

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 4, No. 2, 2014

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

GSDI Association Board Member Mark Becker Dies in Tragic Accident

The GSDI Association learned of the tragic death of CIESIN Associate Director **Mark Becker** at the age of 53, on 26 February 2014 in a multi-vehicle accident on the New York State Thruway in Woodbury, NY. Mark was the GSDI Board member representing 'GSDI Related Global Initiatives' and was a valued member of the GSDI Outreach and Membership Committee, where his input and insight will be much missed by his colleagues at the Association.

Below is an extract from the tribute to Mark from CIESIN.

"In his 15 years at CIESIN Mark made contributions that will be felt for a long time. He began his CIESIN career in February 1999, and was soon appointed head of the Geospatial Applications Division. ... In many ways he helped bring GIS to Columbia, as manager of the GIS Service Center and ESRI site license. He helped install many of the early GIS labs on campus and helped train many of the people who operated them. He taught some of the first GIS classes at the university, in several departments, and was in high demand because of his reputation as a thorough, patient, and effective teacher. In the 2013-2014 academic year, he was an adjunct professor in Columbia College's sustainable development department and the Mailman School of Public Health. Mark also led many training workshops around the world in spatial data analysis and related topics."

"Mark was a gifted leader and manager, earning a fierce loyalty among his staff who appreciated his ability to help them achieve high levels of technical success and to grow personally and professionally. He led many research projects, with collaborators from across the university and with partners from around the world."

"Mark was highly regarded in a many influential circles, from the local to the global. He was a trustee of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust since 1999, a board member of the Environmental Consortium of Hudson Valley Colleges and Universities since 2007, and a board member of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Association since 2010. Within local conservation circles he was primarily known for co-directing, with his partner of 30 years Lori Charkey, the Bergen Save the Watershed Action Network (Bergen SWAN)."



Mark Becker leading a teacher training workshop for the CHANGE Viewer mapping tool. Pictured behind him is Amy Work, IAGT, who helped develop the tool. Palisades, New York, July 2013. Source: CEISIN

See the full tribute to Mark on the CIESIN website at <http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/becker.html>.

GSDI Donates to Africare

The following is an extract from the letter of thanks received from the Chief of Staff of Africare, acknowledging the donation made by the GSDI Association from funds arising from the Global Geospatial Conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3-8 November 2013.

"On behalf of Africare, I thank you, for GSDI's generous gift. With your help, African communities and citizens are thriving with new opportunities and skills for the future. Your support is critical to our mission. It will be applied to one or more of the 200 programs Africare operates, with are focused on advancing and improving health, education, and economic growth for millions of people across the continent.

We recognise that charity is a choice and so it is important to us that we do everything we can to



maintain the highest programmatic and organisational standards. Africare is one of America's oldest and largest non-profits focused solely on improving the lives of Africans and working exclusively in Africa. Since our inception 44 years ago, Africare has implemented more than 2,500 life-changing programs in 36 countries. Our work is far from being done, but it would not continue without the generosity of individual donors like you."

Kendra E. Davenport - Chief of Staff and Chief Development & Communications Officer

For more information on Africare and its many programs on the African continent, visit their website at <http://www.africare.org>

Africa will also be a focus for the Small Grants Program, as more support funding is realized for that initiative of the Societal Impacts Committee (see more later in this 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.gsdi.org/newsletters>). These include the **GSDI Regional Newsletters** for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America & Caribbean; the **GSDI & IGS Global News** (covering GSDI Association and IGS Member activities), **FGDC Newsletter** (USA SDI news), EuroGeographics and **EUROGI Newsletters** (covering Europe), **EIS-Africa** (environmental news from Africa), **SALB Newsletter** (Second Administrative Level Boundaries from the UNGIWG project), the **UN-SPIDER Newsletter** (the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, published by UNOOSA – UN Office for Outer Space Affairs), and the newsletters of the organisations with which GSDI has MoUs – **ICA**, **FIG** and **ISPRS**

Outreach & Membership Committee

Work continues on developing the 5-year **GSDI & IGS Strategic Plan** via the working group led by President-elect, Dave Lovell (Eurogeographcis). A first draft has been completed and circulated to the Executive Committee and selected members of the Board and external advisors. Based on the comments received, a final first draft will be circulated to the full GSDI Board for discussion at the next Board Meeting, scheduled for 31 March 2014.

Vice-Chair Communications, **Roger Longhorn**, provided lectures on geo information legal and policy issues, including licensing, on the Association member ICC (Cartographic Institute of Catalonia) course

IC_Cartotechnology in Barcelona. Chair **Denise McKenzie** has been very active in preparations for several OGC meetings, as had vice-Chair Europe, **Joep Crompvoets**, in his other role as Secretary-General of EuroSUR.



The O&M Committee manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has 319 members, an increase of 12 from last month. If you are not already a member of this group, please join today – and tell your friends! Visit <http://www.linkedin.com> to join, then find GSDI in the 'Groups' option, to join the group or go direct to: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/GSDI-Association-3794985>.

Note: you do NOT have to be a member of the GSDI Association or the International Geospatial Society to join the LinkedIn group! However, requests to join the group and/or to post messages are moderated.

Our new **Facebook** account created in July to help promote the GSDI Conference, has gathered a few more followers and GSDI and IGS members are encouraged to use Facebook to tell us about their activities. Visit us on Facebook at: (www.facebook.com/gsdianidigs).



We continue to publish news on the Members' Corner of the GSDI website and via **Twitter** @GSDI_IGS.

Societal Impacts Committee

The Societal Impacts Committee, chaired by **Carmelle Terborgh** (Esri), administers the GSDI Small Grants Program, where vice-Chair, **Brigitta Urban-Mathieux** (FGDC/USGS) supports Small Grants Program development. **Jeremy Shen** is vice-Chair, Capacity Building. The Societal Impacts Committee also supports the International Geospatial Society officers in relation to capitalizing on capacity building initiatives for IGS members, especially from developing nations.

The good news is that our first new financial supporter for the **Small Grants Program** has appeared, from Canada's **GeoConnections**. The first call for proposals has gone out to the GSDI and IGS membership and to the full GSDI mailing list, noting that GSDI and IGS members will get preference in proposal evaluation to begin in April. Further funds are still being sought for Small Grants Program support from other sources, so watch this space for more news in future issues.





URISA's GISCorps works closely with the GSDI Association in providing professional GIS support in the field for the GSDI Small Grants Program. We encourage GSDI Association members and individual members of the International Geospatial Society to consider joining the GISCorps.

Message from the URISA GISCorp Core Committee

We hope that you've had a great start to 2014. We have been busy as ever and our volunteers have been lending their expertise to many projects some of which are showcased in this newsletter. We invite you to read their stories and share your comments and ideas with us.

Since the last newsletter, four missions have been completed: two remote sensing projects in Tanzania and Chile, one project for a Seattle based nonprofit organization, and one for the USGS' Map Corps initiative (listed under featured stories).

Early this year, in collaboration with Humanitarian Open Street Map (HOT), 18 of our volunteers started digitizing various features on OSM in South Sudan and the second phase of the project just began with 15 volunteers continuing the work. We have also concluded the recruitment for a project in Afghanistan and will be sending two instructors to Kabul in August. With our latest mission, the total number of projects is at 140 with 491 deployed volunteers.

Internally, we have been discussing the redesign of our website for some time. Core Committee member, Carol Kraemer, has taken the lead on exploring various options and we hope to share more details with you in our next newsletter.

GISCorps Core Committee: Dianne Haley, Carol Kraemer, Heather Milton, Mark Salling, Allen Ibaugh, Dave Litke, Shoreh Elhami

Missions in Progress

A total of 14 missions are currently in progress. Detailed accounts of these projects are posted on our Ongoing Projects Page at this link:

http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=127&Itemid=63

Modeling Change Patterns in Nguru Forest - Tanzania

This project was initiated as a small grant request from the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association's Small Grants Program, by the University of Kwazulu-Natal and the Wami Ruvu Basin Water Office in Tanzania.

The first volunteer conducted the analysis using the TM imagery and now the consortium has acquired new and higher resolution imagery (Rapid Eye) and the second volunteer Linda DeLay, GISP, a GIS Specialist from New Mexico, conducted similar analysis on the Rapid Eye imagery. The intention of the project was to assess the effects of fragmentation on the landscape using high-resolution imagery. Read more about the project here. http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=150&Itemid=59

A full copy of the report can be found in at this link: <http://www.giscorps.org/photos/TanzFinalReport.pdf>

For updates on 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

INITIAL SMALL GRANTS FUNDER FOUND – MORE SUPPORT STILL NEEDED!

We are happy to announce that Canada's **GeoConnections** program has provided sufficient Small Grants funding for the Association to launch the first call for proposals of 2014, under which four proposals will be selected for funding with cash support and up to four for support with professional services. See more below on that call below.

The GSDI Association Board and Members continue to seek additional 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 Secretary General, Prof Harlan Onsrud.

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 GSDI home page!



Current 2014 GSDI Small Grants Program Request for Proposals

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association is pleased to announce its Small Grants Program for the year 2014.

- Awards for spatial data infrastructure activities in economically disadvantaged nations
- Application deadline is 31 March 2014
- Proposal length - 2500 words maximum
- Awards of \$2500 USD in cash and (or) contributed volunteer professional services for the project
- Up to four projects will be selected for cash awards and four projects to receive professional services support via our collaboration with the GISCorps of URISA.

Background

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association is dedicated to international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national, and international spatial data infrastructure developments that would allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance. We are committed to bringing about an infrastructure that will allow users globally to access spatial data at a variety of scales from multiple sources that ultimately will appear seamless to all users. The GSDI Association supports the work of organizations to develop their own Web-enabled Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) initiatives, nationally and regionally, and collaborates with local, national, and international organizations to ensure that spatial data, services, and metadata are accessible through interoperable standards-based services, systems, software, and products that operate in a web-enabled environment. The success of the GSDI Association depends on the quality of its partnerships with public, private, academic, and non-governmental organizations. Through adoption of common, international standards, key architecture principles, and approaches for capacity building in developing countries, the GSDI initiatives also link national SDI efforts with the vision and goals of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and its Global Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS).

Additional information:

- Overview of GSDI – see: memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=844 (in MS PowerPoint)
- GSDI Strategic Plan – see: portal.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=544 (in PDF)

- Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) - www.earthobservations.org

The GSDI Association has allocated resources from the **GeoConnections** Program of GSDI Member **Natural Resources Canada** to fund a small grants program to support national or sub-national activities that foster partnerships, develop in-country technical capacity, improve data compatibility and access, and increase political support for spatial data infrastructure. The U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee Office of the Secretariat and the GISCorps of The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) also support the program.

The resources will be used to offer two types of grants this year:

- Cash up to \$2,500 USD
- Professional Services to be determined

Professional Services will be coordinated by the **GISCorps** of URISA, an international initiative that offers volunteer GIS services (www.GISCorps.org). It is possible to request a combination of cash and professional services.

Support may be used for technical or institutional projects, as long as tangible outputs are achieved and several institutions collaborate on the effort. Please clearly indicate the staffing expected to perform the work and whether additional expertise from GISCorps may be useful. If GISCorps assistance is needed, indicate the type that is needed. A list of typical projects is available at the official program announcement here.

Priority will be given to projects in developing nations and countries with economies in transition. Grants can be awarded to SDI coordinating bodies (councils, committees) and GIS user groups, but the GSDI Association asks that one institution take responsibility for receiving/depositing the funds. Grants cannot be used to cover organization overhead expenses. The format of the reports is set out in the formal announcement here.

Proposals must be submitted digitally to grants@gsdi.org in English and should be preferably two pages in length but no more than five pages or 2500 words (excluding any appendices). Please submit your proposal as a .pdf file (or alternatively .doc, docx or .rtf file) using 12-point Times Roman or Arial font.

Proposals are due on 31 March 2014. Please e-mail them to:



Societal Impacts Committee, GSDI Association, grants@gsdi.org

Note: **The Small Grants Program is intended as a benefit of "full membership" in the GSDI Association.** Because the GSDI Association is fairly young, we are making this opportunity available currently to non-members as well. However, full members may obtain favored treatment in the instance in which two grant applications have been ranked similarly in the peer review process. Note that the annual GSDI Association membership fee for national organizations in low and very low per capita income nations may be as little as U.S. \$100 or documented in-kind contributions in lieu of dues. Please see www.gsdi.org/joinGSDI

See the full call for proposals text at the GSDI Small Grants Program link: <http://www.gsdi.org/node/888>

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

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSPATIAL SOCIETY (IGS)

The **International Geospatial Society** is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association and seeks individuals for membership who have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests, including professionals working in these topic areas in government, academia or industry, and students. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. As of 28 February 2014, IGS had **321 active members**. Renewal messages were sent to all members at the end of February. The IGS web site is at: <http://www.igeoss.org>.

IGS REMINDERS

Subscriptions to GIM International

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

Subscriptions to Geospatial World Online Magazine

Geospatial World magazine is now offering free subscriptions to IGS members from developing nations or who are students.

Participation in GIKNet

IGS members are also reminded that information is uploaded in the **GIKnet Spatial Data Depot**, to which they are requested to contribute. Members are invited to actively participate in the IGS discussion list and/or on the GSDI LinkedIn Group as a means of sharing news, plus on the other regional and topic-oriented discussion lists of the GSDI Association.

GSDI & IGS on LinkedIn and Facebook

If you have not already done so, please join the GSDI Group on the professional networking site **LinkedIn** at www.linkedin.com. This group now serves both the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society – and is there for YOU to use to let the geo community know what you are doing – or to seek advice on important issues that you may be facing in your work or studies. You can now also join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gsdiandigs/ to share your news.

Join IGS Today!

Remember that individuals in low and very low income nations can apply to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. The listing of low and very-low income nations may be found at <http://www.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>.

For current IGS Members – Renewal Time!

Remember that to maintain your free membership, current members must update their professional profile each year on or about 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. The most recent analysis of the membership records indicates that several dozen previous members have been de-registered because they did not follow this rule. Update your information today to become/remain an IGS member!



Help us reach our goal of 500 IGS Members in 2014 – get your friends, colleagues and associates to join today! We are continually looking for ways to improve on IGS Member Benefits, so please tell us what you think would be most valuable to you, as an IGS Member – or as a potential IGS Member.

IGS Member News Needed!

IGS Members – submit your news, please, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are more than 300 of you out there now, so please communicate with us. News can be sent by e-mail directly to me, Roger Longhorn, Editor GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter at: ral@alum.mit.edu, or to Sives Govender, IGS President, at: sives.govender@gmail.com or to Dev Raj Paudyal, IGS President-elect, at: DevRaj.Paudyal@usq.edu.au.

CAPACITY BUILDING

GeoConnections Webinars

GeoConnections (Canada) has been proactively promoting their excellent series of webinars, given in both English and French, via the GSDI North American e-mail list and our GSDI LinkedIn account. These seminars cover a range of topics directly related to SDI implementation and apply to such initiatives not only in Canada, but more broadly.

Free Training Sessions on INSPIRE Implementation

SADL at KU Leuven is running a series of free training sessions relating to implementation of the EU's INSPIRE Directive, which applies to all 27 EU Member States, as part of the smeSPIRE Project. Get the latest news on training opportunities available via smeSPIRE from http://www.smespire.eu/training_offer/ and specific details of the SADL courses at this link: <http://www.sadl.kuleuven.be/Opleidingen.aspx>. The INSPIRE-related courses run through March and April.

The Spatial Applications Division Leuven (SADL) at KU Leuven, as part of the smeSPIRE programme, is organizing four hands-on training sessions (free of charge) related to the implementation of INSPIRE. Please find more information in the attached file.

- Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th March 2014 (09.30-16.00): INSPIRE Data Specifications
- Wednesday 12th March 2014 (09.30-16.00): Introduction to Sensor Web Enablement
- Thursday 17th April 2014 (09.30 – 16.30): INSPIRE Network Services
- Monday 28th April 2014 (09.30 – 16.30): How to publish data as Linked data

This training programme aims at GI professionals, ICT professionals and managers from the governmental sector, commercial sector or academic sector.

- Registration: Participation in the training sessions is free of charge, but registration is required. The maximum number of participants per training session is 15. Registration can be done through the KU Leuven – SADL website (<http://www.sadl.kuleuven.be/opleidingen.aspx>) or by sending an email indicating which training session(s) you would like to attend to glenn.vancauwenberghe@sadl.kuleuven.be.

- Venue: Geo-instituut, KU Leuven Celestijnenlaan 200E B-3001 Leuven-Heverlee Belgium
- More information: For further information, please visit the KU Leuven – SADL website (<http://www.sadl.kuleuven.be/opleidingen.aspx>) or contact the organizers at glenn.vancauwenberghe@sadl.kuleuven.be.

ICLPST GIS and Land Management Training

The free training opportunity provided by the Societal Impact Committee, to attend the ICLPST (International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei, begins on 19 March 2014 and conclude on 1 April 2014. Chinese Taipei is the sponsor of the training program that entrusts ICLPST to carry out the project. Mr. Jeremy Shen, Vice-Chair of the Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association, announced the selected candidates last month, as listed in the January Newsletter:

- Mr. Ivar M. Ledezma Casablanca of Bolivia,
- Ms. Rosario Casanova of Uruguay, and
- Mr. Mathenge Mwehe of Kenya.
- Ms. Ana Alvarez of Uruguay (alternate)

US FGDC ISO Geospatial Metadata Implementation Forum

The Federal Geographic Data Committee is organizing a monthly webinar information series in 2014 for the presentation and discussion of ISO implementation shared experiences, strategies, topics, and resources. NSDI Stakeholders from different sectors will lead a one hour presentation the second Wednesday of each month, from 3:00-4:30 PM (Eastern time), followed by a 30 minute guided discussion. These webinar are to alternate with the Metadata Working Group Quarterly Meetings held at 3 PM (Eastern time) on the second Wednesday of March, June, September and December.



The presentation slides and related resources will be added to FGDC's website following each presentation.

The schedule and tentative presentation topics are listed below. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Jennifer Carlino, Acting FGDC Metadata Coordinator at jcarlino@usgs.gov.

Phone: 703.648.4848 / Toll Free: 855.547.8255; Code: 26246184#

Webex: <http://usgs.webex.com/>; Select "(50) FGDC ISO Implementation Forum/Metadata Working Group"

Tentative Presentation Topics:

January 8, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - Introduction to the Forum - Why Implement ISO Metadata?

Federal directives that support implementation and new features/capabilities that the standards provide

Webinar materials: Webinar presentation slides with notes and summary of discussion (PDF)
<http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/events/iso-geospatial-metadata-implementation-forum/january-2014/fgdcisoforum-welcome-why-iso-summary-20140108.pdf>

February 12, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - Why We Implemented ISO Metadata

Implementers discuss their reasons for implementing the new standard and the benefits/challenges of their experience

March 12, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - FGDC Metadata Working Group Quarterly Meeting

April 9, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - ISO Metadata Implementation Tools – Community Resources Overview of the ISO Metadata Editor Review, GeoPlatform and other community tools

May 14, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - ISO Metadata Implementation Tools – Commercial Resources Overview of the ESRI Metadata Editor, XML Spy and other commercial tools

June 11, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - FGDC Metadata Working Group Quarterly Meeting

July 9, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - ISO Metadata Implementation Model Workflow Overview of the Model Workflow and its application to data management organizations

August 13, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - ISO Metadata Implementation Model Workflow Experience Implementers discuss their implementation experience,

the workflow components that were most significant and resources they developed to support implementation

September 10, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - FGDC Metadata Working Group Quarterly Meeting

October 8, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - TBD – based on community input (see potential topics below)

November 12, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - TBD – based on community input (see potential topics below)

December 10, 2014 - 3:00 PM (E) - FGDC Metadata Working Group Quarterly Meeting

Source for further information:

<http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/events/iso-geospatial-metadata-implementation-forum/index.html>

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

EUROGI News

The Geomatics/GIS industry in Canada is accelerating rapidly with the development of applications to meet North America's unique requirements. In this Q&A, **Bruce McCormack**, President of EUROGI and IRLOGI, and GSDI Board member, talks about how agencies can use geo-information to save money but also increase income, win efficiencies and also how individuals can benefit from the use of geomatics.

Bruce will join the speaking program at the GeoSpatial Advancement Canada conference, set to take place in March, 2014, at the Ottawa Convention Center. Visit www.geospatialcanada.com to explore the program and to learn about registering to attend. Below is the interview conducted with Bruce last month.

Q: How do agencies use geo-information to save money?

A: Saving money is of course of vital importance, but also important issues which need to be considered in the context of any discussion regarding money saving are:

- 1) Increasing income through having and using geo-information.
- 2) Winning efficiencies that thus generate opportunity benefits.

Saving money: Paying on a time basis when tasks can be done more quickly, for example, can reduce payments to consultants. As an example, through the introduction of Myplan.ie (www.myplan.ie), an Irish national



planning information service, a consultant informed me that a task, which would take him 1.5 days, could now be done in 20 minutes. Charge out time to a client is reduced substantially.

Increasing income: More efficient tax collection can help this. As an example, in Ireland, the application of GIS in the context of the new property tax that has been introduced in 2014, will result in additional income amounting to a few tens of millions of Euros.

Efficiency gains/Opportunity benefits: More efficient work practices should be employed. As an example, the Irish National Spatial Strategy took two years to produce; a time period that could have been shortened by about six months according to the person responsible for data related matters, if a spatial data infrastructure had existed at the time (2001/2). Think of the extra analyses and other tasks that had been done by the officials concerned in that six-month period!

Q: How has GIS technology grown over the last 20 years?

A: The core functionalities of GIS have not changed much over the years. However, refinements and additions have made them more flexible and complex but also more usable. A key development has been the creation and evolution of Internet based geo -browsers. This is a major area for growth and evolution going forward, particularly because it opens up opportunities for the creation and use of geo-information by non-specialists.

Q: What are some benefits of the use of geomatics and geo-information?

A: Where does one start? Benefits can be categorised in different ways, within each of which concrete examples could be mentioned:

- Quantifiable vs. unquantifiable
- Focused/specific vs. distributed/dissipated
- Geographic scale (global, regional, national, sub-national)
- Current/near future vs. medium to longer-term future
- Who is the beneficiary? (citizens, government, NGOs, private sector, etc.)
- In relation to processes (e.g. policy making, policy monitoring, implementation, etc.)

Take one (of many, many) permutations as an example – citizens, current/near future, unquantifiable, local, focused:

- An easy to use geo -browser which provides real

time information (maybe with an RSS link) about applications for planning permission for development (e.g. of a house, factory, etc.), where the application property is specifically identified (by point or by polygon boundary) would enable residents in the area to (1) know what is being proposed, (2) exactly where it is proposed to develop, particularly in relation to his/her own property, (3) to make representations or observations to the planning authority, and (4) know the authorities decision on the application.

Q: How can agencies make the case to government to invest?

A: Show working examples of how GI can be used to win significant benefits. Such examples would need to be closely related to the person/government agency to which the case is being made. To show the benefits of new systems/uses for which no approximate current system exists, it is useful to establish a small, low cost pilot case study. This can be used to highlight possible benefits. Work with national GI associations (or other similar bodies) to build networks with key government players and to raise awareness and expose them to the benefits of the use of GI and Geo -technologies. In Europe, many countries have national GI associations.

One-on-one meetings with key government players, often informal in nature, are very useful because they are non-threatening and there is no wider audience which can impact on responses from the key people. Hold workshops and conferences dealing with GI matters at which key government persons are invited to speak (puts them on the spot somewhat) or just to attend. Undertake a study of the economic costs/benefits of the application of GI and GT in your country. This is being done in Ireland with the results expected in 2014.

Q: How do we communicate this to the public?

A: The widespread availability of free, easy to access and use geo-browsers, which perform a whole range of specific functions (meet different needs) is a key means of enabling citizens to use geo - information. Such geo-browsers would need to be tailored to be used on all types of devices, particularly mobile phones and tablets.

The reality would be that the public would become so accustomed to the availability and use of such browsers that they become nothing special; just part of how the world works. Achieving this situation would represent a big win for those involved in promoting the widespread availability and use of geo - information, this being a key aim of, for example, EUROGI, the European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information.



Wider public usage would generate more pressure to have more accurate, up to date geo -data and more open access to the data. The better the data and the more available it is will set in motion processes that move in the direction of even more and better geo -data becoming more easily available and usable...so the beneficial circle rolls on. Forwards and upwards always – backwards never!

ESRI Member News

Esri Partners with GEOSS

GEOSS is an international effort to proactively link together existing and planned observing systems around the world.

Esri, one of the largest providers worldwide for Geographic Information System software, has recently announced its partnership with GEOSS. GEOSS, the Group on Earth Observation System of Systems, which includes over 140 governments and organizations, was established to monitor the entire face of the Earth in order to address issues such as disasters, health, energy, climate, agriculture, ecosystems, biodiversity, water and weather events. It will proactively link together existing and planned observing systems around the world and support the development of new systems where gaps currently exist. GEOSS is based mainly on satellites, but also includes a network of environmental sensors on land, in freshwater lakes and streams, and, to a growing extent, in the lower atmosphere and the oceans.

Esri foresees to support the work of GEOSS by providing the community with access to Esri GIS community content, expertise and technology through the GEOSS data Access Broker, as well as to collaboration tools via the ArcGIS platform and by supporting the extension of GEOSS to include ArcGIS Online publicly-available data. In doing so, Esri will work with the Earth and Space Science Informatics (ESSI) Lab in Italy to integrate ArcGIS Online into the GEOSS Data Access Broker. This will result in the discoverability of all public content from ArcGIS Online through many of the search portals that participate in this network (e.g., DataOne, CEOS, CUAHSI, OneGeology, IOOS).

During the Tenth Plenary Session and Ministerial summit of GEO (GEO-X), taking place from today till 17 January in Geneva, Switzerland, ESSI Lab will showcase the first results from the new collaboration between Esri and GEOSS.

Read more here.

<http://blogs.esri.com/esri/arcgis/2014/01/11/esris-new-partnership-with-geoss/>

Esri's Open Data Initiative

On 10 February 2014, at the FedGIS conference, Esri previewed Esri's new open data initiative. We are adding capabilities to ArcGIS Online that enable any organization to quickly configure a custom view of their public items and open data groups. We built on the existing web services hosted online, on-premise, or through other data services to provide an easy to use interface that is designed for the open data community. Open Data has been part of Esri for years – this initiative means to make it easier and focused on the community.

Based on our experience, both as citizens, and open data developers, we focused on three key capabilities:

- Discoverable users need simple search and recommendations for finding and following relevant data
- Explorable right away people should be able to see a linked map and table view with the ability to filter geographically or by any attribute
- Accessible one-click download as common data formats and developer API's

These capabilities are coming this spring and will be included for ArcGIS Online. You can start today by publishing your web services as public items and creating open data groups in preparation for launching your own open data sites. Read the full article in the Esri blog here:

<http://blogs.esri.com/esri/arcgis/2014/02/10/preview-of-open-data/>

From the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

OGC approves SensorML 2.0, advanced standard for Internet of Things

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) has approved the OGC Sensor Model Language (SensorML) 2.0 Encoding Standard. SensorML 2.0 provides a standard encoding for describing sensors ("things that measure"), actuators ("things that act"), and processors ("things that calculate"). SensorML is part of the award-winning OGC Sensor Web Enablement (SWE) suite of standards that have been implemented in satellite mission planning, monitoring and alerting, and intelligent cities and buildings around the world.

Because SWE standards are open standards based on open and universally accepted standards for the Internet and web, and for spatial location, they are foundational standards for communicating with sensors, actuators and processors whose location matters. They are a key enabler for the Internet of Things.



SensorML 2.0 includes a number of changes to the previous version 1.0.1, which was approved in 2007. SensorML 2.0 includes new or improved features, including:

- Support for using external schemas to describe sensor properties
- Better-defined support for positions and dynamic state (e.g. location, orientation, velocity, and acceleration)
- Better support for inheritance, allowing for more compact descriptions of deployed devices and processes
- Direct access to real-time values and data streams
- Better support for multiplexed data streaming (i.e. streams with disparate message types).

The online documentation includes a large collection of programming examples.

Efforts are also underway to take advantage of the complementary role that SensorML 2.0 can play with the OGC City Geography Markup Language (CityGML) Encoding Standard and the candidate OGC standard IndoorGML. Also, the OGC Sensor Web for IoT (SWIOT) Standards Working Group (SWG) seeks to make observations captured by IoT devices easily available to applications and users through data aggregation portals.

All OGC standards are free and publicly available. The OGC SensorML 2.0 Encoding Standard can be downloaded from here:

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

OGC Adopts GeoPackage Standard for Mobile

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) has adopted the OGC GeoPackage 1.0 (GPKG) Encoding Standard. The GeoPackage standard will make it much easier to exchange and share geospatial (or location) information across different devices, applications and web services throughout the mobile world.

GeoPackage was developed for mobile application developers whose applications need to provide users with geospatial application services and associated data in disconnected or limited network connectivity environments, or whose applications depend on geospatial data and processing services from diverse sources. GeoPackage supports a wide variety of applications such as those that involve creation of geospatial data products in enterprise computing environments, data product distribution to other computing environments, mobile workforce data capture and updates, and volunteered geographic information.

From a technical perspective, the GeoPackage standard defines an open, non-proprietary, platform-independent SQLite container for distribution and direct use of geospatial data, including vector features and tile matrix sets. This approach simplifies development and gives applications access to a very wide variety of Web-based geoprocessing services.

The OGC GeoPackage (GPKG) Encoding Standard has been developed by OGC members with additional participation by interested developers on GitHub, a web-based hosting service for software development projects. The OGC GeoPackage Encoding Standard and associated resources can be found at <http://www.geopackage.org/>. All OGC standards are free and publicly available.

OGC Adopts Extensions to Big Geo Data Standard

OGC now has adopted a series of functionality extensions to its Big Geo Data standard, Web Coverage Service (WCS). Web services implementing the WCS interface standard offer simple, yet powerful access to spatio-temporal sensor, image, simulation, and statistics data. The standards adopted now focus on data formatting and server-side processing of large-scale information to enable versatile, fast access to both detail and summary information.

The concept of coverages unifies regular and irregular grids, point clouds, and meshes. A coverage can be described as the digital representation of some spatio-temporal phenomenon, be it observed or generated. While ISO 19123 establishes an abstract model of coverages, the OGC GMLCOV standard refines this to a concrete, interoperable specification. The corresponding compliance tests offered by OGC can test compliance of implementations down to single pixel level.

Coverages can be served out via many OGC-based interfaces, such as WMS, WFS, WCS, SOS, and WPS. The broadest functionality set is offered by WCS, ranging from simple subsetting to complex analytics. The latest WCS extensions add in various functionality facets. For the encoding of grids in the GeoTIFF format, the WCS GeoTiff Coverage Encoding Extension [OGC 12-101] has been established. One or more "channels" or "bands" can be extracted conveniently from a multi-band or hyperspectral coverage through the functionality defined in the WCS Range Subsetting Extension [OGC 12-040]. Retrieval of grid coverages in reduced resolution is possible through the WCS Scaling Extension [OGC 12-039]. The WCS Interpolation Extension [OGC 12-049] serves to control interpolation in a server on all operations where interpolation occurs, such as CRS transforms and grid scaling. A particular answer of OGC to the Big Data challenge is the Web Coverage Processing Service (WCPS) standard. This coverage query language



allows clients to send queries in a simple language for evaluation on a server, in clusters, clouds, or federations of data centers.

The WCS Processing Extension [OGC 08-059r4] connects the abstract WCPS language into WCS, allowing to send queries as WCS-style requests using any standardized protocol. While WCS Core and Extensions are domain neutral and generically spatio-temporal, WCS Application Profiles bundle functionality for particular purposes and applications. The WCS Earth Observation Profile [OGC 10-140r1] adopted now establishes such an Application Profile for large-scale satellite imagery. Altogether, WCS constitutes today's most powerful and flexible service environment for Big Geo Data appearing as coverages. The broad support by industry, academia, and government agencies during the vote underlines the broad worldwide uptake of WCS. A significant number of WCS implementations exists already, and many large vendors are preparing their own products based on WCS. A mapping of the INSPIRE Download Services to WCS is in preparation.

Comprehensive information about OGC's Big Coverage Data standards is provided at:

http://external.opengeospatial.org/twiki_public/CoveragesDWG/WebHome

OGC and the Small Cell Forum Co-Operate on Support for Indoor Location Based Services

The Small Cell Forum, the independent industry and operator association that supports small cell deployment worldwide, and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), a standards consortium working to make spatial information an integral part of the global information infrastructure, today announced that the two bodies have signed a liaison agreement with an initial focus on developing support for location based services within mobile networks based on small cells. Small cells can be used to support location services in a range of indoor locations including: navigation in airports, retail unit location in shopping centers and asset location in hospitals and warehouses.

As part of the agreement the Small Cell Forum and the OGC will cooperatively develop a joint document that indicates to operators which OGC standards are relevant for small cell based location based services within the context of mobile networks and will also exchange technical and marketing information about the use of location based services for small cells and small cell based services.

"The use of small cells in mobile networks around the globe can bring benefits to operators, their customers

and society at large," said George Percivall, OGC's Chief Engineer. "Information about the locations of cells, their coverage areas, proximity to barriers, etc. is of critical importance in maximizing the value received by all these stakeholders. We look forward to working with the Small Cell Forum to help enable the flow of such location information."

"Accurate indoor location information has become a critical component to the mobile user experience," said Andy Germano, Vice President Americas at the Small Cell Forum. "By working together with the OGC the Small Cell Forum can help ensure that mobile operators can provide high quality location information both indoors and out. We look forward to working together to help enable compelling user experiences using location and small cells."

News from Canada

First Draft of the Pan-Canadian Geomatics Strategy Available

The first draft of the Pan-Canadian Geomatics Strategy has been posted online (see link below) on the Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table (CGCRT) web site, and CGCRT is looking for feedback. What are your thoughts? Are the strategic objectives and recommendations on the right track to re-position the Canadian Geomatics sector for success? Is the CGCRT missing key pieces of information? Over the next several weeks, CGCRT will be posting some of its ideas on the Strategy on the CGCRT blog. They'll be asking some leading questions. You're encouraged to take some time to consider the questions, either as an individual or on behalf of your organization.

To join the conversation:

- Visit the CGCRT web site and read the strategy: <http://cgcart.ca/>
- Check out CGCRT blogs and latest news: <http://cgcart.ca/communications-events/blog-latest-news/>
- Connect with CGCRT by:
 - Following CGCRT on Twitter: @CanGeoRT
 - Joining the CGCRT LinkedIn Group:
http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=4824554&trk=anet_ug_hm&goback=.anb_4824554_*2_*1_*1_*1_*1_*1
- Send comments through the forms on the website or directly to communications@cgcart.ca



CGCRT needs your feedback to improve this first version of the Strategy document which is intended to guide the future success of the Canadian geomatics sector, and to strengthen the Canadian geospatial community.

Download the Strategy from this link:

<http://cgcr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Pan-Canadian-Geomatics-Community-Strategy-V-1-1.doc>

News from the Americas

US FGDC 2013 Annual Report now available

The 2013 FGDC Annual Report is now available from the FGDC website in HTML and PDF versions.

The report provides management and performance information and describes the significant actions the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has taken over the past year to facilitate continued, integrated, and sustainable development and dissemination of geospatial data and technology. It also includes many of agencies' success stories, NGAC contributions, and FGDC accomplishments, such as, the launching of Version 2 of the Geospatial Platform, the endorsement five new geospatial standards, and the draft of the updated strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

Download the 2013 FGDC Annual Report below:

- Download Low-resolution Version [PDF 15MB]
[<http://www.fgdc.gov/library/whitepapers-reports/annual%20reports/2013/fgdc-annual-report-2013-lowres.pdf>]
- Download High-resolution Version [PDF 88MB]
[<http://www.fgdc.gov/library/whitepapers-reports/annual%20reports/2013/fgdc-annual-report-2013-highres.pdf>]
- Read the online version of the report
[<http://www.fgdc.gov/library/whitepapers-reports/annual%20reports/2013/web-version/index.html>]
- Addendum -- Articles and success stories not included in the printed version due to the excellent number of responses from the agencies
[http://www.fgdc.gov/library/whitepapers-reports/annual%20reports/2013/Addendum_2013_Annual_Report]

News from Asia-Pacific

Geoscience Australia Contributes to data.gov.au

The data.gov.au team is very pleased to announce today that we have added 2,503 new datasets in collaboration with Geoscience Australia and the Department of Communications. The data is hosted by Geoscience Australia and includes current and historical data ranging from full web services to old scientific manuals. Learn more here:

<http://www.finance.gov.au/blog/2014/1/21/geoscience-australia-contributes-new-data-and-resources-to-datagovau/>

Get the latest news on data.gov.au from:

<http://www.data.gov.au>

News from Africa

RCMRD/ SERVIR-Africa Small Grants Program

The SERVIR-Africa program is a science, technology and development program established through a joint partnership between United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD). The SERVIR program touches upon multiple sectors related to international development and supports the objectives of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) in the areas of agriculture, biodiversity, climate change, disasters, ecosystems, health, water, and weather. The overarching goal of the SERVIR program is to improve environmental management and resilience to climate change. With an eye toward this goal, the SERVIR program works to build the capacity of SERVIR regional hub institutions, governments and other key stakeholders to integrate earth observation information and geospatial technologies into development decision-making.

SERVIR-Africa is launching small grant program geared towards engaging all active members in the Geo-information and GIS sector. We aim to help grow the network of organizations, universities, and institutions in the Eastern and Southern Africa region that utilize geospatial tools and information to improve decision making related to climate adaptation, vulnerability, or mitigation. The anticipated outcome of the grant activities is to stimulate the innovative use of geospatial tools and information to translate science into sustainable policy and practice that addresses the development challenges posed by climate stresses in the



following thematic areas; Agriculture/Ecosystems and Sustainable Landscapes, Water Resources Management, Geo-spatial Information Technology and Disasters.

We therefore call for proposals from eligible organizations/institutions within RCMRD member States bearing in mind the stipulated terms of application attached herein (RCMRD/ SERVIR-Africa Small Grants Program). Please circulate this call for proposals to eligible organizations in your country. The eligible organizations include non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, research institutions, universities, private organizations, international non-governmental organizations, registered foundations, professional associations, and consortiums of the above.

For details on the Annual Program Statement, download at this link: <http://www.rcmr.org/docs/servirgrants.pdf>

Information from: Wahu Mbatia, Communication and Outreach, SERVIR AFRICA Programme

FROM THE PRESIDENT



This has been a busy month for the President and other members of the Executive Committee and GSDI back office staff, getting ready for the upcoming Board meeting.

Prof. David Coleman was also instrumental in securing the first round of new funding to sustain the Small Grants Program, arriving via a grant from NR Canada's **GeoConnections**, as mentioned earlier in this Newsletter

On 29 January, the GSDI Association received a letter of thanks from the GEO Secretariat for its active participation in the GEO-X Plenary and especially the intervention at the Geneva Ministerial Summit in Geneva, Switzerland on 17 January 2014. During that intervention, GSDI Societal Impacts Committee Chair, Carmelle Terborgh (Esri), made the GSDI contribution, which can be found here: <http://www.gsdi.org/node/854>

GSDI has also been notified that the UN Committee on NGOs, at its Regular 2014 session, has decided to recommend Special consultative status to Global Spatial Data Infrastructure, following a rigorous review process.

These are indicative of the role and status that the GSDI Association has gained on the global stage to support development and implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructures wherever these are underway.

On a sadder note, regarding the passing of Board member Mark Becker, David says, "Mark was an active

and valued member of our Board of Directors. We benefited from his advice, his influence, and his friendship. We are all shocked by this sad news, and our hearts go out to his family at this time."

The Association is sending condolences to Mark's partner and making a donation to the charity which CIESIN has listed on their tribute web site to Mark.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Global Newsletter, we publish an article from the GSDI column that is published monthly by **GIM International magazine**. This month's article is by GSDI President, Prof David Coleman, which appeared in the February 2014 issue of GIM International.

GSDI's Geographic Information Knowledge Network

The GSDI Association's Geographic Information Knowledge Network (or "GIKNet" for short) was established almost four years ago as a means of sharing information on SDI implementation lessons learned, best practices, source materials, assessments and follow-up surveys. It is a collaborative effort that relies on regular contributions of documents from the GSDI Association's member organizations and, in some cases, by the International Geospatial Society's individual members. Each community member acts responsibly and makes his or her own decisions on what and how much to contribute.

Information to the site is accessible at no charge, but requires interested users to register before they can search the information contained within. The site includes three major components:

- 1) The **GI Community Registry** is a collection of profiles of individuals and organizations provided voluntarily by community members. Geospatial professionals and students may enter and maintain their own professional profile in a format similar to that found on other social networking sites. Individuals affiliated with a geospatial agency or organization are also encouraged to enter basic information about that organization using a prescribed template and, over the years, profiles on over 120 organizations have been created. See: <http://www.giknet.org/registry/>
- 2) The **SDI Implementation Experiences** section (<http://www.giknet.org/survey/sdisurvey.php>) deals with just that -- basic information from respondents concerning SDI experiences within their own organization. Some of this information is only provided when it the project is initially undertaken,



and needs to be supplemented by information and reports found in the next section...

- 3) The **Spatial Documents Depot** (<http://www.giknet.org/depot/>) currently contains over fifty reports, papers and even academic postgraduate theses summarizing plans, experiences, and lessons learned by member organizations and colleagues related to spatial data infrastructure development. Recent additions to the Depot include a report from the United Nations Economic and Social Council ("Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community: Report of the Secretariat"), a manual from the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas ("SDI Manual for the Americas") and a graduate thesis ("The Role of Canadian Municipal Open Data Initiatives: A Multi-city Evaluation" by Liam Currie from Queens University in Canada).

No question - most of the documents found in the Spatial Documents Depot are indeed available elsewhere on the Web as well. The advantage here is that their presence and accessibility in one on-line location enables users to easily find and compare relevant experiences from different organizations and countries.

Naturally, the value of such profile information and document repositories is sustained only when the information and links are kept up to date. This is where the GSDI Association relies on volunteer reviewers to assess information for relevance and, where possible, to urge members to keep information up to date

If you have not already done so, please consider registering on GIKNet, reviewing the information there, and adding documents and/or links to relevant information you have found. As it says on the GIKNet Website, "None of us knows as much as all of us".

Dr. David Coleman is president of the GSDI Association, a professor of geomatics engineering and dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of New Brunswick in Canada.

Learn more about how to participate in the GSDI Association here: <http://www.gsd.org/joinGSDI>

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

You read about it in this month's *Article of the Month* – now visit and contribute to GIKnet, including registering your own details or those of your organisation! The aim of GIKNet is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geographic

information community. GIKNet is a participatory, user-created and maintained information commons.

The GIKNet **Community Registry** permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other institutions to record and publish details about themselves in a central database, and to submit relevant documents to the Spatial Documents Depot, which provides a search facility for locating information and documents submitted by GIKNet members.

A comprehensive list of GI/SDI related discussion lists can be accessed from a single reference page. Access the GIKNetwork at this link: <http://www.giknet.org/>.

An 8-minute background video on the purposes and goals of the GIKNet may be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/spatialinnovations>.

The main categories under which documents can be referenced in GIKNet include: *GI Science - Education & Training*; *GI Science - Research*; and *SDI/GIS - Practice and Applications*. The network is promoted on the Association's e-mail lists and the LinkedIn GSDI Group.

All members of the GSDI Association and IGS are encouraged to sign up for GIKnet, enter their personal or agency profile information, and then submit documents relevant to any aspect of SDI development and deployment, globally.

Entering a professional profile to GIKNet is similar to entering a professional profile on Wikipedia, except that an individual may enter and maintain their own profile (in a format similar to that found on Linked In or other social networking sites) and GIKNet is restricted to geospatial professionals, students and those involved in implementing spatial data infrastructures (SDI) at any level.

Entering information about a geospatial agency or organization is similar to an entry in Wikipedia, except that individuals affiliated with the organization enter the data and it is much easier to accomplish.

The GIKNetwork is moderated by GSDI Association volunteers who review profile submissions for relevance. In short, none of us knows as much as all of us. GIKNet is intended for collective intelligence whereby each community member acts responsibly and makes their own decisions on what and how much to contribute.

Participating in GIKNet

Join the network by clicking 'Login' in the upper right corner of the GIKNet home page (<http://www.giknet.org>) and use the 'Register for an Account' link. If you are



already registered, then simply 'Login' to GIKNet (in the upper right corner of the welcome screen) or use the password reminder facility. (Your Username and/or Password can be e-mailed to you, using the e-mail address that you used when first registering).

The first thing you should accomplish after registering is to add information about yourself by using the 'GI Community Registry' link in the left menu to lead you to Enter Profile for Individual. The questions are similar to those used by sites such as "LinkedIn", so you might simply cut and paste from other sites in which you already participate. Most responses are limited typically to 200 words. Don't forget to upload a photo! You have the ability to view, edit, and delete your individual profile at any time in the future through your 'My Submissions' link in the upper right corner.

After that, feel free to add profile information about geospatial agencies, companies and NGO's with which you are affiliated. In a way, this is similar to entering basic information about geospatial organizations into Wikipedia, but much simpler.

Above all – contribute documents to the GIKNet *Spatial Documents Depot* relevant to any aspect of SDI development, implementation, monitoring, etc. so that we can build a useful repository of easily accessible information on SDI 'best practice' for access by all.

ASSOCIATED CONFERENCE NEWS



MundoGEO#Connect 2014 Announces Conference Program with over 30 Activities

The fourth edition of the greatest geospatial event in Latin America will be held from 7 to 9 May in Sao Paulo. More than 30 courses, seminars and special events are already confirmed.

The next edition of the MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica, Conference and Trade Fair of Geomatics and Geospatial Solutions will be held from 7 to 9 May 2014 at the Frei Caneca Convention Center in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The conference program is now available on the event website, with more than 30 activities that will take place during four days – including the pre-event on May 6. Visit the website here:

<http://mundogeoconnect.com/2014/>

Since 2011, focusing on interaction and connectivity and bringing together experts, researchers, users and executives, MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica has been revealing the geospatial market potential in Latin America through a whole new event concept. In 2013 the event was attended by 3540 people from over 25 countries, plus 150 speakers and 65 exhibitors at the trade fair.

According to Emerson Granemann, Director of MundoGEO – the event organizer – in 2014 the conference will feature a diversified program and new registration options. *“This new format is the result of a study about the current situation of the geospatial market and also on suggestions of participants from previous editions of the event”*. According to the Director, MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica 2014 program was based on the results of a survey across the geospatial community.

“We realized that people seek professional development, the exchange of experiences, information on new trends and the latest industry releases. The extense and diversified conference program - and also the trade fair - are intended to meet the needs from users, experts and managers from public and private companies”, concluded Granemann.

When completing registration, the participant will be able to choose exactly which topics and days to attend. In 2014, the conference will have free access to five activities. For further information, get to know the new registration options and check out MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica 2014 conference program.

Visit the conference registration site here: <http://mundogeoconnect.com/2014/opcoes-de-inscricao>

See the updated Conference Program here: <http://mundogeoconnect.com/2014/grade>

The MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica trade fair will have free access through prior registration. To attend the seminars, forums and courses, Visit the registration link above. For further information, please contact MundoGEO by e-mail connect@mundogeo.com or call +55 (41) 3338-7789 / (11) 4063-8848.

About MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica

MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica – Conference and Trade Fair on Geomatics and Geospatial Solutions – is the largest and most important event in Latin America in the geoinformation sector. The last edition was held from June 18 to 20 of 2013 in the Frei Caneca Convention Center, in Sao Paulo (SP), Brazil, with the main purpose to provide a new type of interactive experience between



experts, researchers, end-users and industry operators using innovative models of dynamic models of debates and lectures, which favors the exchange of ideas and interaction among participants and panelists.

MundoGEO - mundogeo@mundogeo.com | +55 (41) 3338 7789

Geospatial and Engineering International Conference, September 2104

The Conference program will feature agencies and organizations that finance, procure, coordinate, and manage geospatial and engineering projects outside the United States with presentations on their programs, budgets, requirements, and procurement procedures. Private sector professionals experienced in international business will share best practices and lessons learned. Sessions will focus on both new entrants to the market outside of the United States, as well as those experienced in overseas work. Get the program here:

<http://www.mapps.org/page/GeoInternatProgram>

Who should attend?

If you are responsible for and interested in international contracting outside of the United States for professional geospatial and engineering services, then this conference is for you. The conference will provide information and practical knowledge to enable firms to export their services, data and products to overseas clients.

What organizations are involved?

MAPPS is pleased to be hosting the Geospatial & Engineering International Conference: Entering & Expanding Global Business Opportunities on September 25-26, 2014 at the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, VA. Participating organizations include the Association of American Geographers (AAG), American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), **Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI)**, National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), and the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA).

Conference & Hotel Registration

Early rate for conference registration is available now. All MAPPS members, as well as members of all participating organizations, receive a discount. Conference registration here:

<http://www.mapps.org/events/register.aspx?id=385075>

MAPPS has secured a special hotel room rate with the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, VA. The room rate is guaranteed through September 12 or until rooms sell out, so make your room reservations today here:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1312097048&key=71A50>

Contact Information

For specific questions, contact sally@mapps.org. If you are interested in receiving updates about the conference via email, please use this link:

<http://www.mapps.org/page/GeoInternatContactUs>

Esri Business Summit Update

You've got what it takes. So let's create a shared learning experience to fast track your vision and take your business to the next level. Share and discover how to deliver the best business data and decisions -- through location -- at the Esri Business Summit. We'll have some of Esri's most insightful clients, partners, and staff in attendance -- make sure you are one of them. What can you expect from the conference?

Saturday, July 12, 2014: Technologists Are the Tomorrow Makers -- Are you involved in creating the platform to take your organization to the next level? If so, then this day is for you: technical information, hands-on workshops, and the chance to meet some of Esri's development staff.

Sunday, July 13, 2014: Real Solutions, Real People -- Join other business leaders for a day of interactive discussions about how GIS and location analytics have improved business.

Monday, July 14, 2014: Be Our Guest -- As an attendee of the Business Summit, you receive complimentary access to the first two days of the Esri International User Conference. Join over 15,000 attendees from around the globe and learn how GIS is changing the world.

Tuesday, July 15, 2014: Sessions and Socials -- Expand your professional network -- join special interest group meetings for your industry and attend User Conference sessions and tech workshops. End your evening with the Business Summit Social and EXPO, where you'll gain access to attendees and solution providers from multiple events.

Building a successful business platform is not that complicated, but you need the right tools. We're all here to help. Don't delay -- register now and fight for your business.

The **Esri Business Summit** will be held 12-15 July 2014 at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel in San Diego, California. Visit the Esri Business Summit web site here for full information, the agenda, keynote speakers and registration information:

<http://www.esri.com/events/business>



PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

European Open Data Initiatives

The monthly topic report for January 2014 from the EU's **ePSIplatform** project has been published, on 'Open Data in Natural Hazards Management'.

The increasing frequency and severity of natural hazards has greatly raised awareness of local authorities and governments all around the world, towards more efficient planning and management of natural disasters. Environmental incidents in the past couple of decades have resulted in a loss of thousands of human lives, as well as severe damage to infrastructures and economies alike. Traditional methods for managing natural disasters usually focus on the assignment of resources in real-time operations, as well as on the support of the recovery processes. Information technologies such as Geographical Information Systems have been of great help in such approaches.

The latest developments in all areas of Information and Communication Technologies offer a huge and largely unexploited potential for supporting the whole lifecycle of natural hazards management. Computational tools such as environmental simulation, operational logistics and knowledge representation are now available to support scenario-based incident management, as well as real-time decision support.

This paper discusses the challenges of using Open Data in environmental applications, especially focusing on the management of natural hazards.

See more at:

<http://www.epsplatform.eu/content/open-data-natural-hazards-management#sthash.pcstUQ6x.dpuf>

The ePSIplatform is Europe's One-Stop Shop on Public Sector Information (PSI) Re-use. The ePSIplatform is a European Commission (DG CONNECT) initiative with the objective of promoting a dynamic Public Sector Information (PSI) and Open Data re-use market across the European Union. Several GSDI and IGS members are involved in this initiative.

Several GSDI and IGS members have been, and continued to be, involved in the ePSIplatform work. Access to open geodata for use (and reuse) with as few restrictions as possible is considered to be a key driver of the information market in Europe and globally.

GEO News

Renewed Commitment to Unleashing Open Data about the Earth

Data about the Earth have long been vital to our Nation's progress. Thomas Jefferson looked to Lewis and Clark to collect and bring back weather, water, and other data from their expeditions, and used those data to guide the development of frontier settlements and spur economic growth.

That tradition continues today on a global scale, as the United States and other nations collect and share high quality data about the Earth that can help save lives and grow the economy. Data about weather systems, crops, and ecosystems, for example, help growers plan for planting and harvesting, help speed relief to disaster victims, and provide accurate information to decision makers and resource managers in every region of the country.

Many nations around the world invest in the collection of data about the Earth, using a diverse array of sophisticated scientific instruments, and storing data that are collected in many different formats. Cooperation among partner nations is critically important to ensuring that scientists, researchers, decision makers, and innovators can extract the best value from these large and diverse datasets—wherever they may originate.

The United States works to achieve this goal by collaborating closely with international partners as part of the Group on Earth Observations, or GEO.

At a series of meetings in Geneva, the United States marked its founding role in establishing GEO a decade ago - which today comprises 90 members and 77 participating organizations—and celebrated an important milestone as GEO's charter was renewed for another 10 years.

GEO is a collaborative and voluntary multi-national organization built on the bedrock principle of open data. Its mandate is to help connect the many thousands of individual technological tools around the world that work each day to measure, monitor, and predict the state of Earth's land, waters, and atmosphere. Working together, GEO's partner governments and participating organizations aim to enhance the interoperability of Earth-systems data in key priority areas, so that decision makers can more accurately understand how Earth systems work.

Today, for instance, GEO is advancing a number of open-data-driven efforts to increase the interoperability of Earth Observations to meet specific needs, including



better understanding the links between human health and environmental change; improving forecasting of agricultural productivity; and supporting the development of a cholera early warning system and a new global ocean-acidification network.

The United States, partner GEO members, and participating organizations serve as global ambassadors for free and open data about the Earth - a mission that resonates with the Executive Order issued by President Obama last May calling upon all Federal agencies to ensure that newly developed data sets are released in open and machine-readable formats.

Freshly chartered for another decade of progress, GEO will continue to tackle the challenging task of connecting the world's Earth-observation networks and helping to open new frontiers of scientific understanding for the benefit of people and nations around the globe.

Learn more about GEO at this link:
<http://www.earthobservations.org/>

Information provided by Peter Colohan, Assistant Director for Environmental Information at OSTP.

Further Links:

GEO Charter:

http://www.earthobservations.org/documents/pressreleases/pr_20140117_geneva_ministerial.pdf

Obama Executive Order:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/05/09/executive-order-making-open-and-machine-readable-new-default-government>

INSPIRE in Europe

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



We are delighted to announce that call for abstracts for the INSPIRE 2014 Conference has been published. We would also like to remind you that the public consultation on INSPIRE is still open.

Seven years have passed since INSPIRE was adopted as the EU's legal framework establishing the infrastructure for spatial information in Europe serving policies and activities having an impact on the environment. During this period the framework of technical specifications necessary to underpin an interoperable infrastructure has been completed, and a major effort has taken place to implement the Directive in the Member States. It is now

time for the mid-term evaluation to assess how well we are doing, and whether we are still on the right track. This conference comes therefore at a crucial stage to report on progress and get feedback from all the stakeholders involved.

Topics for which contributions are sought include, but are not limited to:

- INSPIRE supporting the implementation of environment law
- INSPIRE and the integration of environmental concern in other policy areas
- INSPIRE and climate change policy
- INSPIRE in specific environmental policy areas (e.g. marine, arctic, freshwater, noise, air, ...)
- INSPIRE for addressing environment-related threats to health
- INSPIRE to reduce environmental risk and management of natural disasters
- INSPIRE for boosting sustainable resource-efficiency and low-carbon growth
- INSPIRE supporting urban and rural sustainability (Smart cities, Smart rural)
- INSPIRE and public participation for social equity and environmental justice
- INSPIRE for energy efficiency
- INSPIRE for innovation and growth in the private sector and economy
- INSPIRE for education and research
- INSPIRE + Open Data + Copernicus + Social and Sensor Networks = Big Data?
- Costs/Benefits and impacts of implementing INSPIRE
- INSPIRE tales from implementation
- Technologies, methods and tools required to deliver INSPIRE
- INSPIRE based apps for Innovation – Short demonstrations
- INSPIRE capacity building
- The future of INSPIRE: Governance, policy and technology
- INSPIRE Data and Service Sharing
- INSPIRE as a component of SEIS and e-Reporting
- Integrating e-Government with INSPIRE

The deadline for submissions is **14 March 2014**. Details on how to submit are available on the INSPIRE Conference site:

http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2014/



Public consultation on INSPIRE Implementation Ends

The public consultation period for the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC, to see if implementation steps are still on course to meet the objectives pursued, ended on 24 February 2014. In the next issue(s), we will have a look at the results, once analyzed by the European Commission and EEA. The results of this public consultation will contribute to the INSPIRE interim-policy evaluation which according to the directive needs to be carried out 7 years after its entry into force. The outcome of the policy evaluation will be reported to the European Parliament and Council in 2014 and may lead to remedial policy action necessary to adapt current approaches so that they align better - in the light of a changing environment - with the achievement of the original objectives of INSPIRE.

GSDI INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

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

- Eye on Earth – www.eyearth.org.
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – www.earthobservations.org.

- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu.
- EU INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu.
- International Cartographic Association (ICA) – www.icaci.org.
- International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) – www.fig.net
- International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) – Marine SDI Working Group – www.iho.int.
- International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) - www.digitalearth-isde.org.
- International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) – www.iscgm.org
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – www.iode.org.
- UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – www.ungiwg.org.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS UPDATES

To see the latest news from the different e-mail forums maintained by the GSDI Committees (4) and the regional SDI Newsletters (5), visit the web site at <http://www.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.





The GSDI Association is an inclusive organization of organizations, agencies, firms, and individuals from around the world. The purpose of the organization is to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments that will allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance.

Our Vision ... is of a world where everyone can readily discover, access and apply geographic information to improve their daily lives.

Our Purpose ... is to encourage international cooperation that stimulates the implementation and development of national, regional and local spatial data infrastructures.

Our Mission ... is to advance geo-information best practices, knowledge sharing and capacity building for the improved sharing and application of geographic information.

The International Geospatial Society is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association and seeks individuals for membership that have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts.

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