSDI Small Grants Program Project: "Use of GIS and SDI in promoting coffee quality in Maraba Sector South Province of Rwanda." The progress and findings as a result of this grant will be presented at the 5th International Scientific research Conference that will take place from 5-7 December 2012 in Butare, Rwanda, where an abstract of the paper was submitted – see: <http://www.conference.nur.ac.rw>. A Metadata Geoportal has been created at: www.cgis.nur.ac.rw. We are planning to have a Workshop of the findings as a result of



this SDI Project in October 2012 and a Final Report of the project will follow.

GSDI Small Grants - URISA GISCorps Support

For information on the support from the URISA GISCorps volunteers on behalf of the GSDI Small Grants awards, and other URISA GISCorps activities, visit the GISCorps Ongoing Projects website at:
http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=62

New Small Grants Funders Needed!

The GSDI Association Board and Members are seeking funding to help ensure that the Small Grants Program can be continued in 2013 and for the future. Anyone who can help with future financial support, please contact the Association President, Prof David Coleman, or Executive Director, Prof Harlan Onsrud.

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

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

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

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSPATIAL SOCIETY (IGS)

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

IGS Member Profiles

This month, our IGS Member Profile is for **Patricia Llanos Torrico**, an Engineer in Geography with Masters Studies in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems applied to Earth Sciences. She has worked in the Prefectures of Oruro and Cochabamba as a consultant on issues of territory management and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). She also has worked with the Ministry of Development Planning and the Authority of Land Management and Forest Monitoring at the national scale of Bolivia, on remote sensing topics, creating geospatial information and performing spatial analysis.

Currently Mrs Llanos is part of the research team at the Institute of Research in Geography (IIGEO) of the Universidad Mayor de San Andres in the city of La Paz, within the project "Desarrollo de las capacidades de respuesta al cambio de los actores sociales en la provincia Iturrealde La Paz". The scope of this project is large, both at the scientific level and the level of their applications to the population of the province Abel Iturrealde and the department of La Paz. A scientific level allows this research to reflect on the social impacts in terms of the integration of outlying and detached areas. Beyond this study, Bolivia participates in a general reflection on the effects of globalization on developing countries, recognizing that globalization is nothing more than a process of integration of separate space and peripheral of the world system. Patricia Llanos will be a doctoral candidate for 2013 in the framework of this research study in partnership with the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD).

Patricia Llanos has undertaken the challenge to found and lead the Foundation Revolución Geoespacial BoliviaRGB, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting geographical science in Bolivia, as an input into their extracurricular activities in order to service society.

IGS Reminders

Subscriptions to GIM International

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



Subscription to SDI Magazine

SDI Magazine is a specialist, free, online e-zine, focusing principally on SDI issues, as opposed to general geomatics topics. Subscription is free (visit www.sdimag.com) and GSDI Association and IGS Members are encouraged to subscribe. The magazine regularly carries news from both the Association and IGS, as well as updates on what is happening with regard to SDI developments around the globe.

Participation in GIKNet

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

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

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

LinkedIn IGS Sub-Group

And if you have not already signed up for the IGS sub-group on LinkedIn (see December Newsletter), please do so ASAP! If you are already a member of the GSDI group, then you can request to join from the *Subgroups* page by clicking "Groups" at the top of your home page. Then click the parent group's name (GSDI). Under the "More" dropdown menu, select *Subgroups*. The click "Join this subgroup." You can view the status of your membership from the Your Groups page at: <http://www.linkedin.com/myGroups>.

Joining IGS

Remember that individuals in low and very low income nations can apply to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. The listing of low and very-low income nations may be found at <http://www.gsd.org/RankingTable>. To join for free, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe on the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) at <http://giknet.org> and then apply for membership in IGS at <http://www.igeoss.org/join>. **To maintain your free membership, simply update your**

professional profile each year on or about December or January. You have the ability to view, edit, or delete your individual profile at any time. Members who joined IGS via this route, i.e. without paying the annual members fee, are reminded to update their information annually, or lose their membership of IGS.

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

IGS Members – submit your news, please, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are nearly 200 of you out there now, so please communicate with us. News can be sent by e-mail either to the IGS officers - President Mabel Álvarez or vice-President Lilia Patricia Aria, who can be contacted via the IGS web site - or directly to me, Roger Longhorn, Editor GSDI & IGS News at roger@alum.mit.edu.

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

OGC Workshop on Open Standards, Policy and Business Value for Benefit of Geospatial entities in the Kingdom of Bahrain

Under the patronage of Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Amer, President of the Central Informatics and Telecommunications Organisation (CITO), CITO on behalf of the National GIS Steering Committee conducted a "Value Workshop" in collaboration with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), held at the Crowne Plaza



Hotel, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, on 18 September 2012. The workshop was presented by **Dr. Carl Reed**, CTO and executive Director (OGC), and focused on a number of recent technological developments and present challenges to overcome

interoperability barriers to create a community of practice locally that will address the key elements necessary for effective and reliable information sharing coordination. An important outcome of the workshop was the development of a coherent vision for the future use of OGC standards that would fundamentally change the way for the geospatial community by exploiting the potential of new policies and practices to solve these technical geospatial challenges.

The workshop was attended by more than 140 participants, including VIP's from various governmental organizations, both decision-makers and planners. The opening speech was delivered by Dr. Mohammed Al-Amer, president of Central Informatics &

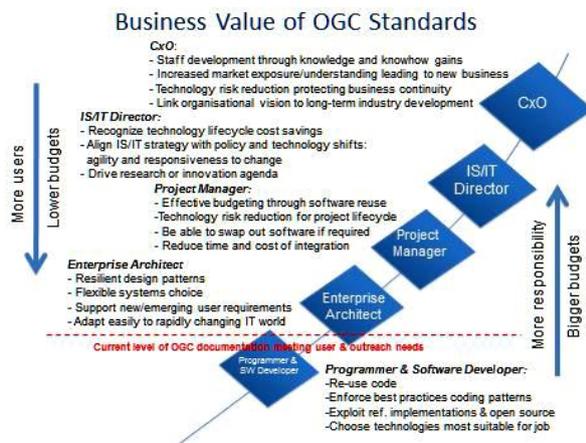


Telecommunications Organisation (CITO) which paved the way for more awareness and usage of OGC standards and utilization in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Dr Reed then made the first part of his executive presentation to all VIPs, which was highly-acknowledged.

The workshop concluded with a token of appreciation given to Dr Reed by Dr Khalid Al-Haidan, Director of GIS Directorate (CITO), who is also a GSDI Association Board member and vice-Chair, Middle East & India, for the GSDI Outreach & Membership Committee.

OGC Business Value Subcommittee Meeting Report

The OGC Business Value Subcommittee met at the OGC Technical Committee meeting in Seoul, Korea, in conjunction with Smart Geospatial Expo 2012. **Steven Ramage**, Head of Ordnance Survey International, and Chair of the OGC Business Value Subcommittee, highlighted the depth and breadth of OGC standards adoption worldwide and the need to be able to communicate across geographies, across communities of interest, encompassing a vast range of tools and technologies and at many different organisational levels. The last point is critical in terms of communicating business value of open standards, as not so many policy makers, strategists or decision makers know and understand the value of open geospatial standards.



Mark Reichardt, CEO and President of the OGC, and Chair of the GSDI O&M Committee, talked about time and cost savings, speed of mobilisation of new services, innovation and economic growth and being able to save lives as a result of adopting and implementing open standards. A good example is the Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP), a regional SDI in the west of Australia, built on OGC standards. Mark also presented the business case for a national building information model standard, as well as solar energy production assessment and energy sources in Germany. He closed with an acknowledgement of the level of investment made in OGC standards by the vendor community worldwide, stating that it is actually more difficult to find

vendors who do not support OGC standards than those who do, including both open source and proprietary software solutions. He closed with an example of WMS implementations worldwide.

Other presenters at the meeting included **Law Leinenweber**, a Director of the OGC Interoperability Program; **Danny Vandenbroucke**, Research Manager, KU Leuven, Belgium; and **Denise McKenzie**, Senior Policy Adviser, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victorian Government, Australia. Denise described the cost savings they achieve through their open-standards based VicGIS/Transmaps system in Australia, which is built on OGC web services standards.

OGC Announces New Executive Director

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) announced the appointment of Denise McKenzie as Executive Director, Marketing and Communications. Working with OGC staff, board, membership and partner organizations, Denise will be responsible for the planning and execution of marketing, communications and education programs to raise awareness and increase application of OGC standards by technology providers and users worldwide.

Over the past 12 years Denise has worked with all sectors of the geospatial industry on behalf of the State Government of Victoria (Australia) in areas of strategic policy, collaboration and innovation. Her collaborative work has earned local, national and international industry awards. Throughout her career Denise's focus has been to utilize public-private partnership and community building to move geospatial from being a niche to a core service within mainstream information technology and decision making process. She has worked in a wide variety of domains including emergency, environment, asset and risk management, business intelligence, positioning and navigation. In the past 12 months she has led the formation of the OGC ANZ Forum and has been working with the Australian and New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC) on the ANZ Spatial Marketplace.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Don't forget to check out the GSDI Association's **Capacity Building Resources** web pages at <http://www.gsdi.org/sic3> to view some of the videos relating to SDI implementation provided by our members. If you have any videos to contribute, please notify us by contacting either Harlan Onsrud, Executive Director (Onsrud (at) spatial.maine.edu) or the editor, Roger Longhorn (ral@alum.mit.edu).



ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of GSDI & IGS Newsletter, we publish an article by GSDI's Legal & Socioeconomic Committee vice-Chair, **Dr Katleen Janssen**, which appears in the October issue of *GIM International* magazine – "**Licences for geospatial data – increasing interoperability.**"

While the geospatial community is increasingly embracing open data, many questions still remain on how to deal with legal issues such as intellectual property rights, privacy, liability, etc. Many legislators, policy makers and data providers have created a set of licences or licensing models to deal with these legal issues and to enable the dissemination of geospatial data or public sector data in general. Many good examples can be cited, such as the Dutch Geo-Shared licensing tool [1], the INSPIRE drafting team model licences [2], the Australian Governments Open Access and Licensing Framework [3], or the United Kingdom's Open Government Licence [4].

The success of these initiatives brings with along a new issue: the interoperability of all these licences. Contrary to their purpose, these initiatives are currently creating a proliferation of 'model licences', 'data policies', 'standard conditions', and so on. For a user intending to combine data from different sources, it may be very complicated, if not impossible, to comply with all licence conditions for each dataset. Hence, interoperability of these licensing conditions – or possibly even better, harmonization – is indispensable for allowing full use of geospatial data.

As was mentioned in an earlier column, the GSDI Legal and Socio-Economic Working Group is working on a harmonized licensing framework for geospatial data. The Working Group wanted to examine the possibility of creating a licensing model that can be used on a global scale and that would enable the 'legal interoperability' of data. In a workshop organized in at the GSDI-13 Conference in Quebec City in May 2012, the Working Group tried to find out which license elements or provisions were considered indispensable by the participants for the dissemination of their data. The results showed that any licensing model that would be developed would still need to allow for many different provisions with regard to the use that could be made of the data and the restrictions that could be imposed on the user. Hence, any harmonization effort would still need to allow for considerable customization by the data providers, which puts into question the usefulness of the exercise.

Of course, in reality the entire exercise is already being simplified greatly by the increasing adoption of open data policies, allowing geospatial data to be used for any purpose without any restrictions (except, generally, for attribution). However, even the standard licences usually

considered as open, such as Creative Commons, do not always allow for the full combination and use of datasets. For instance, if one licence allows the user to redistribute the data as a commercial product, and the other licence doesn't, the combined dataset cannot be used commercially. Hence, even in an open data environment, interoperability and harmonization remain crucial. Therefore, in their choice of (preferably open) licensing conditions, all data providers should keep in mind the possible combination of their data with other datasets. Otherwise, users will still not be able to benefit fully from the availability of the data.

About the author:

Dr Katleen Janssen is vice-Chair of the GSDI Legal and Socioeconomic Committee of the GSDI Association. She is a faculty member and member of the ICRI at KU Leuven in Belgium.

References

- [1] <http://geogedeeld.geonovum.nl/>
- [2] http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/Data_and_Service_Sharing/DSSDraftGuidancedocument_v4.1.pdf
- [3] <http://www.ausgoal.gov.au/>
- [4] <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/>

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

The aim of the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geographic information community. The GIKNet Community Registry permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other institutions to record and publish details about themselves and submit relevant documents to the Spatial Documents Depot, which provides a search facility for locating information and documents submitted by GIKNetwork members. A comprehensive list of GI/SDI related discussion lists can be accessed from a single reference page. Access the GIKNetwork at this link: <http://www.giknet.org/>.

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



PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL SDI PROJECTS

NASA World Wind Europa Challenge (WWEC)

The Summer School related to the open source NASA World Wind Europa Challenge (WWEC) held in Como, Italy, between 19-21 September was attended GSDI L&SE Committee member Gabor Remetey, one of the invited members of the WW International Scientific Committee, who delivered a presentation on the role and potentials of an INSPIRE Spatial Data Interest Community (SDIC) in the WWEC, in the Digital Earth Vision 2020 context. The goal of the initiative is to mobilize European University students to participate in an Annual WW Europa Challenge by designing and developing apps using the open source WW developing kit. JRC IES Digital Earth and Reference Data Unit have also shown interest in the initiative. The Summer School was hosted by Prof Maria A. Brovelli of the Como Campus of the Politecnico di Milano (PoliMi). The homepage of the WWEC will be established by PoliMi in the next days. The event was participated by nearly 50 professors, lecturers as well as graduate and PhD students. Besides NASA ARC, UCL, University Munster students from numerous European universities were present.

CEOS Working Group

The autumn meeting of the CEOS Working Group on Information Systems and Services was held in Hyderabad, hosted by ISRO. GSDI L&SE member Gabor Remetey delivered his liaison report to the plenary from Budapest via a teleconference facility. CEOS WGISS (<http://wgiss.ceos.org>) is the satellite arm of GEO and its action plan discussed in Hyderabad is mostly related to specific GEO task implementation.

GEO - Fourth Evaluation of GEOSS Implementation Focused on Disasters, Energy and Health

The Group on Earth Observations announced the start of work of the Fourth Evaluation of implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems. This evaluation will encompass the Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs) Disasters, Energy and Health. Evaluations within GEO are intended to assess progress toward meeting the Strategic Targets, to identify gaps and recommend corrective actions, to document achievements and the value-added by GEO efforts, and to suggest lessons learned for application as GEOSS implementation continues. The evaluations are conducted in accordance with the GEO Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Document, as approved by Plenary in 2009. Three previous evaluations have been completed: the First (or Mid-Term) Evaluation; the Second Evaluation, which focused on Architecture and Data Management; and the Third Evaluation which assessed progress in the

Agriculture, Biodiversity and Ecosystems SBAs. Final reports of all GEO evaluations are presented to Plenary and are made available to all GEO Members and Participating Organizations through the normal distribution channels.

The Fourth Evaluation Team commenced its work in September 2012 and is expected to conclude in early June 2013. The Evaluation Team currently includes members representing Germany, Japan, Norway and the UK. This evaluation will consider multiple lines of evidence consisting of, amongst others, analysis of GEO documentation and scientific literature, electronic surveys and interviews with selected experts, and a review of Task achievements against the expectations described in the Strategic Targets Document.

The benefit of the evaluations will be maximized through broad participation of the GEO community. This may include completing survey questionnaires, participating in interviews, providing documentation, or identifying contacts for follow-up. The Evaluation Team thanks in advance all those who assist the evaluation process in any of these ways.

The purpose of GEOSS is to achieve comprehensive, coordinated and sustained observations of the Earth system, in order to improve monitoring of the state of the Earth, increase understanding of Earth processes, and enhance prediction of the behaviour of the Earth system.

INSPIRE: pan-European regional SDI initiative update

The final major piece of legislation relating to implementation of the pan-European SDI – the **INSPIRE Directive** – was announced in October. This was the 375-page draft (final version) EC Regulation “amending Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services”. The draft Regulation covers the data harmonisation specifications for the final 25 data themes in INSPIRE, from Annexes II and III, plus some minor changes to the earlier Regulation which covered the nine themes in Annex I. The new Regulation (an amendment) is now in translation to all 22 official EU official languages, after which time it can be published in the Official Journal – and then takes effect across all 27 EU Member States (without the states needing to implement national legislation).

Various GSDI Association members remain involved in on-going work relating to implementation of the INSPIRE Directive and its many Implementing Rules (EC Decisions and/or EC Regulations), for the 34 data themes that comprise the interoperability goals of the European Union and associated services.



Second High Level UN-GGIM Forum in Doha

The Secretariat of the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning and the Statistics Authority of Qatar, will be staging the **Second High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM)** in Doha, Qatar from **4-6 February 2013** at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

The forum will bring together government representatives from United Nations Member States as well as interested stakeholders from non-governmental organisations, academia and the private sector to address and discuss critical and cutting-edge issues on global geospatial information management. The forum also seeks to promote greater usage of growing sources of geospatial information and best practices.

Activities begin 3 February 2013 with an 'Exchange Forum with the Geospatial Industry'. The High Level Forum starts on 4 February 2012 with an Opening Ceremony and Ministerial Segment, followed by five technical sessions over the next three days. Bringing all stakeholders together, the Forum will address current critical matters such as:

- the importance of and drivers for building a sustainable national geospatial information system;
- future trends in geospatial information, including growing the information base and promoting its greater use;
- developing an effective global geodetic reference framework and leveraging location-based services;
- geospatial information and sustainable development (Rio+20); and
- challenges in developing core global reference datasets.

Each of the sessions will consist of a keynote presentation, panel presentations and discussion with the audience.

Similar to the First High Level Forum, an Exchange Forum with the Geospatial Industry will be held on 3 February 2013, one day prior to the Second High Level Forum.

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

- Digital Earth (International Society for Digital Earth) – visit www.digitalearth-isde.org
- Eye on Earth – visit www.eyearth.org
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) building the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – see www.earthobservations.org/ag_partorg.shtml
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu/default.aspx
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit www.iode.org.
- UNSDI – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit www.ungiwg.org
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit www.iode.org.
- UNSDI – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit www.ungiwg.org

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS UPDATES

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

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

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