

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 4, No. 3, 2014

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CIESIN's Sri Vinay Appointed to GSDI Board



Sri (Sritharan) Vinay replaces Mark Becker on the GSDI Association Board, representing following the tragic death of Mark announced in the last Global Newsletter. His position on the Board is representative of 'GSDI Related Global Initiative'.

Sri is Data and Information System Architect and Software Engineer and a Senior Staff Associate and Associate Director for Information Technology at CIESIN, a research and applications development center within the Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York. He has worked in the area of systems and software engineering for about twenty years. At CIESIN, Dr. Vinay manages and supervises the Information Technology division and also serves as the Systems Engineer for the NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC) and interacts with NASA/EOSDIS systems and software engineers.

Sri also serves as the leading system architect and guides the implementation of the cyberinfrastructure component of the Africa Soil Information Service (AfSIS) project funded by the Gates Foundation. He previously served as one of the program coordinators for an NSF funded Cyberinfrastructure program called Geoinformatics for Geochemistry (GfG) and led the system development and operation activities.

His current research and application interests focus on: Cyberinfrastructure and Geoinformatics, Data and information systems architecture, design, implementation, integration, interoperability and management; Remote Sensing and GIS Applications and Internet Mapping; and Geospatial database design.

Sri has been closely involved in OGC related activities and attended Technical Committee (TC) meetings, as well as participating in multiple GEOSS Architecture

Implementation Pilots (AIP) supported by the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at Columbia University.

Sri's academic degrees include a B.E. in Electrical Engineering, 1987, University of Madras, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India; M.E. in Energy Technology, 1990, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand; M.A.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, 1996, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. Learn more about Sri Vinay at:

<http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/sri.html>

Board of Directors Meeting Held Online

On 31 March 2014, the GSDI Board of Directors held an online meeting at which various business was conducted. As soon as the final draft minutes have been accepted President, they will be published on the Members Only section of the website and distributed to all Board members, including those who were not present. In all, ten Board members or their named alternates attended the call, establishing a quorum as set out in the Bylaws. President-elect Dave Lovell presented an overview of the key issues in the developing GSDI Strategic Plan, and informed the Board of the next steps in the process of publishing the plan for the Board and all Members. New and/or returning staff appointments were announced and agreed, including appointment of Kate Lance as overall News Editor from April and Bruce Westcott as Membership Recruitment Manager. Sri Vinay, of CIESIN, was elected to the Board to replace Mark Becker, who tragically died as reported in our previous Newsletter. Various Committee reports were made and the timing and call for proposals for the next GSDI world conference were discussed.

Welcome to our newest Association Members

We wish to welcome our two newest Members to the GSDI Association. These are Apex Spatial Tech Solutions Pvt Ltd in India and the Taiwan Association of Disaster Prevention Industry (TADPI) in Chinese Taipei. Two of the members of the GSDI Outreach & Membership Committee will be visiting TADPI in July this year. Also, all members should be aware that Bruce Westcott, formerly of Intergraph,



is the new GSDI Membership Recruitment Manager, as of March 2014 and any current members who have leads for possible new members in their nations or regions are asked to contact him for further assistance in recruitment. Bruce can be reached at [bwestcott \(a\) gsdi.org](mailto:bwestcott(a)gsdi.org).

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 (EuroGeographics). A first draft has been completed in 'presentation' format and was circulated to the Executive Committee and selected members of the Board and external advisors. A text has been completed incorporating the comments received and a final first full draft document will be circulated to the full GSDI Board in April 2014, then to the full membership in May 2014.

Vice-Chair, Communications, Roger Longhorn, reported to the Board on 31 March that publication of the three regional Newsletters as separate publications will cease with the April issue (available online from 1 April 2014). Regional news will in future be published in a single new 'GSDI Regional News' newsletter, covering all five regions of the Association (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Europe and North America), under supervision of the newly appointed News Editor, Kate Lance, assisted by members of the O&M Committee. Work also continues on developing a new web site for launch later this year, which features more opportunities for all members to publish their news directly to the web using a content management system (CMS).



The O&M Committee manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has 324 members, an increase of 5 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 **Facebook** account 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/gsdiandigs).



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.

Small Grants Program Update

The Committee reports that March was another busy month for the GSDI Small Grants Program. Below are the projects providing final reports, a condition of receiving the grants. We are now awaiting final reports from only two open projects - one from 2011 and another from 2012.

Colombia – 'Linked Data and Spatial Data Infrastructures' by the Research and Development for Geographic Information Centre; CIAF, Geographic Institute Agustín Codazzi:

- Planned and then conducted a week long workshop in Bogota, Colombia for the development of an ontological process for Instituto Geografico Agustin Codazzi.



Tajikistan – ‘Development of methodologies for entry of cadastral data of pilot district in Spatial Data Infrastructure of Republic of Tajikistan’ by Design and Research Institute "Fazo" under State Committee for land management and geodesy of Republic of Tajikistan:

- Personnel were trained in new technologies.
- Cadastral data of Shohmansur district was updated and submitted for approval.
- Improved conditions for the use of modern methods of storing database and common information space was created.
- Improved administrative decision making in Shohmansur district thanks to the use SDI data.
- Policy and strategy for realization of SDI of Republic of Tajikistan was improved.



Update on projects also supported by GISCorps

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.

Uzbekistan – ‘Stakeholder analysis of institutions in Uzbekistan involved state cadastres in order to increase awareness on implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructure’ by National Center of Geodesy and Cartography of Uzbekistan:

- Conducted stakeholder analysis, a workshop, and focus group discussions.
- Prepared a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) matrix.

China – ‘Multilingual (Four lingual) Place Name Data Base for Regional SDI’ by Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography of Chinese Academy of Sciences:

- Established encoding standard for Multilingual (four languages) Place Name Database using various international and domestic standards.
- Established a Place Name Database of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in China with about 2000 place names.

Zimbabwe – ‘Zimbabwe Standards-based Web Mapping and Data Access Services Online Platform/Portal’ by

Savetech Solutions:

- Supported an NSDI governance structure consensus workshop in Zimbabwe that resulted in several recommendations and a path forward developed the conceptual framework, this was in cooperation with the Zimbabwe NSDI steering committee.
- Developed the conceptual framework and began internet setup and software installations for geospatial portal.

Small Grants Program 2014 Funding Update

Thanks to new financial support from GSDI member Natural Resources Canada (NR Canada), the Committee was able to launch the first call for proposals in March for continuation of the program into 2014. The application deadline was 31 March 2014 and approximately 25 proposals had been received by the closing date. These are being reviewed in the first two weeks of April to select up to 4 projects for funding in cash and 4 projects to recommend to URISA GISCorps for services support. Financial support for the latest call was provided by GeoConnections, a national collaborative initiative led by Natural Resources Canada. GeoConnections supports the integration and use of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI), an on-line resource that improves the sharing, access and use of open geospatial information.

Further Funding Needed for Small Grants Program

Further funds to expand the Small Grants Program this year and ensure its long term sustainability into the future are still being sought from other sources, so watch this space for more news in future issues. If your organisation can offer such support, please contact either the GSDI President, Dr. David Coleman, at dcoleman@unb.ca or the Societal Impacts Committee Chair, Carmelle Terborgh (cterborgh@esri.com) or Brigitta Urban-Mathieux (Gita Urban-Mathieux burbanma@fgdc.gov). The Small Grants Program has been one of the most successful initiatives of the Association, having funded or part-funded more than 100 projects, meetings, conferences, and training opportunities since its launch in 2003. For information on how to donate, download the program flyer at this link: http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1512.

Note: The Small Grants Program is intended as a benefit of "full membership" in the GSDI Association. We make this opportunity available 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 for details.

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 Natural Resources Canada (via 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 31 March 2014, IGS had **401 active members** - an increase of nearly 80 members from 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 Reminder!

Renewal messages were sent to all members at the end of February. Remember that to maintain your free membership, current members must update their professional profile at the beginning of each calendar year. 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 member's 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 – or beat! - 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

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, began on 19 March 2014 and concludes on 1 April 2014. Chinese Taipei is the sponsor of the training program that entrusts ICLPST to carry out the project. Jeremy Shen, Vice-Chair of the Societal Impacts Committee of the GSDI Association, announced the selected candidates last month (see below):

- Mr. Ivar M. Ledezma Casablanca of Bolivia,
- Ms. Rosario Casanova of Uruguay, and
- Mr. Mathenge Mwehe of Kenya.

Jeremy tells us that they have now successfully completed their training and we will have a short report from them in the next issue of the Newsletter.

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 from April onwards:

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

EuroGeographics News

EuroGeographics continues to play a key role in the part-EU-funded European Location Framework (E.L.F.) project, which underwent its first annual technical review at the European Commission on 2 April 2014. This is a three-year project that will end in March 2016, valued at 13 million euro (approximately 18 million USD). The project has 30 partners from across Europe, including 14 national mapping and cadastral agencies (NMCAs) who are EuroGeographics members. EuroGeographics represents 56 NMCAs from 44 countries across Europe, whose members work on delivering the European SDI. In the E.L.F. project, EuroGeographics main role is in long-term sustainability and communication and information dissemination for the project. Work also involves moving the existing EuroGeoNames service to the cloud, further development of the Geo Product Finder (and associated licensing issues) and providing certain key datasets for the various pilot applications being developed within the project. For full details of the E.L.F. project, visit the web site at: <http://www.elfproject.eu/>.



EUROGI News

IRLOGI - EUGISES 2014 – Second Call for Abstracts

The organisers of EUGISES 2014, the 9th European GIS Education Seminar, once again invite you to submit abstracts for papers or posters, on any topic relevant to the conference theme of "GI Education for a Spatially-enabled Society" for presentation at EUGISES 2014. Sessions and topics of interest already suggested include:

- Best educational practices
- Harmonisation of (GI) curricula in Europe: GI&ST book initiative
- Bridging the gap between GI(S) and ICT
- GI education, vocational training, and continuous professional development
- GI education for other communities
- Incorporating new learning technologies in GI-teaching
- Quality assurance mechanisms for GI-education
- Business models in education
- GI education in schools
- Introducing new GI technologies into the curriculum

Proposals for workshops or (computer) demonstrations are equally welcome. Abstracts should be sent by mail in PDF or MS Word format to EUGISES2014@EUGISES.EU by 1 May, 2014.

Industry Member News

United We Learn at the Esri International User Conference!

If it's been too long since you've had an Esri UC experience, we hope you will come back this year - it will be truly amazing. Join us at the Esri UC from 14-18 July 2014 in San Diego, CA. Please take a moment to review the Esri UC agenda, where you will find hundreds of reasons to attend Esri UC this year. Think 290 technical workshops, 345 user sessions, and 327 demos plus hours of hands-on training and countless networking opportunities. Join us at Esri UC. Register today. Get the latest information here:

<http://www.esri.com/events/user-conference>

Intergraph and the Hexagon Geospatial Unit

Recently, Intergraph's geospatial product group became Hexagon Geospatial, a new business unit within the Hexagon family. Intergraph and Hexagon Geospatial are part of the same Hexagon family. Listen to the podcast at the link below to hear Mladen Stojic, President of Hexagon Geospatial, talk about delivering world-class solutions. If you attended the recent Geospatial

Advancement Canada event where Intergraph Canada was a key sponsor, you heard Stojic talk about "Inspiration, Innovation & Transformation" and the ways Intergraph Canada and Hexagon Geospatial are working to enable the industry and governments to make smarter decisions by utilizing mobile, cloud, analytical, and big data management solutions like APOLLO. If you'd like to schedule a meeting with Intergraph and discover how we can help you, please let us know. We would be happy to set one up! Podcast link:

<http://www.hxgnnews.com/hexagon-geospatial-world-class-solutions/>

Intergraph Selected by Transport for London to Manage Assets in the Cloud

Intergraph has been appointed by Transport for London (TfL), to implement a cloud-based GIS solution for the integrated body responsible for implementing and managing London's transport strategy and services. The new solution for TfL's Commercial Development Directorate provides improved GIS performance, greater accessibility and transparency of property assets and more up-to-date and improved functionality.

Using GeoMedia, Intergraph's hosted environment will consolidate and enhance capabilities and data that were previously spread across in-house desktop systems, a commercial web provider and an external portal. It will support a diverse set of users with capabilities to document, maintain, leverage and consult TfL property asset records.

The unified service centralizes data and delivers different levels of access to directorate users, other TfL and Greater London Authority users as well as the public under TfL's transparency program, which aims to boost publicly available information. The system also simplifies data management, increasing the refresh rate of TfL's small-scale mapping data from Ordnance Survey from annually to every six weeks.

"Intergraph's cloud-based GIS solution provides a more rich, robust and user-friendly application," said Robert Widz, Intergraph's EMEA geospatial executive director. "By easily sharing more current information, organizations can adapt to changing demands and deliver greater value to a broader user base. We're proud to support TfL's efforts." *Source: Intergraph News release*

From the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

Ordnance Survey becomes a Principal Member of OGC

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) announced that



Ordnance Survey has raised its membership level from Technical Committee level to Principal level. As a Principal Member, Ordnance Survey will participate in OGC's Planning Committee to explore market and technology trends relevant to OGC's mission to assure that OGC's policies and procedures remain effective and agile in a changing technology environment, and to participate in final approval decisions for all OGC standards.

"Ordnance Survey is a world renowned national mapping authority already internationally recognized as a leader in the adoption and consensus advancement of geospatial standards. The move to become a Principal level OGC member can only further enhance this recognition and leadership position," said Mark Reichardt, President and CEO of the OGC. *This is an important development for Ordnance Survey, highlighting the national mapping authority's commitment, and ongoing support, to the development of international open standards. Ordnance Survey has been a long-term Technical Member of OGC taking a lead role on various geospatial standards projects including the development of CityGML and more recently the OGC Web Map Service (WMS) Interface Standard.*

The new Principal Membership reinforces Ordnance Survey's vision to be at the forefront of developments in open standards development. Under the new membership Ordnance Survey will increase their engagement with the international geospatial community to ultimately improve the quality of standards globally and to enable the industry to continue to innovate and grow. The new level of membership also aligns with the UK Government policy on using open standards and it is expected to create new opportunities for Ordnance Survey to further develop collaborations with Government by shaping standards that promote interoperability.

Peter ter Haar, Ordnance Survey Director of Products and Innovation, adds: *"Ordnance Survey has an excellent working relationship with OGC and the new Principal Membership highlights our commitment to the development of open geospatial standards. "We expect the new level of membership to deliver significant opportunities to Ordnance Survey, by firstly helping to future-proof systems and secondly by creating opportunities to develop commercial growth for Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Survey International. "We look forward to building on our already good relationship with the OGC and are especially keen to lead on some of the emerging geospatial standards for mobile, 3D and linked data."*

OGC Invites Research Papers

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) invites research papers for the OGC Academic Summit 2014 and ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information (IJGI). The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) Academic Summit 2014 will be held 15-16 September 2014 at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada as part of the September OGC Technical Committee Meeting.

2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC). After two decades, OGC standards have become a key enabler of geospatial interoperability, delivering significant societal, economic and scientific benefits by integrating digital location resources into commercial and institutional processes worldwide. Emerging technologies such as cloud computing, smartphones, UAVs, sensor networks and the Internet of Things offer new ways of collecting, accessing, and analyzing geospatial information, generating ever increasing interest in the diffusion, usage, and processing of geo-referenced data. This rapidly expanding technology domain brings exciting new challenges and opportunities to many scientific disciplines and to the geospatial interoperability research community.

We invite you to submit papers describing your cutting-edge, exciting new research to the OGC Academic Summit 2014. The OGC Academic Summit 2014 will provide a unique international forum in which to present and discuss progress and future directions of geospatial interoperability as it applies to computer science and to sciences in which geoprocessing has become an essential tool. Each paper must be written in English and submitted in a PDF file following the IJGI format (WORD, LaTeX). Submitted manuscripts should not have been published previously nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. All manuscripts will be refereed through a peer-review process. At least one of the authors of an accepted paper must attend the conference and present the paper.

The ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information (IJGI) will publish a special issue for the OGC Academic Summit 2014. Accepted papers will be invited to incorporate reviewers' comments, extend the paper (if needed) and submit to the IJGI Open Geospatial special issue. Publication fees will be fully waived for papers submitted in 2014. Click to [Submit Your Paper](#).

Academic Summit attendees will have an opportunity to network with OGC member representatives from around the world and participate directly in working groups, plenary sessions, dinners and outings.

The OGC is an international consortium of more than 470



companies, government agencies, research organizations, and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available geospatial standards. OGC standards support interoperable solutions that "geo-enable" the Web, wireless and location-based services, and mainstream IT. OGC standards empower technology developers to make geospatial information and services accessible and useful with any application that needs to be geospatially enabled. Visit the OGC website at <http://www.opengeospatial.org/>

Successful GeoPackage Webinar follows GeoPackage Launch

The GeoPackage Webinar held at the beginning of March, produced by Directions Media, drew 940 registrants, and 406 of these attended live. In a questionnaire, most of the registered geospatial information managers, developers and practitioners surveyed reported that they plan to use software that implements the OGC GeoPackage Standard that was first announced last month.

This strong show of interest indicates, we believe, that GeoPackage meets an important market need. OGC's GeoPackage, an open standard based on the widely used free and open source SQLite [<http://www.sqlite.org/>] database, gives mainstream application developers an easy mechanism for accessing both GIS data and raster data in a format that can be used directly by mobile devices such as smartphones. Developers who are not geospatial experts can implement this standard to provide inexpensive and innovative location information solutions for any user community – government, business enterprise, science or consumers.

A "GeoPackage" is a container for shapefiles, raster imagery, GPS coordinates, map tiles, floor plans or almost any other kind of spatial data. It streamlines applications that make use of solutions and Web services implementing OGC Web Services interface and encoding standards, and yet it also, very importantly, supports mobile applications that may operate in environments that involve intermittent network access, or no network access at all. A key design requirement for GeoPackage was the requirement to support a wide range of applications running on resource-constrained mobile devices. One result is that GeoPackages can be sent via email, text message, or Web link as well as communication channels between geospatial clients and servers.

The GeoPackage webinar was recorded and can be viewed and listened to by visiting the link below on the Directions Media website. If you want to learn more, please visit www.geopackage.org or send me an email. I

hope GeoPackage will help you do what you need to do with geospatial information.

Source: OGC Blog entry by Dr. Raj Singh serves as a Director of Interoperability Programs for OGC, at <http://www.opengeospatial.org/blog/1978>.

Podcast Link:

<http://www.directionsmag.com/webinars/view/learn-about-geopackage-a-new-ogc-standard-for-mobile-app-development/382140>

OGC Discrete Global Grid Systems Standards Working Group

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) announced the formation of a new OGC Technical Committee Standards Working Group (SWG). The purpose of this SWG will be to explore and propose terms for a standard to enable interoperability through the use of Discrete Global Grid Systems (DGGS). The OGC members convening this group invite the public to comment on the DGGS SWG charter (<https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/57326>) and will consider comments received via email to: charter-requests@opengeospatial.org before 11 April 2014.

Unlike the widely used coordinate reference systems that represent the Earth as a continual lattice of points, a DGGS represents the Earth with a tessellation of nested cells. A DGGS is designed to ensure a repeatable representation of measurements that is better suited to today's requirements and technologies than our legacy coordinate systems that were designed for repeatable navigation and manual charting.

There is explosive growth of both the variety and the volume of interesting spatial data and processing resources, along with a growing understanding of the tremendous societal benefit that can be derived from enabling interoperability between them. On the other side of this deluge of spatial content is a growing demand by end-use decision-makers for a participatory environment where content can be accessed directly from diverse contributors and used with other content without reliance on time-consuming and costly pre-integration processes.

One of the core contributions of a DGGS is geospatial fusion on demand. In a multiple provider environment, fusion is only possible with an information system architecture based upon open standards. There is a need for the development of a standard to enable interoperability within and between Discrete Global Grid Systems and to promote reusability, knowledge exchange, and choices between different data sources and architectures.



The DGGS SWG will consist of interested parties from across a broad range of the geosciences, academic institutions, and commercial and government organizations that are involved with or interested in the design, development, implementation or use of Discrete Global Grid Systems. The conveners of the DGGS SWG are Matthew Purss of Geoscience Australia, Perry Peterson of PYXIS Innovations Inc. and Robert Gibb of Landcare Research New Zealand.

The following Charter Members support this proposal and are committed to the Charter and projected meeting schedule. Others may join this list before the SWG is officially chartered:

- Clinton Foster, Geoscience Australia (Chief Scientist)
- Matthew Purss, Geoscience Australia
- Perry Peterson, the PYXIS innovation
- Robert Gibb, Landcare Research NZ
- Simon Oliver, Geoscience Australia
- Faramarz Samavati, University of Calgary
- Robert Woodcock, CSIRO
- Ben Evans, National Computational Infrastructure, Australian National University

News from the Americas

FGDC releases National Geospatial Data Asset Management Plan

The US Federal Geographic Data Committee released in March the “National Geospatial Data Asset Management Plan - Portfolio Management Implementation Plan for the OMB Circular A–16” as “Supplemental Guidance as it relates to OMB Circular A–16, Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities”

From the Executive Summary:

Managing geospatial data as a capital asset is critical to our Nation’s ability to leverage and target public investments and to make our tax dollars more effective, transparent, and accountable. Locational intelligence derived from geospatial data is driving modern technological advances in all fields, and the dynamic nature of our increasingly digital and sensor-based networked environment creates new management challenges across Federal agencies. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A–16, “Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities”, provides guidance on improved national coordination and use of spatial data, and a recent addendum, Circular A–16 Supplemental Guidance (Supplemental Guidance) prescribes a “portfolio management” approach.

Portfolio management is the process of tracking, maintaining, expanding, and aligning assets to address and solve the business needs of an enterprise. At a national level, this approach is intended to overcome the single agency, stovepipe model by applying consistent policy, improved organization, better governance, and public engagement to deliver outstanding results.

The Supplemental Guidance outlines an approach for instituting the portfolio management process. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Steering Committee will oversee this National Geospatial Data Asset Management Plan (Plan) to ensure that the identified goal is being met. Outcomes will include a robust and accessible set of core geospatial datasets, called National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs). The availability of and access to these NGDAs will improve support for individual Federal agency missions as, well as their partners and stakeholders. The Plan is derived from the following documents that were developed with extensive input by representatives from Federal agencies and a wide array of geospatial stakeholders:

- OMB Circular A–16, Supplemental Guidance, November 10, 2010, hereafter referred to as the Supplemental Guidance.
- National Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Plan: 2014–2016, December 2013, hereafter referred to as the NSDI Strategic Plan.

The Plan encompasses activities to support the following vision and goal for the A–16 NGDA Portfolio management.

Vision: A National Spatial Data Infrastructure Portfolio consisting of a core set of National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs) that are sufficiently complete, current, and accessible to support the critical business and mission requirements of the Federal Government, its partners and stakeholders.

Goal: Implement a systematic and efficient A–16 NGDA Portfolio management process that supports and optimizes investments in Federal geospatial assets for effective sharing, collaboration, and use of core geospatial data across Federal agencies and with their partners and stakeholders, in an environment that supports efficient and effective decision making.

The Plan is divided into two sections: “Preparing the Management and Reporting Framework” and “Executing the Portfolio Management Process.” Each section contains a series of objectives and the associated action items necessary to establish and execute A–16 NGDA Portfolio management on an on-going basis. Elements for continual assessment, planning, reporting, and setting of development and budget priorities are listed



under each objective. Details on timelines, responsibilities, and metrics are included within each action item. The specific roles of actors at all levels of the A-16 NGDA Portfolio management process are also addressed. Download the plan here:

<http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/a-16/ngda-management-plan>

Also from FGDC, their Geospatial Platform team recently announced the availability of an open standards compliant catalog service API supporting Geoplatform.gov and Data.gov. Supporting the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Catalog Service for the Web (CSW) it provides an interface for query and presentation of results regarding data, services, and applications registered with the Geospatial Platform and data.gov. Any client supporting CSW (desktop GIS, Web application, client library, etc.) can integrate the new Geoplatform.gov / Data.gov CSW endpoints.

The CSW endpoints support the OGC CSW 2.0.2 standard as well as the ISO Metadata Application 1.0.0 Profile. The response is transmitted as XML conforming to the ISO or Dublin Core metadata schemas. Brief, Summary, and Full responses can be requested, delivering different amounts of information to the requestor based on these common standards. API documentation is available under Resources on the Geoplatform.gov site.

News from Member Instituto Geografico Militar, (IGM) Chile

The Military Geographic Institute (IGM) was present at the International Air and Space 2014 Exhibition. IGM 's stand, located in Hall of the Chilean Army, was visited by the Commander -in-Chief, GDE Humberto Oviedo Arriagada, accompanied by the Commander of Military Industry and Engineering, GDD Guido Montini Gómez; among other institutional authorities who attended the opening ceremony of the 2014 FIDAE. The ECJ could see the production system mapping project Latitude South, where he met and saw on screen the complexity of the technical work of the project, covering the entire national territory at the scale 1:25,000. The stand was also visited by various civil authorities, including the Minister of Works, Mr. Alberto Undurraga Vicuña, who expressed his satisfaction with the work of diffusion of geographical knowledge of our country through educational texts and atlases and maps Chile.

News from Asia-Pacific

News from Member PSMA Australia

In March 2004 a selection of politicians and geospatial industry stakeholders assembled at Parliament House in

Canberra to mark the birth of something new – a Geocoded National Address File for Australia, or G-NAF. The processing methodology underpinning the G-NAF dataset was a world-leading technology capable of building a quality assured national address index from ten diverse data sources.

In 2014, PSMA Australia is celebrating the 10th birthday of G-NAF. Within this brief ten years, PSMA's G-NAF has evolved from an unknown quantity utilised only by its patrons, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and Australia Post; into a dataset utilised throughout the economy. Across government and industry, authoritative address data from G-NAF supports many policy and business systems providing important services to Australians – including emergency response, social services, insurance, telecommunications and navigation.

In the 2013 strategy paper *Advancing Australia as a Digital Economy*, the Australian Government announced its intention to explore options for providing open access to G-NAF – making it freely available to all Australians. This was recognition of G-NAF's fundamental place within the Australian digital economy and a sign of the growing acknowledgement that some flavours of national geospatial data are an essential digital infrastructure – an invisible and virtual parallel to our physical infrastructures such as the roads we drive on and the utilities that provide us with essential services.

News from Europe

ITC Call for 6 PhD positions (Promovendi)

The University of Twente Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) provides international postgraduate education, research and project services in the field of geo-information science and earth observation using remote sensing and GIS. The aim of ITC's activities is the international exchange of knowledge, focusing on capacity building and institutional development in developing countries and emerging economies.

ITC expects candidates for the PhD positions to match their research interest with one of ITC's research themes. The PhD positions are open to highly talented candidates who hold a Master of Science degree (MSc) in one of the following fields: Earth Science, Geography, Ecology, Agriculture, Environmental Sciences, Geo-informatics or computer science with relevant expertise in Geo-information and/or remote sensing.

It is up to the selection committee to decide to which of the six departments at ITC the candidates will be allocated. The candidates will be asked to give a 20



minutes presentation. The presentation must include details about: 1. the candidate him/herself, 2. the importance of his/her research, 3. future developments of the candidate's academic career and research. Hence the candidate is asked to make clear in which ITC-domain he/she thinks will fit best and why (motivation).

ITC offers an inspiring and challenging international and academic environment. The successful candidate will be employed for a period of four years. Salary and conditions are in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement (CAO) of the Dutch Universities. The gross monthly salary starts at € 2083,- gross per month in the first year, leading up to € 2664,- gross per month in the last year excluding allowances in accordance with the job profile Promovendus, under the University System for Job Classification (UJC).

Applications (extended cv, motivation letter, and research Idea) should be uploaded no later than May 12, 2014 by using the application form and should include CV, letter of application, contact information for two or more references and a clear research Idea related to ITC. For further information you may contact our HR-Manager, Mr Jeroen Jansen (jeroen.jansen@utwente.nl) / +31 53 4874 316) for procedural and organizational issues Professor dr.ir A. Veldkamp, dean of the Faculty, for content issues (email a.veldkamp@utwente.nl). Get full details here:

[http://www.itc.nl/Pub/News-overview/in2014/in2014-march/6-PhD-positions-\(promovendi\).html](http://www.itc.nl/Pub/News-overview/in2014/in2014-march/6-PhD-positions-(promovendi).html)

News from Member Cartographic Institute of Catalonia

The library catalog of the Library of Catalonia (CTC) has implemented a new access query tool for discovering content. For the first time, you can access more than 66,000 volumes from a single access point, similar to what Google offers including search suggestions. The results can be grouped by log (authors, decades, type of material) and filtered by keywords. The CTC catalog, which contains both old and modern books, atlases, maps and some facsimiles will soon be enriched with more than 18,000 bibliographic records of the library Domenech, an important collection of papers on local history that will enrich the library of Catalonia.

News from Member Dutch Kadaster

Assistance to Aruba

Late 2013 and early 2014 Kadaster assisted the Land Registry of Aruba in formulating a project plan to digitise their entire analogue archive. When the plan is executed, the digital archive will be made accessible through the computerised registration system RAKA (Registración

Automatisa Kadaster Aruba). Kadaster Aruba also requested further assistance for the completion of RAKA and updating of the software. Kadaster's IT department is responsible for the maintenance and support of RAKA and the help desk.

The latest assignment is the result of a very intense and productive cooperation of many years. In 2006, RAKA was developed as a project under the supervision of Kadaster. The analogue land registration switched successfully to the land registration system RAKA. Since July 2009, RAKA has been fully operational at Kadaster Aruba.

Assistance in Bangladesh

A romantic stroll along the banks of the beautiful Gulshan lake in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, has become nearly impossible. This is due to illegal allotment on the shores. Slums as well as businesses and government buildings arise in areas where land entitlement is dubious and unregulated.

When Kadaster visited Bangladesh in August last year we learned about the numerous unresolved disputes regarding the ownership of land. Owners of newly built houses along Gulshan lake were claiming to have bought them from legal owners. In most cases, land had been sold by influential grabbers having political connections. Since the 1980s successive governments allowed the then ruling high-society to create hundreds of plots through earth filling. Strip by strip, narrowing down the original lake. It shows that the capacity to manage land needs further development. Capacity is mainly lacking on inter-ministerial cooperation, IT systems and the efficiency of procedures. The Department of Land Records and Surveys (DLRS) has asked for support on improving this.

The Dutch policy to enhance economic development in Bangladesh focuses on support for entrepreneurs, especially women, to boost local economies. We have much in common with Bangladesh. The country is also formed by a delta, just like the Netherlands. Considerable effort is put into projects where citizens, land and water are at stake. Having secure tenureship or ownership is essential for local entrepreneurs. As the Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto said: "Nobody ever washed a rented car". People are not likely to invest when they are not certain of their ownership. Visit to the Netherlands

A high-level delegation of the Ministry of Land of Bangladesh visited the Netherlands in October 2013. With the objective to learn about best practices in land administration of the faculty of Geo-Information and Earth Observation (ITC-Twente University) and Kadaster.



We demonstrated how we work in the Netherlands and abroad. The Ministry recognised the need for a tailor-made study tour and assistance from Kadaster and ITC. Mainly on operational and managerial level for the DLRS. The activities to develop capacity are financed by the Dutch Government. They take place throughout 2014.

Assistance in Greece

In December last year, Kadaster signed a contract for implementing a project for capacity and institutional building in Greece. The newly formed cadastre organisation EKXA is our main counterpart. The European Commission is the financial sponsor of this project.

Based on fundamental changes in the legal framework, an entire new system for land registration and cadastral maps has been defined by the Greek State. Our assistance focuses on redesigning the landscape of land administration in Greece. Additionally, a new organisational structure has to be drafted and implemented for EKXA. As well as for developing capacity to run the future cadastre organisation. Supervision of Task Force Greece

Since 2011, Kadaster has been providing technical assistance to Greece in the domain of land administration. Since June 2012, all activities are being carried out under supervision of the Task Force Greece (TFGR). We are the domain leader and we coordinate support that is provided by Austria, Germany and Spain.

News from Africa

EIS-Africa News - MyCOE CGE South Africa TechCamp

GSDI Member, EIS-Africa, in partnership with the Association of American Geographers, will support a capacity-building event for secondary school students from South Africa and the United States. "The program aims to provide opportunities for youth to learn more about online geotechnologies and how to apply them in service of their communities, while gaining a deeper understanding about different places and cultures of the world. It is conducted by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) with funding and support from the US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Youth Programs Division." For more information, including how to apply to participate, please visit <http://www.aag.org/techcamps>.

RCMRD Hosts East African Global Land Cover Workshop

GSDI Member RCMRD (Regional Centre for Mapping of

Resources for Development) hosted the East African Global Land Cover Workshop on 10-14 March 2014. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of developing country partners to improve techniques to generate and/or update existing land cover information using satellite imagery. The ability to monitor the effects of climate change on natural resources and conduct carbon sequestration assessments are greatly enhanced by access to global coverage of satellite imagery. Monitoring land cover change over time is an essential tool for climate change studies, such as forest carbon cycling processes, atmospheric models, ecosystem health and biodiversity.

This East African Participatory Workshop is geared to land cover mapping experts from the East African countries (Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho, and Kenya) to actively participate in a review of the USGS 30 meter Land Cover dataset and methodologies.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



March was a busy month for our President, Prof. David Coleman, with preparations leading to the Board of Directors meeting held (as a teleconference) on 31 March.

At the meeting, Sri Vinay of CIESIN was elected to the Board, new managerial posts were approved and several Committee reports were made, as well as discussions on the future plans for GSDI World Conferences. A brief report of the meeting is published earlier in this Newsletter. David also participated in the weekly Task Committee meetings attended by other officers and managers of the Association, and was directly involved in preparing the contracts for new manager posts. He also attended the OGC Gala Reception in Virginia, celebrating the 20th anniversary of founding of one of our most valued members – the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) in 2004. See next month's issue for a short report of the OGC Technical

Prof. Coleman will also be a keynote speaker on the topic "*Challenging Traditional Models, Roles and Responsibilities in Evolving Spatial Data Infrastructures*" at the **Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications** to be held on October 6-8, 2014 at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, Toronto, Canada. Get full details of the conference here: <http://www2.isprs.org/2014GeoTPMA/home.html>.



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 March 2014 issue of GIM International.

"SDI Strategic Planning: Two New U.S. and Canadian Examples"

Originally led by national organizations, SDI efforts today may be found at all levels of government and encompass a wide range of information products and shared services. Some involve inputs from private partners and even individual contributors as well. Moreover, with the widespread reliance on commercial services from (e.g.,) Google and OpenStreetMap now embedded in everyday applications, the respective roles and influence of government, industry and individuals have changed profoundly over the past 20 years. That can make things uncomfortable for some organizations.

If it is even possible, how does an organization or even a national community plan for what's coming next in terms of SDIs? Two recent North American initiatives try to do just this: the now-finalized National Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2014-2016 from the US Federal Geographic Data Committee, and the draft Pan-Canadian Geomatics Strategy from the Canadian Geomatics Round Table (CGCRT) Steering Committee released in January. (See links to both documents at the end of this column.)

Neither of these documents can be given proper coverage in a single short column, so I will offer a few early observations only. They rightly steer away from a heavy emphasis on the data, technologies and application involved. Many of the components they discuss are not new, but they have been updated to reflect better economic impact information becoming available and the very different collection of producers, users, institutions, policies, capabilities and attitudes that exists today.

Benefitting from a clear organizational mandate and wide community feedback obtained through Fall 2013, the FGDC Report is tightly focussed on U.S. Federal Government initiatives and priorities. The short "Strategic Plan Overview" section contains information relevant to most developed countries, and the authors are not shy about mentioning the challenges of providing federal leadership and sustaining shared values and practices in an era of tightened government spending. There is a clear connection between goals, objectives and anticipated outcomes. The final section briefly outlines how implementation will take place and performance

monitored, and subsequent follow-up will be good material for future papers on SDI assessment.

The Pan-Canadian Geomatics Strategy is more wide-ranging and ambitious. With early input from geospatial community leaders in government, industry and academia, this draft document deals primarily with Canada's "geomatics sector": providers of geospatial information products and services and those responsible for development and delivery of the country's SDIs. Early draft recommendations -- especially around the Market, Leadership and Capacity Building -- are ambitious. It will be interesting to see what aspects evolve following the open Call for Comments and online discussions now underway.

Best wishes to the organizations in both countries for this work in influencing the next generation of SDIs and the communities they will support. It's no easy task to try and both predict and invent the future. Watch for follow-up information on both these initiatives in future articles.

Full copies of both the American and Canadian documents along with valuable supporting materials may be found at <http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan> and <http://cgcrct.ca/>.

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 last 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

Sao Paulo to Host Free GIS Conference in Latin America

Due to a partnership between MundoGEO and the gvSIG Association (<http://www.gvsig.com/association>) – the company that develops one of the most important free Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, used

worldwide – the 6th Latin American and Caribbean gvSIG Conference will be held in Brazil. This event will take place along with with the MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica, Conference and Trade Fair of Geomatics and Geospatial Solutions, 2014 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 7 - 9, 2014. (<http://mundogeoconnect.com/2014/en/>)

The Latin American and Caribbean gvSIG Conference aims to provide a venue where researchers, developers, experts and the Latin American GIS community will be able to meet and exchange experiences about free Geomatics and gvSIG software.

"The gvSIG Association is pleased in communicating this alliance with MundoGEO. A joint celebration of the Latin American and Caribbean gvSIG Conference with MundoGEO#Connect 2014 allows us to state that, during these days, it will be held the most important Geomatics event in Latin America in 2014," said Alvaro Anguix, CEO of gvSIG Association. *"This agreement is marked by a continuous collaboration between both institutions, under the premise of joining efforts and disseminating knowledge and technological capability of Latin America,"* added the Director.

"The MundoGEO team is very optimistic about this alliance, which will strengthen both events and provide the gvSIG community with the opportunity to expand their connections, by contacting other attendees of the conference and also the visitors of the Geomatics Trade Fair", says Granemann Emerson, director of MundoGEO, the company that organizes MundoGEO#Connect.

The registration period for the 6th Latin American and Caribbean gvSIG Conference is open now. Attendance is free, but limited. To register you just need to fill in the corresponding form. Immediately after registration, you will receive an email with a confirmation code. This code can be used to view and update your personal data.

MundoGEO#Connect trade fair will have free access through previous registration. To attend the seminars, forums and courses, see the registration options. For further information, please contact:
connect@mundogeo.com
or call +55 (41) 3338-7789 / (11) 4063-8848.
Get full details here:
<http://mundogeoconnect.com/2014/en/program/>

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



We remind readers that the call for abstracts for the INSPIRE 2014 Conference is published.



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/

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>

Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications October 2014

This joint conference will be held on October 6-8, 2014 at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, Toronto, Canada. The conference Registration and Online Hotel Room Booking is now open. Register before 01 May 2014 to enjoy the early registration rates, and book your rooms before 01 August 2014 to receive \$20.00 reduction on top of the group rates from the hotel.



The **ISPRS Foundation** offers travel grants to support participation in 2014 ISPRS TC II Midterm Symposium. To apply, please visit: <http://www.isprs.org/foundation/>

The Joint International Conference on Geospatial Theory, Processing, Modelling and Applications is hosted by the **Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG)** and co-organized by the **International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)** Technical Commission II on Theory and Concepts of Spatial Information Science, International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geographical Information Science and Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems. With a theme on Building Connections in GISciences for Future, the conference intends to present and disseminate the research, development and the innovative applications of geographical information theory and technologies in broad areas, as well as other interested areas by the participating organizations.

This conference joins the following symposia together:

- 2014 ISPRS Technical Commission II Midterm Symposium
- 16th IGU Spatial Data Handling Symposium

ISPRS Technical Commission II Midterm Symposium is held every four years in between two consecutive ISPRS Congresses. The symposium aims to bring together scholars and professionals from the international community of geospatial information sciences and engineering to present latest research achievements and technological developments. The topics of the symposium address the focuses outlined by the Commission, stated on its website: <http://www2.isprs.org/commissions/comm2.html>.

The **International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling (SDH)** is the biennial international research forum for Geospatial Information Science, co-organized by the IGU Commission on Geographic Information Science and the IGU Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems. It commenced in 1984, in Zurich, Switzerland and has since been held biennially in Seattle, USA; Sydney, Australia; Zurich, Switzerland; Charleston, USA; Edinburgh, UK; Delft, The Netherlands; Vancouver, Canada; Beijing, China; Ottawa, Canada; Leicester, UK; Vienna, Austria; Montpellier, France; and Hong Kong, China. The International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling has become a major resource for recent advances in GIS research and is regarded as a premier international research forum for GIS.

7th URISA Caribbean GIS Conference

URISA is pleased to host the 2014 conference in the Dutch Caribbean on October 27-30, 2014 at the Santa

Barbara Beach & Golf Resort, Curacao! Deadline for abstract submissions is 5 May 2014.

The conference will focus on the effective application and management of GIS and other information technologies within the Caribbean. Previous Caribbean GIS conferences have taken place in Jamaica (2001), Barbados (2004), the Bahamas (2006), the Cayman Islands (2008), Trinidad and Tobago (2010) and Jamaica (2012). Get full details here: <http://www.urisa.org/education-events/caribbean-gis-conference/>

The objectives of URISA's **Caribbean GIS Conference** are to:

- inform broad cross-section of Caribbean users about GIS technology and applications,
- share experiences regarding GIS implementation and management issues,
- establish new relationships with the vendor/consultant community,
- provide workshops and sessions that are application driven, and are relevant to the Caribbean community of GIS users,
- foster a Caribbean GIS network,
- assess the state of readiness of national and regional Spatial Data Infrastructures,
- act on directives from the High Level Meetings held over the past several years, fostering executive support for GIS.

The Conference Program is developed through a Call for Presentations. The committee welcomes the submission of individual papers, complete sessions, panel discussions and lightning talks and has proposed a list of suggested topics for consideration (note that all abstracts received will be reviewed and considered for the conference program regardless of the list below):

- Mobile technology in action
- Big data to support planning and development
- Business intelligence and analytics
- Mobile applications
- GIS in support of economic development
- Best practices and lessons learned
- Security
- GIS in public safety, emergency response and disaster management
- Improving addressing
- Landuse planning
- Coastal and marine spatial planning
- Environmental monitoring and analysis
- Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change
- GIS applications to support climate change adaptation



- Commercial applications including retail, insurance, manufacturing, financial services
- The use of location technology
- GIS in the 'Cloud'
- How to prepare/use Census GIS
- Mobile GIS for inspections/inventories/surveys
- Citizen and general public's use of GIS - web access
- Use of aerial photography filling the data gap
- Use of drones/UAVs for collecting imagery
- Innovative health GIS applications
- Crowdsourcing
- Oil and gas
- Enterprise GIS trends
- Open source GIS
- Demographic analysis – GIS makes the task easier
- PPGIS - community participation
- Developing GIS leaders in your organization
- The use of GIS in energy conservation initiatives
- Data management challenges
- Standards implementation issues and experiences
- Data sharing, open data
- Creative funding solutions
- Collaboration, coordination and cooperation tips and tricks
- Other hot/trending topics

2014 Esri Health GIS Conference Update – November 2014

Big changes are coming to health and human services (HHS). And you are invited to a gathering of peers and experts where it all will be spelled out - the 2014 Esri Health GIS Conference, to be held November 3-5, at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

This major national GIS event is your opportunity to be on the geospatial cutting edge -- to experience the winds of progress ahead of your colleagues who do not attend. You'll learn state-of-the-art GIS tools, network with peers across the health continuum, and gain perspective from industry leaders including Esri experts.

Two Ways to Participate: Present a Paper, Display a Map: Put your geospatial expertise in front of customers and peers. If you're a GIS professional in health and human services - someone with practical expertise and skills in the real world, then at the 2014 Esri Health GIS Conference, you'll have an opportunity to show your colleagues what works - or doesn't work.

Here are two ways you can help them accelerate their projects or avoid costly mistakes:

- Share your best work - give a 20-minute presentation about one of your successful GIS experiences.

- Show off your cartographic skills - put one of your GIS-based maps on display.

Submit an abstract and a map. **The submission deadline is August 1, 2014.**

Latest on Registration! The first 30 Registrants get in on a low \$300 Red-Eye Rate!

And if you're among the first 30 to register, you'll attend for only \$300 - a "Red-Eye" fee that's \$199 off the standard \$499 rate. We welcome professionals in public health, hospitals and health systems, human services, and academic health and research. The Esri Health GIS Conference is much more than any other user conference - it will put you squarely on the front line of HHS geospatial technology and best practices for 2014.

Get the details and register here:

http://www.esri.com/events/health/?WT.mc_id=EmailCampaignh21803

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL & REGIONAL SDI PROJECTS

INSPIRE in Europe

Overview of the results of the on-line consultation on INSPIRE



The recent public consultation collected views of the general public and all stakeholders in order to help assess whether the actions already underway to establish an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community according to the INSPIRE directive 2007/2/EC are still on course to meet the objectives pursued.

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.

The preliminary results of the analysis of the replies will be presented at the INSPIRE Conference 2014, Aalborg, 16-20 June 2014.

Statistics



Download as PDF -
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/pdf/INSPIRE720140306_stat.pdf

Download as Excel Sheet -
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/pdf/INSPIRE720140306.xls>

Charts - Download as PDF -
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/pdf/INSPIRE720140306.pdf>

smeSPIRE Project Update

The EU-funded smeSpire project has published a study report on the Geo-ICT Sector in Europe. The report is available at: <http://www.smespire.eu/published-by-smespire-the-first-study-on-the-geo-ict-sector-in-europe/>

The report provides an in-depth analysis and comparison of different Geo-ICT companies in Europe and how they relate to INSPIRE. The study's primary objectives were:

- Assessing the market potential for Geo-ICT companies in relation to INSPIRE.
- Characterizing obstacles for Geo-ICT companies to enter this market, with focus on knowledge gaps and training needs.

The study was carried out in four stages:

- Desk research using published statistics to describe the Geo-ICT SME sector and its context.
- On-line survey to establish an overview of targeted Geo-ICT SMEs in 12 Member States.
- In-depth interviews to establish the detailed circumstances of the targeted Geo-ICT SMEs.
- Workshops where results were discussed and validated in a collaborative approach.

The report is available both integral - Study on the Geo-ICT sector in Europe (integral) at:
<http://www.smespire.eu/wp-content/plugins/download-monitor/download.php?id=32>

and as a short version - Study on the Geo-ICT sector in Europe (short version) at:
<http://www.smespire.eu/wp-content/plugins/download-monitor/download.php?id=31>

GEO News

CEOS Working Week in April 2014

CEOS (the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites)

and its WGISS (Working Group on Information Systems and Services) is the operational satellite arm of GEO (the Group on Earth Observations) in developing GEOSS. GSDI and CEOS WGISS established a liaison under the ESA-NASA chairmanship of WGISS in 2006. Since that time, GSDI member HUNAGI hosted CEOS WGISS meetings two times and provided GSDI liaisons reports on a regular basis. GSDI liaison was invited by CEOS also to the GEO 'Architecture and Vision' think tank as a follow-on action of the WGISS-36 meeting hosted by ESA in September 2013.

CEOS WGISS will be holding its next Working Week (WGISS-37) from 14 to 18 April 2014 in Cocoa Beach, Florida, USA, hosted by NASA. The interim draft agenda has been published. The GSDI liaison presentation is scheduled for the first day of the meeting - 14 April. Logistics and registration information are available from this link.

During the presentation, Dr. Gabor Remetey-Fulopp (former Chair of the GSDI Legal & Socioeconomic Committee) and Secretary-General of HUNAGI (the Hungarian Association for Geo-Information), will inform the Earth Observation ground segment, satellite data and geospatial service experts working for space agencies, prime data and service providers, academia and subcontracted private companies of our activities. The presentation covers the period since September 2013 and includes forward planning for the rest of 2014. Some regional (e.g. EUROGI's multi-country Copernicus MPP or imaGIne 2 Conference) and national level activities (e.g. the first European Location Framework and Copernicus MPP Hungary workshops hosted by HUNAGI) will be mentioned.

GSDI wishes to thank Gabor especially for his continued involvement with the GEO and CEOS WGISS on behalf of the Association and its members. HUNAGI are valued long time members of the GSDI Association and the Association actively promotes the principles and work of GEO and GEOSS, representing Association members at relevant GEO/GEOSS/CEOS meetings and events.

Call for Paper to the 5th ISDE Digital Earth Summit

The International Society for Digital Earth will be hosting the 5th Digital Earth Summit, under the theme "Digital Earth for ESD", from 9 - 11 November 2014 in Nagoya, Japan. This planned Digital Earth Summit will focus on how Digital Earth technologies and activities have contributed or will contribute to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Digital Earth technologies are one of the key technologies to support ESD by visualizing complicated earth system, social system and not only for the current situation but from the past to future.



The Digital Earth Summit Series have been convened at Auckland (2006), Potsdam (2008), Nessebar (2010) and Wellington (2012). This year's summit will provide inspiration for enriching the digital earth vision and promoting collaborations amongst participating institutions, and also offer a dynamic arena for individuals to share knowledge and experiences.

Call for Abstracts - The international program committee invites submissions of abstracts on any of the scientific topics selected this year:

1. Digital Earth for ESD

- Digital Earth for sustainable society and future earth
- Systems thinking, critical thinking for global issues
- Integrated, holistic approach by geospatial information science
- Environment, and disaster education
- Carrier development

2. Digital Earth for Citizen Science

- ICT, cloud services and sourcing
- Big data
- Institutional approach

3. and more ...

Important Dates

March 9, 2014: Open for Online Registration and Abstract Submission

May 9, 2014: Deadline of Abstract Submission

July 9, 2014: Notification of Acceptance

Sept. 9, 2014: Deadline of Early Registration

Oct. 9, 2014: Final Program Fix

Nov. 9, 2014: Opening of Summit

Website links:

5th Digital Earth Summit: <http://www.isde-j.com/summit2014/>

International Society for Digital Earth: <http://www.digitalearth-isde.org/>

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"