GSDI REGIONAL NEWSLETTER
for the Global Geospatial Community
covering

Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, North America, and the Middle East & North Africa

January 2015 – Vol. 2, No. 1

The ***GSDI Regional Newsletter*** is a free, electronic newsletter for people interested in all aspects of implementing national and regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) around the globe. The newsletter continues the tradition of the GSDI Association's former separate regional newsletters that covered Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, from 2002 onwards. The purpose of the newsletter is to raise awareness of SDI issues and provide useful information to strengthen SDI implementation efforts and support synchronization of regional activities. The archive of all past copies of the previous regional newsletters can be accessed from the GSDI website by following the link to Newsletter Archive at gsdi.org.

You can subscribe or unsubscribe to the regional newsletter or change your email address online at
http://gsdi.org/newslist/gsdisubscribe.

Announce your news or information!

Feel free to submit any news related to spatial data infrastructure implementation that you would like to highlight, including new tools, policies, application stories, studies or reports from your area, profession, organization, country or region. Send your contributions to the News Editor, Kate Lance, at newseditor@gsdi.org and we will try to include these in our next newsletter. Share this newsletter with anyone who may find the information useful and suggest they subscribe themselves.

Support and Contributions to this Issue

Thanks to the GSDI Association for supporting the News Editor and GSDI listserv moderator Kate Lance; GSDI Communications & Operations Manager, Roger Longhorn; and Karen Levoleger, (Kadaster, Netherlands) for their contributions in creating, producing and disseminating the GSDI Regional Newsletter.

Table of Contents

Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

Namibia: Savannah classified, from drone imagery to vegetation base maps

Timothée Produit of EPFL's LASIG lab was part of a Namibian mission in May 2014. During the mission, Tim gave lectures both at the Polytechnic of Namibia as well as at the Gobabeb Research & Training Center on how to use acquired drone imagery to classify terrain. Once all the imagery of the mission had been processed back home in Switzerland, Tim went on to use the data for classification purposes.

In this blog, Tim and his colleague Matthew Parkan explain how to use multi-spectral imagery acquired by the eBee and converted to NIR and RGB orthomosaics with Pix4Dmapper to create vegetation base maps. Click this link to download the guide that shows step by step how the vegetation basemap was created: https://www.dropbox.com/s/14vkukaw12wtl7s/Guide%20to%20create%20vegetation%20basemaps.pdf?dl=0

Source: http://blog.droneadventures.org/post/108173188155/namibias-savanna-classified-from-drone-imagery

Tanzania: Environmental Data management report

The 21st to the 24th of October 2014 a workshop on data sharing was held at the Giraffe Ocean View Hotel in Dar es Salaam. It was organized by NEMC Tanzania in collaboration with the Norwegian Environment Agency. A representative from the Environmental Protection Agency in Ghana also contributed to the workshop. The activity was funded by the Norwegian program Oil for Development.

Please find the workshop report attached in PDF-format. A version of the report in Microsoft Word-format is available for download: http://www.mindland.com/wp/process-towards-ein-tanzania/

Comments can also be made on the same website. Please forward the document or this link to colleagues where relevant. Should you find errors or otherwise have suggestions, please send an email to Ragnvald Larsen at ragnvald.larsen@miljodir.no, and he will update it accordingly.

Source: Ragnvald Larsen, Chief Engineer, Environmental Data Dept., Norwegian Environment Agency

Tanzania & Malawi: New capacity to produce and communicate climate information services

"Knowledge should precede action," said Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye of the Senegal Meteorological Service citing one of the farmers he works with. Smallholder farmers make many

decisions that are affected by weather and climate every year. But most smallholders lack reliable information and tools that can help them weigh these decisions.

The Climate Services Africa Adaptation Programme, which is the first multi-agency initiative to be implemented under the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS, http://www.gfcs-climate.org/), seeks to fill this gap by building capacity of countries to produce and communicate climate information services for farmers, beginning in Tanzania and Malawi.

 In September 2014, project partners the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS, http://ccafs.cgiar.org/) and the World Food Program (WFP) conducted a training at the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) on producing seasonal climate forecasts at the district level. Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye from the Meteorological Agency of Senegal led the training on the IRI's Climate Predictability Tool (CPT). The training enabled staff from the Tanzania Meteorological Agency to downscale the 2014 October-November-December seasonal rainfall forecast to the district level to better serve the decision needs of farmers and pastoralists.

See also: CCAFS blog, Farmer-responsive climate services built in Tanzania and Malawi, http://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/farmer-responsive-climate-services-built-tanzania-and-malawi

Source: http://www.gfcs-climate.org/node/641

Rwanda: Web map and mobile data collection application consultancy, National Institute of Statistics

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI): Consultancy services for Geographic Information System (GIS) development of a web map & mobile data collection application and needed technical support, National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda. Reference Number: 037/REOI-LCBS/2014-2015/NISR/NCT/NSDS BF

The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), based in Kigali, is the main body mandated to collect and analyze official nation-wide statistical data, and to take a lead role in improving the National Statistical System's (NSS) capacity to analyze, document and disseminate data within an integrated and sustainable framework, so as to allow policy makers to make evidence-based decisions. The NISR also aims to develop and sustain a culture of excellence in the nation's statistical production and subsequently contribute to the nation's overall development efforts.

NISR is seeking from an organisation consultancy services to support the GIS section in developing and deploying a web-based 'geo-data dissemination application' for disseminating geo-spatial data, one year technical support and mobile based data collection application within a period of 30 days (spread over a year).

On the basis of the Expressions of Interest received, at least 6 Consulting firms will be shortlisted and provided with an RFP.

The deadline for submission of expression of interest will be not later than **9th February 2015**, at 10:00 AM hours Kigali time, 8:00 GMT. Electronic applications will NOT be accepted.

Source: http://www.statistics.gov.rw/about-us/notice/request-expressions-interest-reoi-consultancy-services-geographic-information-system

Zambia: Integrating participatory appraisal and spatial technologies to strengthen customary land tenure

Conflicts over land are ubiquitous in rural Zambia, including disputes over boundaries, inheritance and land grabbing. By supporting local institutions and traditional authorities in community resource mapping and land certification, USAID's Tenure and Global Climate Change project is helping to reduce conflict and strengthened land tenure security.

The project supports processes that integrate participatory rural appraisal techniques with spatial technologies such as GPS and GIS. Training on these technologies is building a cadre of Community Facilitators with strong spatial mapping and interpretation skills.

Source: http://usaidlandtenure.net/content/tgcc-success-story-integrating-participatory-appraisal-and-spatial-technologies-strengthen

 Conference: Africa Rising - Mobilising Biodiversity Data for Sustainable Development
22-24 March 2015, Cape Town, South Africa

From 22 to 24 March 2015, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) will host an international conference at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, entitled, Africa Rising: Mobilising Biodiversity Data for Sustainable Development. The event is being organised in partnership with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). It aims to:

- Accelerate regional understanding of the biodiversity data-science-policy value chain and draw attention to the opportunities and solutions that biodiversity data presents for sustainable development in Africa;
- Strengthen regional engagement, learning networks, and collaborative synergies with a view to streamlining the data-science-policy value chain; and
- Galvanise political commitment to mobilising Africa's biodiversity data.

The event emanates from the project, Mobilising Africa's Biodiversity Data (http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/participation/mobilising-africas-biodiversity-data/), which is generously supported by the JRS Biodiversity Foundation and entails developing a strategy for capturing, digitising and publishing Africa's policy-relevant biodiversity data whilst strengthening regional capacity and collaboration in biodiversity information management.

To register your interest in this conference or submit an enquiry, please email Mr Russell Galt, r.galt@sanbi.org.za, http://www.sanbi.org/node/7893

Source: http://www.sanbi.org/news/sanbi-host-africa-rising-mobilising-biodiversity-data-sustainable-development-conference

Second Training on Digital Soil Mapping for Eastern and Southern Africa representatives
23-27 February 2015, Nairobi, Kenya

The African Soil Partnership was launched through workshops held in Accra, Ghana and Nairobi, Kenya in 2013. During these workshops, the representatives of the African countries presented their priorities in terms of actions to promote sustainable soil management. A common gap was identified in terms of improving the availability of updated soil data and information for supporting decision taking in relation to soil management. Capacity development in this area was identified as priority in the region.

To this end, with the support of the European Commission, the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) has made efforts in order to respond to this demand by providing a Capacity Development Programme on digital soil mapping (implemented in Africa during October 2014 and now February 2015).

Training material from the first Training Session (October 2014) can be accessed at:
http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/news-events-archive/dsm/en/

Source: http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/news-events-archive/gsp-events/detail/en/c/274377/

Mozambique: Mobile mapping solution for spatial data collection using open-source technologies
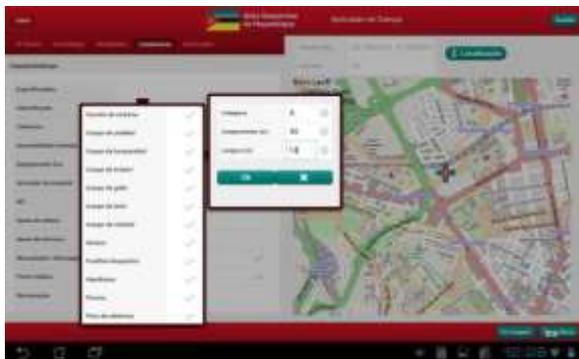
Author(s): C.E. de Abreu Freire, Marco Painho
Procedia Technology, Volume 16, 2014, Pages 481–490

Abstract: Information technologies and sport resources aid the potential to transform governmental organizations services, and play an important role in contributing to sustainable communities, respectively. Low-cost tools combining a user-friendly and customized data interaction (forms, mapping, media support) are still in an early stage.

Recognizing benefits – efficiency, effectiveness, proximity to citizens – that Mozambican Minister of Youth and Sports (MJD) can achieve employing a low-cost data collection solution, this paper describes the development and implementation of a Geospatial Information System (GIS) mapping application (app) – m-SportGIS – under Open-Source (OS) technologies, customizing an evolutionary and incremental methodology. The app development embraced the combination of mobile web technologies and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) (e.g. Sencha Touch (ST), Apache Cordova) to deploy a native-to-the-device (Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 running Android OS 4.0) app, taking advantage of device capabilities (e.g. File system, Geolocation, Camera). In addition to the integrated Web Map Service

(WMS), a tile caching procedure was carried out to produce a network-communication-independent (offline) Tile Map Service (TMS) regarding IT infrastructures limitations in several Mozambican areas.

m-SportGIS is currently being exploited by Mozambican Government staff to inventory all kind of sport facilities, which feeds a WebGIS platform to manage Mozambican sport resources.

Keywords: Mobile Mapping; Spatial Data Collection; Hybrid Software Development; MVC; Tile Map Service; Sencha Touch; Apache Cordova

Source: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212017314003429
http://ac.els-cdn.com/S2212017314003429/1-s2.0-S2212017314003429-main.pdf?_tid=690b7c46-7afe-11e4-b55d-00000aab0f27&acdnat=1417619563_461afe0bbade7d8c948d4153133333e0

Benin: the modernisation of the national base map officially launched

The consortium involving IGN France International/ IGN France and IMAO won the tender for the completion of the Benin national base map. The project officially started December, 16th, 2014 with the organization of the kick-off meeting in Cotonou in presence of the European Union representative in Benin, the Minister of environment responsible for climate change, reforestation and natural resources protection and the UNDP resident representative.

With a total budget of 8.3 million euros (about 5.4 billion FCFA), the PAPDFGC (project aimed to support the preservation and development of gallery forests and production of the digital base map) is funded by the EU European part of the Global Alliance Against Climate Change (AMCC), for a total of 8 million euros (5.2 billion FCFA), and UNDP for a total amount of 300,000 euros (about 200 million FCFA).

This project will consist in the completion of the Benin base map that had not been updated since 1970's and that no longer reflects the realities of Benin today.   Professionals from many sectors look forward to using the new base map as they daily suffer from the lack of accurate data. Map is particularly useful in many fields such as water resources management, forests protection, road infrastructures development, prevention of natural crisis, biodiversity protection and urban planning.

Once updated the new database will generate the following outputs:
- A national coverage in aerial photographs
- A detailed Digital Terrain Model
- A national coverage in high resolution ortho-photos
- Topographic maps at various scales (1:50 000; 1:200 000 and a general map covering the whole country at the scale 1:600 000)
- And a geo-information portal in order to disseminate the data

To ensure the successful transfer of know-how, 4 production workshops (image processing, 3D capture, database and mapping) will be deployed on site. A special attention will be given to the recruitment of the local expertise. The whole production will be carried-out on site in Benin by local operators. The completion of projects with a strong component of local transfer of know-how is the IGN FI trademark. Several similar mapping projects were successfully achieved in Senegal, and in Burkina Faso. Each time, 100% of the production was completed locally.

Source: http://www.ignfi.com/en/content/benin-modernisation-national-base-map-officially-launched

DRC: Ministry of Planning recruiting international consultant for establishment of GDI
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Deadline: **February 13, 2015**

Le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo sollicite un Partenariat Public de type BOT pour lequel le Partenaire est invité à mobiliser le financement dans son entièreté en vue de financer le Projet de mise en place des Infrastructure de Données Géo-spatiales (IDG) pour permettre à l'Institut Géographique du Congo (IGC) de disposer d'une nouvelle base des données cartographique fiable à mettre à la disposition de l'Etat Congolais et des utilisateurs en vue de son exploitation optimale pour des besoins de développement économique, dans le divers secteur de la gestion des ressources naturelles et autres, à travers toute l'étendue de son espace national.

English summary: The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo is seeking a BOT Public Partnership for which the partner is invited to mobilize financing in its entirety to fund the project implementation Infrastructure Geo-spatial Data (IDG) to allow the Geographical Institute of Congo (IGC) to have a new base of reliable cartographic data

to be available to the Congolese state and users for its optimal use for purposes of economic development in the various sector management of natural and other resources throughout the extent of its national space.

Source: *http://www.lepotentielonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11883:le-ministere-du-plan-recrute-un-consultant-international-pour-la-mise-en-place-des-infrastructures-de-donnees-geo-spatiales&catid=90:online-depeches*

1st Rain Cell Africa Workshop, 30 March – 2 April 2015, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

The Raincell Burkina Faso Consortium (IRD, Univ. of Ouagadougou and WASCAL) invites scientists and stakeholders interested in Climate and Water Resources to join leading researchers in the field of precipitation estimation and applications for a workshop. The workshop will discuss current issues in measuring rainfall in West Africa and will introduce a new technique to quantify rainfall with commercial microwave links and discuss its potential for West Africa. The two days workshop will be followed by a training school where young scientists will learn more details about the method and will get some practice on test data sets.

The first two days will be devoted to discussing general issues on Rainfall Measurement in Africa and the need for improved, spatialized rain fields for many applications: meteorology and climate, hydrology, water resources, agronomy or health impacts. Worldwide applications of rainfall monitoring based on terrestrial or satellite microwave links will be presented by experts in the domain. The first West African test bed, operating in Ouagadougou Burkina Faso since 2012 will be presented. Open discussions will be organized for new projects/team to emerge in Africa and become part of the RainCellAfrica network.

Note: the Workshop was originally scheduled in Nov 2014 and had to be rescheduled to March 2015.

Contact /Enquiry: raincell01@sciencesconf.org

See also: Dropped cell phone calls become rain gauges in West Africa
http://blogs.agu.org/geospace/2014/07/24/dropped-cell-phone-calls-become-rain-gauges-west-africa/

Source: http://raincell01.sciencesconf.org/

Call for papers: Geomatics Indaba 2015, 11-13 August 2015, Ekurhuleni, Gauteng, South Africa

Geomatics Indaba 2015 (www.geomatics.org.za) is a fully inclusive geomatics sector conference, exhibition and training event, encompassing all levels of interested and relevant persons, organisations, government departments and agencies, municipalities, public and private companies, NGOs, universities and training organisations – from students to professionals; junior staff to executives, officials and leaders; in both the public and private sectors; from South Africa, Africa and abroad. Both general papers and peer-reviewed academic papers are invited.

See call for general papers: http://geomatics.org.za/call-general-papers/
Deadline for submission of abstracts for selection: **30 April 2015**
General papers should be approximately 3000 to 4000 words in length, relevant to the themes and subject matter of the conference, and of general interest and relevance to the target audience. While it is accepted that proprietary technologies, products and services may be described, general papers should be generic in nature and should not have an overtly self-serving or commercial content.
General papers will be selected on the basis of their significance, relevance, correctness, originality and clarity following a review process (see below). Upon acceptance, the final papers will be published in the printed Proceedings of the GI 2015 Conference (ISBN 978-0-620-64078-7), as well as on the conference CD and website. Selected general papers may also be published in PositionIT magazine. Should you have any further queries regarding general papers and presentations at the GI 2015 conference, please contact: Clare van Zwieten, EE Publishers managing editor, clare.vanzwieten@ee.co.za.

See call for peer-reviewed academic papers: http://geomatics.org.za/call-peer-reviewed-academic-papers/
Deadline for submission of full papers: **30 April 2015**
Authors and presenters are invited to submit peer-reviewed academic papers of approximately 5000 words (including tables, figures, and references) for presentation at the GI 2015 conference. Peer-reviewed academic papers should cover and report on the outputs of theoretical and applied research relevant to the theme, subject matter and target audience of the conference. While it is accepted that proprietary technologies, products and services may be described, peer-reviewed academic papers should be generic in nature, and should not have overtly self-serving or commercial content. Authors are urged to write papers detailing completed research rather than 'work-in-progress'. Each paper will undergo rigorous double-blind peer-review to ensure high quality papers. Academic papers must be submitted using the on-line

paper submission system of the South African Journal of Geomatics available at: http://www.sajg.org.za/. A selection of papers will be published in the South African Journal of Geomatics (ISSN 2225-8531). Should you have any further queries regarding peer-reviewed academic papers and presentations at the GI 2015 conference, please contact Geomatics Indaba 2015 academic papers committee:

Prof. Gregory Breetzke, Chairperson, University of South Africa, breetgd@unisa.ac.za
Dr. Serena Coetzee, University of Pretoria, serena.coetzee@up.ac.za
Prof. Julian Smit, University of Cape Town, julian.smit@uct.ac.za
Prof Fred Cawood, University of the Witwatersrand, frederick.cawood@wits.ac.za

Presenters (i.e. one person per paper presented) may attend the conference on the day of their presentation at no cost, but if the presenter wishes to attend the full conference and hospitality functions (refreshments, lunches, cocktail party, etc.), then a reduced delegate fee of R3400 + VAT applies.

See also: Geomatics Indaba 2015 launched for success, http://www.ee.co.za/article/geomatics-indaba-2015-launched-success.html

Commonwealth e-Governance Forum 2015: Smart Governance through a Networked Government
24-26 March 2015, Kigali, Rwanda

Governments all over the world have adopted e-enabling governance in order to improve service, efficiency and transparency. Technological advances such as Open Data and Cloud services have added new dimensions to e-governance. Held in Rwanda, a leader in the use of ICTs for governance, the Commonwealth e-Governance Forum 2015 will examine new technologies, showcase innovative e-Governance services, facilitate knowledge exchange and assist relationship building.

Aimed at policy makers, regulators, ICT implementing agencies, private sector and civil society the event will facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships and international collaboration.

Governments globally have adopted e-enabling governance in order to improve service, efficiency and transparency. Technological advances such as Open Data and Cloud services have added new dimensions to e-governance. Held in Rwanda, a leader in the use of ICTs for governance, the Commonwealth e-Governance Forum 2015 will examine new technologies, showcase innovative e-Governance services, facilitate knowledge exchange and assist relationship building. The Agenda covers:
- e-Governance at work Open data for transparent governance
- Cost effective and secure Cloud services for governance
- m-Governance: The future
- e-Health
- Improving electoral participation through e-Voting
- Security and resilience in e-Governance

Source: http://www.cto.int/events/upcoming-events/commonwealth-e-governance-forum-2015/

Esri Africa User Conference, November 11-13, 2015, Cape Town, South Africa

All Esri technology users from Africa are encouraged to join Esri at the Esri AUC 2015. From new users to seasoned GIS professionals, from business owners to GIS analysts, everyone will benefit from attending. Esri business and media partners are also welcome.

Source: http://www.esri.com/events/auc

Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

Australia: Soil and Landscape Grid of Australia

The entire country is now represented as a digital grid with two billion pixels down to a depth of two metres below the surface. The Soil and Landscape Grid of Australia, launched at the National Soil Science Conference in

Melbourne, is the result of a partnership between CSIRO, the University of Sydney, several federal, state and territory government agencies and the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN).

Soil and landscape attributes such as soil, water, nutrients and clay, affect the sustainability of Australia's natural resources and the profitability of sectors such as agriculture, mining and infrastructure.

See: Getting down and dirty with digital maps, http://csironewsblog.com/2014/11/26/getting-down-and-dirty-with-digital-maps/; New data builds understanding of Australia's precious soil resources, http://www.ga.gov.au/news-events/news/latest-news/new-data-builds-understanding-of-australias-precious-soil-resources

Australia: FSDF theme roadmaps released by ANZLIC

ANZLIC has released nine of eleven roadmaps showing the three-year development goals for the themes in the foundation spatial data framework. The roadmaps are being promoted openly to gain the widest possible understanding of the aspirations and challenges involved in this project. The roadmaps have been developed by the theme sponsors; Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Intergovernmental Committee on Survey and Mapping and the Department of Communications; assisted by Geoscience Australia. Go the FSDF Themes (http://www.anzlic.gov.au/foundation_spatial_data_framework) and click on any theme to find its Roadmap tab.

Source: http://www.anzlic.gov.au/news/news/fsdf_theme_roadmaps_released_by_anzlic

Effective Practices for Interagency Data Sharing: Insights from Collaborative Research in a Regional Intervention in Australia

Author(s): Pauline M. McGuirk, Phillip M. O'Neill and Kathleen J. Mee

Abstract: Data sharing adds considerable value to interagency programs that seek to tackle complex social problems. Yet data sharing is not easily enacted either technically or as a governance practice, especially considering the multiple forms of risk involved. This article presents insights from a successful data sharing project in a major region in east coast Australia involving a federally funded research partnership between two universities and a number of human services agencies. The Spatial Data Analysis Project sought to establish a community of practice for devising data sharing protocols and embedding data sharing into agency practices. Close dialogue between the project partners and mobilizing the authority of extant regulatory and legal frameworks proved effective in confronting risks and barriers. The article reveals effective practices for data sharing and derives lessons for other policy and governance contexts.

Keywords: data sharing; whole-of-government working; communities of practice; risk

Source: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-8500.12098/abstract

Japan: Updated & seamlessly connected Fundamental Geospatial Data for whole of Japan
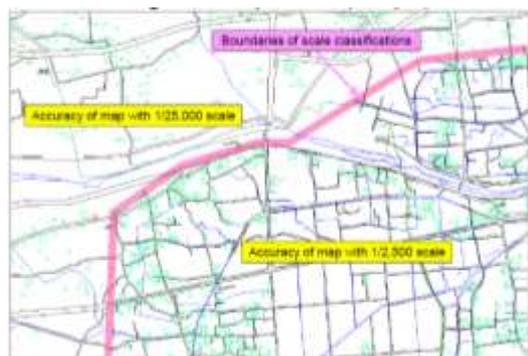
The Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) has seamlessly connected Fundamental Geospatial Data (FGD) by integrating the FGD with two different levels of accuracy (accuracy of map with 1/2,500 scale in urban planning areas, and accuracy of map with 1/25,000 scale outside urban planning areas). As of July 31st, GSI also has carried out a full update to FGD, including updates of newly opened expressways and other important facilities.

Fundamental Geospatial Data (FGD) is digital map data that is a standard for determining the positions of geospatial information in electronic maps, as provided for in the Basic Act on the Advancement of Utilizing Geospatial Information (Law No. 63 of

2007), and can be obtained and used by everyone free of charge through the Internet. The FGD is used as background maps for the information-providing maps of local government offices, etc., and also used to improve the accuracy of road maps, etc.
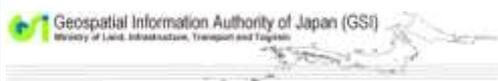
GSI maintains and provides 10 FGD items: Geodetic Control Point; Coastline; Administrative Boundary (town level; with a point in each polygon); Road Edge; Railroad Track Centerline; Elevation (ground surface point where the elevation is known); Shoreline; Building Outline; Community Boundary (with a point in each polygon); Street Block Boundary (with a point in each polygon)

FGD can be downloaded from the following website (Japanese only): http://www.gsi.go.jp/kiban/index.html

Source: http://www.gsi.go.jp/kokusaikoryu/kokusaikoryu-e30057.html

Nepal: Geospatial and Geographic Information System (GIS) Integration Project

This project is supported by the US Army Corps of Engineers and executed by the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC). Task 2 of the project focuses on Data Sharing and Collaboration. A key element of regional collaboration is the collection, conditioning and sharing of relevant and high value data. The project team is implementing an information sharing methodology that will enable access to geospatial and attribute data using a robust decision support technology that may be used by a cross-section of Nepalese and international organizations. Proposed FY15 activities are to include continued collaboration with in-country organizations that play leading roles in the collection, management and sharing of data related to earthquake hazards, baseline regional infrastructure and population and risk factors impacting the severity of a major earthquake event in the Kathmandu Valley. More specifically, activities will include:

- Coordination with in-country data providers - Supporting USACE/NA/MoHA in the development of data sharing agreements/technical implementation (Government of Nepal (GoN) agencies, National Emergency Operations Center, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and other International and Non- Governmental Organizations, etc.)
- Data Provider Technical Exchange - Conduct a Data Provider Technical Exchange Workshop to facilitate additional information content development.
- Data layer selection/access/ingest - Incorporate prioritized set of resulting data into EMOPS via combination of in-country data server(s) and PDC-hosted data servers.

Source: http://www.fbo.gov/?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=e8f042c9dcd07a310eedb40de4d11ce7&tab=core&_cview=0

Designing performance indicators (PIs) for spatial data infrastructure (SDI) assessment of the Indonesia Tsunami Early Warning System (InaTEWS)

Author(s): Yajya Darmawan, Marzuki Sinambela, dan HendraSuwarta
MegAsains, Vol. 5, No. 1 (April 2014): 10-20.

Abstract: The Indonesia Tsunami Early Warning System (InaTEWS, https://inatews.bmkg.go.id/new/) was launched on November 11th, 2008. This research has Has a purpose to design Performance Indicators (PIs) for Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) assessment of InaTEWS. For monitoring the Performance Indicators (PIs) of InaTEWs, four critical areas can be summarized as follows: monitoring system, information and communication data, community preparedness, and capacity building. Performance Indicators (PIs) can be used to indicate the efficiency (PIs1) and effectiveness (PIs2 & PIs3) of InaTEWS. Performance Indicators (PIs) can be applied to assess SDI accountability for recapitalization and reengineering of InaTEWS.

Keywords: assessment, SDI, Performance Indicators, tsunami, InaTEWS

Source: http://www.gaw-kototabang.com/Megasains-PDF/PDF/2014-Vol%201%20Megasains.pdf#page=15

Indonesia: Open Data Lab Jakarta convening open data experts from across the region

The World Wide Web Foundation's Open Data Lab Jakarta is hosting the Regional Open Data Agenda-Setting Workshop, to be held on 4-6 February 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The workshop will bring together experts, activists and advocates of open data in a dialogue to hear their voices and exchange ideas on how open data can become a truly useful tool to tackle practical problems in the region. It is part of the Harnessing Open Data to Achieve Development

Results in Africa and Asia, conducted in partnership with the Open Data for Development Network, and financially supported by the International Development Research Centre.

With this event – which will have participants from over ten countries from the region attending and representing government, civil society, international organisations and academia – the organizers hope to provide the setting to strengthen the ties between the different actors and sectors, create possibilities for collaboration, and align ongoing open data work.

Source: http://labs.webfoundation.org/regional-open-data-agenda-setting-workshop-2015/

Viet Nam: UN-SPIDER Workshop on geospatial information concluded

From 10 to 15 November 2014, UN-SPIDER offered a workshop and a simulation exercise to about 100 participants from national institutions, NGOs, and international organizations in Viet Nam. The event was jointly organised with the Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA). The Pacific Disaster Centre (PDC), UNDP Viet Nam, OCHA, DigitalGlobe and ESRI also offered considerable support to the workshop. The activity was following up on the Technical Advisory Mission to Vietnam in 2013.

The event was proposed with two objectives: First, to empower the government to use space-based and geospatial information at the local and regional level during a crisis. Second, to foster personal relationships and knowledge exchange required at the local and regional level for successful collaboration during a disaster. The event was based on the "Geospatially Enabling Community Collaboration (GECCo, https://sites.google.com/site/gitagecco/home)" framework, which was developed and refined by GITA over a 10-year period and successfully implemented in the United States, Japan, and Australia.

Viet Nam's Vice Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Hoang Van Thang, provided the inaugural address on 10 November and participated in the workshop. Presentations were given by GITA, UN-SPIDER, OCHA, PDC, the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC), and DigitalGlobe. Seven national organizations and two provincial organizations shared their experiences.

On the second day of the workshop, simulation exercises were conducted, for which the participants were divided into four groups. The remaining two days were used to document lessons learnt and recommendations and to provide a briefing to high level officials.

Source: http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/news/viet-nam-un-spider-workshop-geospatial-information-concluded

Data-sharing bottlenecks in transboundary integrated water resources management: a case study of the Mekong River Commission's procedures for data sharing in the Thai context

Author(s): Bunthida Plengsaenga, Uta Wehn & Pieter van der Zaaga
Water International, Volume 39, Issue 7, 2014, pages 933-951

Abstract: Integrated water resources management (IWRM) relies on co-ordination, co-operation and sharing of collected data amongst relevant organizations. This article presents the results of systematic research into non-technical barriers that influence IWRM-related data sharing in transboundary contexts, with a focus on the Mekong River Commission's procedures for data sharing in Thailand. The current extent of data sharing is quite limited. The main bottlenecks hindering relevant Thai organizations' sharing data across national boundaries appear to be a perception of limited gains, and concerns for national security. The article concludes that data sharing for IWRM implementation cannot be radically improved without significant changes in the mindsets of the relevant organizations, and suggests how to achieve this.

Keywords: integrated water resources management, Mekong River Commission, data, exchange, data sharing, theory of planned behaviour

Source: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/02508060.2015.981783

An integrated geospatial information service system for disaster management in China

Author(s): Yulin Ding, Yida Fan, Zhiqiang Du, Qing Zhua, Wei Wang, Sanchao Liu, and Hui Lin

International Journal of Digital Earth, published online 8 September 2014 (not an open access journal)

Abstract: The Chinese Government and citizens face enormous challenges of disaster management as widespread devastation, economic damages, and loss of human lives caused by increasing natural disasters. Disaster management requires a complicated iterative process that includes disaster monitoring, early detection, forecasting, loss assessment, and efficient analysis of disaster reduction. Each task typically involves the use of technologists and multiple geospatial information resources, including sensors, data sources, models, geo-tools, software packages, and computing resources. However, most existing disaster management systems operate in a typical passive data-centric mode, where resources cannot be fully utilized. This impediment is partially being addressed by the increasingly complex application requirements and the growing availability of diverse resources. In this paper, we summarize and analyze the practical problems experienced by the National Disaster Reduction Application System of China. To address the issues of data-centric, centralized, isolated solutions, we propose a novel Focusing Service Mechanism, which is capable of scheduling and allocating for optimum utilization of multiple resources, to dynamically generate collaborative and on-demand disaster information services. We also demonstrate the design and implementation of the Integrated Disaster Information Service System (IDISS). Through the service strategies of Virtualizing, Wrapping, and Integrating, disaster-related resources are constructed into services in the IDISS. These services are dynamically aggregated into focusing service chains, for diverse disaster management tasks. Actual applications illustrate that the proposed service system can significantly improve the capability of disaster management in China.

Keywords: disaster management system, focusing service mechanism, active on-demand disaster information service, resource integration and collaboration

Source: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17538947.2014.955540

Singapore: Prime Minister envisions a Smart Nation with open access to geospatial data

On the occasion of the launch of the Smart Nation initiative, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong stressed the necessity to provide open geospatial data to the country. The innovative approach aims at spreading the spirit of innovation and technology advancement in Singapore and at understanding new ways to employ technology for making societies more responsive to people's needs, thereby building a "smart nation". In order to implement this vision within a ten years time frame, a Smart Vision office has been established, headed by the Minister for the environment and Water Resources, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan.

Mr Lee emphasized the fact that the extensive and systematic use of geospatial data can be essential to address challenges such as traffic incidents, potential hazards and location services. Moreover, he gave information about the development of the Virtual Singapore project, consisting of 3D datasets of buildings, built-up spaces and the surrounding environment.

Watch the launch of Smart Nation Initiative: Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGMbqpVRo9I
See: Transcript of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's Speech at Smart Nation Launch on 24 November, https://www.ida.gov.sg/About-Us/Newsroom/Speeches/2014/Transcript-of-prime-minister-lee-hsien-loong-speech-at-smart-nation-launch-on-24-november
See also: Virtual Singapore project to be ready by 2017, http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/virtual-singapore-project/1503528.html

Source: http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/news/singapore-prime-minister-envisions-smart-nation-open-access-geospatial-data; http://geospatialworld.net/News/View.aspx?id=30225_Article

Malaysia: A Framework of Local Geospatial Data Infrastructure for Sustainable Urban Development

Author(s): Azman Ariffin, Nabila Ibrahim, Ghazali Desa, Uznir Ujang, Hishamuddin Mohd Ali, Tasaduq Abbas Malik, Haziq Kamal Mukhelas

Abstract: This paper addresses the need to develop a Local Geospatial Data Infrastructure (LGDI) for sustainable urban development. This research will highlight the effective and efficient framework for the development of local infrastructure. This paper presents a framework (a combination of domain based and goal based frameworks) for

developing a Local Geospatial Data Infrastructure. The basis of this research is on a case study conducted in a Malaysian city. The main focus of the case study was on measuring and assessing sustainability. Six conceptual frameworks were produced based on 6 key dimensions of sustainability. The developed framework consists of 6 conceptual data models and 6 conceptual data structures. It was concluded that 30 spatial data layers are needed of which 12 data layers are categorized as point shape, 17 data layers are categorized as polygon shape and 1 data layer as line shape category.

Conclusion: The development of conceptual framework as a guide in helping MyGDI to achieve objectives in providing a complete spatial data for the sustainable urban development applications is the goal of this study. Six conceptual date frameworks were produced based on the 6 key dimensions. This study has shown that from 36 indicators used to measure sustainability of city, 30 of which are categorized as spatial data and the rest are non-spatial data. Besides that, 7 spatial indicators are supported by MyGDI fundamental dataset from total 30 spatial indicators. There are 6 conceptual data model represented in Entity Relationship Modelling method and 6 conceptual data structure represented in table. Finally, 30 spatial data layer can be produced based on the conceptual data model and conceptual data layer. From 30 data layer, 12 data layers are categorized under point shape. While 17 data layers are categorized under polygon shape and only 1 data layer is under line shape category. Much information can be generated from these layers. However, these findings are only true for conceptual design level. The same study needs to be conducted for logical design level as well as physical design level.

Keywords: Sustainable Urban Development, SDI, LGDI, GIS
PDF: http://www.jurnalteknologi.utm.my/index.php/jurnalteknologi/article/view/3834/2801

Source: http://www.jurnalteknologi.utm.my/index.php/jurnalteknologi/article/view/3834

India (Odisha): Spatial Data Infrastructure & State Data Policy

In another bid to facilitate access to Government owned data with the stakeholders for planning, execution, governance and academic purposes, Govt have embarked upon establishment of Odisha Spatial Data Infrastructure with a distinct Odisha Data Policy. The draft data policy prepared by Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC, http://www.orsac.org/) was deliberated in a high level meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Sri Gokul Chandra Pati in secretariat conference hall the evening of December 26, 2014wherein Chief Executive ORSAC Sri Sandeep Tripathy presented the draft and outlined its objectives. Considering various facets of the proposed policy, Chief Secretary has directed to in-build the provisions for 'crowd sourcing' in the State data base and its linkage to citizen service centers.

Deliberations in the meeting reveal that State has decided to launch State Data policy on the principles of avoiding redundancy, allowing openness, interoperability and improving the quality and utilization of Govt owned database. The objective is to facilitate accessibility of data base to all the stake holders, projection of data on a common electronic platform and sharing of authentic data for the purposes of supporting inclusive growth and good governance. Different stake holders of Govt have generated a large quantity of data from various dimensions and different fields. Their integration and synchronization is of great use for effective planning and good governance, said Chief Secretary Sri Pati. Sharing of relevant data will facilitate the process of peoples' participation and transparent governance. Sri Pati has directed to synchronize dynamic citizen data base like NPR, Census data, Bhulekh, Socio-economic survey etc with Odisha Sampad portal to make it more comprehensive and useful. it has also been decided that the soil map, irrigation status, crop potential etc of different locations of the State will also be integrated with this e-platform with citizen interface facility for giving advisory to farmers and agri-entrepreneurs. Sri Pati has directed to customize the drafted policy with the inputs received from various stake holders and put the final draft for approval of Govt. Target has been to put the system in place within 3 to 4 months. Sri Pradipta Mishra Scientist ORSAC along with other senior officers from Science &Technology and IT departments participated in deliberations.

Source: http://odisha.gov.in/samachar/2014/Dec/data/27-12-2014/chiefsec_271214BBE.pdf

Enhanced elevation data for most of Asia and Oceania; third of four releases

Improved global topographic (elevation) data are now publicly available for most of Asia (India, China, southern Siberia, Japan, Indonesia), Oceania (Australia, New Zealand), and western Pacific Islands. See map for geographic coverage.

Similar data were previously released by USGS for most of Africa (in September 2014) and the Western Hemisphere (December 2014). The broad availability of more detailed elevation data across the globe through

the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) will improve baseline information that is crucial to investigating the impacts of climate change on specific regions and communities. The SRTM30 datasets resolve to 30-meters and can be used worldwide to improve environmental monitoring, advance climate change research, and promote local decision support. The previous global resolution for this data was 90-meters.

The U.S. Geological Survey, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior, distributes SRTM30 data free of charge via its user-friendly Earth Explorer website (http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/). NASA also distributes SRTM data versions through the Land Processes Distributed Active Archive Center (LPDAAC, https://lpdaac.usgs.gov/) operated by USGS along with descriptions of the various versions and processing options.

Source: http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4109

PUMA – a new platform for urban spatial data for the World Bank

PUMA, or Platform for Urban Management and Analysis, is a geospatial tool that allows users with no prior GIS experience to access, analyze and share urban spatial data in an interactive and customizable way. Developed by the East Asia and Pacific Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management unit of the World Bank's Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice (GPSURR), it adapts open-source software to the data needs of the urban development sector.

PUMA was developed as part of the larger Australian Aid-funded analytical activity that studies urban expansion in the region (East Asia's Changing Urban Landscape: Measuring a Decade of Spatial Growth, 2000-2010). A major output of this activity is the mapping of built-up land, urban expansion, and urban population change across the East Asia Pacific (EAP) region between 2000 and 2010. This data set, produced in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin and the WorldPop project, is unprecedented in its scope. For the first time, it allows us to compare urbanization across countries that otherwise define "urban" in very different ways. This data can be explored in PUMA. The development of a map of urban expansion at a global scale is underway and will be available via PUMA when completed.
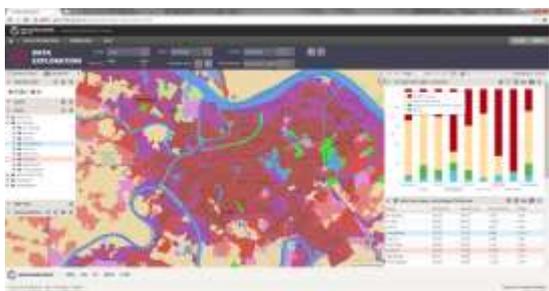
In addition to broad measurements of urban change at the regional and global scales, PUMA will be used for more detailed city-level analysis. As a pilot, more detailed mapping of land cover in five cities in the region (Ho Chi Minh City and Hai Phong in Vietnam; Surabaya in Indonesia; Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia; and Cebu in the Philippines) has been carried out, using satellite imagery. The vision for PUMA is that it will be the platform on which Bank staff and clients will display and share urban spatial data from a variety of sources.

Explore PUMA: https://geonode.gisat.cz/app/public/data-exploration.html

Source: http://puma.worldbank.org/

Smart Future Cities: The Role of 3D Land, Property and Cadastre Information
2-3 February 2015, Melbourne, Australia

To provide an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, experience and practices, the Centre for SDIs and Land Administration at the University of Melbourne is holding an international symposium on 2-3 February 2015. The theme of the symposium will be "Smart Future Cities: The Role of 3D Land and Property and Cadastre Information".

The symposium will bring together a range of international expert practitioners from the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Denmark, the Americas and Asia. In addition to a range of presentations, the symposium will also host a forum on the future directions and actions required from government, industry and academia to achieve smarter cities using 3D cadastres.

Source: http://csdila.ie.unimelb.edu.au/projects/3dwebsite/symposium2015/

Annual Central Asia GIS Conference (GISCA 2015): Call for Papers and registration now open
14-16 May 2015, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Theme: Geospatial Management of Land, Water and Resources

Deadline for submission of abstracts (min 500 words): **28 February 2015**

The main objectives of this English language conference are to bring together GIS academics, researchers and practitioners from the Central Asian and other countries and to encourage international cooperation and knowledge exchange in GIS education.

In 2015, GISCA is focused on the theme of "Geospatial Management of Land, Water and Resources". GIScience as a conceptual foundation, Geoinformatics as a methodology and GIS as software are powerful instruments for linking information from different sources by location. This is exactly what is needed to manage our environments and natural resources, and to assess risks arising from natural, technical and social factors.

Key themes (but not limited, any new themes and sessions are welcome) of the conference are:
GIS for Environmental Management
GIS for Disaster and Emergency Management
GIS for Regional Sustainable Development
GIS for Natural and Cultural Heritage management
GIS for Business and Logistics
GIS for Public Health
New Trends and Technologies in Surveying, Cadastre and Land Management
GIS and Ecosystem Modeling
Education programme in Geoinformatics
International networking in teaching and use of GIS technologies
Development of Spatial Data Infrastructures
Remote Sensing Applications

GISCA 2015 is being organized by the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration (TIIM) within the EU Tempus GE-UZ project, jointly with the Austria-Central Asia Centre for GIScience (ACA*GIScience) and the Interfaculty Department of Geoinformatics (Z_GIS), University of Salzburg, Austria. The conference will be supported by the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet, Trimble Navigation International Ltd and several sponsors from the Geoinformatics industry.

See also: ***Conference Proceedings from the Annual Central Asia GIS Conference (GISCA 2014)***, http://gisca14.aca-giscience.org/) which was held 29-31 May 2014, Urumqi, under the theme: Silk Road in space and time: the Urumqi node. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4ZBnTTLy_oOSHJpU3FsNU1STmc/view?pli=1

Source: http://gisca15.aca-giscience.org/

Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems Applications in ADB Projects
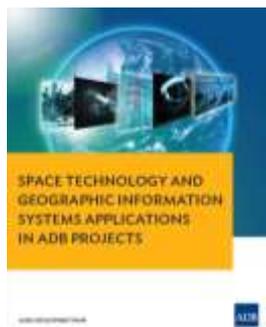
Space technology and geographic information systems (GIS) have now become valuable tools in helping development organizations achieve their missions. They can be applied to various development sectors including agriculture, rural development, and food security; education; energy; environment; climate change; health; pubic management and governance (especially disaster risk management); transport; urban development; and water management.

This report, published in November 2014, provides an overview of the space technology and GIS applications in ADB to date by introducing some of the past and ongoing ADB projects that have applied space technology and/or GIS. It includes information about how the technologies were applied, the service providers, and the cost for the application, so that practitioners including staff of development organizations and government staff in DMCs can easily apply similar technologies to their projects and/or daily operations.

Source: http://www.adb.org/publications/space-technology-and-geographic-information-systems-applications-adb-projects

Call for Applications: ASEAN-US Science & Technology Fellowship Program

Apply now for the second year of the ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Fellows Program for an opportunity to join a team of science leaders exploring opportunities to address key areas of concern to Asia's citizens through science and policy. This program, supported by the U.S. government, helps early career scientists from ASEAN Member States be more engaged in policies that drive national priorities and affect the lives of citizens in ASEAN. Up to 16 Fellows will be chosen from across the region to be embedded in a government ministry in their home country to advance science-based decision-making related to biodiversity, clean energy, or fisheries and coastal management.

The three main goals of the ongoing ASEAN-U.S. Science and Technology Fellows Program are the following:– to advance regional cooperation on ASEAN strategic priorities;– to strengthen science-based policy making throughout targeted national government ministries and/or bodies; and– to empower and build the capacity of scientists in ASEAN to take a more prominent role in their respective country's efforts to integrate into the ASEAN Community.

The deadline for submission of applications is **January 30, 2015**. The program will begin on May 1, 2015. For enquiries and application submission, send email to: ASEANScienceFellows@dai.com.

Source: http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1861/ASEAN%20-%20US%20Science%20and%20Technology%20Fellows%20Program%20Application.pdf

Europe Region SDI News

European NEtwork for Redistributing Geospatial Information to user Communities - Open Data (ENERGIC OD)

From 2014-10-01 to 2017-09-30, Coordinated by National Research Council of Italy (CNR-IIA), Italy

http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/192213_en.html

ENERGIC OD will deploy a set of Virtual Hubs (VH) by integrating an existing broker framework with other selected technologies to provide users with a single point of access to geospatial datasets provided by new or existing platforms and infrastructures, including INSPIRE-compliant systems and GMES/Copernicus services.

This innovative approach will greatly facilitate the development of new and multidisciplinary applications based on the full exploitation of (open) GI, hence stimulating innovation and business activities

The project objectives are to:

- Develop VHs at different territorial scales (regions, member states, Europe), providing unique and mutually consistent points of access to heterogeneous data sources for both end-users (via geoportals) and machines (service interfaces, APIs).
- Demonstrate the validity of the concept, design, implementation and deployment of VHs through the development of a set of eleven innovative applications in different domains. The proposed applications will address the needs of businesses, citizens and public institutions, making use of both public and private (open) geospatial data.

The new applications, together with the newly developed VHs, will optimize the exploitation of (open) GI and the development of new marketable services.

Source: http://www.energic-od.org/

Scotland: A world-class digital land and property information database for the country
10 March 2015, 8:30am-2pm, Edinburgh, Scotland

Should Scotland be aspiring to create a world-leading digital hub that provides information about land and property across the country? Should we follow the lead of countries like Norway in moving to a one-stop database with all the necessary data and documents to support those responsible for transacting in property, delivering public services, and making policy decisions that affect land ownership and management?

The Scottish Government clearly has this on its agenda; in presenting land reform as key plank of her legislative programme, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said one key step was "Measures to improve the transparency and accountability of land ownership and make information on land, its value and ownership more readily available in one place."

This half-day event will bring together key players from the public and private sectors to discuss the benefits of a fully digitised, one-search land information system - and how Scotland might move towards it and create one of the world's smartest places to do business. The target audience is 100-plus delegates from: local

authorities; legal firms; chartered surveyors; search companies; associated professionals (IT, etc); Scottish Government and all relevant public bodies; landowners/developers; MPs, MSPs and councillors.

Speakers will outline the opportunities and challenges to reach this goal through collaboration and partnership. Attendees will hear from Norway, which has gone down the fully-digitised, one--search route. How can we learn from other countries to help deliver a system to the benefit of Scottish business and consumers? The event will also hear how Scottish Ministers' invitation to the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland to complete the Land Register by 2024, with all public land registered by 2019, will be a key foundation for such a development.

The conference, sponsored and hosted by UnifiScotland (www.unifiscotland.com), takes place three months after Scottish Ministers launched their consultation on taking forward a Land Reform Bill and after the implementation of the Land Registration etc. (Scotland) Act 2012. Unifi Scotland is an independent think-tank made up of representatives from various organisations and parties involved in land and property in Scotland.

Source: http://unifiscotland.com/world-class-digital-land-property-information-database-scotland/ ; http://unifisco_tland.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/UnifiScotland-Land_Info_Conference-Mar2015.pdf

Greece: SDIs in Greece, an assessment of geoportals for carrying out hydrological projects
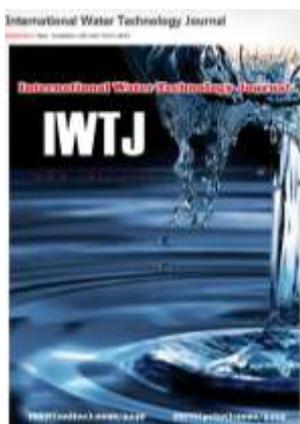
Author(s): Paparrizos S., Anastasiou Th., Maris F., Kitikidou K. and Potouridis S.
International Water Technology Journal 4(4), 222-232 (2014)

Abstract: The role of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs) plays a very important part in improving electronic governance in Greece. Following the INSPIRE Directive, the European Parliament and Council for the creation of infrastructure for geospatial data in the European community began making slow but steady progress in 2007 in Greece towards creating geoportals that will meet the needs of those interested in acquiring geospatial information and data. In the current paper, a reference to geoportals providing the necessary geodata is provided concerning the completion of hydrological projects in Greece. A brief description of the framework conditions in Europe on this subject and an assessment of Greek geoportals are presented following scrutiny and the use of available geospatial data. Additionally, some suggestions are given for future improvements aimed at further development. In short, the current work reveals the need for collaboration between the existing geoportal providers in the creation of a common bank consisting of geospatial data and geo-information, where all the necessary geo-spatial data can be uploaded, verified and made available to potential users.

Keywords: Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI), Geographic Information (GI), Geoportal, Geodata, Hydrology, Greece

Source: http://iwtj.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/V.4N.4.P1.pdf

4th Aperitif Geomatics & Innovation
February 4, 2015 18 h 00 to 21 h 00 - Saint-Mande, France
Organized by IGN fab : Accelerator Geoservices

IGN and AFIGEO held a 4th Geomatics and innovation cocktail, themed IGNfab: geoservices the accelerator. Participants were invited to discover the theme and schedule for the next IGNfab call for projects.

IGNfab (http://ignfab.ign.fr/) aims to help SMEs to develop innovative products and services using the description of the territory and geolocation in the areas of environment, spatial planning, urban development, agriculture, forestry, energy , transport, defense and security, education, health, tourism, culture.

Source: http://www.afigeo.asso.fr/13-alertes/1082-4-f%C3%A9v-2015-ap%C3%A9ro-g%C3%A9omatique-innovation-afigeo-%E2%80%93-ignfab.html

Synthesis report from INSPIRE Hackathon - Open Data (AFIGEO - Etalab)

The GT OGC Open Data Etalab of the French Association for Geographic Information (AFIGEO, http://afigeo.asso.fr/) and brought together 60 participants from diverse backgrounds, on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, from 10am to 6pm in Paris to participate in technical or practical workshops on INSPIRE Data and Open Data. The program for the day focused on Codesprint around bridges between platforms and IDG data.gouv.fr,

BarCamp on reuse of open geographic data.

A synthesis report is available online, which includes:
- Full summary and list of participants,
- Summary of Workshop 3: « Bar Camp bike trails »,
- Photos of the day.

Visit the website (in French):
http://afigeo.asso.fr/voir-toutes-les-news/1096-hackathon-inspire-open-data-afigeo-etalab-c-est-parti-2.html

To guide future actions of the GT OGC Open Data, participants can share their comments on the Workshop at afigeo@afigeo.asso.fr.

Source: http://www.eurogi.org/news-latest/400-news-from-our-members-afigeo-report-on-inspire-open-data-workshop

Publishing Reference Geodata on the Web: Opportunities and Challenges for IGN France

Author(s): GA Atemezi, N Abadie, R Troncy, B Bucher
Terra Cognita 2014 - 6th International Workshop on the Foundations, Technologies and Applications of the Geospatial Web, in Conjunction with the 13th International Semantic Web Conference, October 19-23, 2014, Riva del Garda, Trentino, Italy

Abstract: The French national mapping agency (IGN) produces several different but complementary geographic vector reference databases delivered in traditional GIS formats. However, linked data users have different expectations and habits, such as the need to browse an entire data catalogue in RDF using the "follow-your-nose" navigation capacity from one graph to another. Besides, traditional GIS data formats are not interoperable with RDF. Yet, all these geographic datasets could be used with benefits on the Web of data, either with direct georeferencing through geographic primitives, or indirect one through postal addresses. In this paper, we aim to contribute to the georeferencing of datasets published on the Web of data by providing such resources for French context. Firstly, we propose two vocabularies designed for representing structured geometries defined with coordinates expressed in any Coordinates Reference System (CRS). Secondly, we reuse these vocabularies and the CRSs' dataset to publish a reference dataset on administrative units that can also be reused for indirect georeferencing purposes. Finally, we also propose two vocabularies for describing geographic feature types. In addition to these resources, we also present a comprehensive workflow for easily publishing geographic data on the Web of data.

Keywords: Ontology Design, Geospatial Data, Linked Data, Georeferencing, Structured Geometry, Coordinate Reference System, data.ign.fr

Source: http://event.cwi.nl/terracognita2014/terra2014_1.pdf

Spain: *Información geográfica a tiempo real de Cartagena a través de GeoPortal*

El Ayuntamiento de Cartagena ha creado GeoPortal, con ayuda de la tecnología de última generación de Intergraph. Se trata de un portal que agrupa toda la información geográfica municipal a tiempo real con el fin de mejorar la calidad de vida y ayudar en la toma de decisiones y para solucionas posibles incidencias. Lo ciudadanos tienen la posibilidad de acceder a todos los datos de una manera muy intuitiva, además permite añadir fuentes propias y de terceros a través de internet y así completar la información suministrada por el Ayuntamiento.

Se puede acceder también al Plan General que se ha elaborado con GeoMedia que se basa en bases de datos relacionales como un todo continuo, a partir de la cual, mediante procesamiento por lotes, se extraen y confeccionan los planos. La información es actualizada y gestionada directamente sobre la base de datos relacional siendo esta misma fuente la usada en su publicación en la Web mediante Web Map Service. Así la información publicada es la misma que esta manejando el Ayuntamiento, sin procesos intermedios.

Puedes visitar ya GeoPortal: http://geo.cartagena.es/

English summary: **Geographical information in real time through GeoPortal Cartagena**
The City of Cartagena has created GeoPortal, using the latest technology of Intergraph. It is a portal that brings together all the municipal geographic information in real time to improve the quality of life and help in decision-making and solves possible incidents. The citizens have the ability to access all data in an intuitive way, and lets add own and third party sources through internet and complete the information provided by the City.

You can also access the General Plan has been prepared with GeoMedia based on relational databases as a continuum,

from which, through batch processing, are extracted and draws the plans. The information is updated and managed directly on the relational database being the same source used in the publication on the Web through Web Map Service. So the information published is the same as is managing the City, without intermediate processes.

You can visit and GeoPortal at http://geo.cartagena.es/.

Fuente: http://obrasurbanas.es/informacion-geografica-a-tiempo-real-de-cartagena-a-traves-de-geoportal/

Croatia: NSDI Geoportal enabling data discovery and access

During this year's NSDI and INSPIRE day in Croatia within conference SDI Days 2014. director of the State Geodetic Administration (National contact points for NSDI / INSPIRE), Mr. Danko Markovinovic announced the public availability of the NSDI Geoportal at: http://geoportal.nipp.hr/en.

By completing this activity, the National Contact Point continues activities towards the full establishment of NSDI and implementation of INSPIRE (Directive 2007/2 / EC), which were started in 2007 by the Law on State Survey and Real Estate Cadastre (Official Gazette 16/2007), and intensified last year's enactment of the NSDI Law (Official Gazette 56/2013). With this announcement, so far all efforts have been undertaken to establish NSDI become publicly visible to NSDI stakeholders and society as a whole.

NSDI Geoportal represents the starting point for finding the spatial data of Croatia, and this approach fulfills one of the basic principles of the INSPIRE Directive; facilitate retrieval of spatial data in the authority of the government.

All data that make up the NSDI; 35 different topics of spatial data classified into 3 groups, should be attainable to discover and view through the NSDI Geoportal. An important content of the NSDI Geoportal are descriptions of spatial data source within the jurisdiction of the NSDI subjects. Sources are defined with metadata, and are based on National Spatial Data Infrastructure Metadata Specification (http://www.nipp.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/Croatian%20NSDI%20Metadata%20Specifikacion_v.2.0.pdf). At this point, the reported 24 subjects in the Register of NSDI subjects (http://www.nipp.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/Dokumenti%20NIPPa/Registar%20subjekata%20NIPPa_20140715.pdf), 23 were submitted metadata for their sources, and 91 from a total of 96 is described as sources available in the Register of NSDI spatial data sources (http://www.nipp.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/Dokumenti%20NIPPa/Registar%20izvora%20PP%20NIPPa_20140715.pdf). All NSDI subjects have authorized access to interface for entering metadata, and it is an activity on which the National Contact Point pays a lot of attention. Data available on NSDI Geoportal will be available for searching through the INSPIRE geo-portal, which also represents the fulfillment of one of the obligations under the INSPIRE Directive and that we, as a member of the European Union took over.

Option that would soon become apparent is the overlap of all spatial data sources that make up the NSDI, and are available through the viewing service in one place. Technology of geoportal itself is based on open source software. The realization was made possible through the IPA 2010 project by IN2 / IGEA project was co-funded by the European Union. By publishing NSDI Geoportal official spatial data of Republic of Croatia, for the first time, are available for serach from a single location.

Source: Ljerka Marić, Tomislav Ciceli, State Geodetic Administration (http://www.dgu.hr/), Sector for SDI, Division for NSDI

Boosting public participation in urban planning through use of Web GIS technology: Case study of Stockholm county

Author(s): Mahnaz Narooie
Degree project in Regional Planning, 2nd level, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, School of Architecture and the Built Environment, Department of Urban Planning and Environment Division of Urban and Regional Studies

Abstract: Providing citizens with the robust and suitable

tools to effectively participate in the planning process is a necessity nowadays. Also, changes in the capabilities and popularity of new technologies have dramatically raised the number of technology-based tools that are potentially available for enhancing public participation in the planning process. This study explores both the theoretical aspect of collaborative planning and the effects that Web-based Public Participatory GIS (WPPGIS) applications and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has on the planning process. Findings indicate that the WPPGIS applications have the potential for increasing participation. It is also found that besides the contextual elements like the attitudes of planners and decision makers, the technological features such as proper user interface, price of software, technical and literacy skills are seen as crucial hindrances to bridging the planning process and technology-based solutions. This research also attempts to combine IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum and technological functionalities into a single framework to understand the implementation of WPPGIS applications in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. Finally, based on the given criteria and assessment of the reviewed applications, this study concludes with the design and implementation of a prototype WPPGIS application using Open-Source Technologies (OST).

Keywords: Urban Planning, Collaborative Planning, Public Engagement, Public Participation, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Open-Source Technologies (OST), Open-Source Software (OSS), Web-based Public Participatory GIS (WPPGIS)

Source: http://kth.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:732800/FULLTEXT01.pdf

Presentations from LAPSI 2.0 Final Conference, 28 November 2014, Brussels, Belgium

The European Thematic Network on Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information (LAPSI 2.0) held its final LAPSI 2.0 Conference on the 28 November 2014 in Brussels to present its findings and recommendations concerning the remaining legal barriers and obstacles to access and re-use of public sector information (PSI) on the European content market. The presentations from the LAPSI2.0 Conference are available online, as well as program: http://www.lapsi-project.eu/sites/lapsi-project.eu/files/FinalProgramLAPSIConference2%200%20version%20wednesday.pdf,

Source: http://www.lapsi-project.eu/conference-28-november-2014

Public administration meets information system research: analysing failure of intergovermental information systems via IS success models

Author(s): Lies Van Cauter, Monique Snoeck, and Joep Crompvoets
Electronic Government (EGOV) 2014, Dublin, Ireland, 1-4 September 2014

Abstract: When comparing success rates of information systems in the public and private sector, governments generally lag behind. Information system failure received limited coverage in public administration: not much research has examined whether private sector IS success models can be applied in a public sector context. This paper aims to contribute to this research gap. We investigate if two IS success models can be applied to study the causes of failure of an e-government system. The first model is 'the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology'; the second 'the Updated Information System Success Model'. Our results, based on an exploratory case study analysis, demonstrate that both models have value to analyse intergovernmental information system failure. The combination of IS lenses in a more comprehensive model might be a valuable future contribution to e-government studies.

Keywords: e-government failure IS success models intergovernmental IS
Track: E-government architecture and project success and failure cases

Source: https://lirias.kuleuven.be/handle/123456789/453576 ;
https://lirias.kuleuven.be/bitstream/123456789/453576/1/EGOVconference+LVC+MS+JC+%282014%29+PA+meets+IS+research+analysing+failure+of+intergovernmental+information+systems+via+IS+success+models.pdf

Realizing Data Sharing: The Role of Spatial Data Infrastructures

Author(s): Glenn Vancauwenberghe, Ezra Dessers, Joep Crompvoets, Danny Vandenbroucke
Open Government: Public Administration and Information Technology Volume 4, 2014, pp 155-169
[not an open access publication]

Abstract: In the past years, various initiatives have been taken to promote and coordinate the sharing of spatial data from multiple sources. These initiatives are often referred to as a whole with

the term "spatial data infrastructure" (SDI), which can be seen as the collection of technological and organizational components oriented towards facilitating and coordinating spatial data sharing. Coordination, which can be defined as the alignment of tasks and efforts of different actors, is seen to be one of the key aspects of an SDI. Although several authors have stressed the importance of coordination in the context of SDI development, little attention has been paid to the impact of coordination efforts on the process of sharing spatial data to different users. The objective of this chapter is to explore whether coordination in the context of SDI contributes to the degree of spatial data sharing. The chapter makes use of evidence collected in a comparative case study of four public sector processes in the region of Flanders (Belgium). The results of this case study show that spatial data sharing can be coordinated at the level of individual organizations, the process, and the entire infrastructure (or SDI). The chapter concludes that the noted differences in the degree of data sharing between the various processes could not only be related to different levels of coordination efforts at the process level, but also to the extent of integration of these processes in the larger infrastructure.

Keywords: Spatial data, Data sharing, Coordination, Spatial data infrastructure

Source: http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-1-4614-9563-5_10
http://books.google.com/books?id=il24BAAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_atb#v=onepage&q&f=false

International Conference on Land Quality and Landscape Processes, 2-4 June 2015, Keszthely, Hungary
Including a Workshop on Soil Information in the Danube Basin, June 3, 2015

This conference, organized under the auspices of the International Year of Soils 2015, aims to facilitate the exchange of information and views among scientists and stakeholders involved in land resources research, land management and land-use policy planning. It also aims to provide a platform to review progress in the development of land information, land registries, land-use planning and related services based on land quality at different levels, from farm to global. Events being organized during the conference include the 'Sino-EU Panel on Land and Soil' and the scientific meeting of the Danube Land and Soil Nexus of the European Union. Submission of four pages extended abstract: **15 April 2015**

Source: http://lq2015.georgikon.hu/

Open Europe: Open Data for Open Society, 18-19 February 2015, Riga & Jelgava (Latvia)

Latvian Open Technology Association (LATA) in collaboration with the Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS and the public participation platform ManaBalss.lv is organizing an international conference on "Open Europe: Open Data for Open Society," which is scheduled to take place on 18-19 February 2015 in Riga & Jelgava, Latvia. The conference is financed by the Latvian state. The conference is included into official agenda of Presidency. The event aims to promote the the development and strengthening of the Information Society in Europe. During the event there will be organized a high-level international conference with a discussion panel on open society, attended by 200 participants from 16 EU Member States. See programme/presentations: http://lata.org.lv/conference-2015/presentations/

Source: http://lata.org.lv/conference-2015/

EuroSDR e-learning course: International Standards for Geographic Information, 8-19 June 2015

Instructor: Dr. Wolfgang Kresse, University of Applied Sciences Neubrandenburg, e-mail: kresse@hs-nb.de
Target audience: PhD students and people responsible for the design and the administration of geographic information systems, primarily in the public sector.

Course objective: The topic is primarily background information that helps to understand the foundation of modern geographic information systems, not least of the administrative systems such as INSPIRE. However, the practical part also demonstrates how standards are applied to the creation of new applications.

Course outline: The course will start with the kick-off seminar followed by a set of tasks that will be accomplished at home and discussed and finalized online via the Internet.

Module 1. The content of this module includes the characteristics of standards, standardization bodies, the relevance of standards, their original sources and the process towards final standards documents, the relation between standards, and the usage of standards in software development and legislation.

Module 2. The content of this module is a detailed discussion of a larger set of standards for geographic information. The topic begins with the reference model and infrastructure standards such as the conceptual schema language, continues with the basic standards regarding space and time as well as services, quality, rights and general metadata, and finally proceeds to implementation, web-mapping, and imagery. A small geoportal will be created while the focus is set on the demonstration and the analysis of the standards involved.

Module 3. The content of this module is the development of an application model, the derivation of an xml schema, and the development of a software interface for a r/w access.

EduServ courses are designed so that they can be followed over the Internet from any location, thereby allowing participants to update their knowledge with minimum disruption. Courses require about thirty hours of online study and are completed over a period of two weeks during spring 2015. You can register for the e-learning courses until **20 February 2015**. Enquiries: eurosdr@soc.kuleuven.be.

Source: http://www.eurosdr.net/education/current

Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

Mexico: Autoridades trabajan en la creación de Sistema Integral de Información Geográfica para fortalecer la seguridad

Con el propósito de lograr la conformación homologada de un sistema integral de cartografía que refuerce las estrategias de prevención y combate del delito, autoridades del municipio de Puebla y del Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI) se reunieron en inero.

Convocados por la Secretaría de Seguridad Pública y Tránsito Municipal (SSPTM), a través de la Dirección de Emergencias y Respuesta Inmediata (DERI), se llevó a cabo la primera mesa de trabajo para sentar las bases de este proyecto interinstitucional que buscará unificar criterios a fin de compartir información geográfica de manera más útil e inmediata.

En la reunión fueron planteados y analizados diversos temas como las plataformas especializadas de información, uso de software, integración de áreas, exploración de datos, delimitación de zonas y esquemas estratégicos de prevención, operación e intercomunicación, entre otros.

En esta primera sesión participó el INEGI, la SSPTM, las Secretarías de Infraestructura y Servicios Públicos así como Desarrollo Urbano y Sustentabilidad, además de la Dirección de Catastro y el Instituto Municipal de Planeación (IMPLAN).

English summary: Authorities working on the creation of Integral GIS to strengthen security

In order to achieve the conformation approved a comprehensive mapping system to strengthen strategies to prevent and combat crime, authorities of the municipality of Puebla and the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) met in January.

Convened by the Ministry of Public Safety and Municipal Transit (SSP ™), through the Directorate of Emergency and Rapid Response (DERI), held the first desk to lay the foundations of this interagency project will seek to unify criteria to share geographic information more useful and immediately.

At the meeting were raised and discussed various topics such as specialized information platforms, use of software, integration of areas, data exploration, zoning and strategic prevention schemes, operation and intercommunication among others.

In this first session was attended by the INEGI, the SSP ™, the Ministries of Infrastructure and Public Utilities and Urban Development and Sustainability, besides the Cadastre and the Municipal Institute of Planning (IMPLAN).

Fuente: http://politicapuebla.com.mx/portal/index.php/noticias/estado/13199-autoridades-trabajan-en-la-creacion-de-sistema-integral-de-informacion-geografica-para-fortalecer-la-seguridad

Uruguay: Decree of Executive Branch on IDE and production of geographic information

The Executive Branch of Uruguay by Decree 390/014 of 29 December 2014 regulates aspects of the production of the entire geographic information (GI) of the country, its rules and regulations dictated by the Spatial Data Infrastructure Uruguay (IDEUy). At the last Council of Ministers 2014 the decree was signed by José Mujica, President of the Republic, as well as all his Ministers.

It should be noted that in this country the IDEUy is a decentralized body of the Presidency, by Article 2 of this regulation "shall be subject ... all public entities that generate geographic information of the national territory, whether state or non-state" (p. 2).

The decree includes principles and definitions, as well as aspects related to metadata, use, lit and validity of the GA, for that these entities "shall comply with the rules, standards, technical specifications, recommendations, encodings, lit of shares and other criteria for the exchange of data, metadata configuration, quality procedures and any other provision to approve the Uruguay data Infrastructure for the production, documentation, on and use of spatial information "(Article 5, p. 4) for purposes of considering -If a valid resource for IDEUy.

The full text of the decree is available at this link:
http://archivo.presidencia.gub.uy/sci/decretos/2014/12/cons_min_946.pdf

Source: http://lagf.org/NewsDetails?Id=31586&LID=EN&Act=View&title=URUGUAY%3A-Decree-of-the-Executive-Branch-on-the-IDE-and-the-production-of-geographic-information; Germán Iglesias Peralta, England Surveyor - Lic.. Computers, IDEUy - Presidency of the Republic

Thesis: Conceptual scheme of a SDI to road transportation of dangerous goods (Brazil)

Author(s): Silva, Janaina Bezerra
Master's Thesis, Escola Politécnica: Applications of the theory social network analysis and propose of a conceptual scheme of a spatial data infrastructures to road transportation of dangerous goods,

Abstract: Spatial data have been used for environmental monitoring of chemical accidents on the road transportation of dangerous goods. The Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) has been created for availability and use of spatial data, however, it emphasizes that there are no policies to support this realization. The main aim of this work is to create a conceptual scheme of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for management of transport of Dangerous Goods by road, focusing on the political context. It identified the institutions that deal with the subject of road transportation of hazardous materials. Moreover the interviews were consolidated. The interviews were administered in person, in 39 institutions. Interview data were incorporated into software UCINET, 2000 to obtain metrics related to centrality measures. The application of the theory of Social Network Analysis (SNA) enabled the recognition of the flow of data between institutions through the enrolled institutions. Furthermore, it analyzed network availability and use aspects of spatial data sharing between the organizations. Furthermore, the compiled results allowed the proposition of a conceptual scheme of a SDI to support technological disasters with road transportation of hazardous materials throw the SNA theory applied to investigation of spatial data sharing between different stakeholders to make prevention and risk management of the sector. Therefore, the analysis of the theory of Social Network Analysis (SNA) found that 39 (thirty-nine) institutions share spatial data between themselves, but not always in formal agreements previously established. It was further observed that there is a great desire on the part of the institutions that make the management of the accidents of this kind of transportation mode, so there are legal frameworks for data sharing for land cover uses, as a result the use of such data can be shared between different stakeholders to assist the preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery from incidents related to road dangerous goods transportation.

Keywords: GIS, Policies articulation to dangerous good transportation, Road transportation of hazardous materials, SDI, SNA, Technological Disasters

Source: http://www.teses.usp.br/teses/disponiveis/3/3138/tde-21102014-110115/publico/dissertacao_janaina.pdf (2.41 Mbytes); http://www.teses.usp.br/teses/disponiveis/3/3138/tde-21102014-110115/en.php

Brazil: Weather maps available in Brazil's SDI viewer

To access the weather maps from partnership between the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs of the Presidency of the Republic (SAE / PR) and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), just visit the site of Brazil's National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI, http://www.inde.gov.br/). The regionalized climate scenarios refer to the period from 2010 to 2100 and are comparable with the weather observed from 1969 to the present, and demonstrate the
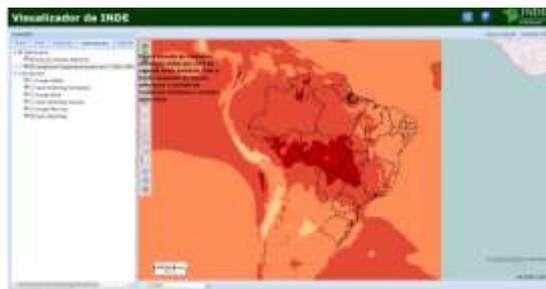
trend of extreme weather indicators, the distribution of temperature and precipitation frequency in time clippings 2011 2040; 2041-2070; and 2071-2100.

The generated maps cover all of Brazil, South America, Central America and the Caribbean, with resolution of 20 km x 20 km, and have a specific focus to São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte, defining 5 km x 5 km. The ultimate goal of this tool is to provide the support necessary for the design of climate risks in the planning and development of the country. The analysis of scenarios made by specialists should increase the degree of scientific-technical and economic knowledge on the subject. Public managers and planners can use scenarios for integration and cross with other policy data.

These weather maps are available to all Brazilian citizens. Through this tool, Brazil can meet the scenarios to prepare on time and increase their resilience against the projected impacts of climate change.
See steps on how to access maps:
- Step 1 - Visit the "Viewer INDE" by address http://www.visualizador.inde.gov.br/. In the "institution", double-click the link in the SAE. All scenarios will appear by simply selecting desired.
- Step 2 - In the "Select" tab, you can find the chosen maps. If the layer of climate change is over the state boundary layer, select with the left mouse button, the layer of climate change and drag it down.
- Step 3 - Still in the selected tab, click on the right mouse button on the selected layer, you can change the transparency of the image.

The viewer also provides subtitles and search locations and themes. For more information or questions, please contact at (61) 34114704.

Fuente: http://www.inde.gov.br/noticias-inde/8274-saiba-como-acessar-os-mapas-climaticos-do-brasil-na-inde ;
http://www.sae.gov.br/site/?p=26692

Chile: Annual Workshop on SNIT Coordination

On December 12 and 15, 2014, the Annual Workshop on the Coordination of Chile's National System for Coordination of Territorial Information (SNIT) was held. This event, as in every year, was attended by members of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Chile coordination network (IDE Chile, http://www.ide.cl/), with the first day focusing on regional coordination, and on the second day focusing on the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee and coordination of specific subject areas.

The purpose of this workshop was to inform and evaluate the work in each of the coordination areas for IDE Chile in 2014, in addition to presenting the strategic guidelines of the Executive Secretariat of SNIT for Geospatial Data Infrastructure for 2015. The workshop is part of the activities that will achieve the objective of maintaining permanent coordination with public agencies that make up the IDE Chile, seeking to improve and to expand their policies, objectives and procedures for the proper development and implementation of SDI in the country. Presentations from the workshop can be accessed online (in Spanish):
- Advances 2014 IDE Chile: http://www.ide.cl/images/NOTICIAS/2014/20141212_Avances_IDE_Chile.pptx
- Strategic Guidelines of the IDE Chile
  http://www.ide.cl/images/NOTICIAS/2014/20141215_Lineamientos%20Estrategicos_IDE_Chile.pptx

Source: http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/item/taller-anual-de-coordinacion-snit.html

Call for extended abstracts - Pre-conference workshop on spatial data infrastructures, standards, open source and open data for geospatial (SDI-Open 2015)
21 August 2015, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), Rio de Jaineiro, Brazil
Abstract submission deadline: **2 March 2015**.

For this Pre-Conference workshop, which is being held in conjunction with 27th International Cartographic Conference and jointly organized by the Commission on Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards and the Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies, SDI researchers and practitioners are invited to submit extended abstracts of 1,000-1,500 words that describe SDI case studies where:
- open source software for geospatial is used in the technical implementation; and/or
- geospatial standards are implemented; and/or
- geographic information is accessible as open data.

The case studies shall include the following:
- Background information about the SDI, including the relevant policies.
- A description of how open source, standards and/or open data are implemented in the SDI.
- An evaluation of the motivators, benefits, barriers and challenges concerning implementation of open source software, standards and/or open data.
- Based on the evaluation, provide recommendations for improvements and/or further work.
- Conclusions.

Extended abstracts have to be written in English. Contributions must be original and previously unpublished. Author guidelines are available at http://opensourcegeospatial.icaci.org/. Abstracts have to be submitted through the online submission system, available at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sdiopen2015. Abstracts will be reviewed by members of the organizing ICA Commissions. Upon acceptance, a revised abstract has to be submitted for inclusion in the workshop proceedings. At least one of the authors of an accepted abstract must register for the workshop and make an oral presentation at the workshop.

Accepted abstracts will be published in the online workshop proceedings with an ISBN number and will be openly archived on the ICA website under a Creative Commons Attribution License, which allows others to freely access, use, and share the work, with an acknowledgment of the work's authorship and its initial publication in the online workshop proceedings. Authors of a selected number of high quality abstracts may be invited to submit an extended paper to a peer-reviewed journal.

Source: http://opensourcegeospatial.icaci.org/2014/09/pre-conference-workshop-on-spatial-data-infrastructures-standards-open-source-and-open-data-for-geospatial-sdi-open-2015/

OpenStreetMap hopes to map Amazonia from crowdsourced data

The OpenStreetMap (OSM, http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/) community now intends to use its open data model to map the Amazon region with greater accuracy than is currently available. The Mapazonia project team believe their efforts will support the work of environmental organisations. Currently only the main rivers and a number of villages in the Amazonian region are listed in the OSM database. The initial list of tasks to be tackled by contributors who are in a position to provide satellite images of rivers and roads centres on the areas of Amazonia located in Brazil and Bolivia.

Visit the site: http://mapazonia.org; http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Mapazonia; follow the twitter account @mapazonia and enjoy mapping the Amazon!

Source: http://www.atelier.net/en/trends/articles/openstreetmap-hopes-map-amazonia-crowdsourced-data_433070; https://blog.openstreetmap.org/2014/12/28/mapazonia/

33º Congresso Internacional da Conferência Latino Americana de Geógrafos (CLAG)
26-30 Mayo 2015, Fortaleza, Brasil

La Conferencia de Geógrafos Latinoamericanistas (CLAG) celebrará el 33º Congreso 2015 en Fortaleza, Brasil, del 26 al 30 de mayo. Con el tema "Espacio Interfaces Latino Americano", el evento tiene como objetivo fortalecer los lazos entre las geografías de América Latina, lo que permite un intercambio de ideas y conocimientos entre los geógrafos y profundizar las perspectivas de estudio regional sobre las fronteras communes.

La realidad ambiental y territorial brasileña será un espacio privilegiado para hacer frente a los retos y enfoques que impregnan los campos temáticos de las geografías latinoamericanas. De ahí que la articulación de los temas principales será en 6 ejes para profundizar en uno de Latinidad Geografica; una confluencia científica de diálogos y referencias aplicadas a los desafíos geográficos del siglo XXI.

Fuente: http://clagbrasil2015.wix.com/clagbrasil2015

ICEDEG 2015 - 2nd International Conference on eDemocracy & eGovernment - Quito, Ecuador, 8-10 April 2015

The Second International Conference on e-Democracy & e-Government (ICEDEG 2015) addresses the main issues of web-based knowledge management for society and science. It covers technical and non-technical aspects of eSociety, eGovernance, eParticipation, eDemocracy, eGovernment and eHealth, among others.

Source: https://edem-egov.org/

XV Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina, April 6 -10, 2015, La Habana, Cuba

El XV Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina tendrá lugar del 6 al 10 de Abril de 2015 en el Palacio de Convenciones de La Habana, Cuba, orientado al intercambio de experiencias y buenas prácticas en el quehacer geográfico entre especialistas con abordajes innovadores y multidisciplinarios que justifican el lema del congreso "Por una América Latina unida y sostenible". Fecha de presentación de trabajos completos: **15 de febrero de 2015**.

Hace 28 años un grupo de colegas latinoamericanos liderados por profesores brasileros tuvieron la brillante idea de comenzar estos encuentros que año tras año se han ido consolidando como espacio de reflexión y discusión sobre el papel de la Geografía como ciencia, profesión y magisterio en una región donde la pobreza, el desempleo, el deterioro ambiental y la desconfianza en las políticas neoliberales, han profundizado los problemas de nuestros pueblos, amenazando cada vez más con eliminar logros que en lo político, social, económico y ambiental se han alcanzado con mucho esfuerzo.

Source: http://www.xv-egal-cuba.com/index.php?module=invitation

XII Cuban Congress of Computers and Geosciences (GEOINFO2015), part of the 5th Cuban Convention on Earth Sciences, 4-8 May 2015, Havana

The V Cuban Convention on Earth Sciences encompasses five scientific events, including the XII Cuban Informatics and Geosciences Congress (GEOINFO).

The XII Cuban Informatics and Geosciences Congress (GEOINFO) covers Geographic Information Systems, Remote Sensing, Processing and Digital Image Analysis, Navigation and Global Positioning, Geostatistics, Spatial Data Analysis Statistical Methods, Exploratory Data Analysis, Data Mining, Numerical Analysis, Pattern Recognition, Mathematical Modeling (2D and 3D), Automatic Mapping Techniques for Computer Graphics, Database Systems, Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems and Methods Automatic Hypothesis Generation.

Source: http://www.cubacienciasdelatierra.com/

South American Regional Space Generation Workshop 2015: Approaches to promoting South American regional collaboration in the space sector – the next generation perspective
4-5 May 2015, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The South American Space Generation Workshop (SA-SGW) is a two-day regional workshop for university students and young professionals in the South America region in conjunction with the 8th Argentine Congress of Space Technology (8th CATE) held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on May 6th – 8th 2015.

During the 1st SA-SGW, delegates have a unique opportunity to engage with high level space sector leaders, professionals and academics. The agenda includes panels, discussions, and working groups on current space topics. In the working groups segment, participants will collaborate with peers as well as experienced specialists on topics including:
- Education and space outreach programs

- South American Space Agency
- Technology and research advancements in South America and what it will take to grow the South American region

The deadline for applications is **6 April 2015**.

Source: http://spacegeneration.org/event/sa-sgw-2015.html

Developing the Caribbean (DevCA) 2015, 5-6 February 205, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

 Developing the Caribbean, or DevCA, is a regional Open Data Conference and 24 hour code sprint that aims "to highlight the current and potential impact of open data and software innovation on addressing social challenges globally and particularly in the Caribbean". It is held simultaneously across multiple islands and combines conference sessions with a 24-hour code sprint in which teams of designers, developers and domain experts work together to build solutions to pressing problems using open data. The conference is happening during the Caribbean ICT Week that celebrates the 25th anniversary of CTU and has served as a forum for government representatives, policy regulators and technology experts to gather and discuss the opportunities provided by ICT and open data.

The first day of the conference will begin with a series of talks in which professors from the University of West Indies will explain various open data tools and repositories that participants can use during the code sprint and then on. After a break, experts on ideating solutions that use open data will talk about applications for the data exposed. On day two, discussions about the single Caribbean ICT space will be held while the code sprint takes place in a parallel session. There will be a presentation of the products of the code sprint in the afternoon, followed by an awards ceremony.

You can learn more about the event at DevCa's website, where you can also learn more about open data, data journalism, and hackathons, and see the entire event schedule.

Source: http://developingcaribbean.org/

Haiti: Franco-Haitian convention on satellite-based environmental monitoring signed

 On 17 November 2014, the Convention on satellite-based Environmental Monitoring in Haiti (SEAS-Haiti) was signed by representatives of France and of Haiti. At the agreement's core is the implementation of a technological platform for sustainable environmental management in Haiti and the Caribbean, using satellite imagery for research, training, innovation and sustainable development. Part of the agreement is the establishment of a Remote Sensing Center on the Henri Christophe of Limonade campus of the State Universiy of Haiti (UEH), which will collect data from various satellites in order to assist a wide range of activities, such as monitoring deforestation, weather forecasting, creating epidemiological real-time maps and vulnerability mapping. The data collected will be accessible freely for researchers and public institutions. Specific training activities as well as regional research programmes will be offered to Haitian researchers.

See also: Vers la mise en place d'un centre de télédétection spatiale en Haïti, http://lettre.ueh.edu.ht/index.php/78-point/104-vers-la-mise-en-place-d-un-centre-de-teledetection-spatiale-en-haiti

Source (in French): http://www.alterpresse.org/spip.php?article17330

North America Region SDI News

USA: White House launches open data disaster portal

 The U.S. White House launched a new open data portal on December 15, 2014, targeting the needs of first responders and emergency survivors. The website, found at http://disasters.data.gov, features disaster-related data sets, tools and resources for those who want to join a larger community of data-minded first responders. The website features data (more than 100 sets) that can be sorted by type of disaster — earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, severe winter weather, tornadoes and wildfires

— as well as tools and apps. With the launch of disasters.data.gov, the Administration also announced new opportunities and ways to get involved:

- *Call to Action for Data Stewards*: Help build a culture of open data to empower technologists, entrepreneurs, governments, volunteers, survivors, and community leaders with information that can improve disaster preparedness
- *Innovator Challenge*: The Administration is unveiling Innovator Challenges (http://www.data.gov/disasters/innovator-challenge/) that highlight pressing needs from the disaster preparedness community. The first challenge asks innovators across the Nation, "How might we leverage real-time sensors, open data, social media, and other tools to help reduce the number of fatalities from flooding?"
- *Join the Movement*: Whether you're visiting this website as a tech entrepreneur, developer, hardware tinkerer, journalist, government official, survivor, first responder, or another role, there are numerous ways to join the Innovation for Disaster Preparedness effort

See also: Launching Disasters.Data.Gov to Empower First Responders and Survivors with Innovative Tools and Data, http://www.data.gov/disasters/launching-disasters-data-gov-empower-first-responders-survivors-innovative-tools-data/

Source: http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/White-House-Open-Data-Disaster-Portal.html

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Satellite Conference (NSC 2015)
27 April 27 – 1 May 2015 in Greenbelt, Maryland

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Satellite Conference (NSC 2015) for Direct Readout, GOES/POES, and GOES-R/JPSS Users is being planned for April 27 - May 1, 2015 in Greenbelt, Maryland. The spotlight theme is "Preparing for the Future of Environmental Satellites." The conference will bring together users and providers of polar-orbiting and geostationary satellite data, products, and applications, from the public, private, and academic sectors. Participation is expected from 40 countries and will include members of NOAA, NASA, Department of Defense, Environment Canada, EUMETSAT, and the Hydrometeorological Services of countries in North, Central and South America; the Caribbean, and Asia. NSC 2015 will provide a venue and opportunity for greater collaboration between environmental satellite users.

Deadline for Poster Abstract submissions **January 30, 2015**
Exhibitor Registration closes (assuming space is still available) **January 30, 2015**
Attendee Registration closes **March 20, 2015**

Source: http://satelliteconferences.noaa.gov/2015/index.html

USA: 2015 Geospatial Summit on Improvements to the National Spatial Reference System
13-14 April 2015, Arlington, Virginia
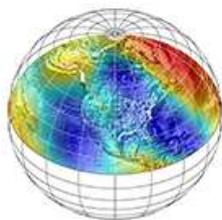
NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) will host the 2015 Geospatial Summit on Improvements to the National Spatial Reference System in conjunction with the National Society of Professional Surveyors in April 2015 at the Hilton Crystal City hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

Find out more about the planned retirement of the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) and the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88), how this will impact your mapping work, and what tools are planned to ease the transition to new, more accurate datums.

This summit continues a forum begun in May 2010, in Silver Spring, Maryland (2010 Proceedings available online, http://geodesy.noaa.gov/2010Summit/proceedings.shtml).

This event will be part of a larger conference organized by the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) and in partnership with the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS). There will be no cost for NGS sessions, but registration is required and space is limited. General conference information and registration is available through the NSPS/MAPPS conference website: http://www.surveyingandmapping.net. Contact: NGS.GeospatialSummit@noaa.gov.

Source: http://www.geodesy.noaa.gov/2015GeospatialSummit/

3rd International Open Data Conference 2015, 27–29 May 2015, Ottawa, Canada

The 3rd International Open Data Conference (IODC), to be held in Ottawa from May 28-29, 2015, will bring together experts and advocates from around the world to take stock of the rapid evolution of the global open data community and help chart its future.

The Government of Canada, Canada's International Development Research Centre, and the World Bank invite you to the 3rd International Open Data Conference. From May 28-29, 2015 sector and open data experts, senior government officials, industry leaders, and civil society champions from around the world will gather in Ottawa, Canada to exchange ideas and work together to enable the data revolution.

Source: http://opendatacon.org/

Canadian Open Data Summit 2015, 25May 2015, Ottawa, Canada

The Canadian Open Data Summit is the annual event where the most pressing challenges facing the open data community are addressed on a national scale. Join us to share best practices and local experiences, to learn from top international experts, and to work on growing the community strategically and collaboratively.

Source: http://opendatasummit.ca/en/

Open Data Research Symposium, 27 May 2015, Ottawa, Canada

Alongside the 3rd International Open Government Data Conference in Ottawa, on May 27th 2015, the Open Data Research Network will host a one day academic workshop, consisting of a series of paper presentations and discussion panels. Abstract deadline: **28 February 2015**

The Open Data Research Network will host a one day academic workshop, consisting of a series of paper presentations and discussion panels As open data becomes firmly cemented in the policy mainstream, there is a pressing need to dig deeper into the dynamics of how open data operates in practice, and the theoretical roots of open data activities. Researchers across the world have been looking at these issues, and this workshop offers an opportunity to bring together and have shared dialogue around completed studies and work-in-progress.
Source: http://www.opendataresearch.org/project/2015/symposium

Joined Up Data Workshop, 27 May 27 2015, Ottawa, Canada

In recent years, the number of sector-based international transparency initiatives with open data activities is growing. From the perspective of users, the data needed to hold governments to account, or develop innovative responses to social challenges, may be required to be combined from multiple sectors. There is a need to join the dots between data across silos and jurisdictions.

This workshop will address some common activities that could be better achieved as a community in order to catalyse action on shared technical data standards and activities for open government, improved transparency and accountability. It also represents the beginnings of what might become a better coordinated community effort to tackle common challenges such as governance of standards, outreach, and engagement.

Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

Jordan: Delegation of Senate members in Education committee visit Royal Jordanian Geographic Center

The Royal Jordanian Geographic Center (RJGC) welcomed in December 2014 a delegation of the senate members on the Education Committee in order to discuss the role of the RJGC in serving various sectors, both public and private, especially in education, such as providing students and teachers educational Atlases and educational maps at different scales and maintaining GIS data to study the number and capacity of private and public schools.

The General Director of RJGC, Dr. Awni Khasawneh, also explained the important role of RJGC in sustainable development services and in standardization of geographical names by making a glossary to maintain all authentic,

geographical Arab names. He presented the role of RJGC in demarcation of Jordanian border with all neighboring countries, where RJGC saved the state treasury more than billion dollars, by accomplishing the demarcation from their own technical stuff. He explained the role of RJGC in rehabilitation and training of various sectors from both inside and outside Jordan in all spatial science and geographic information system, where RJGC embraces Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education affiliated with the United Nations, and now RJGC gives a master degree in Geographic Information System and Remote sensing in collaboration with Muta university.

Dr. Khasawneh explained that because of the huge data and technology in which the RJGC specializes, the Center becomes a destination for many official delegations and schools throughout the year. During the meeting, they discussed some of obstacles and issues faced by RJGC, and the infringement of its duty for both public and private sectors, also the lack of coordination between RJGC and both sectors.

At the end, Dr. Abdullah Oweidat, Chairman of the Educational Committee, and his colleague praised the efforts of the RJGC in serving national institutions. They promised to support RJGC in coordinating with all relevant authorities to help RJGC to proceed in its development process.

Source: http://www.rjgc.gov.jo/NewsDetails.aspx?NID=360&lang=en

UAE: Abu Dhabi SDI community celebrates GIS Day and its latest achievements

The Abu Dhabi Spatial Data Infrastructure (AD-SDI) community, responsible for facilitating the sharing of geo-spatial data among governmental agencies within different sectors, met on November 25 and 26, at the Ritz Carlton Abu Dhabi, to celebrate GIS Day and review its latest achievements. Hosted by Abu Dhabi Systems and Information Centre (ADSIC), the government agency in charge of Abu Dhabi's IT agenda, the meeting was attended by officials from 70 entities, all of which play a very important role within the AD-SDI programme.

Al Fahim, Executive Manager – Spatial Data Centre, highlighted among the 2014 achievements, the new and improved satellite, that now covers the entire country and not only Abu Dhabi, the recognition by the United Nations of UAE efforts towards geo-maturity in the Manual of Americas, the extension of the Esri MOU until December 2017, and the participation in major events, such as the Esri International User Conference, the GIS Mena Forum and GISWORX'14.

"Looking ahead at 2015, we will carry out a second geo-maturity assessment and compare its results against the previous assessment done in 2011. We will continue to identify and respond to the needs of users, working in collaboration across the core sectors towards government services transformation," concluded Al Fahim.

Throughout the event, participants had the opportunity to hear from various organizations, such as the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Department of Transport, the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority and the Abu Dhabi Education Council, which shed light on some of their initiatives, such as the Onwani address system, the mobile DARB interactive map, the animal identification and registration process, and new ways to include GIS in Abu Dhabi's school curriculum.

AD-SDI program was founded in 2007 and falls under the umbrella of Abu Dhabi Systems and Information Centre, the government body formed in 2005 to facilitate the modernization of government services through the use of the latest information and communication technology.

Source: http://www.eyeofdubai.net/news/details/abu-dhabi-spatial-data-infrastructure-community-celebrates-gis-day-and-its-latest-achievements

First meeting of the UN-GGIM for the Arab States, 24-25 February 2015, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The first formal meeting of the UN-GGIM: Arab States will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 24-25 February 2015. The meeting is organized by the United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), in collaboration with the General Commission for Survey of Saudi Arabia. Following the preparatory meetings that took place in Doha, Qatar, on 7 February 2013, and in Amman, Jordan, 5-6 February 2014, this meeting will be the first formal meeting after the adoption of the UN-GGIM decision 4/111 in August 2014, which endorsed the establishment of the regional committee, UN-GGIM: Arab States. The objective of this meeting is to adopt the rules of procedure for the Committee and its organizational structure with the election of its Bureau, and to establish the working groups that will carry out its work programme to be agreed upon for the next five years.

Source: http://ggim.un.org/1st_Mtg_UN_GGIM_Arab_States.html

GIS and Remote Sensing Annual Scientific Forum (GRASF 2015), 15-17 February 2015, Dubai, UAE

Theme: Towards Geo-Smart Sustainable Development

Dubai Municipality hosts the annual event to provide the Geospatial and GIScience Middle East community the opportunity to share Geoknowledge, experiences, exchange research work results, developments and best practices that are tailored to the region, besides considering the aspects of international advent of GIS and Remote Sensing. The Forum is jointly organized with the Middle East Geospatial Forum (MEGF 2015), http://www.megf.org/

Source: https://login.dm.gov.ae/wps/wcm/connect/032d2aa3-9257-4352-8ee5-8f15eb0b4dfc/web_content_ENG.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&ContentCache=NONE&CACHEID=032d2aa3-9257-4352-8ee5-8f15eb0b4dfc

Saudi Arabia: GIS Innovation Forum 2015, 19 February 2015, Makkah

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Higher Education, and with the support of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), the GIS Technology Innovation Center at Umm Al-Qura University (http://www.gistic.org/), is organizing the 2nd GIS Innovation Forum, to be held on February 19, 2015, at Umm Al-Qura University in Makkah. The forum will enable GIS experts and decision makers from around the world to gather, share expertise and best practices, and discuss the latest research and technology in this rapidly developing field.

The KACST GIS Technology Innovation Center is working to address the needs of the kingdom in its transition to becoming a knowledge-based society. Key applications of GIS in Saudi Arabia include the development of safe systems for crowd management, water resource management, environmental applications and urban planning. Developing greater use of GIS technology throughout the kingdom is leading to cost savings from greater efficiency, better decision making and record keeping, improved communication, and optimal geographical management in these fields. Through the work of the Center, Saudi Arabia is kept up to date with the constantly changing and developing technologies in this field, ensuring that the kingdom is benefiting from the latest developments and innovation across all industries and ministries.

Source: http://www.gisinnovation.org/2015/en/default.aspx

66th International Astronautical Congress, 12-16 October 2015, Jerusalem, Israel

The IAC – which is organized by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF, http://www.iafastro.org/), the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), and the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) – is the largest space-related conference world-wide and selects an average of 1000 scientific papers every year. The upcoming IAC will be held October 12-16, 2015 in Jerusalem, Israel. The deadline for abstracts has been extended to **March 2nd**, at midnight (CET).

Source: http://www.iac2015.org/

Global SDI News

Omidyar Network Calls for Research Proposals

Omidyar Network launched a multi-method, multi-year research project on "Open Data: Demand, Use, and Impact." This research is intended to investigate, clarify, and propose solutions to a market failure in the transparency and open data fields, in which the supply and demand sides have been neither aligned nor well-understood.

Omidyar Network's goal in commissioning this research is threefold: 1) contribute to the general knowledge base about the demand, use, and impact of open data; 2) offer practical and actionable recommendations to policymakers, civil society organizations, and all those in the business of opening or demanding data; and 3) ground in practice the grant-

making by transparency and accountability funders.

Omidyar Network is seeking to commission a researcher or research team for the first phase of this project, to create a repository of case studies on the impact of open data. This repository will provide 10-20 case studies about the economic, social, political, cultural and/or environmental impacts that open data has already had. These cases will be presented at public fora, published online, distributed to relevant networks, and shared with journalists.

For the full terms of reference and procedure for applying, please follow this link:
 https://www.omidyar.com/insights/omidyar-network-calls-research-proposals. Deadline: **February 20, 2015**.

Source: https://www.omidyar.com/insights/omidyar-network-calls-research-proposals

The Space Economy at a Glance 2014

The space sector plays an increasingly pivotal role in the functioning of modern societies and their economic development as the use of satellite technology gives rise to new applications, uses and markets. Space Economy at a Glance, an OECD publication, offers a statistical overview of the global space sector and its contributions to economic activity using data from over 40 countries with space programmes, and identifies new dynamics in the space sector.

Source: http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/the-space-economy-at-a-glance-2014_9789264217294-en

Towards a Public Sector GIS Evaluation Methodology

Author: Edward Kurwakumire
South African Journal of Geomatics, Vol 3, No 1 (2014)

Abstract: There is a growing use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) within the public sector in different countries. Geographic Information Systems require a sizeable investment in terms of financial, information and communication technology (ICT) and human resources while they are largely financed by public funds. This adoption is partly influenced by the promises of GIS that has been widely discussed in GIS literature. Geographic information systems have potential in aiding decision making and in public policy formulation and implementation. From a public sector point of view, the society should benefit from the implementation and adoption of GIS. In order to determine whether systems are meeting their intended objectives, it is of importance to develop a mechanism for measuring the success derived from implementing such systems. Evaluation is a means to justify these information systems that are being adopted. However, evaluation methodologies for public sector GIS are largely lacking. Most evaluation procedures available in literature such as returns on investment are based on the commercial sector where operations are profit driven. The public sector presents a different dimension as focus in provision of public goods with an intent to achieve societal good. This study develops an evaluation model for Geographical Information Systems within the public sector. The study is based on field data collected in various public sector organisations in Uganda. This model is not a solution to evaluation, but can be used as a base to perform evaluation depending on the available variables since evaluation is context dependent. This study presents a benefit oriented approach to GIS Evaluation.

Source: http://www.sajg.org.za/index.php/sajg/article/view/91

Hands-on Global Soil Information Facilities (GSIF) 2015

This 5-day training course on mapping and assessment of soils for soil and environmental scientists and professionals is being held 18-22 May 2015 at Wageningen University in The Netherlands. The purpose of the spring school is to introduce participants to world soils, their assessment and classification, soil databases, software for soil data analysis and visualisation, digital soil mapping and soil-web services. Deadline for registration: **15 February 2015**.

Source: http://www.isric.org/content/isric-spring-school-2015;
 http://www.isric.org/training/hands-global-soil-information-facilities-2015

International Data Rescue Award in the Geosciences

Organised by Integrated Earth Data Applications (IEDA) and Elsevier, the International Data Rescue Award in the Geosciences was created to improve prospects for preservation and access of research data, particularly of dark data, and share the varied ways that these data are being processed, stored, and used.

The contest invites members of the international geosciences and related communities to submit written descriptions of projects that are based on, or substantially involve, the recovery and re-use of scientific data that were not initially accessible for research. Application deadline has been extended to **14 February 2015**.

Lack of access may be due to the nature of the formatting (e.g., analogue data, magnetic tapes that lack format description) or the nature of the data curation and/or organization (e.g., no formal database repository, no backup), such that those data cannot be shared. Consequently, the progress of research suffers unless extra steps are taken to recover the data or transform them to a dependable electronic media.

Submissions are specifically encouraged from groups or individuals who have developed and completed projects that:
- digitized content that was formerly available only in an analogue or an obsolete electronic format, possibly including the addition of rich metadata to make the content more easily accessible and re-usable, or/and
- developed data standards, tools and processes that facilitate and improve the ingestion of research data into sustainable, open access databases.

Source: http://www.elsevier.com/physical-sciences/earth-and-planetary-sciences/the-2015-international-data-rescue-award-in-the-geosciences

OGC Requests Scenarios for Crisis Management ICT Workshop
24-27 May 2015, Kristiansand, Norway
12th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management, http://iscram2015.uia.no/
Deadline for submissions: **15 February 2015**

The OGC and Fraunhofer IOSB have organized the Geospatial ICT Support for Crisis Management and Response workshop at ISCRAM 2015. The workshop organizers invite participation and they invite participants to submit crisis scenario descriptions. These will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of existing international geospatial data encoding and service standards.

Efficient crisis response and management require well-informed actors and effective means for communication and policy enforcement. A secure and dependable geospatial information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure can be an indispensable aid. This ISCRAM 2015 workshop will be held on the afternoon of May 24, 2015 in Kristiansand, Norway. Risk and crisis management experts will meet software architects and engineers who participate in the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Emergency and Disaster Management (EDM) domain working group.

ISCRAM attendees are invited to contribute to this workshop by providing one page crisis and response management scenario descriptions. These will be entered into a use case server using a template. The scenario shall be written from a user's and/or stakeholder's point of view and describe an urgent and challenging need for geospatial ICT support exceeding current capabilities in terms of functionality or quality. The scenario shall identify the actors and their roles, the geographic and temporal scope, and the type of disaster.

A maximum of five authors will be selected to present and discuss their scenarios at the workshop. A facilitated discussion will identify the Geospatial ICT requirements and map them to present and future ICT capabilities in the light of emerging technological trends. Interested representatives of both communities may participate in the workshop without submitting a scenario.

The deadline for submissions is **February 15th, 2015**.
Please send your contributions to the workshop co-chairs:

Dr. Thomas Usländer, Fraunhofer IOSB
Head of Department Information Management and Production Control (ILT)
thomas.uslaender@iosb.fraunhofer.de

Dr. Ingo Simonis, Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
Director of Interoperability Programs and Science
isimonis@opengeospatial.org

The OGC(R) is an international geospatial standards consortium of more than 500 companies, government agencies, research organizations, and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available standards. OGC standards support interoperable solutions that "geo-enable" the Web, wireless and location-based services, and mainstream IT. Visit the OGC website at http://www.opengeospatial.org/.

Source: http://iscram2015.uia.no/?page_id=1072

Updated ISO/TC 211 Multi-Lingual Glossary of Terms

 ISO/TC 211, Geographic information/Geomatics Terminology

The ISO/TC 211 Multi-Lingual Glossary of Terms has been compiled from International Standards developed by ISO/TC 211. Its purpose is to encourage consistency in the use and interpretation of geospatial terms. It is being made freely available to all interested people and organizations

Source: http://www.isotc211.org/TC211_Multi-Lingual_Glossary-2014-10-29_Published.xls

Presentations from ISO/TC 211 Standards in Action Workshop, 26 November 2014, Shenzhen, China

Standardization requirements for address and their labels on maps at different scales
Bomi Lee, Byung Yong Kwak, Serena Coetzee, Piotr Piotrowski, Jinmu Choi, TaikJin Kim, Antony Cooper
http://www.isotc211.org/Workshop_Shenzhen/Presentations/201411_Lee.pdf

Global land cover information service- Status and Directions
Chen Jun
http://www.isotc211.org/Workshop_Shenzhen/Presentations/201411_Chen.pdf

Web maps in practice
Hidenori Fujimura
http://www.isotc211.org/Workshop_Shenzhen/Presentations/201411_Fujimura.pdf

OGC in Action; Update and New Trends in Standards Development
Trevor Taylor
http://www.isotc211.org/Workshop_Shenzhen/Presentations/201411_Taylor.pdf

Status of Imagery Standards in TC211
C Douglas O'Brien, Liping Di, Jianya Gong, Wenxiu Gao, Wolfgang Kresse
http://www.isotc211.org/Workshop_Shenzhen/Presentations/201411_OBrien.pdf

Source: http://www.isotc211.org/Workshop_Shenzhen/Workshop_Shenzhen.htm

Micro-grants to support communities organizing activities for Open Data Day 2015

OPEN DATA DAY 2015 (http://opendataday.org/) is coming and a coalition of partners have come together to provide a limited number of micro-grants designed to support communities organise ODD activities all over the world. As a volunteer led event, with no organisation behind it, Open Data Day (ODD) provides the perfect opportunity for communities all over the world to convene, celebrate and promote open data in ways most relevant to their fellow citizens. This year, Open Data Day will take place on Saturday, the 21st of February 2015 and a coalition of partners have gotten together to help make the event bigger (and hopefully better) than it has ever been before

From hiring a venue, to securing a proper wifi connection, to feeding and caffeinating the volunteer storytellers, data wranglers and developers who donate their Saturday to ensuring that open data empowers citizens in their communities, there are costs associated with convening people.

That's why the Open Data Day Coalition is making available of a limited number of micro grants of up to $300 to help communities organise amazing events without incurring prohibitive personal costs. The coalition will also provide in-kind support in the form mentorship and guidance or simply by providing a list of suggested activities proven effective at engaging new communities.

The coalition consists of the following organisations (in alphabetical order): Caribbean Open Institute, Code for Africa, DAL, E-Democracy, ILDA, NDI, Open Access Button, Open Coalition, Open Institute, Open Knowledge, Sunlight Foundation and Wikimedia UK.

Any group or organisation from any country can apply. You can find the application form here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Pk1wcLdxPDsxEqcLBPyq-gvQZq1LeIw4D1fu2VSfMys/viewform
The deadline to apply is **February 3, 2015**.

Source: http://blog.okfn.org/2015/01/26/launching-open-data-day-coalition-micro-grant-scheme-apply-today/

GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR

GSDI's calendar of upcoming international events at http://www.gsdi.org/upcnf is a unique summary of global and regional conferences, symposiums, workshops, and other related gatherings that pertain to spatial data infrastructure, such as spatial data handling, data visualization, open data policy, research cyberinfrastructure, and RS/GIS applications. GSDI is always on the lookout to include appropriate events, so if you know about one which is not already included, feel free to submit it.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS

To see the latest news from the e-mail Forums maintained by the GSDI Committees and the regional SDI news, visit the website 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. You do not have to be a member of the GSDI Association in order to join a Forum.

The GSDI Association

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.

For more information, visit the GSDI Association website at http://www.gsdi.org

The GSDI Regional Newsletter is edited by Kate Lance, GSDI News Editor, and published by the GSDI Association. The Editor may be contacted at newseditor@gsdi.org. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to SDI initiatives at any level, or send e-mail announcement to news@gsdi.org.

"Advancing a Location Enabled World"