Spatial Data Infrastructure Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

SDI-AP	January 2009	Vol. 6, No. 1

Spatial Data Infrastructure – Asia and the Pacific (SDI-AP) is a free electronic newsletter from the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI). 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 the synchronisation of 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, please go to: http://www.gsdi.org/newslist/gsdisubscribe.asp. Back issues of the newsletter are at the GSDI website: http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters.asp. 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 to, and access archives of, thematic or regional discussion lists please visit http://www.gsdi.org/discussionlists.asp.

Contents

Message from the editor

Welcome to the New Year 2009 and the January 2009 issue of the GDSI-AP Newsletter. In this edition the *SDI Spotlight* features are by the editors and review the book arising from the 2007 Wageningen Workshop and the past year 2008.

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** to sdi-ap@gsdi.org, for your contribution to be included in the next newsletter.

Malcolm Park and Serryn Eagleson (Editors) Editor.SDIAP@gmail.com
Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration, The University of Melbourne
http://www.geom.unimelb.edu.au/research/SDI_research/index.html

Spatial Data Infrastructure
Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

Contributions

Thank you to the following people and organisations for their contributions to this issue:
Paul Box and Kate Lance for news feeds, Jeremy Huang and Jeremy Shen from the Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan for the Chinese translation, and Shivani Lal, *GIS Development* and *Asia Surveying Mapping Magazine* for directly feeding into the newsletter.

SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

2nd International Conference on Advances in Space Technologies (ICAST- 2008)
The conference was held 29-30 November 2008 at Islamabad and was organized by Institute of Geographical Information Systems (IGIS), National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Islamabad Section, and IEEE/AESS (Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society) Islamabad Chapter and IEEE/GRSS (Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society) Islamabad Chapter.

This year the theme of the conference was "**Space in the Service of Mankind**". Therefore, this event was geared towards those who make use of space technology in their daily work. The conference was attended by space scientists, researchers, policy makers and key persons of NMOs such as Survey of Pakistan. A number of students from varying disciplines such as Remote Sensing, Space Technology, GIS and IT were also invited in the conference in order to educate them on potential use of space technologies and subsequently to support them in their future work related to the development of space services for mankind. For more information see: http://icast2008.com/
Source: Asmat Ali, Survey of Pakistan

Ensuring That Spatial Data Can't Hide
This white paper outlines the value of spatial data in meeting the business needs of the utilities industry. In particular the focus of the paper is on key challenges faced by the utilities companies, how an intelligent grid can help, the role of spatial information, where utilities have to improve and recommendations from utilities as they seek to improve access to spatial data.
Source: Energy Insights, Sponsored by: Microsoft http://download.microsoft.com/download/1/5/E/15E04B02-52AC-4764-ABB2-5E05C387A227/EnablingSmartGrid.pdf

Australian national coastal website
Geoscience Australia, the national custodian for coastal geoscientific data and information, launched the OzCoasts web-based database and information system in August (http://www.ozcoasts.org.au/). The website will contribute to improving natural resource management and the conservation of Australia's coastal zone, estuaries and near-shore environments.
The website was designed with input from over 100 scientists and resource managers from more than 50 organisations including government, universities and the National Estuaries Network. Each month approximately 15,000 visitors from more than 138 countries visit the website to view around 52,000 pages. Maps, images, reports and data can be downloaded to assist with estuary and coastal science, monitoring and management.
Source: GeoScience, Australia http://www.ga.gov.au/ausgeonews/ausgeonews200809/ozcoast.jsp

Complete ban on 'Google earth' sought
Two years ago former President Abdul Kalam had expressed concerns that unrestricted pictures on Google Earth of sensitive locations in India could have worrisome implications.
Earlier few media had reported, the Indian government and Google Earth had agreed to show "fuzzy, low-resolution or distorted pictures" of sensitive military and scientific establishments on the web. However, following the 26/11 terror attacks, a Mumbai-based advocate has moved Bombay high court seeking a

"complete ban on Google Earth and similar sites like Wikimapia" in the larger interest of national security. Advocate Amit Karkhanis filed a public interest litigation (PIL) on Monday, stating that the websites gave minute details and provided viewers with photographs and "extremely accurate navigational coordinates" as well.
Source: *Times of India* http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com < http://tinyurl.com/5uvqz9 >
GIS Development http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_jyernzakqg
SEE ALSO *Asia Surveying & Mapping* http://www.asmmag.com/news/will-india-ban-google- and
http://www.asmmag.com/news/ban-google-earth-a-lesson-from-mumbai

See also:
India Moves to Map Coast
Given the attack from the sea in Mumbai, the Indian government is moving to map coastal zones and is considering identity cards for fishermen and others that work in the sea. The government is assessing security and surveillance capabilities, and is investing in more coast guard vessels to monitor and police India's 7,500 km of coastline.
Source: V1 Newsletter http://vector1media.com/spatialsustain/?p=1703

See also:
Terrorist (and Anti-Terrorist) Data
The revelation that the Mumbai terrorists had much better knowledge than Indian security forces of the internal layout of two five star hotels – the Taj and the Oberoi - has concentrated attention on the availability of high resolution 3D data on the internal structure of buildings.
Source: *Asian Surveying & Mapping* http://www.asmmag.com/news/terrorist-and-anti-terrorist-data

Landgate innovative tools for carbon accounting
A ground-breaking suite of online Carbon Accounting tools for forest carbon sink projects is being developed by Landgate, Western Australia's Land Information Authority.
Source: http://www.geoconnexion.com/geo_news_article/Landgate-innovative-tools-for-carbon-accounting-/4766)

Maritime Piracy Mapping
Piracy was in the news in the last few weeks, and many people have learned it is more widespread than they realized. The ICC Commercial Crime Services maintains a map of piracy data collected by the International Maritime Bureau. The map shows incidents reported so far in 2008, highlighting one incident of a chemical tanker which was boarded in January off the coast of Mozambique.
Source: *Directions Magazine* 5 December 2008
See also http://apb.directionsmag.com/archives/5119-Video-UNOSAT-Maps-Chronicle-Somali-Pirate-Attacks-in-Gulf-of-Aden.html

Haryana, India to use remote sensing for monitoring drought
Haryana government is planning to use remote sensing satellites for monitoring drought situation in the state, an official spokesman said here.
Source: Samaylive.com http://www.samaylive.com/ and *GIS Development*
http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_pzarbwsqiu&Ezine=dec1508&section=News

Spatial Data Audits: Maximizing Value and Minimizing Risk Associated With Your Spatial Data Assets
Does your company need a spatial data audit? Attorney Kevin Pomfret discusses what the audit is, who needs one, and why it's important. Spatial data can be a valuable company asset and revenue source. However, they can also be a potential source of liability. The potential for liability is increased due to the number of unique legal and policy issues associated with spatial data - in areas such as data quality, data ownership, privacy and national security.
Source: *Directions Magazine*, 16 December, 2008

Sustainability: Designing a Better World article by Angus Stocking
It is easy to cite heart-stopping statistics when discussing the urgent need for worldwide sustainability initiatives. How about 1.1 billion of the world's 6 billion people not having adequate access to clean drinking water and 2.6 billion not having adequate sanitation services. Or 3 billion people in developing countries living on less than $2

per day. Clearly, action is required if we intend the planet to support society into perpetuity, not to mention offer the opportunity for all people to realize the quality of life enjoyed in the developed world.
Source: V1 Newsletter

A step towards timely flood forecasting - Satellite rainfall estimation comes to South Asia

A five-day workshop on *Application of Satellite Rainfall Estimation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region* concluded last week in Kathmandu, Nepal (from 15-19 December 2008). Technical experts from national hydrological and meteorological services and academic institutions in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan were joined by experts from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Japan, to develop the application of satellite rainfall estimation methods in the countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. The workshop was an important step towards improved forecasting of floods and monitoring of droughts by improving estimation of rainfall using advanced remote sensing tools. At present, rainfall measurements in the mountain regions of the extended Himalayan change are very limited as large parts of the region are poorly accessible and have limited infrastructure, and there are very few ground-based monitoring stations. But it is this rainfall that is mainly responsible for the downstream floods in South Asia.

Sponsored by the US Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) the workshop was a part of the second phase of a project on Application of Satellite Rainfall Estimation (SRE) in the HKH region which will run from December 2008 to June 2010.

Accurate estimates of rainfall are needed to forecast floods and droughts, and minimise their impacts. Until recently, the main method used to estimate rainfall in an area was interpolation of measurements from a network of hydro-meteorological stations. The closer the spacing between stations, the more accurate the total rainfall estimate. In mountainous areas, however, measuring stations are often few and far between, and the available rainfall information is inadequate for forecasting floods with any certainty. The Himalayan satellite rainfall estimation projects will help countries in the region to estimate rainfall better using satellite observations, and will assist the countries to build and enhance their capacity in rainfall estimation and applications. It is hoped that the improved rainfall estimates will contribute to enabling reliable and timely flood forecasts and warning, and contribute to minimising loss of life and property in the region.
SOURCE: Kate Lance and
The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) http://www.icimod.org/?page=296

Asia Launches SAFE for Climate Change

Asian nations meeting at the 15th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum at Ha Long Bay in Vietnam (9-12 December) have agreed to develop a platform for prototype systems for environmental monitoring. The project, called SAFE (Space Application for Environment), is intended to assess the regional impacts of climate change, among other uses.
Source: *Asian Surveying & Mapping* http://www.asmmag.com/news/asia-s-space-initiatives-for-climate-change

Xinjiang Considers Australian Land Information System

A Chinese delegation from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is visiting Australia to discuss the commercialisation of the Northern Territory government's Integrated Land Information System (ILIS). This technology is particularly interesting to the Xinjiang government, which is in the process of reforming land ownership in rural areas.
Source: *Asian Surveying & Mapping* http://www.asmmag.com/news/xinjiang-considers-australian-land-information-system

JAXA Joins UNESCO World Heritage Initiative

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has joined a partnership with UNESCO, under which it will mobilise the Advanced Land Observing Satellite (ALOS) for the study and safeguarding of World Heritage sites. JAXA joins a group of more than 50 partners, including 25 space agencies.
Source: *Asian Surveying & Mapping* http://www.asmmag.com/news/jaxa-joins-unesco-open-initiative

Spatial Data Infrastructure Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

New Technology for Detecting Land Mines

The detection and accurate location of unexploded land mines, bombs or shells is a serious problem. A joint American-Australian team is working to develop a system based on multi-sensor integration. Highly accurate and highly reliable, this new geo-location system will significantly improve the state of the art.
Source: *Asian Surveying & Mapping* http://www.asmmag.com/features/new-technology-for-detecting-land-mines

NZ's largest coastal mapping survey successful

The largest coastal mapping survey in New Zealand waters, which covered more than 3500 square kilometres of Northland's seabed, has revealed reefs, new information about the iconic Hole in the Rock and mapped a prominent wreck site.
Three National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) vessels mapped the Bay of Islands and eastern Northland coast seabed during October and November as part of the government's Ocean Survey 20/20 programme, co-ordinated by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ).
Source: *Scoop Independent News* http://www.scoop.co.nz and *GIS News*
http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_mdxtfpazcb&Ezine=dec2208&section=News

Surface Geology Map creates history for Australia

An historic cross jurisdictional milestone has been achieved with the release of the new Surface Geology Map of Australia. In a co-operative program with the State and Northern Territory Geological Surveys, Geoscience Australia has compiled a 1:1 million scale database which provides a seamless representation of Australia's geology over the whole continent and Tasmania. The digital map has been developed by a team of geologists and cartographers at Geoscience Australia working in partnership with geologists from the State and Territory agencies. The team standardised and matched the edges of geological maps which have been published by State, Territory and Commonwealth agencies over the past 40 years.
SOURCE: GeoScience Australia http://www.ga.gov.au

Malaysia uses satellite to fight illegal logging

Malaysia is zooming in on forests with a satellite in order to fight illegal logging which its government says is harming the major timber exporting country, a report said. Darus Ahmad, deputy director-general with the Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency, said the "eye in the sky" programme was put in place in October. "There is always criticisms that our forests are diminishing," he was quoted as saying by the New Sunday Times newspaper. Darus said that using satellite images the authorities can establish a national forest inventory of the country's total area of forest cover.
SOURCE: *GIS News* http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_mbpncxdujk
and *AFP* http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iLeHuni04JSFqrjT9fAY0Ek6vGGw

Thane (India) municipal body to use satellite to detect illegal construction

Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) plans on taking the help of satellite mapping using GIS to detect illegal constructions. The TMC will now develop a Rs 1.6 crore-project which will help monitor illegal constructions across the suburb.
SOURCE: *GIS News* http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_pfnskvzdbu and *Times of India* http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Thane/Satellite_to_keep_a_watch_on_Diva/articleshow/3902917.cms

Back to contents

The editors are actively soliciting contributions to the monthly "SDI Spotlight" feature for future issues.

The October "SDI Spotlight" feature reported on the **International Seminar on Land Administration Trends and Issues in the Asia and Pacific Region** held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the19-20 August 2008. The Seminar Reports and Presentations are now available from:
http://www.sli.unimelb.edu.au/research/SDI_research/PCGIAPLASeminar/Presentations.html

Spatial Data Infrastructure
Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

This month's **Spotlight** features are (a). a review by editor Dr Serryn Eagleson of the recently published book arising from the 2007 Wageningen Workshop; and (b). a review of the past year 2008 and a look into 2009.

A Multi-View Framework to Assess Spatial Data Infrastructures

Editors Joep Crompvoets, Abbas Rajabifard, Bastiaan van Loenen, Tatiana Delgado Fernandez.
Published jointly by Space for Geo-Information, Wageningen University and Centre for SDIs and Land Administration, Department of Geomatics, The University of Melbourne November 2008
ISBN 978-0-7325-1623-9

The book is based on the results of the international workshop 'A Multi-View Framework to Assess National Spatial Data Infrastructures' held in Wageningen, The Netherlands, in May 2007. Further information on the workshop is available from < http://www.grs.wur.nl/UK/Workshops/Multi-view+framework+NSDIs/ >

The following summary is based on the forward from the book which provides both the background and context for each of the sections within the book.

The objective of the book is to promote a better understanding of SDI assessment by providing the concepts, demands and implications of SDI assessments. The book provides a compilation of existing approaches to assess SDIs and examples in order to help practitioners to develop more comprehensive and better evaluations that fit the assessment demands. Although directed at spatial scientists, professionals, managers, policy makers and researchers, the book will have broader applications for other disciplines as the concept of SDI continues to adapt in response to the user needs in different societies. The book is divided into the following four parts:

Part One – Theoretical background and framework to SDIs
This part presents the theoretical background for a multi-view framework to assess SDIs necessary to understand the concepts behind it.

Part Two – Approaches to assess SDIs
This second part presents nine approaches to assess SDIs: SDI-Readiness, clearing house suitability, INSPIRE State of Play; organizational; evaluation areas for SDI; performance based management; metaphor organisation; legal and effectiveness from a user's perspective.

Part three – SDI Assessment in practice
This third part presents practical examples of SDI assessment at different administrative levels (Developing world, European Union and the Netherlands). These examples represent real actions taken and are partly based on the authors understanding of the knowledge and context for assessing SDIs.

Part four – Future view to SDI assessment
The book concludes with a discussion on future directions for SDI assessment. It is clear that SDI assessment is still in its infancy, and that assessment practices beyond the SDI domain should be strongly examined.

SPOTLIGHT - 2008 Overview of SDI and an attempt to look at 2009

The last year, 2008, has not differed markedly from previous years in the value provided by SDI to the World.

Similarly to preceding years the world has suffered several major natural disasters in which SDI professionals were able to participate by foresight, based on SDI, leading to early warning thus enabling avoidance of the severest consequences of the disasters and also with regard to disaster management after the fact to assist in relief of hardship suffered by the victims. Two major events were the Myanmar cyclone and the Sichuan earthquake. Unfortunately, in the first case, the assistance provided by SDI was not fully utilised because of limited response facilities.

Other major events in which SDI figured prominently were the Beijing 2008 Olympics and the US Presidential election.

This year was the fourth following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. SDI contributed with the completion of several regional early-warning systems. Otherwise SDI was the foundation for disaster management including early warning systems based on seismic and volcanic activity and the ability to provide real-time analysis and assessment of current needs after the occurrence of a disaster.

Further, remote satellite imagery permitting the monitoring and assessment of changes in the world's environment is fast developing with many nations now controlling their own satellites. With the proliferation of these orbiting assets there exists scope for sharing the information and the cost burden of acquiring that information. Another interesting development was the innovative manner in which new technology is being utilized to indirectly gather information with one well-publicised example being Google's advance knowledge of the spread of influenza based only on an analysis of the queries posed to the search facility.

During the year Google Maps, Google Earth, Street View and similar products widely available to the general populace continued to grow offering an increasing range of features although not without controversy. National security concerns regarding ready public availability of these on-line mapping facilities caused concern in various countries including China, India, and Egypt. In the case of India, their concern would seem to be justified by intelligence gained after the November terrorist attack in Mumbai. Current debate centres on whether governments should "censor" public access to these facilities and whether in fact governments have the ability to restrict access. Besides national security these applications caused some public disquiet founded on privacy concerns and "intrusiveness" in the UK, Australia and other countries.

Closer to home for the SDI-AP newsletter the year began with a report on the **GSDI 10** Tenth International Conference and for us the highlight of 2008 was the introduction of a Chinese language version of our newsletter for which GSDI and PCGIAP and your editors are most grateful to the two Jeremies (Jeremy Huang and Jeremy Shen) of the MOI, Taiwan for their translation skills.

With regard to our forecasts for 2009 we are confident that SDI will figure prominently in world and regional affairs: in many instances for the betterment of these world and regional affairs. Unfortunately, in a small number of cases, SDI will assist those who would destroy modern civilization towards their goals. Similarly, in another small number of cases SDI will permit us only to look on as passive bystanders, unable to assist, at unfolding disasters. SDI can only bring us the news of these events. Perhaps these instances can inspire SDI professionals to do better.

Back to contents

GIS Tools, Software, Data

GIS and Cultural Studies
UNESCO Bangkok are actively using GIS to map and understand culture. "***Cultural mapping*** has been recognized by UNESCO as a crucial tool and technique in preserving the world's intangible and tangible cultural assets. It encompasses a wide range of techniques and activities from community-based participatory data collection and management to sophisticated mapping using **GIS** (Geographic Information Systems)" The recently updated UNESCO website provides a number of examples of cultural mapping studies including one on languages as outlined below. Further information on this research is available from UNESCO Bangkok http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/our-projects/protection-of-endangered-and-minority-cultures/cultural-mapping/

GIS Case Study: Mapping and Revitalization of Endangered Languages in Thailand
This is a detailed case study that highlights the practical use of GIS in the revival of endangered languages in Thailand. As widely known, Thailand lies in the heart of mainland Southeast Asia with more than 60 complex languages and ethnicities. Recognizing the need to preserve the world's diverse languages and cultures, **Mahidol University's Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development (ILCRD)** decided to develop a language database as a point of reference for mapping the distribution of ethnolinguistic groups in the country. The data was extensively gathered from fieldworks, questionnaires, and related surveys but compiled and analyzed heavily through GIS softwares.
GIS application successfully proved to be a crucial instrument in mapping ethnolinguistic data *vis-a-vis* geographical information. Not only did GIS facilitate in determining the language classifications (*marginalized* or *displaced, major, endangered* or *enclave languages*) but also in producing far-reaching maps that show the origin and distribution of the groups of languages.
Source: UNESCO Bangkok < http://cms.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=4945 >

Press Release**: New "What-If" Mapping Software Help for Disasters**
Company: Depiction Inc. **Industry:** Emergency Services **Location:** Seattle, WA, United States of America
Depiction, Inc., released affordable new "what-if" mapping software for emergency managers and others -- at a price that helps them with their own economic emergencies. Comparable to systems costing $1,000 and up, Depiction's radically lower price tag of just $89 makes it "recession-accessible" even for cash-strapped municipalities, nonprofits, and individual volunteers.
Depiction what-if mapping software helps emergency managers and others adjust plans to deal with changes during disasters. Depiction what-if mapping software helps emergency managers and others adjust plans to deal with changes during disasters.
*** **For critical comment** see the blog at http://apb.directionsmag.com/archives/5161-Depiction-Launches.html

Clustering Solution for Google Maps
Mapeed is a new clustering plug-in solution that has just been launched for Google Maps. Based on a new generation of algorithms Mapeed can compute and display 50,000 markers on a map in a very short time.
Source: Google Maps Mania by Keir Clarke
http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/GoogleMapsMania/~3/dGQ4vl9oDQk/clustering-solution-for-google-maps.html

Detecting Subtle Changes - ERS-2 & Envisat
By combining two or more SAR images of the same site, slight alterations that may have occurred between acquisitions can be detected. This technique, known as SAR interferometry. This technique has the potential to measure centimetre-scale changes in deformation over timespans of days to years. It also has applications for geophysical monitoring of natural hazards, for example earthquakes, volcanoes and landslides, and also in structural engineering, in particular monitoring of subsidence and structural stability.
Source: *GIS Development Weekly* December 8, 2008 http://it.moldova.org/stiri/eng/169859/
http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_dzbmwoglrj&Ezine=dec0808&section=News

GfK presents a global view of HIV infection
To mark World AIDS Day on December 1, GfK GeoMarketing is providing a map that illustrates the global distribution of HIV cases (data source: WHO/GfK GeoMarketing; map: GfK GeoMarketing).
According to the latest statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO), the highest rates of infection occur in southern Africa and the Russian Federation.The map may be freely distributed and reproduced if the following attribution is included: "Illustration: GfK GeoMarketing".
Source : http://www.gfk-geomarketing.com
and *GIS Development*
http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_akjrxushpq&Ezine=dec0108&section=News

Fine-scale terrain detail of Australia released
The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia's national science agency, is building a three-dimensional computer model of Australia's ground surface topography at scales never seen before. "The new one-second Digital Elevation Model (DEM) provides nearly ten times finer resolution and much greater detail than previous models," says CSIRO researcher and project leader, Dr John Gallant. "It dramatically improves our understanding of Australia's landscape and this will transform the management of Australia's water resources."
Source: http://www.csiro.au,
GIS Development http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_dlhgwabrop

Corals Indicate Another Sumatra Quake Is Likely
With coral reefs as their tea leaves, scientists are forecasting that in the next several decades there will be another major earthquake along the Sunda fault off Sumatra like the one that spawned the catastrophic tsunami of Dec. 26, 2004.
Source: *Science,* "Earthquake Supercycles Inferred from Sea-Level Changes Recorded in the Corals of West Sumatra", http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/322/5908/1674 and
New York Times http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/16/science/16obquake.html

Back to contents

Spatial Data Infrastructure
Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

News from abroad

"This section has been included to highlight some of the developments happening outside the region which demonstrate SDI in action.

The **United States Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) 2008 Winter Newsletter** is now available from: http://www.fgdc.gov/fgdc-news/2008-winter-newsletter

Thematic mapping techniques - a summary

Thematic maps have become a primary mechanism for summarising and communicating the increased volumes of geographically related information. This blog post provides a summary of the most common thematic mapping techniques.

Jaques Bertin (1967) established a graphic system of *visual variables*, which represents an universally recognized theory of the cartographic transcription of geographical information (Koch, 2001). Visual variables describe the perceived differences in map symbols that are used to represent geographical phenomena (Slocum et al., 2005). Bertin's system has been subsequently modified by various cartographers (Koch, 2001), and the visual variables presented below are based on Slocum et al. (2007), which add 3-D symbolisation.

Further information is available from: Thematic Mapping blog (http://blog.thematicmapping.org/) http://blog.thematicmapping.org/2008/12/blog-post.html

Landsat archive to be open

In early 2009 the entire archive of the American Landsat remote sensing program will be available for free and on-line. On April 21, 2008 representatives of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) - the Landsat system Operator - announced that access to the archive of Landsat images, collected for over 35 years, will become free soon. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne has recently comfirmed that this plan is still in force.
Source: GIS Development
http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_cnfrjztabo&Ezine=dec1508&section=News

Maryland Launches Greenprint Map

This week Martin O'Malley, the governor of the state of Maryland, launched Green Print, an interactive map for conserving ecologically valuable lands. This online system was developed through a collaborative effort of the Maryland Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Planning, Towson University's Center for Geographic Information Sciences and ESRI, with the aim of engaging citizens and other community leaders to limit sprawl in the state.
SOURCE: Vector 1 http://vector1media.com/spatialsustain/?p=1676

UK Location Strategy: A Signal to Invest

A Location Strategy for the UK has recently been released. The document outlines national objectives for extending spatial technologies and services throughout the UK with several key areas of focus including metadata, core reference data, licensing, governance, data exchange and education. It should be taken as a sign that the UK government has awoken to the fact that the country can substantially expand the economy and create opportunities for the 21st century.
SOURCE: Vector 1 http://vector1media.com/vectorone/?p=1554

United States death map revealed

A map of natural hazard mortality in the United States has been produced. The map, featured in BioMed Central's open access *International Journal of Health Geographics*, gives a county-level representation of the likelihood of dying as the result of natural events such as floods, earthquakes or extreme weather.
SOURCE: Eureka Alert http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-12/bc-usd121508.php and *GIS News* http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_mplqkagfcr&Ezine=dec2208&section=News

DMCii, UK, launches free satellite imaging initiative

Satellite imaging provider DMCii has announced that it will provide free DMC constellation satellite imagery for scientists to support global environmental monitoring projects.

Source: http://www.ballard.co.uk and GIS News
http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_vjqnikmwrx&Ezine=dec2908&section=News
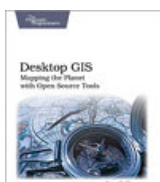
Crime mapping gives neighbourhood picture
Melton (UK) residents now have access to the latest local crime information at their fingertips through a new interactive crime mapping website. Accessible via the front page of Leicestershire Police's website (www.leics.police.uk) the map provides an opportunity for people to see where crime has happened, make comparisons with other areas and learn how crime is being tackled by their neighborhood policing team.
Source: *GIS News* http://www.gisdevelopment.net/news/viewn.asp?id=GIS:N_enjsqygrdf and *Melton Time*s http://www.meltontimes.co.uk

Back to contents

Books and Journals

Desktop GIS **by Gary Sherman**
USA: Desktop GIS shows you how to assemble and use an Open Source GIS toolkit. You'll find strategies for choosing a platform, selecting the right tools, integration, managing change, and getting support. You'll get a good introduction to using the many tools available so you can visualize, digitize, and analyze your own mapping data.
Publisher: O'Reilly http://oreilly.com/catalog/9781934356067/index.html

Spatial Management of Risks
Spatial analysis is an increasingly important tool for detecting and preventing numerous risk and crisis phenomena such as floods in a geographical area. This book concentrates on examples of prevention but also gives crisis control advice and practical case studies. Some chapters address urban applications in which vulnerabilities are concentrated in an area; others address more rural areas with more scattered phenomena. From Wiley-ISTE, 2008.

Quality Aspects in Spatial Data Mining
Substantial progress has been made toward developing effective techniques for spatial information processing in recent years. This science deals with models of reality in a GIS, however, and not with reality itself. Therefore, spatial information processes are often imprecise, allowing for much interpretation of abstract figures and data. *Quality Aspects in Spatial Data Mining* introduces practical and theoretical solutions for making sense of the often chaotic and overwhelming amount of concrete data available to researchers. From CRC, 2008.

Desertification and Risk Analysis Using High and Medium Resolution Satellite Data: Training Workshop on Mapping Desertification
This publication collects the results of a practical experience of survey, through the direct control of satellite images from high to medium resolution, over areas subjected to desertification problems. The problems of the local population are closely tied to the equilibrium in the management of the territory, which is compromised by the difficulties of maintaining traditional methodologies of management. The new survey technologies, based on the Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System, allow analyzing the details of the present situation and point out the dynamism of the phenomena and the impacts with anthropogenic activities. From Springer, 2008

Advanced Data Warehouse Design: From Conventional to Spatial and Temporal Applications (Data-Centric Systems and Applications)
A data warehouse stores large volumes of historical data required for analytical purposes. This data is extracted from operational databases; transformed into a coherent whole using a multidimensional model that includes measures, dimensions, and hierarchies; and loaded into a data warehouse during the extraction-transformation-loading (ETL) process. For researchers this book serves as an introduction to the state of the art on data warehouse design, with many references to more detailed sources. Providing a clear and a concise presentation of the major concepts and results of data warehouse design, it can also be used as the basis of a

graduate or advanced undergraduate course. The book may help experienced data warehouse designers to enlarge their analysis possibilities by incorporating spatial and temporal information. Finally, experts in spatial databases or in geographical information systems could benefit from the data warehouse vision for building innovative spatial analytical applications. From Springer, 2008

November/December 2008 NGA Pathfinder Magazine Now Online
Published by **National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency**
The November/December issue of the *Pathfinder* is available online at: www.nga.mil. This issue, titled "Foundation Data and Technology," explores the relationship of foundation data and technology and the groundwork they lay for the agency's success.
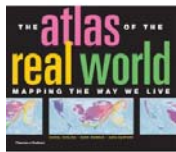
Springer Handbook of Geographic Information
Computer science provides a powerful tool that was virtually unknown three generations ago. Computer science has changed the shape of many classical domains. Often domains have become more similar than before. On the other hand new applications have emerged that were technically not feasible without the support of a computer. Those developments lead to new high-level domains. One of them is Geographic Information. Some of the classical fields of knowledge are geodesy (surveying), cartography, and geography. Electronics have revolutionized geodetic methods. Cartography has faced the dominance of the computer that results in simplified cartographic products. All three fields make use of basic components such as the Internet and databases. From Springer, 2008.

Karen Richardson, "Unlocking the Wealth of Imagery", *Imaging Notes* (Summer 2008) *pp* 26-30
www.imagingnotes.com
Available from http://www.esri.com/news/pressroom/08_3qtr/richardson_imageserver.pdf

The Atlas of the Real World (2008)
By Daniel Dorling, Mark Newma, Anna Barford
366 cartograms cover a vast array of subjects, providing a definitive reference on how regions and countries compare in resources, production, consumption, and more.
From Thames & Hudson.

National Geographic Visual Atlas of the World (2008)
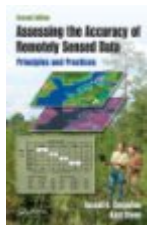From National Geographic
Thematic maps enhance the global coverage, detailing trends and characteristics of today's critical issues: natural resources, energy, population, religion, economy and trade, conflict, climate change.

Also from National Geographic:
National Geographic Atlas of the World, Eighth Edition (2004)
The National Geographic Society completely revised its full-size (47-cm.) world atlas, last published in 1992

Assessing the Accuracy of Remotely Sensed Data: Principles and Practices, Second Edition   < http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1420055127/directionsm00-20 >
The field of accuracy assessment of maps derived from remotely sensed data has continued to grow since the first edition of this groundbreaking book published in 1999. As a result, this much-anticipated new edition was significantly expanded and enhanced to reflect growth in the field. This revision includes four new chapters on such topics as positional accuracy and using accuracy assessment as an intermediate step in image classification. Additionally, the authors devote an entire chapter to the fuzzy accuracy assessment process and include a 16-page color insert. A new case study represents current complications and issues of interest, while a new order of chapters makes the presentation more effective. From CRC, 2008.

Back to contents

Just for Fun !

Giant Map Is Unveiled to Explain Giant Plan – US President Inauguration

How do you plan for an event that some are calling the largest in U.S. history? You get a map that's almost as big as the city itself. Okay, that's an exaggeration. But at a morning news conference, the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee showed reporters a 40-foot-by-40-foot map that they are using to plan for President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration Jan. 20, going over things as diverse as security to portable toilets to video screens.

It was like a giant play area for kids, complete with models of the Washington Monument and U.S. Capitol and the White House, and color-coded grids. (National Mall in green! Ellipse in light blue!)

Source: *Washington Post*

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/inauguration-watch/2008/12/giant_map_is_unveiled_to_expla.html

UK Postal Workers Question Software's Suggested Walking Pace

The system called Pegasus Europe Geo-route, used by the Royal Mail, calculates the optimum post load that can be delivered by staff. The new goal is 4 miles per hour or 15 minute miles. Until now the goal pace was 2. 5 miles/hour. Remember, besides the actual walking the workers typically carry bags, pick up mail, get signatures, etc. A reporter, a runner, couldn't make the pace!

Source: The Scotsman

Worldwide Flight Patterns in 24-hours

Courtesy of **Wired's Autopia blog**, researchers at Zurich's School of Applied Science built a video that simulates the flight paths of airline traffic around the world in one 24-hour period. The video appears below but also check out the entire blog post as it has other videos showing air traffic in and out of ATL, FEDEX's daily traffic and a video of European traffic that goes into 3D mode.

Source: Wired Autopia blog http://blog.wired.com/cars/2008/12/earlier-this-ye.html

Directions Magazine http://apb.directionsmag.com/archives/5145-Worldwide-Flight-Patterns-in-24-hours.html

Pothole Map Inadequate for Lawsuits, Court Finds

In a blow to the **New York State Trial Lawyers Association**, the state's highest court ruled on Thursday that the association's famous pothole map was not sufficiently clear and therefore did not give two injured people the right to win civil judgments against New York City under the city's Pothole Law.

SOURCE: *New York Times* blog

http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/18/pothole-map-inadequate-for-injury-claims-court-finds/?hp

Back to contents

Training Opportunities

National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) (Department of Space, Government of India) offers training course to resource scientists and technologists in various disciplines of application.

-- Introduction to GIS and its Applications (4 week course), March 2-27, 2009

NRSC recently was formed as a new agency, using people and assets from the old National Remote Sensing Agency run by the Department of Space. The move was announced on 1 September 2008. The NRSC will be one of the centres of the Indian Space Research Organisation.

Further information is available from: http://www.nrsa.gov.in/training/trainingnrsa.html

Pre-Conference WORKSHOPS at the 2nd International Conference on Earth Observation for Global Changes (EOGC2009) 25-29 May 2009, Chengdu, China http://www.eogc2009.com.cn/
Pre-Conference workshops include:
W1: Satellite Observation of Biomass Burning
W2: Remote Sensing of the Coastal Ecosystems
W3: Land-cover Classification using High-resolution Satellite Images

3D Workshop
The third 3D-Arch workshop on 3D Virtual Reconstruction and Visualisation of Complex Architectures will be held in Italy, 25-28 February 2009. Topics for the workshop include image and range-based 3D modelling of complex sites and architectures. It will also cover data registration and integration, and automated modelling techniques. http://www.3d-arch.org/

International Workshop of Experts on Global Environmental Change in sub-Saharan Africa
The ICSU Regional Office for Africa (ICSU ROA), in collaboration with the National Research Foundation (NRF) and its partners is organizing an international workshop of experts on Global Environmental Change (including Climate Change and Adaptation) in sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop will be held in Pretoria, South Africa, on 9-11 February 2009.
The workshop is open to researchers and policy-makers in public and private institutions and organizations (government, academia, industry, UN-agencies and NGOs) who are interested in contributing to the implementation of the ICSU ROA science plan on Global Environmental Change (including Climate Change and Adaptation) in sub-Saharan Africa.
The workshop will focus on the following themes
• Project GC01: Land Degradation, Biodiversity Loss and Human Well-being in Africa.
• Project GC02: Climate change and its impact on rainfall in Africa.
• Project GC03: Resilience of Food Supply Systems.
• Project GC04: Water Resources and their Governance.
• Project GC05: Atmospheric Composition Change.
• Project GC06: Africa's Oceanographic Uniqueness
The programme will comprise of a limited number of keynote lectures and a poster session, with more time allocated to group discussions on preparation of research projects. Participants wishing to present posters are requested to submit their abstracts to the ICSU ROA secretariat before 19 December 2008.
See call for participation: http://www.icsu-africa.org/docs/iwegec_call.pdf

Back to contents

Funding Opportunities, Awards, Grants

The 8th Geospatial Solutions Applications Contest
Enter the Geospatial Solutions Applications Contest for your chance to win GeoExpress Tools software from LizardTech, a GPS Bluelogger with XMap 5.2 Professional software from DeLorme, or an ERDAS TITAN GeoHub! Plus, top entries will be published on the *Geospatial Solutions* Web site. To enter submit a 500-word (approx) description of your innovative or cost-effective application of geospatial technologies, use the form and instructions available from: http://www.geospatial-solutions.com/applicationsContest
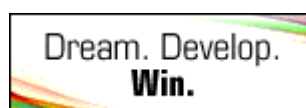(Source: Geospatial Solutions)

NAVTEQ Global LBS Challenge - Over $5.25 million in cash and prizes is up for grabs in this year's NAVTEQ Global LBS Challenge, the premier event in the LBS industry. Winners receive unparalleled recognition and marketing exposure to launch their mobile LBS application. Website: www.LBSChallenge.com
APAC registration Deadline February 13, 2009.

Google Wants You to Know

Proposal submissions have now closed on 22 December, 2008
Google.org has just launched an exciting new grants program. Geo Challenge Grants will award grants to NGOs around the world to create projects using online mapping tools, such as Google Maps and Google Earth. The program is an open application process that will award grants up to $100,000.
Source: *Directions Magazine*, *GIS News*

China Scholarship at UNSW

The China Scholarship Council will award an unspecified number of post doctoral scholarships at the University of New South Wales. The scholarships are for study under Dr Linlin Ge, a world renowned expert in the use of space-based interferometric synthetic aperture radar
Source: *Asia Survey Magazine* http://www.asmmag.com/news/Professor%20linlin%20Ge%20scholoarship

ENRICHMENT GRANTS to attend at the 2nd International Conference on Earth Observation for Global Changes (EOGC2009) 25-29 May 2009, Chengdu, China http://www.eogc2009.com.cn/

A limited number of enrichment grants will be available to provide financial support for attendees from developing countries. Applicants for enrichment funds should write a brief email to eogc2009@gmail.com no later than 15 March, 2009 indicating his/her needs (such as a rough budget) and should:
- reside in developing (ODA) countries or countries in transition (excluding the host country);
- have no or insufficient funds from other sources to support their participation;
- present a paper at the event; and
- include a letter of acceptance of a full paper from the Scientific Committee.

Back to contents

Employment Opportunities

GeoSpatial Database Consultant

Melbourne, Australia
A leading GIS organisation is looking to hire a driven Geo Spatial Database Consultant. Working in a dynamic, friendly team in an open plan office environment, you will be an integral member of this growing organisation. Currently working with many large scale clients, you will have access to cutting edge technology and will not only sink your teeth into the technical world of this organisation but also provide a key consulting face for clients.
PLEASE NOTE: You must be an Australian resident/citizen or have a valid work visa or work rights for Australia to apply for this role.
Diversiti Pty Ltd
Simone Connell
Phone Number: 03 8629 1164
simone.connell@diversiti.com.au

Back to contents

Conferences, Events

Call for Papers for GSDI 11

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 15-19 June 2009
- all FULL PAPERS submitted to this joint conference arriving on of before **1 December 2008** will be considered for inclusion in a refereed BOOK to be distributed at the conference or in a refereed SPECIAL ISSUE of the International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructure Research (IJSDIR) to be published after the conference. Additional full papers received by **1 April 2009** also will be considered for the Special Issue of IJSDIR.
Source: http://gsdi.org/gsdi11/papers.html

Spatial Data Infrastructure
Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

For upcoming events of global or major international interest, please visit the upcoming conference list on the GSDI website.

Date	Location	Event
January 2009		
5-8 January **"NEW"**	Harbin, China	**The First International Conference on LiDAR Technology and Remote Sensing Applications (LiDAR 2009)**
19-22 January	Prague, Czech Republic	**Cartography and Geoinformatics for Early Warning and Emergency Management: Towards Better Solutions?** Website: http://c4c.geogr.muni.cz/
19-20 January **"NEW"**	London	**The 5th Annual European Geospatial Intelligence Conference** (DGI 2009) Website: http://www.wbr.co.uk/dgieurope/
February 2009		
2-4 February **"NEW"**	Mainz, Germany	**Spatial Information for Sustainable Management of Urban Areas** **Contact:** http://www.i3mainz.fh-mainz.de/FIG-Workshop/index.html
4-6 February **"NEW"**	Kyoto, Japan	**3rd GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium, Kyoto, Japan** Website: http://www.prime-intl.co.jp/geoss/
08 – 14 February	Obergurgl, Osterreich [AUSTRIA]	**15th International Geodatic Week** E-mail: geodaetischewoche@uibk.ac.at Website: http://geodaesie.uibk.ac.at/obergurgl.html
9 – 11 February	Pretoria, South Africa	**International Workshop of Experts on Global Environmental Change (including Climate Change and Adaptation) in sub-Saharan Africa** All correspondence should be sent to: ICSU Regional Office for Africa Fax: +27(0)12-481-4273 , Email: d.nyanganyura@icsu-africa.org ; a.enow@icsu-africa.org ; b.mahlalela@icsu-africa.org ; k.potgieter@icsu-africa.org See EIS-AFRICA website for more information (www.eis-africa.org)
9 – 13 February	La Habana, Cuba	**Geomatica 2009** E-mail: informaticahabana@mic.cu Website: www.informaticahabana.com
10-13 February	Hyderabad, India	**Map World Forum 2009** Contact: info@mapworldforum.org. To be held with **Geospatial Science Forum 2009** Contact: giscience@gisdevelopment.net Paper Abstract Submission deadline closed Paper abstracts are invited for all technical sessions, seminars, forums and symposiums. Paper abstracts can be submitted online at the conference site www.mapworldforum.org. The theme of the conference this year is 'Geospatial Technology for Sustainable Planet Earth'.
11-13 February	Hyderabad, India	**Location Summit 2.0** the first Global Summit on Positioning and Navigation scheduled for February 11 – 13, 2009, to be held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad, India. The theme for the three-day summit is "Towards Collaborative Model" that will bring together the pioneers, industry leaders and developers who are setting the direction for the future of location technologies and markets. http://www.locationsummit.com/summit/index.htm Conference Brochure: http://www.locationsummit.com/summit/Location_Summit.pdf **Important Dates:** Abstract submission – 20th October, 2008 Acceptance – 5th November, 2008 Full Paper – 15th December, 2008 Author Registration – 30th December, 2008

25-28 February	Trento, Italy	**3rd International Workshop3D-ARCH 2009** **3D Virtual Reconstruction and Visualization of Complex Architectures** Website: http://www.3d-arch.org/ **Dates:** • Abstract submission (one page A4): Dec 1st, 2008 • Notification of acceptance: Dec 20th, 2008 • Deadline for full paper: Jan 30th, 2008
March 2009		
2-6 March	Tahiti	**11th Pacific Science Inter-Congress** Theme: "Pacific countries and their ocean facing local and global changes". Abstract deadline: October 2008.
8-13 March	Baltimore, Maryland	**2009 Annual Conference** American Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing (ASPRS) http://www.asprs.org/baltimore09/index.html
15-22 March	Istanbul, Turkey	**5th World Water Forum** Contact: m.giard@worldwatercouncil.org
16 – 19 March	Tel-Aviv, Israel	**WG VIII/12 6th EARSeL SIG IS Workshop "IMAGING SPECTROSCOPY: Imaging Spectroscopy: Innovative tool for scientific & commercial environmental applications"** E-mail: bendor@post.tau.ac.il Website: www.earsel6th.tau.ac.il
22-27 March	Las Vegas 	Join 8,000 geographers, GIS specialists, and environmental scientists for the latest in research, policy, and applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience during the **AAG Annual Meeting** in Las Vegas to be held March 22-27, 2009. Visit http://www.aag.org for additional information.
April 2009		
19 -22 April	Tampa, FL, USA	**Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference 2009** E-mail: info@gita.org Website: http://gita.org The Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) is very pleased to announce that an expanded slate of topics will be covered in more than 100 sessions during GITA's 2009 Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference
May 2009		
3-8 May	Eilat, Israel	**FIG Working Week and XXXII General Assembly – New Horizons across the Red Sea – Surveyors Key Role in Accelerated Development** Contact: fig@fig.net.
4-8 May	Stresa, Lago Maggiore, Northern Italy	**33rd ISRSE** (The 33rd International Symposium on 'Remote Sensing of the Environment') http://isrse-33.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php?page=home
08-11, May	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	**Remote Sensing Arabia** Website: www.remotesensingarabia.com
25-29 May	Chengdu, China	**EOGC2009 (the Second International Conference on Earth Observation for Global Changes)** Website: http://www.eogc2009.com.cn/). The deadline for abstracts closed on 31 December, 2008. Conference web site: http://www.eogc2009.com.cn/ Contact: Xianfeng Zhang, Ph.D., Conference Secretariat, EOGC2009 Institute of Remote Sensing & GIS, Peking University Beijing 100871, China Tel: 86-10-62759123 Email: xfzhang@pku.edu.cn
June 2009		

01 – 04 June	Vancouver, BC, Canada	**GeoTec Event 2009** E-mail: khastings@geoplace.com Website: www.geoplace.com
2-5 June	Hannover, Germany	**Call for Papers for the 12th AGILE International Conference** Deadline of pre-conference workshop proposals: November 30, 2008; Deadline for full paper submissions: December 12, 2008; Deadline for short paper and poster submissions: January 16, 2009 http://www.ikg.uni-hannover.de/agile/
15-19 June Theme: Spatial Data Infrastructure Convergence - Building SDI Bridges to address Global Challenges	Rotterdam, The Netherlands Information: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi11 (English) and http://www.gsdi11.nl (Dutch)	**11th International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI 11)** The first call for papers is published at http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi11/papers.html. Please, visit http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi11 for more information. If you want to secure your participation in the GSDI 11 World Conference, it is now possible to register here as well! **DEADLINES:** 1 December, 2008 and 1 April, 2009 Contact information: PCO agency GSDI 11 (BlomBerg Instituut/Geonovum) Esther Stukker, tel. +31 (0)73 - 684 25 25 and e-mail: e.stukker@geonovum.nl
22 June 2009 **"NEW"**	Centre for Geospatial Science, University of Nottingham, UK	**CFP - FIRST OPEN SOURCE GIS UK CONFERENCE 2009** Website: http://www.opensourcegis.org.uk The Centre for Geospatial Science of University of Nottingham, Open Source Geospatial Foundation (UK Chapter), ICA Working Group on Open Source Geospatial Technologies, SOSoRNET and Open Knowledge Foundation are organizing the First Open Source GIS UK Conference The conference has very much international focus and holistic outlook bringing together speakers and delegates from government, academic, industry, software developers, open source communities, geospatial researchers etc. High profile speakers from USA, Canada and all across EU will be giving presentations and hands on workshops for the conference. The key aims of this conference are: 1. to hear presentations from government, academic, industry and policy makers on open source geospatial technologies 2. to provide platform to network and develop ideas for future collaborative work in open source GIS 3. to understand current developments in open source GIS **Contributions are invited** but are not limited to the following topic areas: * State of the Art developments in Open Source GIS * Open Source GIS in Education * Interoperability and standards - OGC, ISO/TC 211 * Open Source GIS application use cases : Government, Participatory GIS, Location based services, Health, Energy, Water, Climate change etc * Web processing services * Open architectures, open content * Case studies of open source implementations * Open Source GIS Internationalisation and Localisation * Using Open Source GIS with proprietary software * Transition to Open Source GIS * Open Source GIS business models

		* Open Source GIS implementation and deployment case studies * Sensor Web enablement * Hands-on workshops on using and developing open source GIS tools **Abstracts** (max 500 words) can be submitted to Suchith.Anand@nottingham.ac.uk before 15 March 2009. Abstracts will be reviewed by the members of the program committee. There will be two parallel sessions for the accepted presentations from our call for papers in addition to the hands on workshops. Speakers of accepted papers and workshop presenters will get complimentary conference registration. The conference registration will be activated on March 15, 2009. In order to reserve your place, please register online. IMPORTANT DATES: * Abstracts Submission deadline: 15 February 2009 * Notification of acceptance: 15th March 2009 * Final papers delivered by: 15 May 2009 * OSGEO UK Live Software demo submission deadline: 30 April 2009 * Notification of acceptance: 15th May 2009
July 2009		
7-11 July	Cape Town, South Africa	**2009 IEEE International Geoscience & Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS)** www.igarss09.org
13-14 July **"NEW"**	Oxford, UK	**GEOSENSOR NETWORKS 2009** Website: http://www.comlab.ox.ac.uk/geosensornetworks/ Sponsored by: University of Oxford Papers to be published by Springer IMPORTANT DATES: Paper Submission: 3 April 2009 Notification of Acceptance: 27 April 2009 Camera Ready Papers Due: 5 May 2009 Conference: 13-14 July 2009
13-17 July	San Diego, CA, USA	**29th ESRI International User Conference** The deadline for abstract submissions has been extended to **November 14, 2008:** Abstracts can be submitted at www.esri.com/ucpapers
August 2009		
4 - 7 August	Bali - Indonesia	**10th South East Asian Survey Congress (SEASC '09)** Hosted by Bakosurtanal (Indonesia's land information agency) Contact: dkirana@bakosurtanal.go.id
3-14 August	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	**XXVII General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union**
September 2009		
9-12 September	Beijing, China	**6th International Symposium on Digital Earth** E-mail: ISDE6@ceode.ac.cn Website: http://www.isde6.orgk
21-25 September	Venice, Italy	**OceanObs '09** http://oceanobs09.net/
October 2009		

Spatial Data Infrastructure
Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

5-7 October	Westminster, Colorado	More information will be forthcoming but we ask you to "save the date" for the **Location Intelligence Conference 2009**.We'll be at the Westin Westminster Hotel in Westminster, Colorado, just outside of Denver toward Boulder from Oct. 5-7
19-22 October	Hanoi, Vietnam	**7th FIG Regional Conference** Conference Website: http://www.fig.net/vietnam/ *awaiting Timeline for registration and submission of abstracts, papers, and presentations* **Electronic submission of papers by June 2009**
26-29 October	Kampala Uganda	**AFRICAGIS 2009; International Conference** Theme of the conference "GEO-SPATIAL INFORMATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA; FACING CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL CHANGE" http://www.africagis2009.org/
November 2009		
15-22 November	Santiago, Chile	**XXIV International Cartographic Conference** **First call for papers:** http://www.icc2009.cl/pdf/First_Call_for_Paper_ICC2009.pdf **Deadline for Abstracts**: 16 January, 2009
17-20 November	Denver, USA	**7th William T. Pecora Memorial Remote Sensing Symposium** E-mail: asprs@asprs.org Website: www.asprs.org/pecora17
30 November - 2 December **"NEW"**	Sydney, Australia (Univ NSW)	**GeoComputation 2009** **Call for Papers** **The 10th International Conference on GeoComputation** Contributions are invited on all themes in the field of geocomputation and should describe original and unpublished research. Reports of innovative geocomputational applications in ecological, environmental, geographical, health, socioeconomic and urban studies as well as in new problem domains are also welcome. URL: http://www.biodiverse.unsw.edu.au/geocomputation/index.html Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following: * new geocomputational algorithms and architectures * spatio-temporal data mining and knowledge discovery * evolutionary computing for spatial applications * geographical visualisation and geovisual analytics * geostatistics and spatial simulation * agent-based spatial modelling * cellular automata spatial modelling * neural networks and fuzzy modelling * spatial network modelling and topological analysis * temporal modelling * location-based services * spatial sensors * accuracy and uncertainty of geocomputational models * applications in environmental and ecological modelling * applications in health and medical informatics * applications in urban studies, criminology and transportation modelling Contributors are invited to submit extended abstracts, which will be reviewed for inclusion in the conference program. See http://www.biodiverse.unsw.edu.au/geocomputation/index.html for more information.

		The abstracts should be sent as either Word documents or pdf files to geocomputation@unsw.edu.au Files larger than 1Mb should be sent as zipped archives. The submission deadline is **30 June 2009**. Authors will be notified of acceptance/rejection in the end of August 2009. Any questions regarding the submission and publication process should be addressed to geocomputation@unsw.edu.au Accepted abstracts will be published in the digital conference proceedings on the condition that at least one of the authors registers for the conference before the deadline for early registration.
April 2010		
11-16 April	Sydney, Australia	**International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Congress 2010** Contact: info@isaust.org.au.
Date to be announced	Taipei	**ASIA GIS 2010 Conference** further details to be announced – **see:** http://www.asiagis.org/

Back to contents

To subscribe to SDI-AP, please do so online at
http://www.gsdi.org/newslist/gsdisubscribe.asp. To contact the editor please email
sdi-ap@gsdi.org, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association, http://www.gsdi.org.

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