

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 3, No. 1, 2013 – January 2013

ASSOCIATION NEWS

GSDI 14 Conference Update

Preparations continue for the joint **GSDI 14 World Conference** and **AfricaGIS 2013 Conference** scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the UNECA Conference Center, in early November 2013 in partnership with the GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the International Geospatial Society, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

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 from 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 includes opening and closing plenary sessions with keynote speakers, plenary sessions focused on the conference theme, technical paper sessions in multiple tracks, plus pre-conference and post-conference workshops freely open to all registrants. The program also includes 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 regions around 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:

- sustainable development,
- economic development,
- business intelligence and business geographics,
- 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.

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 GSDI Association member organisations..

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

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

Committee vice-Chair, **Roger Longhorn** has joined the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Marine SDI Working Group (MSDIWG) and attended the Marine SDI Open Forum meeting in Copenhagen (remotely!) and the following two-day workshop of the MSDIWG, hosted by the Danish Hydrographic Service. The MSDIWG, which has existed since 2009, is setting its new workplan for 2013-2014 and is interested in developing a stronger relationship with non-marine SDI development initiatives at national, regional and global levels. Longhorn will explore this with the GSDI Board and Executive Committee at the next opportunity.



The Outreach & Membership Committee also manages the **GSDI Group** on **LinkedIn**, which has added two new members in the past month, for a total of 229 members today. 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

Legal & Socioeconomic Committee member (and former Chair), **Dr Gabor Remetey-Fülöpp** (HUNAGI) provided the ‘Insider View’ column in the GIM International magazine for their January issue, relating to the AfriGEOSS initiative. Following on from our introduction to that initiative in the December 2012 issue of GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter, Gabor’s GIM International article is repeated in this month’s issue of the Newsletter below.

Technical Committee

Technical Committee Chair, **Eric van Praag**, Regional Coordinator, GeoSUR Program of the Latin American Development Bank (CAF), along with USGS, has nominated the GeoSUR Topographic Processing Service (TPS), built with ESRI’s AG Server 10.1, for the AAG Stanley Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography. See more news later in this issue.

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

Societal Impacts Committee

The Societal Impacts Committee administers the GSDI Small Grants Program and focuses on capacity building.

Update on the Training Opportunity in Chinese Taipei in 2013

In our last issue we published the details from Societal Impacts Committee vice-Chair **Jeremy Shen**, Director of the Information Center at the Min. of Interior in Chinese Taipei, about the sponsorship opportunity to attend the 2013 ICLPST (International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei. Each selected participant receives a round-trip air ticket, allowance and lodging expenses during the training period.

Jeremy notifies us that 33 applications were received from IGS or GSDI Association members and 13 from non-members. The applications are now being reviewed by members of the Committee and IGS officers, to select 10

candidates, ranked in priority order, before 15 February. This list will then be forwarded to the International Land Policy Research Center for final selection of three candidates, so that travel arrangements can begin. The training programme takes place in Taipei from 20 March to 2 April 2013.

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>.

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.gsdi.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 Reminders

International Geospatial Society (IGS) Officer Elections

Election of new IGS officers is underway. Members are asked to please send in their nominations for President and vice-President of the International Geospatial Society! The term of the first president, Mabel Alvarez, has expired and the former president-elect had to step down due to a change of jobs.

The nominations committee consists of:

- Mabel Alvarez, Past President, International Geospatial Society (Chile)
- Bas Kok, Past President, GSDI Association (Netherlands)
- Santiago Borrero, Past President, GSDI Association (Mexico)
- Abbas Rajabifard, Past President, GSDI Association (Australia)
- David Coleman, President, GSDI Association (Canada)

This committee will select two to five nominations to be placed on the ballot for each of the two open positions. If more than two candidates are listed, ranked instantaneous runoff voting will be used.

Feel free to nominate yourself or look at the list of members at <http://www.igeoss.org/members> and nominate someone you would like to see as president of the organization. We will contact other than self-nominations to see if those nominated are willing to stand for election. Please have nominations sent to the GSDI President, Prof Dave Coleman, by 15 February at <dcoleman@unb.ca>. We will try to have electronic elections within two weeks of that date.

The term of president is for two years. The elected president will serve from the date of election in 2013 until December 31, 2014. The elected vice-president/president-elect will serve as vice-president until December 31, 2014 and then president from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

Nominees for president and president-elect should:

1. Let me know if you are willing to have your name on the ballot
2. Prepare a short personal statement. This might include a vision for the organization, any priority goals or objectives, personal commitment, etc. Please keep this under 500 words. The statements for all candidates will be compiled and circulated to all IGS members.
3. If not already posted, post your resume/vita within the Geographic Information Knowledge Network. Go to <http://giknet.org>, login (upper right hand corner) and then follow the path My Submissions > Enter Profile for Individual.

Details of the election process follow. Remember, if you are required to pay dues, don't forget to pay your 2013 dues at <http://igeoss.org/join> if you plan to vote in the elections!

Process for Election for IGS President and IGS Vice-President/President-Elect

Note: The approved operating procedures of the International Geospatial Society may be found at http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=505 starting on page 31.

To run the elections we will use the open source code software called LimeSurvey. As such, the code has been scrutinized and improved upon by many volunteer software developers.

Ensuring One Vote or Response Per IGS Member

Each International Geospatial Society member will receive an email from Harlan Onsrud, Executive Director of the GSDI Association at the email address they have recorded with the International Geospatial Society in the Member Services System. The software system is programmed to allow one and only one random token to be sent to your email account with that token being included in a one-time use web link where you may vote. Thus no person should be able to vote more than once.

Ensuring Anonymity (extracted from the software documentation)

This survey is anonymous. The record kept of your survey responses does not contain any identifying information about you unless a specific question in the survey has asked for this. If you have responded to a survey that used an identifying token to allow you to access the survey, you can rest assured that the identifying token is



not kept with your responses. It is managed in a separate database, and will only be updated to indicate that you have (or haven't) completed the survey. There is no way of matching identification tokens with survey responses in this survey.

Casting and Counting of Ballots

The instructions for casting ballots are as follows:

- President: Please vote for President from the candidates listed by ranking your first choice as 1, second choice as 2, third choice as 3, etc.
- Vice-President/President-Elect: Please vote for Vice-President/President-Elect from the candidates listed by ranking your first choice as 1, second choice as 2, third choice as 3, etc.

The approach of preferential voting which supports instantaneous run-offs is described in the Appendix of the International Geospatial Society Operating Procedures that may be found at http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=505. The ballots as cast in LimeSurvey will be verified by at least three past presidents of the GSDI Association as selected by the current president.

Information provided by David Coleman, President, GSDI Association (dcoleman@unb.ca).

IGS Reminders – Membership Renewal!

As of January 2013, it is time to renew your membership in the International Geospatial Society (IGS). As a member you played a vital role in making the past year a great success.

Activities and Benefits

The International Geospatial Society (IGS) is the global society for geospatial specialists who want to affiliate with, help support, learn from and communicate with peer professionals across the world. Without the base financial support and volunteered personal time and effort of members the numerous activities in which IGS engages would not be possible. See a description of member benefits and the range of activities in which members have been engaged at: <http://www.igeoss.org/BenefitsOfJoining>.

In terms of new initiatives, the organization was able to implement a program to allow geospatial specialists in developing nations to provide services in lieu of dues. Those services consist of providing or updating each year a personal professional profile in the geographic knowledge network. This effort has provided a much

broader geographic distribution of representation in the organization. See the full list of members at: <http://www.igeoss.org/members>.

We also expanded publication of GSDI and IGS Global News so it comes to you through email on a regular basis. The organization continues to advocate open access to geospatial conference proceedings, books, learning materials, newsletters and standards across global geospatial organizations to ensure that all are able to benefit from the resources being developed.

As already mentioned in the Societal Impacts Committee report above, a free training opportunity was offered for up to three candidates from Africa to attend the ICLPST (International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei. Chinese Taipei is the sponsor of the training program that entrusts ICLPST to carry out the project. Each candidate 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.

While it is difficult for all members to meet in person, the next face-to-face meeting of the International Geospatial Society will occur during the next GSDI world conference to be held in early November 2013 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. All IGS members are cordially invited to attend the IGS meeting where much of the business of the organization will be accomplished. (See updates as they occur at <http://www.gsd.org/gsdconf/gsd14/>) Various committees will report on their progress in service to the organization and to the profession generally. We will also have additional important matters to consider such as better means for communicating and coordinating work at a distance. Exact dates and more information on this will be forthcoming.

The current leadership of IGS would like to extend heartfelt thanks for your past support and encourages you to play a primary role as IGS moves forward into another productive year serving our members and other peers across the globe.

Submitting Your Dues or Maintaining Free Membership

In order to renew your membership, please go to <http://www.igeoss.org/join> and pay the dues of \$US 50 by credit card (\$25 for students). Dues payment is available only through use of a credit card. In the event that you are a citizen of and live within a qualifying economically disadvantaged nation, the online membership application at <http://www.igeoss.org/join> will provide you with the option of applying for free membership in IGS. The primary obligation is to provide



the URL link to your professional profile in the GIKNetwork.

Information provided by Marilyn Gallant, GSDI Business Manager (mgallant@gsdi.org).

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>.

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

If you have not already signed up for the IGS sub-group on LinkedIn (see prior Newsletters), please do so ASAP! To date, we have over 200 members in IGS – yet only 26 have joined the LinkedIn group. 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.gsdi.org/RankingTable>.

To join for free, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe on the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) at <http://giknet.org> and then apply for membership in IGS at <http://www.igeoss.org/join>.

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 IGS President Mabel Álvarez, 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

FGDC Initiates New NSDI Strategic Plan

The US Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has initiated a process to develop a new strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). FGDC plans to work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders in the geospatial community to develop a new strategy that includes a set of goals and objectives for the continued and sustainable development of the NSDI.

FGDC will provide multiple opportunities for input and involvement in the development of the new strategic plan, including public meetings of the FGDC Coordination Group, FGDC Steering Committee, National Geospatial Advisory Committee, as well as special sessions at professional conferences and other opportunities.

This webpage will be updated with additional information about public involvement opportunities as the strategic planning process advances. The final review/approval of Strategic Plan is anticipated for the November/December 2013 time frame. At the moment, the page includes links to more information. To access



the documents listed below, visit the 'NSDI Plan' page at: http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/index_html.

1) Strategic Planning Process - NSDI Strategic Plan Project Framework and Timeline (2013 - 3 pages)

2) Strategic Plan Drivers

- OMB Circular A-16
- GAO Report (GAO-13-94): Geospatial Information – OMB and Agencies Need to Make Coordination a Priority to Reduce Duplication
- Digital Government Strategy
- Open Government Directive
- Open Data Policy (to be released in early 2013)

3) Previous NSDI Strategic Plans

- NSDI Future Directions Initiative (2004)
- A Strategy for the NSDI (1997)
- Plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (1994)

4) Recent FGDC Strategic Activities

- Geospatial Platform Business Plan (2012)
- Geospatial Platform Modernization Roadmap (2011)
- OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance (2010)
- Geospatial Line of Business Common Solutions/Target Architecture (2006)
- Federal Enterprise Architecture Geospatial Profile (2006)

GeoConnections (Canada)

Recent updates to the "Operational Policies" section of Canada's GeoConnections "Publications" page (<http://geoconnections.nrcan.gc.ca/18>) include recent primers and background documents related to VGI, Policy Implications of Cloud Computing, and Intellectual Property law as they relate to geospatial information.

CAF (Latin American Development Bank) and USGS

The GeoSUR Topographic Processing Service (TPS), built with ESRI's AG Server 10.1, was nominated for the AAG Stanley Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography, on behalf of CAF and the USGS. Background information on the TPS is available at:

http://www.geosur.info/geosur/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=79&Itemid=424&lang=en

The CAF/USGS team believe the TPS is an interesting candidate to receive the Brunn award because:

- It is unique in the developing world, due to its area coverage and spatial resolution (perhaps unique also in many regions of the developed world)..
- We needed to "fill" the SRTM level-2 voids in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) as part of developing the TPS, a valuable process on itself.
- 30-m SRTM derivatives the LAC region were created for the first time (are now available for viewing and downloading in the GeoSUR Regional Map Service) as part of the creation of the TPS.
- The TPS offers a model for building similar geoservices in other parts of the world (areas with SRTM level-2 availability)
- The TPS project has spanned some new lines of work, such as hydropower assessments conducted by CAF and the USGS in LAC using the "filled" SRTM level-2 model generated for the TPS. We have incorporated to the TPS new online models that facilitate dam placement, reservoir management, estimation of reservoir flood areas, and so on.
- The TPS is actively used by the geospatial community in Latin America for many different applications nowadays.
- The TPS tools and models are available to users with access to ESRI software, allowing them to use their own high-resolution DEMs in conjunction with the TPS for advanced geoprocessing.
- The TPS functionality can be expanded to incorporate new tools, such as landslide and flood mapping/alerts, estimation of cost of new roads, placement of antennas for cellular phone companies, etc, etc.

GeoSUR already submitted a nomination for another AAG award, the Burrill Award, in December, as you are probably aware. Information provided by Eric van Praag, Regional Coordinator, GeoSUR Program, and Chair of the GSDI Technical Committee.

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 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 the Newsletter, we are re-publishing the **GIM International** magazine 'Insider View' column from January, 2013, by **Dr Gabor Remetey-Fülöpp** (HUNAGI) of the Legal & Socioeconomic Committee, about the



AfriGEOSS initiative, which was introduced in last month's issue of the Newsletter.

Assisting Africa's Participation and Contribution to the Global Vision

Spatial Data Infrastructures and Earth Observation Systems are acknowledged as important tools for addressing the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Johannesburg Declaration of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 refers to the need to use modern technologies, including remote-sensing and satellite technologies, to address the challenges of sustainable development.

Over the past decades, the activities on the African continent of agencies, organisations, professional bodies and educational institutions including the FAO, UNEP, UNECA, ESA, the World Bank, ISPRS, FIG and ITC (Enschede, The Netherlands) have contributed not only to the infrastructure and capacity building, but also in applications development, with positive socio-economic impacts from local to continental level.

When the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) launched the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) concept in 2005, with a 10-Year Implementation Plan, some societal benefits were already proven by African countries which had implemented ground segments with operational remote sensing facilities. In 2005, the GSDI held its world conference for the second time on the African continent in Cairo, Egypt. In the same year, the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) launched the UN Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI) at its Plenary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which was endorsed two years later in the Cape Town Declaration of the GEO-IV Plenary and Ministerial Summit.

Rather than being foreign initiatives with little relevance in Africa, SDIs have been embraced by many African countries: as of 2009, 24 of the 53 African countries had initiated SDIs.

AfriGEOSS: bringing African and global geospatial communities together

At the GEO-IX Plenary held in Brazil in November 2012, Ganiy I. Agbaje and Humbulani Mudau presented the AfriGEOSS initiative addressing two of the eight MDGs, namely to ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development. Three of the GEOSS strategic targets are particularly relevant to the initiative: capacity building, architecture and data management. AfriGEOSS will work with projects and organisations worldwide, including South Africa & GEO Secretariat (seed fund), European Commission, Brazil and

Japan, G20, European Space Agency, UNESCO, Norway, Australia and USA.

As a participating organisation, SDI welcomed the AfriGEOSS initiative and emphasized the unique opportunity to bring the geospatial and the AfriGEOSS communities together at the AfricaGIS 2013 Conference and the GSDI 14 World Conference. This event, a joint activity of the GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the International Geospatial Society (IGS), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), will take place at the UNECA Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November.

Earth Observation will need advanced data sharing policies and a common technical architecture including interoperable SDIs and capacity building. GSDI can potentially help the implementation of the geo-based activities through its Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKnet) which facilitates the gathering and sharing of knowledge accumulated by its members. The network is also open for the Earth Observation community. GSDI established the IGS to motivate interested individuals to join on global level, providing access to information disseminated by GSDI.

AfricaExpo in Budapest

The Hungarian GI Association, HUNAGI, will present these developments on a poster at the 2nd Africa Expo, 'More of Africa', scheduled for 14-17 February 2013. The international exhibition will attract all kinds of African or African-related diplomatic, business and non-governmental organisations.

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

UN-GGIM: Call for Case Studies

The United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) is requesting geospatial users, members of industry, national mapping and cadastral authorities and academic institutes to submit case studies which demonstrate the value of geoinformation. During the 2nd High Level Forum of the UN-GGIM, which is being held in Qatar from 4 to 6 February, co-chair Vanessa Lawrence made it clear that while UN-GGIM has already received a number of case studies, it still needs many more.

The case studies will be used to underline the importance of geospatial information to all nations, and therefore show the Member States the many ways in which geoinformation can add value to decision-making and policymaking. This supports the UN-GGIM's drive to help ensure that all nations are able to benefit from a reliable, accurate and authoritative geospatial information base.

To submit a case study for consideration, please refer to the requirements (the Secretariat has provided a template to ensure that all case studies have a consistent framework) and then send it directly to Cecille Blake, UN-GGIM Secretariat: blake1@un.org.

Due to the purpose of the user case studies and the origin of this request, case studies are only likely to be used if they are vendor-neutral and software-neutral.

- User Case Studies Template UN-GGIM are at: http://www.gim-international.com/wosmedia/1084/user_case_studies_template_unggim.ppt
- User Case Studies UN-GGIM - accompanying document is at: http://www.gim-international.com/wosmedia/1085/case_studies_unggim_accompanying_document.pdf

GeoSUR Regional SDI Award

GSDI Board members **Eric van Praag** and **Santiago Borrero** are respectively, Regional Coordinator for the GeoSUR Program of CAF (Latin American Development Bank) and Secretary General of PAIGH (Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia). They announced that the first edition of the **GeoSUR Award**, for 2012, was

awarded during the V GeoSUR Meeting that took place on 14 November in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the aegis of the 44th PAIGH Board of Directors Meeting.

The GeoSUR Innovation Award was provided to the Project to "Create a Seamless Integrated 1:250,000 Digital Map of Mesoamerica", presented by the National Geographic Institute of El Salvador. The GeoSUR Relevance Award was provided to the Peru Ministry of Environment Map Service, presented by the Office of Land Planning of the Vice-Ministry of Strategic Development of Natural Resources of the Ministry of Environment.

For more information, visit www.geosur.info/geosur/ and <http://www.ipgh.org>.

INSPIRE

European Commission Launches Online Service to Promote Semantic Interoperability

On 25 January 2013, the European Commission launched an online service to make it easier for public administrations to find and re-use semantic assets. More than one thousand assets from fifteen organisations, including several Member States and standardization bodies, can be found via the European Commission Joinup Portal at: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/catalogue/all>.

By increasing the visibility and promoting the re-use of existing semantic assets the European Commission fosters semantic interoperability among information systems developed in different Member States.

NASA World Wind Challenge

The NASA World Wind Europe Challenge has been launched, organised by the NASA Ames Research Center, the Politecnico di Milano Polo Territoriale di Como and GSDI Association Member Hungarian Association for Geo-information (HUNAGI). There will be a WWEC Workshop at the INSPIRE Conference in Florence, Italy, in June, and the WWEC winners will be recognized at the plenary award session. Details are at: eurochallenge.como.polimi.it

GSDI INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – see www.earthobservations.org.
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu/default.aspx.
- INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu.
- International Hydrographic Organisation – Marine SDI Working Group – see www.iho.int.
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit www.iode.org.
- UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit ggim.un.org.
- 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>.

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS - News from the [GSDI Association](#) and the [International Geospatial Society](#) – is published by the GSDI Association, edited by Roger Longhorn, vice-Chair, Communications, of the GSDI Outreach and Membership Committee. The Editor may be contacted at ral@alum.mit.edu. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to GSDI and IGS Member news or SDI initiatives at any level.