Spatial Data Infrastructure
Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

SDI-AP	February 2013	Vol. 10, No. 2

Spatial Data Infrastructure – Asia and the Pacific (SDI-AP) is a free electronic newsletter from the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) which is available in both English and Chinese language versions. The newsletter is produced for people interested in Spatial Data Infrastructure, GIS, remote sensing and geospatial data issues in Asia and the Pacific. It aims to raise awareness and provide useful information to strengthen SDI initiatives and support synchronising these activities across the region. Support for the newsletter is also provided by the Permanent Committee on Geographic Information for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP), a regional forum to enhance cooperation in the development of a regional geographic information infrastructure. The newsletter is currently being produced for GSDI by the Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration at the University of Melbourne.

To subscribe to SDI-AP use this link. Back issues of the newsletter are at the GSDI website.
You can also sign up for GSDI News List to receive alerts of special news and announcements as well as notification of new issues of the SDI-AP newsletter. To subscribe and access archives of thematic or regional discussion lists please visit.

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Message from the editors

Welcome to the February issue of the newsletter, and a second NEW Year as we celebrate the Year of the Snake.

If you have news or information related to SDI, GIS, RS or spatial data that you would like to share with the community (e.g. workshop announcements, publications, reports, websites of interest etc.), kindly send us the materials by the 25th of the each month for your contribution to be included in the next newsletter.

Malcolm Park and Serryn Eagleson (Editors), at the Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration, The University of Melbourne.

Contributions

Thank you to the following people and organisations for their contributions to this issue: Baek Wonkug for news feeds, Sean Lin and colleagues for the Chinese translation as well as Shivani Lal, *GIS Development*, *GeoSpatial World* and *Asia Surveying & Mapping* magazine for directly contributing to the newsletter.

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GSDI News

International Geospatial Society (IGS) Free Memberships

At its recent meeting, the GSDI Board of Directors passed a motion that allows individuals in low and very low income nations to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. To join, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe. Benefits of membership in IGS are listed at http://www.igeoss.org/benefits. For further information, contact Harlan Onsrud, Executive Director, GSDI Association.

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SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

NSDI for Australia, New Zealand gets a boost

Work in New Zealand and Australia to develop national spatial data infrastructures has been given a boost by the announcement from the Australia New Zealand Land Information Councils' vision for an Australian and New Zealand (ANZ) Foundation Spatial Data Framework.

Governments in New Zealand and Australia have realised that this information needs to be more available. By establishing a common framework for how this information is collected, described and released across Australia and New Zealand, ANZLIC is setting a direction for both countries to aspire.
Source: Asia Geospatial Digest and LINZ

Cambodia: NSDI Master Plan and National Base Map (assisted by Korea)

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) handed over the National Base Map and the Master Plan of National Spatial Data Infrastructure of Cambodia in February 2012 at the office of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction.

The National Base Map and the Master Plan of National Spatial Data Infrastructure are the important outputs of the project for the Production of the National Base Map and the Establishment of the Master Plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Cambodia implemented from 2010 to 2012 with grant aid from Korea of 2.5 million USD through KOICA Cambodia Office.

The first main output, the National Base Map, is an integrated dataset of geospatial information that is the consensus standard for industrial development plans such as cartography, road, dam, airport construction, building harbor and it is also the blueprint for constructional plan, production of additional topographic map and cadastral survey which are expected to be carried out further.

In the project, the most accurate and standard National Base Maps were produced for Phnom-Penh and other attractive sightseeing cities like Siem-Reap and Preah Sihanouk. Therefore, through the utilization of those maps, Location Based Service could be promoted for the public to find optimal routes for their needs, thereby improving the quality of lives of Cambodian citizens.

Furthermore, the use of National Base Map will increase the awareness of geographical information in Cambodia, and increase additional needs of more geographical information that can be produced by the well-trained Cambodian officials. This means that the National Base Map provided by KOICA will be the standard map of Cambodia in further production and revision of relevant Maps.

The second main output, the Master Plan of National Spatial Data Infrastructure, is a central component in supporting decision making for economic and social development; it encompasses the policies, technologies, standards and human resources necessary for the effective collection, management, access, delivery and utilization of spatial data for Cambodia.

Moreover, it is very important for the fact that it produces standardized fundamental spatial datasets, avoids unnecessary duplication of cost in developing and maintaining those data, facilitates access to and application of those data, and enables integration of other application of specific data. Based on the NSDI master plan, Cambodia can apply and utilize it for national territorial planning, urban planning and management, land use, environment, defense, and prevention of disasters.
See: Master Plan for NSDI in Cambodia

US Federal Geographic Data Committee - Geospatial standardization Updates

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SDI Cookbook update

The SDI Cookbook, in its wiki version, now has an updated Chapter 10 to reflect the latest slate of standards and popular version numbers. We seek contributing editors for the other Chapters to also bring them up-to-date. About three months prior to the next GSDI Conference we will seek to affix a date and snapshot the Cookbook into a "SDI Cookbook 2013" PDF version. By saving a PDF and giving it a date of publication, it will clarify the reference and citation of the document and provide a time context.

If you are interested in helping update any of the chapters, please contact Douglas Nebert.

Glasgow will be UK's first 'smart city'

The Scottish city of Glasgow has won a £24 million grant from the UK's Technology Strategy Board (TSB) to become Britain's first "smart city".

The money will be spent by the council on services for residents that will make the quality of living in the city better. Glasgow beat 30 other UK cities to the prize.

Projects on the table include real-time traffic information, apps to check when buses and trains are arriving, and a pothole reporting service. Facial analysis for the city's CCTV network and energy use monitoring to make electricity and gas delivery more efficient are also mooted.

Source: Wired

HarassMap: Using crowdsourced data in the social sciences

Women in Cairo are now able to report rape, harassment, and assaults through Harrassmap, a pilot project in Cairo, Egypt. The goal is to change the social acceptability of sexual harassment in Egypt.

The challenge of collecting data on sensitive issues like gender-based violence is well-documented across the globe. Stigma and shame prevent many victims from reporting these crimes or discussing them with researchers. These challenges have also stopped many countries - Egypt being a good example - from collecting data that might be useful in responding to the problem. However, new technologies and social media platforms open up possible ways to overcome some of the data-collection barriers.

A network of activists, researchers, and volunteers has created Harassmap. Using new technology and social media in tandem with a data collection technique called crowdsourcing, Harrassmap tracks incidents of sexual harassment in the Greater Cairo area. The goal is to change the social acceptability of sexual harassment in Egypt.

This research will offer an opportunity to compare the quality of data collected through this technique with data collected using more traditional qualitative and quantitative methods. The final report will consist of:

- information on the methodological issues in the collection and use of crowdsourced data
- research findings on sexual harassment in Egypt based on reports submitted by the users of the crowdsourcing website and by participants in focus groups, surveys, and in-depth interviews.

Source: IDRC (Canada)

India: state of Kerala launches Spatial Data Infrastructure Portal

The State of Kerala has launched its own Spatial Data Infrastructure portal in a bid to promote the sharing and use of geospatial information among state agencies.

Dubbed as the Kerala Spatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal (KSDI Geoportal), the system allows users to share and access geo-referenced information related to political and administrative boundaries, state geography, demography, agro and socio economy, resources and infrastructure facilities with their attributes.

It serves as a common platform for geospatial information shared across state agencies, the academe, NGOs and other stakeholders.

Furthermore, KSDI geo-portal is built on a Service Oriented Architecture (SOA), by means of interoperable OGC-Compliant Web Services, which would allow users to seamlessly perform various spatial and non-spatial functions and analysis through the KSDI network and publish them.

With the system in place, state government agencies are able to confidently arrive at well-informed decisions because of their heightened situational awareness on pressing issues affecting the socio-economic and geo-political climate in the state.

"Through this venture, spatial data information for different domains such as infrastructure, traffic planning, resource availability, demographic status, socio-economic status, health and culture-related information etc., even up to cadastral scale will be within a mouse click away," said Minister for Industries & IT, Shri P K Kunhalikutty.

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SDI Spotlight

This month's "Spotlight" feature is from **Muyiwa Agunbiade** who has just completed his PhD at the Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration (CSDILA) within the Department of Infrastructure Engineering at the University of Melbourne. Muyiwa's main research focus is 'Land Administration for housing production'. This "Spotlight" feature is an update to those previously published in August, 2010 (Vol.7, pp 3-4) and February 2012 (Vol. 9, No. 2 pp 3-4).

National Infrastructure for Managing Land Information

Land Administration for housing production in federated countries

The integration of land administration processes and the collaboration of land and housing agencies are considered essential for the effective delivery of developable land for housing production.This research investigates the inter-relationship across land administration functions (land tenure/registration, land value, land use and land development) and between different levels of government in the management and delivery of land for housing production. It *aims* to develop and evaluate a *Land Administration Integration Framework for Housing* (LAIFH) to improve inter-agency collaboration with a view to help facilitate better land delivery for housing.

The *methods* include the use of a case study approach and focus on the federated case countries of Nigeria and Australia. The research developed: a *Conceptual Framework* that provided a comprehensive approach to understanding the current relationship between land administration and housing production; an Inter-agency Integration Assessment Framework (IIAF) in the context of housing production to assess levels of integration; and finally, a Land Administration Integration Framework for Housing (LAIFH) as a strategy to improve the administration of land and inter-agency integration.

The parameters for the development of the IIAF were identified from various past studies. This was in parallel with the structured interviews conducted. By adopting Social Network Analysis (SNA) and Paired Samples (T-Test), this study used the Inter-agency Integration Assessment Framework, as developed, to determine the levels of integration among agencies responsible for land administration. By using Structural Equation Model with Partial-Least Square, as adopted tools, it was possible to verify the reliability of the assessment framework.

The findings*,* through the application of Inter-agency Integration Assessment Framework, showed that the optimal levels of inter-agency integration varied from one organisation to the other. This reflected the priority and the interest of each organisation. Based on the observed level of inter-agency interactions, relative to what was desired, an innovative improvement strategy (Land Administration Integration Framework for Housing) was proposed. The improvement framework included the development of a collaborative process. The collaborative process considered the contextual factors that affect ownership rights and a linked process for determining development rights. The link between the collaborative process and the contextual factor is required to analyse efficient land delivery. The demonstrators: *housing development potential analysis and visualisation,* and the *analysis of development assessment approval* provided, as examples, context for the application and evaluation of the integration framework to facilitate the delivery of land for housing.

The study *concluded* that policies are not sufficiently informed by evidence and that due to disconnect between agencies; policies formulated do not encourage integrated processes among land and housing agencies. The processes did not sufficiently drive the type of data that was collected. It *recommends* that managing land for housing production should follow the principles of evidence-informed policy, policy-based processes and process-driven data.

More Information

For more information about this research project, visit: < http://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/nimli/about/ >. Also find below a list of publications and presentations related to this research project.

Agunbiade, M., Rajabifard, A., Bennett, R. and Williamson, I. (2012). Spatially Enabling Urban Planning for Housing Production in Australia: An Imperative for Evidence-informed Policy: 6th Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference 8-10th February 2012. Adelaide, South Australia.

Agunbiade, M., Rajabifard, A., and Bennett, R. (2012*). An imperative of e-planning in integrating land administration functions for housing production:* Presented at the XXII International Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing Congress, Melbourne 2012.

Agunbiade, *M*., Rajabifard, A., and Bennett, R. (2011). Land Administration for Housing Production: Drivers, Concepts, and Analytical Tools. Paper presented at the FIG Working Week 2011.

Wallace, J., Marwick, B., Bennett, R., Rajabifard, A., Williamson, I.,Tambuwala, L., Potts, K., and Agunbiade, M. (2010), Spatially Enabling Land Administration: Drivers, Initiatives and Future Directions for Australia. In, Rajabifard, A., Crompvoets, J., Kalantari, M. and Kok, B. (Eds) (2010*) Spatially Enabling Society: Research, Emerging Trends and Critical Assessment.* Leuven University Press, pp 175-190

The editors remind our subscribers and readers that we welcome contributions for the *Spotlight* feature.

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GIS Tools, Software, Data

New positioning technology could compete with GPS

A ground-based system that uses much stronger signals than GPS can pinpoint your location in cities and indoors

Instead of satellites, Locata uses ground-based equipment to project a radio signal over a localised area that is a million times stronger on arrival than GPS. It can work indoors as well as out, and the makers claim the receivers can be shrunk to fit inside a regular cellphone. Even the US military, which invented GPS technology, signed a contract last month agreeing to a large-scale test of Locata at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

Indoor positioning is the next big thing in location-tracking technology, and companies from Google to Nokia have jumped at the chance to prevent users getting lost in cavernous shopping malls, or in the concrete canyons of big cities, where GPS struggles to keep up. But their technologies typically have a short range, and location resolutions in the order of a few metres.

By contrast, Christopher Morin of the US Air Force tested Locata's accuracy recently at White Sands, and it worked to within 18 centimetres along any axis. Morin says it should be possible to get the resolution down to 5 centimetres.

Admittedly, the tests were performed in an open desert where GPS also works beautifully. But GPS signals are weak - like a car headlight from 20,000 kilometres away - and easily blocked by solid objects. Locata's signal is far stronger, though not guaranteed to work in a complex urban environment, says David Last, consultant to the UK's General Lighthouse Authorities. "In urban areas, there are multiple blockages; propagation is principally via multi-path reflections." Such reflections can confuse receivers and reduce precision.

Source: New Scientist

New telescope to warn of solar flares that damage GPS signals

Australia has unveiled a new radio telescope in the remote outback that will give the world a vastly improved view of the sun and much faster warnings on massive solar storms. The Murchison Widefield Array (MWA) radio telescope will detect flares on the sun's surface that could damage communication satellites, electricity power grids and GPS navigation systems.

Source: Geospatial Asia Digest and [AFP](#)

Google unveils detailed North Korea map

Weeks after its chairman Eric Schmidt's secretive visit to North Korea, Google has released a detailed map of the isolated state that even labels some of its remote and infamous gulags.

Until now North Korea was pretty much a blank canvas to users of Google's "Map Maker", which creates maps from data that is provided by the public and fact-checked in a similar process to that used by Wikipedia.

Source: The Melbourne "Age" newspaper

The Case for Walkability as an Economic Development Tool

A terrific street redesign is assisting economic development in a southern California community that has suffered from changing economic conditions but is nevertheless seeing significant population growth. This is a story of municipal foresight, excellent recent planning, and green ambition.

Lancaster is a fast-growing city of a little over 150,000 in far northern Los Angeles

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County, about 70 miles from downtown Los Angeles. Its population has more than tripled since 1980; it increased by nearly a third from 2000 to 2010. It is racially mixed (38 percent Latino, 34 percent white, 20 percent African-American) and, like so many fast-growing western cities, decidedly sprawling. The satellite view on Google Earth reveals a patchwork pattern of leapfrog development, carved out of the desert. It is a city with a very suburban character.
Source: The Atlantic "Cities"

Tapping into the third dimension

The world around us is three-dimensional, and even though 3D data has been collected and used for about 100 years, it has undergone a sea change in recent times. Key to this phenomenon is the growing ability to collect and present vast quantities of 3D data with advances in instrumentation and software, the recent launch of 3D mapping satellite being one such example. Tapping into the information contained in the third dimension and visualising the real world, both land and water, in virtual environment can unleash unlimited opportunities in areas like emergency preparedness and disaster management, urban planning, business practices, engineering, and even preserving heritage, all of which are real needs of countries in the Asia Pacific region which are not only some of the fastest growing economies of the world but are also prone to vagaries of nature. While 3D mapping can help explore a piece of history dating back 30,000 years, **underwater 3D mapping** is also raising alarm about a likely tsunami that may have otherwise gone unnoticed, giving time to be prepared. Even as it offers exciting possibilities, there is still some way to go in realising the full potential of the 3D data. There is a whole lot of geospatial information out there yet to be captured even in two dimensions. However, as geospatial technology continues to evolve, the availability of 3D geospatial data will evolve too, and one hopes that its benefits are utilised to the maximum for a smart society of tomorrow.
Source: Asia Geospatial Digest editorial "Bottonline"

China, UN cooperate in geological information development

The Chinese government and the United Nations (UN) on Monday signed an agreement in November to jointly promote geological information management.
The agreement, known as the cooperation on geospatial information management capacity development, means the Chinese government will invest 4 million U.S. dollars in a UN trust fund.
The money will be used in projects to strengthen China and other developing countries' capacities of geospatial information production, management and distribution.
The program will also lead to the improvement of geological information development levels in the Asia-Pacific region, according to China's National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASMG).
The five-year program, to be carried out from 2013 to 2017, will be conducted in workshops, short-term consultations, medium-term training as well as visits and exchanges, the administration said.
The program will cover knowledge transfer and capacity building in order to obtain, provide and share information in a more efficient way. It will help to make such information available for disaster prevention and reduction efforts, the NASMG said.
The administration said the agreement will open a new stage for the cooperation between China and the UN in geospatial information fields.
Source: xinhuanet.com

Thailand to spend USD 65 mn on digitising land parcels

Department of Lands (DOL) under Ministry of Interior, Thailand will continue its ongoing 'Cadastral Information Systems (CIS) project' for digitising title of 32 provinces, with approved fiscal budget of THB 2 billion (USD 65 million) in 2013.
Source: Geospatial Asia Digest and FutureGov Asia

Uber Weather for Chrome, weather on steroids!

Source: Any Geo blog

Korean researchers improve indoor navigation system

For indoor positioning, location-based service providers including mobile device makers have mostly used a combination of GPS and wireless network system such as WiFi, cellular connectivity, Ultra Wide Band (UWB), or Radio-frequency Identification (RFID). For example, the WiFi Positioning System (WPS) collects both GPS and WiFi signals, and many companies including Google and Apple utilise this technology to provide clients with location information services.
A Korean research team have recently developed a new method to build a WiFi radio map that does not require

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GPS signals. WiFi fingerprints are a set of WiFi signals captured by a mobile device and the measurements of received WiFi signal strengths (RSSs) from surrounding access points at the device. A WiFi radio map shows RSSs of WiFi access points (APs) at different locations in a given environment. Therefore, each WiFi fingerprint on the radio map is connected to location information.
Source: Geospatial Asia Digest

Cartography Tip – Color Brewer (2.0) Expert Color Advice For Your Maps
Here is an extremely useful resource for selecting color schemes for your cartographic products. It's a website called **ColorBrewer 2.0**, developed by Cynthia Brewer, professor of Geography at Penn State University.
Source: Any Geo blog

China's first 3D mapping satellite begins transmission
China's first transmission-type three-dimensional surveying and mapping satellite, Space Mapping-I system, formally started the networking operation recently, according to the Space Mapping Satellite Application Management Centre. This was another breakthrough after China's successful launching of the No. 01 Satellite of the transmission-type three-dimensional surveying and mapping satellite, Space Mapping-I system, on August 24, 2010.
Source: Geospatial Asia Digest and People's Daily

Think Tank Map - A New Website – Climate change mapping
The International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG) has launched the new website of the Think Tank Map, an observatory that provides an overview on the think tanks active in the field of climate change governance. Through an interactive world map, this tool makes it possible to see which organizations are working in the main fields related to climate governance all over the world. The new website presents a novel structure that allows a wide range of searches to be performed, as it is now possible to search not only think tanks, but also their projects. There is a new section presenting a series of statistics about think tanks updated in real-time. Major focus has been given to the Think Tank Ranking, a ranking based on a novel methodology developed by ICCG to evaluate think tanks active in the field of climate change that is being launched at the moment, and to the Think Tank Award, that will be presented to the organizations leading the rankings.

The Think Tank Map allows think tanks to present their own research activities through an instrument targeted to a specialized public. The constant changes in think tanks are matched by continuous updates to the Observatory, thus transforming it into a barometer that reflects how think tanks' influence on policy makers is evolving. The Think Tank Map aims to become a complete overview of every authoritative think tank active in the field of climate change governance.

The Think Tank Map is available at the following address: www.thinktankmap.org . If you would like to suggest a think tank, or to insert the data about your Organization, please fill in the on-line form.

Draft 2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is calling for experts to review the first order draft of its 2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol to be finalized at the end of October 2013.

At its 35th plenary session held in Geneva, Switzerland, in June 2012, the IPCC asked its Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) to review and update its supplementary guidance on greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) for reporting under the Kyoto Protocol.

The decision was in response to an invitation by Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Parties to the Kyoto Protocol asked the IPCC to review and if necessary update its Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF issued in 2003 to ensure consistency with decisions agreed by the UNFCCC in Durban at the end of 2011.

Climate policy and global climate negotiations rely on a robust scientific foundation to produce sound results. The IPCC provides policymakers with regular assessments of climate science and its potential impacts, and assessments of the possibilities for mitigating climate change. The estimation of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases is one important basis for climate mitigation. The IPCC provides de facto international standards for such estimation, through highly technical work, while offering flexibility to take different national circumstances and capacities into account.

Review is an important part of the IPCC assessment process. Draft reports are subjected to a multi-stage review beginning with the review of a first order draft by scientific experts, followed by the review of a second order draft by governments and experts and a final round of government comments prior to the approval

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session of the Panel. The IPCC seeks as broad a range of experts as possible, based on a self-declaration of expertise. Once registered, expert reviewers will be provided with the drafts that are confidential documents not to be cited, quoted or distributed. The drafts, comments and responses are made public after the report or guidance is finalized.

Experts interested in taking part in this first review process can register here: http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/forms/kpsgreview_registration.html. Registration is open until the end of the review period on 3 February 2013.

For more information contact IPCC Press Office, Email: ipcc-media@wmo.int

For more information on IPCC's Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI). Contact the TFI Technical Support Unit on nggip-tsu@iges.or.jp or orkpsg_review@iges.or.jp

For more information on the IPCC review process (PDF)

Thanks to Gordon Ojwang for these items.

Microsoft software to analyse complex geospatial data

A new software library that can be used to analyse complex geospatial data has been released by Microsoft Research. Narwhal is a software library that has been developed as part of the work for the WorldWide Telescope visualisation engine, but has wider uses. The data doesn't even have to be 'location based' in the traditional sense.

Source: Geospatial World Weekly and I-Programmer

INTERACTIVE - Extreme Weather Map 2012 – United States

Climate change increases the risk of many types of record-breaking extreme weather events that threaten communities across the country. **In 2012, there were 3,527 monthly weather records broken for heat, rain, and snow in the US, according to information from the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC).(1)** That's even more than the 3,251 records smashed in 2011—and some of the newly-broken records had stood for 30 years or more.

Check out the interactive map below to find out what events hit which areas.
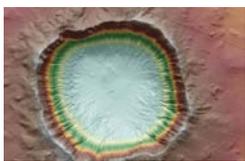
Source: NRDC and Scientific American

Joint research centre for BIM established in Australia

A new international research centre aimed at improving the productivity of energy, minerals, infrastructure and construction projects was recently launched at Curtin University.

The Australasian Joint Research Centre for Building Information Modelling is a collaboration between Curtin University and Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) in Wuhan, China. It will focus on developing the capability of Building Information Modelling (BIM), an advanced approach that enables the physical and functional characteristics of a building to be digitally generated and assessed.

Source: Geospatial Asia Digest and Curtin University press release

OpenTopography – open and free access to high-resolution topographic data

Some interesting "super computing" news as The National Science Foundation (NSF) has renewed funding for OpenTopography, an Internet-based project that provides open and free access to high-resolution topographic data collected by technologies such as LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). OpenTopography was initially developed as a proof-of-concept cyberinfrastructure project for the earth sciences as part of the NSF Information and Technology Research (ITR) program-funded Geosciences Network (GEON) project, and continues to emphasize innovative cyberinfrastructure approaches to the online storage, access, and processing of large topographic datasets.

During the first three years of operations, the OpenTopography user community has grown to several thousand registered and guest users and a catalog of half a trillion LiDAR points! **See more on the project HERE**

Source: Any Geo blog

Indian city to map ground water to ensure sustainability

The Central Ground Water Board will map water table five times deeper, even to village level, to stop water table depletion in areas that are in the danger zones. It will inform quality and quantity of water in a particular village. Experts say this is a positive step towards getting clean drinking water to every common man in the state, even in villages.

Source: Geospatial Asia Digest and DailyBaskhar.com

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Myanmar braces for first census in 30 years

A population census is very important for a country's socio-economic development. Without up-to-date data on the country's population, it is difficult for planners and policy makers to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate development programmes. Information on the size, distribution and demographics of the country's population is vital for developing comprehensive policies and programmes aimed at improving the welfare of the country and its population.

With an estimated cost of about US$ 58 million, Myanmar's 2014 Population and Housing Census will serve as a significant landmark in the country's development.

Source: Clarice Africa, FutureGov, 10 December 2012

Fiji water authority implements open spatial asset decision support

Open Spatial announced that Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) has completed a successful six month implementation of the Open Spatial Asset Decision Support Solution. The Open Spatial solution is tailored to meet the business needs of water and wastewater businesses and specifically bridges the gap between CAD, GIS and BIM (building information modelling).

Based on risk-averse technologies from Autodesk and Oracle, the Open Spatial Asset Decision Support Solution combines the strengths of engineering quality with geospatial ease of use, delivering a fit-for-purpose solution to WAF.

Source: OpenSpatial and Geospatial Asia Digest

3D mapping reveals seafloor collapse near Great Barrier Reef - Australia

An area of the seafloor near Australia's Great Barrier Reef is in the early stages of collapse and could trigger a tsunami, scientists say.

Marine geologists from Australia's James Cook University said 3D mapping techniques have revealed a slab of seafloor a quarter of a cubic mile in size -- the remains of an ancient underwater landslide -- are perched on the continental shelf off the coast of Queensland.
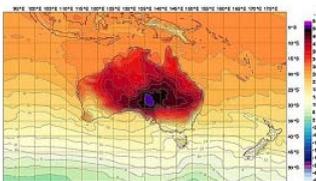
Source: UPI and Geospatial Asia Digest

Location-based alerts a success during bushfires in Australia

Australia's emergency alert system has "performed well" in Victoria during this month's bushfires, according to the Victoria Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner (OESC).

Victoria successfully used the emergency alert system 10 times during this month's bushfires. The system can send up to 500 text messages per second and 1000 voice messages per minute to people in the vicinity of an emergency such as a bushfire.

Source: Geospatial World Weekly and Computer World

Australian heat wave forces a redesign of temperature maps

Faced with the possibility of unprecedented temperatures in Central Australia, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology has added new colors to its weather maps. Although the hottest temperature recorded in Australia is 123 degrees Fahrenheit, the new color scale reaches 129 degrees, as parts of Australia are expected to reach highs of 122-126 degrees next week. Areas where temperature was above 122ºF (50ºC) will be marked in deep purple and terrifying hot pink. It is an interesting moment in data visualisation history when climate scientists find themselves in the position of revising the upper bounds of temperatures they ever expected to depict.

Source: Geospatial World Weekly and Wired

Sentinel satellite demand increase due to Australia wildfire

Demand for the national Sentinel Bushfire Monitoring System, which is hosted by Geoscience Australia, is at its highest since the disastrous Victorian Black Saturday bushfires in 2009.

… Sentinel provides details of hotspots that have been detected by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instrument aboard the Terra and Aqua remote sensing satellites. MODIS is able to detect hotspots over a 2330 kilometre wide swath on the ground as it orbits the Earth. The Terra and Aqua satellites collect hotspots data over large parts of Australia at least six times a day.

The Sentinel system provides timely and readily accessible spatial information to emergency service managers and fire controllers across Australia to help identify the locations of hotspots, or fire fronts, with a potential risk to communities and property.

Source: Geospatial World Weekly and GeoScience Australia

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Pilotless Aerial Vehicle Systems: Size, scale and functions

Articles by George Cho, Andrea Hildebrand, Simon Morris, and others discussing UAVs
Source: Coordinates magazine

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News from abroad

"This section has been included to highlight some of the developments happening outside the region which demonstrate SDI in action.
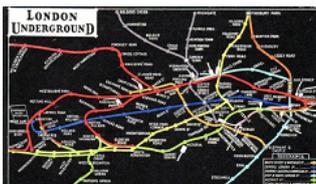
Beijing's air pollution as seen from space

On January 13, *The New York Times* reported that air pollution levels in Beijing, China were elevated to a point "beyond indexing". The readings help form the Air Quality Index (PDF), which is used to determine levels of harmful particulate matter, and topped out at 755 ppm at a monitoring station at the U.S. Embassy (on a scale of 500).
The folks at NASA have posted two satellite images that show what the entire Beijing region looks like with and without a shroud of smog:
Source: Scientific American
See also NASA Satellite Image Shows Beijing Drowning in a Lake of Smog (The Atlantic "Cities")

Happy 150th Birthday, London Tube!

The London Underground celebrates its 150th birthday (January 9), marking the anniversary of the first trip on the tube, between Paddington and Farringdon. The tube is arguably best known for its iconic map, created by Harry Beck in 1931 and adopted as the official map in 1933.
Source: The Atlantic "Cities" Maps

UK switches on GPS backup in the English Channel

The General Lighthouse Authorities of the UK and Ireland (GLA) have announced that ships in the Port of Dover, its approaches and part of the Dover Strait can now use eLoran radio navigation technology as a backup to satnav systems like GPS and Galileo. The ground based eLoran system provides alternative position and timing signals for improved navigational safety. The Dover area, the world's busiest shipping lane, is the first in the world to achieve this initial operational capability (IOC) for shipping companies operating both passenger and cargo services.
Source: Geospatial World Weekly

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Articles

GIS mapping of vector breeding habitats by M.Palaniyandi

Introduction

The survival and longevity of infected mosquitoes and the prevalence of the diseases is spatially determined and controlled by the geo-climatic variables. The remote sensing capabilities of Landsat TM, IRS LISS I, LISS II, IRS CARTOSAT, SPOT, IKONOS, NOVAA – AVHRR etc., have been used to analyse vector habitats areas and mapping vector abundance. The Indian remote sensing (IRS) resource satellite data is readily available at low cost price for research and education purpose including the study of mosquito breeding habitats in India. The study has been designed for exploring the utility of IRS resource satellites for mapping vector habitats areas, estimating the vector abundance and vector density across the country. The IRS data product is available to the users with reliable and repetitive coverage. It has been providing repetitive coverage information on the environmental transitions and land use / land cover changes. The indigenous IRS LISS I, LISS II and IRS WiFS have been used to analyse the areas vulnerable to vector habitats suitability and key elements for mapping the vector abundance. The remote sensing resource satellite data (red and infrared / near infrared spectral data) has been significantly used for mapping the malaria, JE and kala-azar, filariasis, schistosomiasis

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etc., vector breeding habitats with spatial consistency of 90 per cent accuracy.

The conventional method of mapping vector breeding habitats is laborious, expensive, erroneous and time consuming, whereas, the use of remote sensing and GIS is reliable and accurate. With the help of these techniques vector breeding habitats, vector abundance and vector density can be mapped quickly. Thus, the probability of transmission risk of vector borne diseases can be assessed with respect to space and time. The rapid sea change of population and the corresponding environmental changes of increasing the agricultural land practices, land use / land cover dynamic changes, urban sprawl and irregular growth of urban development and industrial growths are responsible for a suitable environment for vector borne disease outbreaks. Therefore, a rapid and advanced technology is needed for the replacement of conventional methods for predicting the problematic areas, mapping and spatial assessments of transmission risk with reliable and real-time accuracy for vector control and vector borne disease control and management.

Source: Geospatial World Weekly 14 January 2013)

What Is Geodesign--and Can It Protect Us from Natural Disasters?

Geodesign is an approach to city planning, land use and natural resource management that takes into account the tendency in recent years to overdevelop land at the expense of natural habitats, as well as population growth and climate change, which have left communities increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters.

Geodesign arose thanks largely to the availability of geographic information system (GIS) data. Such data is gathered from maps, aerial photos, satellites and surveys and stored in large databases where it can be analyzed, modeled and queried. Particularly useful is data provided by the Landsat program, a joint initiative between the U.S. Geological Survey and NASA, has been placing satellites in orbit since 1972 to collect GIS data.

…

Careful study of GIS data—which includes weather data but also takes into account population demographics, land use and a variety of other factors—could uncover clues about the likely intensity and impact of future storms as well as the extent to which zoning decisions can mitigate potential damage, according to [Tom] Fisher [dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Design], the emcee and moderator of this week's Geodesign Summit hosted by GIS mapping software maker Esri at the company's Redlands, Calif., headquarters. "This is an issue with Sandy—do we rebuild on the same sites, considering there could be another [major] storm within the next seven or so years? My sense is not that we lack data but that we've lacked the ability to visualize it and apply it to certain places," he adds.

Source: Scientific American blog

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Books and Journals (including Videos and Web publications)

Awesome Maps

V-e-n-u-e.com

Venue — a portable media rig, interview studio, multi-format event platform, and forward-operating landscape research base — will pop up at sites across North America from June 2012 through fall 2013.

Under the direction of Geoff Manaugh of BLDGBLOG and Nicola Twilley of Edible Geography, Venue officially launches Friday, June 8, with a public event from 6-8pm at the Nevada Museum of Art in downtown Reno, Nevada.

In collaboration with the Center for Art + Environment at the Nevada Museum of Art and with Columbia University's Studio-X Global Network Initiative, Venue will traverse North America in a series of routes, visiting such sites as New Mexico's Very Large Array, Arches National Park, the world's largest living organism in the Blue Mountains of Oregon, and the 2012 Aspen Ideas Festival.

At these and many other locations, Venue will serve as a backdrop — or venue — for original interviews with people from an extraordinary range of disciplines, even as it records and surveys each site through an array of both analog and high-tech instruments.

SDI Cookbook update

The SDI Cookbook, in its wiki version, now has an updated Chapter 10 to reflect the latest slate of standards and popular version numbers. We seek contributing editors for the other Chapters to also bring them up-to-date.

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Spatial Data Infrastructure Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

About three months prior to the next GSDI Conference we will seek to affix a date and snapshot the Cookbook into a "SDI Cookbook 2013" PDF version. By saving a PDF and giving it a date of publication, it will clarify the reference and citation of the document and provide a time context.

If you are interested in helping update any of the chapters, please contact Douglas Nebert.

Rise of the Drones Meet a new breed of flying robots, from tiny swarming vehicles to giant unmanned planes. Aired January 23, 2013 on PBS

These unmanned flying robots–some as large as jumbo jets, others as small as birds–do things straight out of science fiction. Much of what it takes to get these robotic airplanes to fly, sense, and kill has remained secret. But now, with rare access to drone engineers and those who fly them for the U.S. military, NOVA reveals the amazing technologies that make drones so powerful as we see how a remotely-piloted drone strike looks and feels from inside the command center. …

Discover the cutting edge technologies that are propelling us toward a new chapter in aviation history as NOVA gets ready for "Rise of the Drones."

Source: NOVA/PBS

Imaging With Radar

 Synthetic aperture radar (SAR) uses radio waves to "see" in complete darkness and through rain, clouds, and snow. It is becoming a regular component of unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, like those flown over Afghanistan. The following picture shows what Washington, D.C. would look like if it were imaged by a SAR-equipped spy plane flying overhead on a snowy winter day.
Source: NOVA/PBS

NewGeography website

Mapping London blog

Book Review: ASPRS Manual of Airborne Topographic LiDAR by Michael olsen

In the fall of 2012, the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing released a valuable addition to literature available to the LiDAR community - "The Manual of Airborne Topographic LiDAR." The book can be purchased through the ASPRS bookstore. The manual was edited by Michael Renslow and contains contributions by several experts across various sectors of the LiDAR industry. The book has a wealth of practical information for those in industry who will be involved with LiDAR ranging from acquisition to processing to application. In this review, it is not my intent to provide a "critical review" of the content, but rather more information of what is included in the book and its relevance.

A few side comments before we get started discussing the content. The book is printed in color, which is very helpful for presenting LiDAR examples. Also, as specified in the title, the focus is airborne LIDAR, not terrestrial LIDAR (static or mobile). Herein is a description of its contents. The full table of contents can be found here.
Source: LiDAR News

Borderlines blog from the New York Times

Countries are defined by the lines that divide them. But how are those lines decided — and why are some of them so strange? Borderlines explores the stories behind the global map, one line at a time.
by Frank Jacobs

Frank Jacobs is a London-based author and blogger. He writes about cartography, but only the interesting bits. His other blog is Strange Maps

Thematic Mapping blog

Terrain mapping with Mapnik

Blog of **Ragnvald Larsen, geographer**

Geographer working with maps at the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management. Part of his job is to contribute to development aid projects.

International Society for Digital Earth - August, 2012 Newsletter

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Thoughts on the Geospatial industry, Open Standards and Open Source Cameron Shorter's blog

New Zealand - SDI Cookbook Chapter 6 – Government and Industry, moving forward.

Carnival Of The Geospatialists #3 - Musings and Down-Right Cool Things Shared by the Geo Faithful

Open Planet 5, the magazine published for the International gvSIG Conference is now available in electronic format

SDI Magazine

Mother Pelican: A Journal of Sustainable Human Development
The December 2012 issue has been published

LiDAR News, Vol 2, No 19 (January 2013 Newsletter)

LiDAR News magazine (Vol 3, No 3, Spring 2013)

Think Quarterly – Google's new on-line magazine

Coordinates monthly magazine - **PDF** (June 2012)

SERVIR-Africa community news

GISuser - GIS and Geospatial Technology News

National Geographic website

The Atlantic Cities website including Maps

Professional Surveyor magazine

The American Surveyor newsletter (January 8)

My Co-ordinates e-zine – October issue (PDF)

UN-SPIDER December 2012

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Just for Fun!

Why Cruises Start and Stop Where They Do
When we think of cruises, most of us consider the luxury ships themselves as the attraction — not the ports they visit. Jean-Paul Rodrigue, a transport scholar at Hofstra University, says that's an oversight. He's studied cruise itineraries from all over the world and found that companies pay a great deal of attention to port selection as a means of distinguishing themselves.Rodrigue presents his "geography of cruises" in a recent issue of *Applied Geography* with Belgian researcher Theo Notteboom. Focusing on the Caribbean and Mediterranean markets, the scholars argue that itinerary is what's really for sale from the cruise industry. As a result, relevant ports cities are competing to become part of a line's unique regional and cultural package of places.
Source: The Atlantic "Cities" - Maps

The Best Aerial Image of New York City You'll Ever See
This is a great image of a city that seems designed to bring great images into being. Sergey Semonov, a Russian photographer, submitted the image to

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the Epson International Photographic Pano Awards, and took first prize in the amateur category.
Semonov works on a small noncommercial team called AirPano, which travels the globe creating these 3D aerial panoramas. They shoot from helicopters and then stitch the images together.

"I shoot landscapes, spheres from helicopter, gig-pixel panoramas as well as manipulate Photoshop and prepare the photos to be printed in a huge size and organize photo-exhibitions," Semonov wrote of his work at AirPano. "I like new, progressive and unique things."
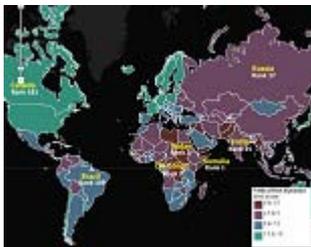
Along with the images of Manhattan, you can find many other beautiful/interesting places, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Taj Mahal, Dubai City, the Alps, and the Pyramids.
Source: The Atlantic

Standard Kilogram Needs Trimming

Contaminants have made the standard kilogram weigh slightly more than it originally did, but a careful cleaning method may slim it down. **AUDIO Podcast also available**
Source: Scientific American

Global political risk atlas 2013

The latest dynamic political risk index from Maplecroft ranks 197 countries on the chances of conflict, terrorism, enforced regime change and resource nationalism
• Political violence increased in 20% of countries
• Weapons from Syria and Libya are causing instability from Mali to Turkey
• Turkey joins Russia, India and Nigeria in 'extreme' risk category for terrorism
• **Red**=extreme risk, **purple**=high, **blue**=medium and **green**=low
Source: The Guardian

Netherlands Highways Will Glow in the Dark Starting Mid-2013

A smart-road design that features glow-in-the-dark tarmac and illuminated weather indicators will be installed in the Netherlands from mid-2013.

The Smart Highway by Studio Roosegaarde and infrastructure management group Heijmans won Best Future Concept at the Dutch Design Awards, and has already gone beyond pure concept. The studio has developed a photo-luminising powder that will replace road markings — it charges up in sunlight, giving it up to 10 hours of glow-in-the-dark time come nightfall. "It's like the glow in the dark paint you and I had when we were children, but we teamed up with a paint manufacturer and pushed the development. Now, it's almost radioactive".

Special paint will also be used to paint markers like snowflakes across the road's surface — when temperatures fall to a certain point, these images will become visible, indicating that the surface will likely be slippery. Roosegaarde says this technology has been around for years, on things like baby food — the studio has just upscaled it.
Source: Wired and GISUser blog

A Map for All Possible Routes

The route-planning application on Google Maps can get you from Point A to Point B in a car, on a bike, by foot or by transit. But one thing the all-powerful mapping engine can't do (yet) is give you all of those options at the same time. It would be a handy feature to have, both for individual commuters weighing whether to take the bike or bus, or for planners eager to illustrate that sometimes the shortest path to where you want to go is not taken by car.

If you've ever pined for such a tool, meet the Side-by-Side Router, an application built by Michael Schade, an inventive contributor to Arlington County, Virginia's Mobility Lab.

Schade's router gives you all of your options, using Google's API (with driving in red, walking in blue, transit in purple and biking in green). His tool also provides the travel time and distance for each mode. And that's where the really interesting comparisons come in.

The above map shows the route from Arlington Memorial Cemetery, across the National Mall and to Capitol Hill. The shortest route, by far, is to walk there (6.43 kilometers compared to more than 10 kilometers on transit). But even Google's travel times and distances don't factor in everything. As Schade writes on the Mobility Lab blog, after mapping some other test trips:
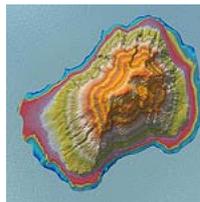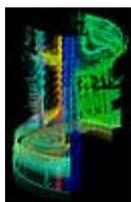
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As an advocate for biking and transit, it was a bit disheartening to see the driving mode "win" when it came to creating the fastest trip. But the driving directions assume what is known as "Doris Day parking," the phenomenon where one magically finds an empty parking space immediately in front of one's destination.
Source: The Atlantic "Cities"

Latitude & Longitude Finder

The Latitude and Longitude Finder enables you to quickly determine the Lat/Long of any city (simply search place name in the finder, you can identify a lat/long for any business or home address, and you can also view the results on a google map and grab the code for use and reuse.
See also f.lux

LiDAR as Art

Could these crazy intersections make for safer motoring ?

Geometry tells us that the traditional four-way intersection is inherently dangerous. When you plot all of the potential points of conflict on a diagram – and transportation engineers actually do this – it turns out that vehicles have 32 distinct opportunities to collide into one another at the nexus of two two-lane roadways. Cars can crash into each other while merging or diverging from a given lane. Then the worst action happens right in the middle of the interchange, at that perilous point where vehicles turn left across oncoming traffic.

Source: The Atlantic "Cities"

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Training Opportunities

Online training series: introduction to Geospatial ISO Metadata
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) is offering **Introduction to Geospatial ISO Metadata**, a free, online training series beginning in January 2013.
NCDDC set out to meet the increased needs of data managers as many organizations transition to ISO standards. Working with other metadata trainers within the community, the NCDDC Metadata Team developed a complete package of training materials concerning ISO metadata standards. Conducting this training online is an innovative way to meet the increasing demand for such training.
The NCDDC has conducted two prior metadata training series online in which over 1500 participants from 18 countries on five continents took part. The success of those efforts led to the continuation and expansion of the training being offered.
Registration is now open for the next series which will be held every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m-10:30 a.m. US Central Standard Time (CST) from January 15 until March 5, 2013. Unfortunately this translates to 4:30 a.m-5:30 a.m. New Zealand Daylight Time (NZDT) on Wednesdays beginning 16th Jan. Hey! The early bird gets the worm. **[this is near 11 PM Tuesdays – 1 AM Wednesdays for most of the Asia-Pacific countries]**
The series will start with an introduction to metadata, and cover topics such as XML basics, tools, and data discovery. All materials will be made available online, and instructors will be available by request for special one-on-one "My Metadata" sessions to answer specific questions for individual participants.
 To register or for more information, please visit
Thanks to Ross Johnson for this item

Course Spotlight: Master of Spatial Information Science

The University of Melbourne Course Spotlight: Master of Spatial Information Science
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Spatial Data Infrastructure
Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

Spatial information is an essential and indispensable part of any economy's infrastructure. It is needed in all walks of life and on many scales, with applications in land tenure systems, environmental modelling, food production, disaster management, climate change modelling, engineering, architecture and urban planning. Current industry shortfalls in spatial information practitioners combined with a growing demand in Australia and internationally, ensure graduates a range of well-paid job opportunities.

Find out more about the Master of Spatial Information Science, as well as our scholarship opportunities.

Learn to Use HTML5 with Esri ArcGIS

Get a brief introduction to HTML5 and learn how to use HTML5 technologies with the ArcGIS API for JavaScript and ArcGIS Online.

Source: GIS User and ESRI

Large-Scale 3D Laser Scanning: The Complete Process

Don't worry if you missed the live webinar, "Large-Scale 3D Laser Scanning: The Complete Process". It's now available online for you to watch any time!

e-Learning for the Open Geospatial Community

We are pleased to inform that the course repository for the ELOGeo (An e-Learning Framework for Using Geospatial Open Data, Open Source and Open Standards) project is ready.

ELOGeo is a JISC-funded project based at the Centre for Geospatial Science, the University of Nottingham in partnership with the Mimas Centre of Excellence at the University of Manchester. ELOGeo main collaborators are Open Source Geospatial Foundation, Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Ordnance Survey, Open Nottingham, International Cartographic Association (ICA) and gvSIG Association.

More details of ELOGeo.

gvSIG Training platform opens with a first course for gvSIG users

The gvSIG Association tries to increase its learning offer through online courses, publishing a new learning platform: gvSIG Training. In parallel, the gvSIG Association launches its official certification program.

It's a step forward in the training processes in free geomatic, creating an online training centre, that contributes to the spreading as well as to the sustainability of the gvSIG project. Training without geographic barriers, and with the best professionals.

In this platform, you will find courses in several languages to learn to use the different applications of the gvSIG project, in a user level as well as in a developer one. The courses list will be extended gradually with different gvSIG and free geomatic specialization courses (databases, map servers...), with the objective of covering the different needs of the Community.

The courses offered by gvSIG Training are part of the training routes that are required to obtain the gvSIG official certification.

For further information:

- gvSIG Training: <http://gvsig-training.com/>
- gvSIG Certifications: <http://www.gvsig.com/services/certification>

GIS Courses by Distance Education
NSW Riverina Tafe

The courses listed below are all full Geographic Information Systems courses which can be studied over a number of semesters by distance study pathways.

> Certificate III in Spatial Information Services (GIS)
> Certificate IV in Spatial Information Services (GIS)
> Diploma of Spatial Information Services (GIS)

Source: NSW River

Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication Training Kit now available on-line

Co-published by CTA and IFAD in English and Spanish, the Training Kit is a unique product that can be tailored to meet user needs, ensuring that employees get the best training available on Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication.

The online version was launched at the beginning of March 2011. The DVD version was launched in December 2010. The Training Kit contains 15 Modules, each presented through a series of Units. Modules cover the entire spectrum of good developmental practice – from mobilising communities to developing a communication strategy based on the outcome of participatory mapping activities. The Modules touch on topics such as the

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fundamentals of training, ethics and community groundwork and processes as well as the more technical low-, mid- and high-tech participatory mapping methods.

Users decide what they want to cover and when. The product has been developed using the Multimedia Training Kit (MMTK) approach – which allows you to pick and choose those Modules, Units and components that best suit your particular requirements and develop a curriculum to suit your specific needs.

Publishers: Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA), Wageningen, The Netherlands and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, Italy

Source: The Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation

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Funding Opportunities, Awards, Grants

GDN Global Development Awards and Medals Competition

Gear up to submit new research proposals and completed papers for the **2012 GDN Global Development Awards and Medals Competition (AMC)**. The **Global Development Network** is inviting researchers from developing countries and transition economies to submit proposals and completed papers. Here is your chance to receive up to US$ 30,000 as part of the Competition.

Competition Categories:
- **Medals for Research on Development (Medals)** for exceptional completed research papers
- **Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD**) for original, policy-relevant research proposals

Opportunities for Finalists and Winners:
- The top-ranked Medals finalists under each theme to present their papers at the **plenary sessions** in the 14th Annual Global Development Conference to be held in Manila, The Philippines, in June 2013 (discussants and panelists will comprise well-established scholars/experts). **Travel and stay will be funded by GDN**
- The ORD finalists under each theme to present their proposals at the parallel sessions in the 14th Annual Global Development Conference. **Travel and stay will be funded by GDN**
- Participate in a **two-day training workshop** before the Conference to **enhance your research communications skills**
- The winners will be chosen by an eminent jury at the Conference

Research Themes:

Proposals and completed research papers are being invited for the following themes:
- **Inequality**
- **Social Protection and Social Policies**
- **Inclusive Growth**

Application Deadline: 11 March, 2013 (Indian Standard Time 6:00 PM)

To Apply: Please visit. All applications and documents must be submitted electronically.

For queries related to the Competition, please write to us.

For more details, please log on.

Call for participation: 2013 Robert Raskin Mashup Mapping Competition

Cyberinfrastructure has been taking an increasingly important role in providing a Web-based collaborative environment to enable effective discovery of geospatial knowledge. In order to: (1) promote research and awareness of web-based GIS and Mashup applications, (2) encourage spatial thinking and the development of geospatial cyberinfrastructure in colleges and universities in the United States, and (3) inspire curiosity about geographic patterns and web map representation for students and the broader public, the "First Robert Raskin Mashup Mapping Competition" will take place during the AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, April 9-13, 2013. This map competition is sponsored by the AAG Cyberinfrastructure Specialty Group and hosted at San Diego State University.

Full-time college students at all levels are encouraged to submit their mashup mapping solutions. Participants can use any commercial or open-source toolkit such as Google Map APIs, Bing Map APIs, OpenStreet maps, ArcGIS online, OpenLayers etc. to develop mashup maps. The map should be accessed via web browsers and be connected at least two different online data resources (for "mashup"). Recommended application areas

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include, but not limited to: crime, public health issues, transportation, climate, urban planning, and disaster of all kinds.

The competition will provide travel fund ($100 per person) for the top five candidates to give an oral presentation at the AAG annual meeting. The best submission will be awarded the "First Prize in 2013 Robert Raskin Mashup Mapping Competition" with $700 and a certificate. Meanwhile, the Competition will also announce the "Most Popular Mashup Award" (no in-person attendance to AAG required) at the meeting. The recipient will be awarded $200 and a certificate as well.

The Competition now is open to submissions, and **the deadline is February 11, 2013**.

For detailed information about this competition and contest rules, please visit the Competition website.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact.

Ideas Challenge

The Ideas Challenge is at the core of the GMES Masters competition. It invites students, entrepreneurs, start-up companies and SMEs to submit their ideas for an innovative commercial use of GMES to a secure online database on the GMES Masters website. The best idea for a commercially viable business idea using GMES data will be rewarded. The winner will be rewarded with a cash prize of EUR 10,000 as well as the chance to get his idea further developed in one of the six ESA Business Incubation Centres (BICs). The incubation package has a value of up to EUR 60,000.

ESA App Challenge

The European Space Agency (ESA) will award the ESA App Challenge to the best application idea for the usage of GMES on mobile phones. Proposals shall address one or more GMES main thematic areas (land, marine environment, atmosphere, climate change, emergency management). ESA is looking for ideas that can be implemented quickly into a profitable business. The application should consist of a base app containing info and news on GMES, as well as one or more specific content modules that provide relevant location-based data to users in real time. The winner will be considered for support by one of the six European Space Agency's Business Incubation Centres (ESA BICs) across Europe (value up to EUR 60,000).

European Space Imaging High-Res Challenge

European Space Imaging (EUSI) is Europe's leading provider of Very High-Resolution (VHR) satellite data. EUSI will award the best application idea using the most advanced VHR satellite data. Application ideas which are easily implementable, sustainable, cut costs and create efficiencies are of high interest. Participants are required to submit detailed application ideas including business concepts. The winner will be awarded a data package of EUSI satellite data worth up to EUR 20,000 for use in further developing the winning application.

DLR Environmental Challenge

DLR is looking for new applications in Earth observation, especially proposals addressing the mapping of the environment and climate. Ideas for using Earth observation to manage sustainable supplies of energy are also welcome. In addition to any kind of non-satellite geoinformation, proposals should be based on existing or imminent Earth observation satellite data that is available either for free or under commercial terms. The product or service generated from the idea should support either professionals from organisations and companies in environmental assessment, or the general public and consumer-oriented markets. Both regional and global applications and services are possible. Innovative ways to link the service with users are especially encouraged. The ideas should also describe a realistic scenario for their implementation involving either the general public or commercial benefits. The winner(s) will receive a voucher for a workshop or initial coaching according to what further realisation of the idea requires.

Best Service Challenge

The Best Service Challenge invites service providers to upload profiles of their existing services within the main thematic areas of GMES to the GMES Masters competition website. The Best Service Challenge aims at increasing the awareness of existing Earth Monitoring Services and their benefits to European citizens. The winner of the Best Service Challenge will benefit from a substantial satellite data quota made available with financial support by the European Commission.

T-Systems Cloud Computing Challenge

T-Systems will award the prize for its Cloud Computing Challenge to the best GMES application or service idea that will make use of the cloud computing model Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) to provide Earth observation data on demand via user-oriented web portal or mobile devices. T-Systems will assist the winner in getting the

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awarded project off the ground. They will support the winner to realise an innovation project, which could lead to a long-term partnership.

Challenge to spur the geospatial industry
The Singapore Land Authority has launched OneMap Challenge that seeks to promote the development of innovative map-based desktop and mobile applications by businesses and the community.
The OneMap Challenge provides a platform for application developers to showcase their creativity through the apps they develop to an increasingly tech-savvy population and enterprises, including those represented by the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (ASME) which is one of the competition promotion partners. The Challenge also aims to facilitate collaborations between potential business partners for creating location-based apps that are useful for business enterprises and the general community.
With two top prizes of $20,000 cash each and other attractive prizes up for grabs, the OneMap Challenge is divided into two categories – Web Applications for applications that run on web browsers and Mobile Applications for those that run on smart phones, tablets and other portable devices.
Visit http://www.sla.gov.sg/OneMapChallenge to learn more about OneMap Challenge and check out the OneMap Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OneMap.
Source: Geospatial World and SLA press release

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Employment Opportunities

GIS Job Board Launches New Website: www.gisjobboard.com
New Site Provides Employers and Job Seekers Tools to Post and Search Jobs and Resumes in the GIS and Geospatial Disciplines
GIS Job Board has launched a new website specifically dedicated to GIS and other geospatial disciplines. The new site makes it simple for employers and job seekers to post and search for jobs and resumes. The site was created to serve the growing needs of the GIS community and help with recruiting and job seeking efforts.
Visitors also have the option to view the site in a different language if they choose, making it easier for them to have access to the content
Registered users can receive jobs or resumes by email. They can also flag jobs and resumes as well as save searches, setup resume alerts, and save resumes and jobs. Users have the capability of private messaging other users in case they ever want to communicate with someone.
For more information about GIS Job Board, please visit their website at **www.gisjobboard.com**

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Conference Proceedings

Modernization of land administration and management systems   Uganda: 17-18 January 2013

Implementation of land information systems (LIS): sharing experiences, innovations and good practices.
Throughout the two day conference, discussions focused on technical issues related to the choice of the solutions adopted, the methodologies to be implemented and the technical equipment installed. Other topics included issues of protection against hacking, the importance of training local people, the communication targeting administrative staff and the public, and the importance of measuring concrete benefits of such projects and their returns on investment. Several presentations focused on the use of aerial photography or satellite imagery in cadaster projects. As the cost of a geographic dataset depends heavily on its accuracy, it is essential to define the data sources that will be used for the establishment of the cadastral reference from the start.
Picking up a key point of discussion on the theme of the added value of NSDI projects for developing countries at the regional conference IGN France International held in April 2012 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) **the link between land projects and National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) was also addressed. Land projects are sometimes considered the cornerstone of NSDI initiatives**. However the situation varies considerably from one country to another. Clear links exist between LIS projects and NSDI initiatives; however,
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some countries initiated NSDI projects without systematic land initiatives, while others have taken advantage of LIS projects to develop national spatial data infrastructure.

Most agreed that the highest authorities must play a determining role in the definition of public policies legal frameworks and the way these projects move forward. Without this strategic vision, both LIS and NSDI projects encounter difficulties fail to get off the ground or are not become sustainable. **The completion of a geographic data set appears to be an essential component for both LIS or NSDI projects** and should be taken into account from the very beginning.

In her final intervention, the Minister of Lands insisted on the added value of the LI project led by IGN France International. Securing land titles will reduce poverty and enhance economic development in Uganda.

More details on the regional conference and the programmes will be available at: www.lis-uganda.go.ug and at www.ignfi.com

GISSA Ukubuzana 2012 Conference Proceedings

Almost 600 delegates and 66 exhibitors attended the Geo-Information Society of South Africa (GISSA) Ukubuzana 2012 conference which was held at Emperors Palace from 2 to 4 October 2012 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Some 60 peer-reviewed academic papers, general papers, short papers and poster papers were presented at GISSA Ukubuzana 2012. A particular hit with the delegates were the local government, demographic and mobile streams.

Documentation: 19th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

The 19th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 29 October to 1 November 2012. Documentation from the event is available online. The Permanent Committee on GIS for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP) decided to rename itself UNGGIM-AP.

The 4th Digital Earth Summit Concludes in Wellington, New Zealand

The fourth bi-annual Digital Earth Summit was held in Wellington, New Zealand from Sept. 2-4, as one in a series of summits organized by the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE). The summit with the theme "Digital Earth and Technology" was co-hosted by Wellington City Council and Land Information New Zealand. There were three streams that included the digital environment, resilient cities, and growing up digital. There were 15 keynote speeches and 75 presentations, attracting around 200 delegates from more than 20 countries.

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Conferences, Events

For upcoming events of global or major international interest, please visit the upcoming conference list on the GSDI website – as this conference list will be reserved for conferences within or with specific interest to the Asia Pacific Region.

The editors welcome news of conferences & events from the newsletter subscribers

Call for Expression of Interest to host AARSE 2014 and future Conferences

Call for Expression of Interest to host the 10th biennial International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) in October 2014 and future Conferences.

Date	Location	Event
February 2013		
4-6 February	Doha, Qatar	**2nd High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management** Annotated agenda,
11-3 February	Denver, USA	**International LiDAR Mapping Forum (ILMF)** Call for Papers and invites any interested parties to submit their abstracts by September 28, 2012 online. Contact
27 February	Sydney, Australia	**GeoNext** Contact a conference on location-based technology & business. GeoNext is

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"NEW"		aimed at all practitioners of location-based technology. The audience will comprise experts from the fields of GIS, mapping, mobility, software development and business – anyone with an interest in the next evolution of geo and the opportunities it brings. Join the conversation with leading developers, businesses and entrepreneurs, and learn about the future of location technology, data sharing, the latest location start-ups and much more.
March 2013		
11-15 March **"AMENDED"**	Islamabad, Pakistan	**United Nations/Pakistan International Workshop on Integrated Use of Space Technologies for Food and Water Security** The completed application form, properly endorsed by the applicant's government/institution, should be received by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs no later than Monday, 21 January 2013. Applications received after the deadline will be considered, but applicants will not be eligible for financial support.
18-9 March	Singapore	**1st Annual International Conference on ACE:** **Call For Papers 2013** IMPORTANT DATES Full Paper Submission Deadline:23rd November 2012Author Notification:7th December 2012Final Paper (Camera-Ready) Submission Deadline:31st December 2012 Early Bird Registration Deadline:18th January 2013 Late Registration Deadline:13th February Contact
24-28 March **"NEW"**	Baltimore, USA	**ASPRS 2013 Annual Conference**: Confluence by the Bay - A Gathering of Geospatial Insights
25-7 March	Amman, Jordan	**Spatial Data infrastructures Middle East, 2013** In the Middle East the development of geographic information systems and their function has been rapid. Governments have over the past decade realised the need to be able to access and use the vast amounts of data collected on a daily basis. Whilst individual departments or agencies posses the tools to analyse, utilise and disseminate information this can leave gaps at a governmental or even national level. Benefits of attending the Spatial Data Infrastructure Middle East Conference, organized with the support of Royal Jordanian Geographic Center: - Explore Geographic Information Systems and how your specific organisation can benefit from a unified and achievable plan - Discuss future SDI development plans with senior Government decision makers - Discover end-users GIS and geospatial requirements and solutions being considered - Find out the challenges faced in building an SDI and how to overcome them - Hear about how government department interoperability can be improved through the development of an SDI - Learn about the latest technologies available and which is the best fit for your SDI plans
April 2013		
15-9 April	Canberra, Australia	**Surveying & Spatial Sciences Conference 2013** *Call for Papers extended to 6 October 2012*
22-26 April	Beijing, China	**35th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment (ISRSE35)**

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	35th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment	*The papers included in the 35th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment proceedings will be published by IOP Publishing Ltd., UK. The proceedings are available through the IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science. All published papers will be indexed by EI Compendex.* *Authors interested in the themes and topics of ISRSE35 are welcome to submit their original manuscripts. Submissions to ISRSE35 will be peer-reviewed to ensure high-quality scientific content and well-written English, in accordance with the Peer Review Policy for the IOP Conference Series.* **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION** Interested contributors should submit a summary of the paper they propose for presentation. ● All submissions should be in English. ● Abstracts should reach the Technical Programme Committee no later than 30 September 2012. ● Notification of paper acceptance will be made by 10 December 2012. ● Each presenting author will be required to register and pay by the author registration deadline on Monday, 25 February 2013, to ensure their abstract is included in the final programme. ● Please submit abstracts through the Abstract Submission link at http://www.isrse35.org ● All abstracts must be submitted online. **IMPORTANT DATES:** Registration Opens: Monday, 10 September 2012 Abstract Submission Deadline: Sunday, 30 September 2012 Workshop Submission Deadline: Tuesday, 30 October 2012 Acceptance Notification Monday, 10 December 2012 Early-bird Registration Deadline: Friday, 25 January 2013 Final Paper Deadline: Friday, 15 February 2013 Author Registration Deadline: Monday, 25 February 2013 Standard Registration Deadline Monday, 15 April 2013 Contact detail: ISRSE35 Secretariat E-Mail: isrse35@ceode.ac.cn Tel: +86 10 8217 8969 Fax: +86 10 8217 8968 Website: www.isrse35.org Address: Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth, CAS No. 9 Dengzhuang South Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100094, P.R. China
24 - 26 April	Novosibirsk, Russia	**Siberia - Interexpo GEO-Siberia 2013** IX International exhibition and scientific congress "Interexpo GEO-Siberia-2013" -"Advanced Geospatial and Surveying Technologies for Environmental Management and Sustainable Development" **Contact :** http://www.ssga.ru/main/news/view/428/1/5555.html
25 - 26 April **"AMENDED"**	Singapore	**First Asia Pacific 3D Documentation Conference** *Connecting 3D Communities* ***DEADLINE for Abstracts = 8 February***
May 2013		
1 – 3 May	Tainan, Taiwan	**8th International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology (MMT 2013)** MMT is an academic conference officially recognized by International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing MMT 2013 Symposium: 1st May-3rd May, 2013 MMT 2013 Summer School: 29th-30th April, 2013 **Contact :** http://conf.ncku.edu.tw/mmt2013/index.htm

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6-10 May	Abuja, Nigeria	The **FIG Working Week** The Working Week will bring surveyors and land professionals from all over the world together to meet while specific focus will be given to Africa. The conference is organised jointly by **FIG** and the **Nigerian Institution of Surveyors, NIS**, one of the three FIG member associations in Nigeria.
13-16 May **"AMENDED & UPDATED"**	Rotterdam, The Netherlands	**Register before 15th Feb 2013 to avail complementary Awards Night and Gala Dinner Ticket** **Geospatial World Forum** is a conference cum exhibition which has always invoked the geospatial community with its relevant and thought-provoking themes. This year, the conference which is scheduled from **13-16 May 2013** at **Beurs World Trade Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands** aims at increasing our understanding of the concept of Monetising the value added by geospatial industry so far with its theme "**Monetising Geospatial Value and Practices**". Please submit your abstracts. For queries.
30 May - 1 June **"NEW"**	Hong Kong	**8th International Symposium on Spatial Data Quality 2013** Deadline for abstract submission: **PASSED** The Symposium provides an interdisciplinary forum for leading scientists and young researchers to present their latest research developments and share their experience in this field. The Symposium will include keynote speeches and parallel sessions. **Themes** - Uncertainties in real world entities and ontology - Spatial accuracy assessment - Accuracy evaluation for DEM - Temporal uncertainty in spatial data - Incompleteness of spatial data - Logical consistence in spatial database - Semantic uncertainty in geographic data - Uncertainty in remotely sensed image processing - Uncertainty versus scales - Quality assessment in spatial data generalization - Spatial data models for uncertain objects in GIS - Model validation with imperfect ground truth data - Assessment of quality of crowdsourcing spatial data - Uncertainty propagation in spatial analyses and operations - Spatial querying and reasoning with uncertain data - Uncertainty in geographical and environmental analysis - Spatial data quality and decision making - Spatial statistics - Geostatistical methods for spatial data quality assessment - Stochastic spatial simulation - Spatial data quality and web- and mobile-based services - Uncertainty in geovisual analytics - Quality of spatial data visualization - Meta-data and model for GIS data
June 2013		
19 – 21 June **"NEW"**	Manila, Philippines	**14th Annual Global Development Conference**
24 – 27 June	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	**Eighth International Conference on "Geographical Analysis, Urban Modeling, Spatial Statistics" GEOG-AND-MOD 13** in conjunction with The 2013 International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (ICCSA 2013) Submission - papers should be submitted at: http://ess.iccsa.org/

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		[please don't forget to select "**Geographical Analysis, Urban Modeling, Spatial Statistics GEOG-AND-MOD 13**" workshop from the drop-down list of all workshops.] **Important dates** 31 January 2013: Deadline for full paper submission 10 March 2013: Notification of acceptance 6 April 2013: Deadline for Camera Ready Papers June 24-27, 2013: ICCSA 2013 Conference

24 – 27 June
 	
"NEW"
	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	**1st International Workshop on Agricultural and Environmental Information and Decision Support Systems (AEIDSS 2013)**
		in conjunction with
		The 2013 International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (ICCSA 2013
		Deadline for Full Paper submission: extended to February 1, 2013
		Notification of Acceptance: March 10, 2013
		Workshop description:
		Monitor and manage sanitary risks, study climate change, environmental impacts in connexion with agricultural practices (the use of pesticides, for example), mapping the good ecological status of rivers, simulate spread of forest fires ... are environmental and agricultural challenges for which Information and Decision Support Systems represent effective solutions. New theoretical and technical challenges emerge from the integration of several scientific domains such as agronomy, mathematics, information technology and computer science. The objective of the proposed workshop is to show how the latest advances in research in information and decision-support systems can be applied to environmental and agricultural matters.
		Information and Decision Support Systems topics (include but are not limited to):
		   * Database, Data Warehouses
		   * Geographic Information Systems
		   * Cloud/Grid Computing
		   * Distributed information systems
		   * Interoperability between information systems
		   * Data Integration
		   * Geovisulization Knowledge management
		   * Spatial Big Data
		   * Geosensor network
		   * Software Engineering
		   * Data Mining ...
		Proceedings and Journal special issue:
		Accepted papers of the Workshops will be included in a Springer-Verlag Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) volume.
		Selected papers will be invited to submit extended versions to a special issue of the Ecological Informatics journal.

July 2013		
2 – 5 July	Salzburg, Austria	**GI Forum 2013 – Creating the GISociety** The international **GI Forum** attracts an **interdisciplinary** audience interested in discussing progress and new ideas in GIScience. The GI_Forum communicates**innovative research and learning in Geographic Information Science** with focus on hardware, software, orgware and brainware for the GISociety, and their inter-relationships. Young researchers are especially invited to contribute and discuss their research. Together with recognized scientists they will find a vibrant community from academia, business, and education ready to embrace new ideas and explore new research directions. GI Forum runs concurrently with the highly regarded

		German language conference on Applied Geoinformatics – AGIT. The two symposia share some 1200 participants, the innovative AGIT EXPO exhibit and stimulating social events. Submission deadline **February 1, 2013**. Contact.
16 – 18 July	Gold Coast, Australia	**IGNSS 2013** The International Global Navigation Satellite Systems (IGNSS) Society Inc. is pleased to announce IGNSS 2013 ***Closing Date for Submission of Abstracts:* Monday 4th February, 2013:** Information regarding on line submission of abstracts and abstract templates will be updated in due course on the IGNSS Society website . ***Submission of Peer Reviewed and Non Peer Reviewed Papers:*** Information regarding On Line Submission of Peer Reviewed and Non Peer Reviewed Papers will be updated in due course on the IGNSS Society website (Click here). ***IGNSS Free Membership:*** There is no fee to register for Membership of the IGNSS Society. Complete the On Line Membership Form . Benefits of Membership include reduced Symposium Registration Fees. **Contact :** http://www.ignss.org/
21 – 26 July	Melbourne, Australia	**IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS)** On behalf of the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society and the IGARSS 2013 Local Organising Committee, we are delighted to invite you to Melbourne, Australia for IGARSS 2013. We are looking forward to welcoming leading scientists, engineers and educators from the diverse disciplines that make up the Geoscience and Remote Sensing community. We also hope to attract new delegates from the Asia-Pacific and Oceania regions.We will be offering a world class technical program encompassing traditional IGARSS topics and new topics reflecting the theme of the 2013 Conference, "Building a Sustainable Earth through Remote Sensing". This theme was selected to emphasize the issues that most affect the Earth's environment, and the human impact on the planet. We welcome both seasoned and new delegates to Melbourne in July 2013.
August 2013		
26-29 August	Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia	**The 8th International Symposium on Digital Earth** (ISDE8) with the theme of "Transforming Knowledge into Sustainable Practice" will be held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. Abstract Guidelines for authors. **DEADLINE:** 2 February 2013
September 2013		
2 – 4 September	Jakarta, Indonesia	**UN/Indonesia Workshop on Climate Change** **No website/URL at this stage**
24-26 September	Kuala Lumpur	**Asia Geospatial Forum 2013** Contact
October 2013		
15 – 17 October	Coombe Abbey, Warwickshire, UK	**1st call for papers** for the **9th International Workshop of the EARSeL Special Interest Group (SIG) on Forest Fires**. The workshop is organised by the University of Leicester with support from the Laboratory of Forest Management and Remote Sensing, Faculty of Forestry and Natural Environment, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Contact **The deadline for abstract submission is 1 March 2013.**

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November 2013		
4-8 November	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	**GSDI 14 and AfricaGIS 2013:** The GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the International Geospatial Society, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are pleased to announce a close partnership in offering the joint GSDI 14 World Conference and AfricaGIS 2013 Conference. The theme of the conference is **Spatially Enabling Africa in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction**.
2014		
	Malaysia	Malaysia will be hosting the (International Federation of Surveyors) FIG Congress in 2014. The decision was taken at the recently concluded FIG Congress 2010 in Sydney, Australia.

To subscribe to SDI-AP, please do so online. To contact please email the editors. Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association.

Please mention SDI-AP as a source of information in any correspondence you may have about items in this issue.