GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS

News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society

Vol. 3, No. 3, 2013

ASSOCIATION NEWS

GSDI 14/AfricaGIS Conference - Call for Papers Reminder!

Preparations proceed for the joint GSDI 14 World Conference and AfricaGIS 2013 Conference to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA) Conference Center, 4-8 November 2013. Primary organizers and hosts of this conference include the GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the UN ECA, EiABC - Addis Ababa University, and the International Geospatial Society. The conference theme is "Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction".

We are now only six weeks away from the deadline for abstracts (for presentations) and full papers for peer reviewed publication – 15 May 2013!

This combined and fully integrated conference offers numerous opportunities for oral presentations and refereed and non-refereed publication outlets. We invite presentations covering the full range of practice, development and research experiences that advance the practice and theory of spatially enabling citizens, government, and industry. The conference theme is Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction.

This call for papers supports two primary forms of publication:

(1) a Conference Proceedings, with Abstracts for all accepted submissions, and refereed and non-refereed Full Papers for some of the submissions, and

(2) a pre-conference published book containing fully refereed articles. The tentative title is "Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction: Research, Development and Education Perspectives". The book will be published as an open access book in various e-reader formats.

Important Conference Dates

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: **15 May 2013**
Deadline for Submission of Full Papers for Refereed Publications: **15 May 2013**

Deadline for Submission of Full Papers for Non-refereed Publications: **1 September 2013**
Deadline for Full Conference Registration Payment for All Presenters **15 September 2013**
Conference Dates: **4-8 November 2013**

Important Conference Links

Joint Conference Call for Abstracts and Papers:
http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/papercall.html
Conference Website: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14
Past GSDI World Conference Proceedings:
http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences
Past open access Books affiliated with the conference:
http://www.gsdi.org/openaccessbooks
Other Important Dates:
http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/dates.html

We look forward to seeing you in Addis Ababa in November 2013!

AfricaGIS is the largest regularly occurring GIS conference in Africa with participants from the whole continent. The GSDI World Conference moves to sites across the globe to offer geospatial specialists from all parts of the world opportunities to better exchange ideas and learn from peers in building spatial data infrastructure. For past conferences, see: http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences.

JOIN the GSDI Association or International Geospatial Society to enjoy conference fee reductions!

Substantial reduction in registration fees will be available for local participants, members of EIS-Africa and members of the International Geospatial Society who are from low income per capita nations. Substantial reductions in Exhibit and Sponsorship fees will be available for companies and agencies that are members of the GSDI Association.

Consult the web site at http://gsdi.org/gsdi14/ for latest information and details about the program, facilities and Sponsorship opportunities. Come prepared to engage, learn and enjoy! More news on the conference in future issues!

GSDI COMMITTEE NEWS

To keep abreast of what is happening in SDI and related fields around the globe, be sure to check out the various newsletters downloadable from the GSDI website (http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters). These include the *GSDI Regional Newsletters* for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America & Caribbean; the *GSDI & IGS Global News* (covering GSDI Association and IGS Member activities), *FGDC Newsletter* (USA SDI news), EuroGeographics and *EUROGI Newsletters* (covering Europe), *EIS-Africa* (environmental news from Africa), *SALB Newsletter* (Second Administrative Level Boundaries from the UNGIWG project) and, now, the *UN-SPIDER Newsletter* (the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, published by UNOOSA – UN Office for Outer Space Affairs).

Outreach & Membership Committee

Committee Chair, **Mark Reichardt** (OGC) was a keynote speaker at the EUROGI imaGIne Conference in Dublin, Ireland, 7-8 March, where vice-Chair, **Roger Longhorn** facilitated the plenary session on 7 March. Longhorn also attended the 1st Eye on Earth User Conference in Dublin, Ireland, on 4-6 March 2013, where other GSDI and IGS members were in attendance, including OGC's **Athina Trakas** and IGS Founding Member **Mr Suha Ulgen**, of the UNSDI initiative, who both served on panels at the conference. Suha Ulgen also presented the Istanbul Declaration of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG), adopted at the UNGIWG meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 27 February to 1 March 2013.

O&M vice-Chair, Asia and Pacific, **Dr Jimmy Chou**, Director of the GIS Research Center of FCU, reports that staff at the Center recently attended major meetings of international communities, such as the UN and OGC, and have worked on a range of geospatial topics with stakeholders from Japan, China, Korea, and South East Asia. As a principal member of Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Dr Chou and the GIS Research Center have contributed to open standards develo9ment and issues of sharing and open data, including cloud computing and Big Data applications. In the annual committee meetings, Dr Chou has promoted the GSDI to the members of OGC, and people from institutions and universities of different countries.

As well as promoting GSDI and its outreach program at the OGC TC/PC Meeting, 17-21 March in Abu Dhabi, UAE, further promotion will take place at the 2013 Annual Meeting and Conference of the Taiwan Geographic Information Society, 27-28 June in Chinese Taipei and the OGC TC/PC Meeting, 23-27 September in Italy. News and introduction to the GSDI Association are also updated at the OGC Asia Forum, which is maintained by the GIS Research Center. The Asia Forum has members of Japan, China, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand. Asia Forum is a great platform for geospatial community to exchange ideas and information. You are welcome to join the forum (http://www.ogc.org.tw/).

O&M vice-Chair for the Middle East and India, **Dr Khalid Al Haidan**, Central Informatics Organisation, Kingdom of Bahrain implements, also provided two reports on activities in the region, which appear later in the Newsletter in the "Association & Member News" section. Thanks to Dr Al Haidan for continuing to promote GSDI in the region.

O&M vice-Chair, Communications, Roger Longhorn, also launched the first GSDI 'mentoring' session, providing advisory information on national SDI formation to one of our more senior Asian IGS members. It is hoped that the Association can build on this activity to launch a more formal approach to mentoring for our members between now and the GSDI 14 World Conference.

The Outreach & Membership Committee also manages the GSDI Group on LinkedIn, which now has 253 members (up from 233 last month). If you are not already a member of this group, please join today – and tell your friends! Visit http://www.linkedin.com to join, then find GSDI in the 'Groups' option, to join the group.

Technical Committee

Technical Committee Chair, **Eric van Praag**, Regional Coordinator, GeoSUR Program of the Latin American Development Bank (CAF), was a keynote presenter at the 1st Eye on Earth User Conference in Dublin, Ireland, on 4-6 March 2013, in the session on "*From regional to global: streamlining environmental information*". Eric's presentations were very well received.

At the meeting the Eye on Earth "*Dublin Statement*" was adopted, creating the "*EoE Alliance & Network*" – "*To facilitate the sharing of environmental, societal and economic data and information provided by the diversity of knowledge communities to support sustainable development*".

Follow the EEA's Dr Jacqueline McGlade's presentation of the Dublin Statement at this link:
http://www.eyeonearth.org/en-us/Pages/Home.aspx.
The full text is included elsewhere in this Newsletter in the Global SDI Projects section.

Note: The Technical Committee is also responsible for updating of the *GSDI SDI Cookbook*, a wiki maintained at: www.gsdidocs.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Page.

Societal Impacts Committee

The Societal Impacts Committee administers the GSDI Small Grants Program and focuses on capacity building.

Gita Urban-Mathieux, FGDC Grants Coordinator and GSDI Societal Impacts vice-Chair, reports another busy month for the GSDI Small Grants Program, with the following final reports delivered.

Colombia - Linked Data and Spatial Data Infrastructures; Research and Development for Geographic Information Centre; CIAF, Geographic Institute Agustín Codazzi.

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

Tajikistan - Development of methodologies for entry of cadastral data of pilot district in Spatial Data Infrastructure of Republic of Tajikistan; Design and Research Institute "Fazo" under State Committee for land management and geodesy of Republic of Tajikistan.

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

URISA GISCorps Support for Small Grants Projects

Uzbekistan - Stakeholder analysis of institutions in Uzbekistan involved state cadastres in order to increase awareness on implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructure; National Center of Geodesy and Cartography of Uzbekistan.

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

China - Multilingual (Four lingual) Place Name Data Base for Regional SDI; Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography of Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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

Zimbabwe - Zimbabwe Standards-based Web Mapping and Data Access Services Online Platform/Portal; Savetech Solutions.

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

For information on the support from the *URISA GISCorps* volunteers on behalf of the GSDI Small Grants awards, and other URISA GISCorps activities, visit the GISCorps Ongoing Projects website at:

http://www.giscorps.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=62

NEW SMALL GRANTS FUNDERS NEEDED!

The GSDI Association Board and Members are seeking funding to help ensure that the Small Grants Program can be continued in 2013 and for the future. Anyone who can help with future financial support, please contact the Association President, Prof David Coleman, or Executive Director, Prof Harlan Onsrud.

A working group has been formed and a new information leaflet defined, to be used for fund raising (see the GSDI web site). This was finalised in October and fund raising actions are now underway, seeking contributions from both the industry and government agencies, plus major cooperation aid funding bodies, academic and research institutions – anyone wishing to offer support for this very worthwhile and highly visible GSDI Association activity.

To see the final reports and for more information on the Small Grants Program visit our web site at http://www.gsdi.org/sic1. Those wishing to make donations to the Small Grants Program in any amount will now find a 'Donate' button on the web pages!

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

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSPATIAL SOCIETY (IGS)

The International Geospatial Society (IGS) is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association whose members have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. The IGS web site is at http://www.igeoss.org. As of 30 March 2013, IGS had 264 active members.

International Geospatial Society (IGS) Officer ELECTION RESULTS!

Sives Govender, Executive Director, EIS-Africa, has been elected President of the International Geospatial Society and the new President-elect is Dev Raj Paudyal, Lecturer (Surveying and Spatial Science) in the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying, Surveying and Spatial Science, at the University of Southern Queensland, Australia.

"*It is a huge honour and privilege to be elected to the executive of IGS and I intend to give my full energy to ensuring that our Society grows in profile and membership during my term. I also look forward to working with Dev and all our current IGS members as we will need your collective support to build a Society we can all be proud to be members of. Thanks again to all of you.*" - Sives Govender.

"*I am indebted to the nominating committee for putting my name forward as one of the nominees and selecting me as a candidate for the position of President-elect of the International Geospatial Society (IGS). I would like to thank members of the IGS who voted for me and provided me this great opportunity to serve this society. Now a great responsibility is on my shoulders, and my first task will be to examine the outputs of the IGS 2010 survey and prepare early plans and priorities to make IGS a true globally recognisable geospatial society.*" - Dev Raj Paudyal.

Find out more about your new President and President-elect from their biographical entries in the GIKNetwork at http://www.giknet.org/registry/individual.php?id=358 for Sives and for Dev visit: http://www.giknet.org/registry/individual.php?id=430.

The newly elected officers will occupy their posts through 31 December 2014, at which time the President-elect, who also serves as vice-President during this period, takes on the role of President. Our best wishes to the newly elected officers and may we grow the IGS membership over the coming months under their leadership.

IGS Reminders – Membership Renewals

As of January 2013, it was time to renew your membership in the International Geospatial Society (IGS). If you have not already done so, please renew your membership on the web site (details below). See the full list of members at http://www.igeoss.org/members.

The next face-to-face meeting of the International Geospatial Society will occur during the GSDI 14 World Conference 4-8 November 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. All IGS members are cordially invited to attend the IGS meeting, where much of the business of the organization will be accomplished. (See updates as they occur at http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14/).

In order to renew your membership, please go to http://www.igeoss.org/join and pay the dues of $US 50 by credit card ($25 for students). Dues payment is available only through use of a credit card. In the event that you are a citizen of and live within a qualifying economically disadvantaged nation (details on the web site), the online membership application at http://www.igeoss.org/join will provide you with the option of applying for free membership in IGS. The primary obligation is to create your professional profile in the GIKNetwork and then provide the URL link to your profile information.

Subscriptions to GIM International

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

Participation in GIKNet

IGS members are also reminded that information is uploaded in GIKnet in the Society Web Forum:

- Topics of general interest (English) http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=41

- Topics of general interest (Spanish) http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=42

- Task 5. Promote the work of IGS members as a network sharing information, knowledge and publications among IGS members http://www.giknet.org/forum/post.php?topic=12

Members are invited to actively participate in the Society Web Forum, as a means of sharing news.

LinkedIn IGS Sub-Group

If you have not already signed up for the IGS sub-group on LinkedIn (see prior Newsletters), please do so ASAP! To date, we now have nearly 300 members in IGS – yet only 29 have joined the LinkedIn group. If you are already a member of the GSDI group, then you can request to join from the *Subgroups* page by clicking "Groups" at the top of your home page. Then click the parent group's name (GSDI). Under the "More" dropdown menu, select *Subgroups*. The click "Join this subgroup." You can view the status of your membership from the Your Groups page at: http://www.linkedin.com/myGroups.

Joining IGS

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

To join for free, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe on the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) at: http://giknet.org and then apply for membership in IGS at http://www.igeoss.org/join.

To maintain your free membership, simply update your professional profile at the beginning of each year. You have the ability to view, edit, or delete your individual profile at any time.

Members who joined IGS via this route, i.e. without paying the annual members fee, are reminded to update their information annually, or lose their membership of IGS.

Help us reach our goal of 1000 IGS Members by November 2013 – get your friends to join today!

IGS Members – submit your news, please, so that we can learn more about what our membership is doing! There are nearly 200 of you out there now, so please communicate with us. News can be sent by e-mail directly to Roger Longhorn, Editor, GSDI & IGS News at ral@alum.mit.edu.

ASSOCIATION & MEMBER NEWS

Central Informatics Organisation, Kingdom of Bahrain

GSDI Member, the Central Informatics Organisation, Kingdom of Bahrain, has implemented ArcGIS Online for Information Sharing & Community Outreach. ArcGIS Online is the free, online geoweb tool of Association Member Esri.

The BSDI portal, a manifestation of BSDI initiative for the Kingdom of Bahrain is a sort of "Enterprise Spatial Portal" which not only acts as a spatial catalogue portal, creating, maintaining and cataloguing metadata and data but also integrates spatial data with business enterprise solutions. By successfully meeting the needs of the core Government Sector Community, BSDI has attracted a second tire of geospatial community which includes private sector, academicians, scientific & engineering community and general Public at local, regional and global levels.

However since the BSDI portal has been implemented within the secured Government Data Network (GDN) it was difficult to address the needs of these organically broadening communities who address societal problems like climatic change, health care and public education etc. through creative, interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches. As Bahrain continues to grow at a rapid pace and on-going communication and coordination are important to ensuring that the Bahrain Spatial Data Infrastructure resources are used effectively by one and all, the GIS Directorate, CIO has developed an aggressive new program for strengthening communication and outreach across the community and with international organizations and the public by sharing maps and geographic information through cloud based ArcGIS Online.

By adopting ArcGIS online as an effective means to enhance communication and outreach activities, the BSDI initiative have realized immediate benefits from extending their existing geographic information to reach more people across the enterprise and the public. ArcGIS Online provides on-demand, self-serve mapping and is closely integrated with Excel for making maps from spreadsheet data commonly accessible. In doing so GIS Directorate, CIO has been enlisted as an ArcGIS Online Organization since 2012. Bahrain has been one of the early adopters of ArcGIS within the GCC and Middle East Countries. This has received immense acclamation and the achievement has been demonstrated in the Plenary Session of the recently concluded 2012 ESRI Middle East & Africa User Conference at Abu Dhabi.

Kingdom of Bahrain Initiative for Gulf Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (RSDI)

In July 2008, the *GIS Directorate of Central Informatics Organisation*, was the organisation that implemented the Bahrain Spatial Data Infrastructure (BSDI) in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has now taken the initiative to propose a Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (RSDI) for the region with the existing co-operations with the GCC countries. The proposal was to develop an unified Geographical Information Portal not only would provide the GCC nationals with a One-Stop-Portal for geographic information but also would cater for the current and future development plans and decision making for the entire region. This would support the government, the public and the private parties in improving management and planning of their day to day activities like travelling, finding an address, fishing, etc. and to work in harmony rather than work in isolation.

With the implementation of the RSDI, the geographic data type, structure and the user interface would be unified and standardized for the GCC. With the introduction of RSDI, the duplication of efforts in geographic data management would be greatly reduced and the quality of data available in the region would be exceptional.

The implementation of RSDI requires a solid infrastructure based on policy and organizational arrangement, technical standards, fundamental datasets, and a means by which the spatial data is made accessible to the end users. For the successful implementation of RSDI, there is a need for a regional policy that would provide the necessary guidelines, identify various committees to be responsible for the various aspects of the RSDI and provide issues that will hasten its implementation. The policy must be discussed at a forum where all the stakeholders would meet to discuss on the various issues in the draft policy prior to the approval. There is also a need for an agency to be the lead-agency in the development of the RSDI.

A common spatial reference system including the datum and coordinate system should be determined to be used in the RSDI. The datum and the network of coordinate systems are prerequisites for mapping the GCC Region in a common platform. A regional spatial data infrastructure initiative seems to be the most suitable strategy for the GCC countries to promote long-term multi-sector alliances, not only among government agencies, but also with the private sector and academia, so that all the stakeholders win. This can be accomplished by the establishment of an Executive Committee, a Steering Committee and four Working Groups. That is, Working Groups on Standards, Legal, Training and Dissemination (Clearing house).

The following benefits can be reaped by the Government, Private and Public sectors from the implementation of the Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure in the GCC countries.

- Business siting, market research, and other business geographic applications
- Civil Engineering (constructions)
- Education/training, distance learning, multidisciplinary research collaboration
- Emergency road services and emergency response systems
- Facilities information
- Address information
- Precision farming
- Navigation
- Public safety - fire and police departments
- Recreation: hiking, boating, etc.
- Transportation planning
- Urban and regional planning

Open Geospatial Consortium Update

Mark Reichardt, Chair of the GSDI O&M Committee and President & CEO of OGC, provides this update on OGC activities.

MundoGEO's 'OGC-in-the-cloud' webinar

MundoGEO, a leading Latin American geospatial media company, presented a Spanish language Webinar titled "Normas del Consorcio Geoespacial Abierto y Computación en Nube" on 4 April 2013, featuring Luis Bermudez, Director Interoperability Certification, OGC. Geoprocessing services hosted as Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) on the cloud can, if they implement OGC standards, enable other services to link to, and thus "bind" to them, and also enable them to bind to other services. The cloud lends itself to such "service chaining". Service chaining supports flexible creation of geospatial information value chains. Customers like the idea that cloud computing lends itself to rapid configuration and reconfiguration of value chains in a "cloud ecosystem".

To learn more about the webinar, visit:
https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/153051418.

OGC Student Spatial App Challenge Sponsored by Google

The OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) challenges students who have software development skills to create new applications that use OGC standards in innovative, interesting and fun ways. The three applicants that best satisfy the competition criteria will receive an OGC Student App Challenge Award and the opportunity to have their apps featured on the OGC website and in

other media channels. In addition, the first place winner will:

- Be sponsored by OGC to receive an award in front of the OGC membership at a quarterly OGC Technical Committee meeting (see "OGC TC/PC" listings at http://www.opengeospatial.org/event/?category=ogctcpc).
- Have a dedicated award page on the OGC website featuring the winning application.
- Be cited in an OGC press release acknowledging the award.
- Receive a Nexus Tablet donated by Google.
- Receive, for the student's academic institution, a two-year OGC membership or two-year free renewal if the institution is an existing member.

The estimated total value of the prize to be awarded is $1,500 plus round trip travel to the winner's selected OGC TC meeting. Applications must be submitted by midnight EST, July 15th, 2013. For registration details, see: http://appchallenge.opengeospatial.org/.

OGC Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Forum Created

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) announced the establishment of the OGC Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Forum during the 84th Technical and Planning Committee meetings held in March 2013 in Abu Dhabi in March, hosted by the United Arab Emirates Ministry of the Interior.

The OGC MENA Forum will provide a platform for members to collaborate and meet the OGC outreach and education needs of government, academic, research and industry organizations in the region. In response to the growing interest and use of OGC standards throughout the region, the Ministry of the Interior hosted the OGC meetings to connect the existing OGC community to the region and to broaden awareness of the OGC within the Middle East.

GEOSS Pilot's Year Six to Focus on Users and Developing Countries

The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Design and Interoperability Task Team, guided by the GEOSS Infrastructure Implementation Board (IIB), launched the 6th Phase of the GEOSS Architecture Implementation Pilot (AIP-6) on March 28 – 29 at the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Silver Spring, Maryland. The specific goals of AIP-6 are to:

- Increase Societal Benefit Area (SBA) use of GEOSS resources by end- users.
- Increase the availability of GEOSS resources.

- Focus on benefits and usability for Developing Countries.
- Strengthen previous GEO results and technical achievements.

The AIP-6 schedule and results will support the GEO Plenary and Ministerial Summit, scheduled from 15-17 January 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. The AIP-6 will also support the Sprint to Summit efforts being led by the IIB.

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Update

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) held a "**NSDI Leaders Forum**" for leaders of key geospatial organizations and professional associations on March 7 to begin the development of an updated strategic plan for the advancement of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Share drivers, approach, and process for developing the strategic plan.
- Solicit perspectives and build common understandings of the current state including trends, conditions, challenges and opportunities.
- Share ideas for roles and responsibilities of the different sectors involved in geospatial activities.
- Encourage support and involvement of association constituents.
- Identify next steps and timeframe.

For more information, visit the website at:

http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-leaders-forum-march-2013

Meeting materials are available online at the following links:

- Agenda http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-leaders-forum-march-2013/nsdi-leaders-forum-final-agenda.pdf
- Presentation http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-leaders-forum-march-2013/nsdi-strategic-plan-overview-3-7-13.pptx
- Meeting Notes http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-leaders-forum-march-2013/3-7-13-nsdi-leaders-forum-meeting-notes.pdf
- Context Map Graphic Summary http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-leaders-forum-march-2013/3-7-13-nsdi-leaders-forum-context-map.pdf

NSDI Strategic Visioning Workshop, March 5, 2013

The FGDC held a Strategic Visioning Workshop for Federal geospatial leaders on March 5 to begin the development of an updated strategic plan for the advancement of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Build common understandings of the current state including trends, conditions, challenges and opportunities
- Develop a shared vision and describe the desired future state
- Identify critical priorities and brainstorm candidate strategic goals on which to focus coordinated activities
- Build the foundation for the NSDI Strategic Plan
- Identify next steps and timeframe

Meeting materials are available online:

- Agenda http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-strategic-visioning-workshop-march-2013/nsdi-strategic-visioning-workshop-final-agenda.pdf
- Meeting Notes http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-strategic-visioning-workshop-march-2013/3-5-13-strategic-visioning-workshop-meeting-notes.pdf
- Context Map Graphic Summary http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-strategic-visioning-workshop-march-2013/3-5-13-nsdi-workshop-context-map.pdf

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Don't forget to check out the GSDI Association's *Capacity Building Resources* web pages at http://www.gsdi.org/sic3 to view some of the videos relating to SDI implementation provided by our members. Also visit the Webinars page at: http://www.gsdi.org/webinars

If you have any videos to contribute, or webinars to suggest, then please notify us by contacting Roger Longhorn (ral@alum.mit.edu).

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

In this issue of the Newsletter, we are re-publishing the GIM International magazine GSDI column from March, provided by **Prof. David J. Coleman**, President, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association.

"The Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table"

Canada was early off the mark in the mid-1990s with its plans to develop its Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI). Three generations of the national

GeoConnections Program moved from developing the initial technology and policy frameworks through reinforcing communities of interest to looking at how the data is to be maintained and how the CGDI will evolve over the coming decade.

The path to that CGDI has been rocky over the past decade. The explosion of web mapping and location-based services, raising levels of the public expectations with respect to geospatial data and, of course, prevailing economic conditions have all combined to reshape Canada's geomatics sector. These are uncertain times: the sector's members have seen significant changes in market demands, funding support, and the way in which businesses and institutions are organized.

Leading representatives from industry, governments, academia and NGOs came together in mid-2011 to discuss Pan-Canadian strategic initiatives and compare notes on the direction of the geomatics sector. If the first meeting was informational, a second meeting in June 2012 highlighted complaints and concerns over everything from government policies to industry organization and human resource needs. It was time to reinforce the elements of a shared vision for the sector.

Coming out of that meeting, the Canadian Geomatics Round Table (CGCRT) was formalized. Membership in the CGCRT is voluntary, and the group has no authority to make decisions that are binding on its members or on other organizations. The value of the Round Table's discussions and recommendations lies in the diversity and collective influence of its membership.

An Interim Steering Committee was named to guide over a 6-month period the rapid creation of the CGCRT's draft Terms of Reference and a "White Paper" on the measures necessary to build a sustainable, comparative advantage and national geomatics capacity for Canada – capacity in terms of informed collection, management, usage, improvement and promotion of geospatial data. That work set the stage for the 2013 CGCRT meeting held January 29th and 30th in Ottawa.

Informed by the White Paper, Round Table members at that meeting focussed on alternative scenarios – good and bad --for the Canadian geomatics sector over the next 3 years. Working in breakout sessions, members worked to: (1) confirm driving forces influencing the sector; (2) identify social, political or economic elements over which they had no control; and then (3) recommend the necessary strategies for the CGCRT to move ahead collectively.

Under the leadership of CGCRT Co-Chairs David Harper (Natural Resources Canada) and Michael Mepham (Province of Saskatchewan), and support from

consultants Ed Kennedy, Robin McLaren and Donald Lenihan, members agreed upon early action items and terms of reference for future direction. Copies of the Discussion Paper and a Summary the meeting will be available online soon.

This is not a magic bullet, but it's a good start – and one ultimately meant to draw in a larger cross-section of the sector. Watch this column for further information about the CGCRT and its future developments.

Learn more about the GSDI Association and how to participate here: *http://www.gsdi.org/joinGSDI*

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

THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (GIKNET)

The aim of the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (**GIKNet**) is to enhance communication and freely share knowledge among professionals in the global geographic information community. The GIKNet Community Registry permits individuals, government agencies, NGOs, companies and other institutions to record and publish details about themselves and submit relevant documents to the Spatial Documents Depot, which provides a search facility for locating information and documents submitted by GIKNetwork members. A comprehensive list of GI/SDI related discussion lists can be accessed from a single reference page. Access the GIKNetwork at this link: http://www.giknet.org/.

The main categories under which documents can be referenced in the GIKNetwork include: GI Science: Education & Training; GI Science: Research; and SDI/GIS: Practice and Applications. The network is promoted on the Association's e-mail lists and the LinkedIn GSDI Group. All members of the GSDI Association and IGS are encouraged to sign up for GIKNetwork and to submit documents relevant to any aspect of SDI development and deployment, globally.

PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL SDI PROJECTS

Eye on Earth Network & the Dublin Statement

The *Dublin Statement* was developed and adopted at the 1st Eye on Earth International User Conference, 6 March, in Dublin, Ireland, which was attended by many GSDI and IGS members. The text follows:

The communities participating in the first Eye on Earth User Conference in Dublin, 4 to 6 March 2013, expressed their intention to build on the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want", the Abu Dhabi Eye on Earth Summit in 2011 and the development of the Eye on Earth Network towards the following goal:

To facilitate the sharing of environmental, societal and economic data and information, provided by the diversity of knowledge communities, to support sustainable development;

Aware of the unprecedented environmental changes that are occurring at all levels around the world, including possible irreversible changes with potentially negative implications for economic and social development and well-being, especially for the poor and vulnerable groups in society;

Recognising the need to share timely, credible and relevant information provided by the diversity of knowledge communities and important global initiatives such as the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), the UN Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM), UNEP-live and others, which will help to deliver global benefits;

Acknowledging the importance of space technology-based data, in-situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development and decision making at the relevant level as articulated in Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration;

Committed to empowering local, regional and global communities to manage, exchange and facilitate access to information and to undertake assessments, using the opportunities afforded by the rapid advancement of information and communications technologies including capacity building;

Decided:

to continue to collaborate through the Eye on Earth Network, to promote, support and improve access to data and information for sustainable development and, where appropriate, by participating in special initiatives, collaborating on related technical developments, establishing citizen science as an important source of knowledge within the diversity of knowledge communities, building capacities across the network and convening meetings to achieve this goal.

The Eye on Earth Network will base its activities, where appropriate, on the principles of a shared environment information system in which data and information is:

- Collected once and shared with others for many purposes
- Managed responsibly at source

- Readily available to easily fulfil reporting obligations
- Easily accessible for users and available in national languages
- Enabling comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale and to support citizen participation
- Supported through investment in common standards and interoperable systems

In order to catalyse and advance these activities, the participants welcomed the proposal to establish the Eye on Earth Alliance to help raise awareness and foster participation and networking across the Eye on Earth Network, to support its development and report on progress at the next Eye on Earth User Conference.

UNGIWG – Istanbul Declaration

The Istanbul Declaration - United Nations Geographic Information Working Group

We, the participants of the 13th Annual Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 27 February to 1 March 2013, one year after the official launch of the Centre of Excellence for UN Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI) Programme by the Assistant Secretary-General and Chief Information Technology Officer of the UN Secretariat, hereby issue this Istanbul Declaration on advancing global geospatial information management and use by both the UN entities and Members States.

Recalling the 2010 decision of the General Assembly recognizing the UNSDI as one of the UN System-wide Information and Communications Technology (ICT) harmonization initiatives of the UN ICT Strategy;

Recalling Resolution 2011/24 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which recognized the need to promote international cooperation in the field of global geospatial information management;

Recalling further the Seoul Declaration on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) of 26 October 2011, which called for a cohesive global community of practice, the promotion of common frameworks and standards at all levels, the documentation of best practices, and the need for capacity development at national level;

Recalling the Doha Declaration on Advancing Global Geospatial Information Management of 6 February 2013 committing the international community to work together with all stakeholders under the coordination of the United Nations;

Recognizing the GGIM vision and governance structure and the technical capacity and functional remit of UNGIWG and UNSDI;

Recognizing that the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want" placed particular emphasis on the importance and value of reliable and authoritative geospatial information for sustainable development, humanitarian assistance and disaster risk reduction;

Recalling the report of the UN System Task Team to the Secretary General on the post-2015 UN Development Agenda "The Future We Want for All" which calls for improving access to geographical information and geospatial data, and building capacities to use scientific information;

Recalling the Issues Note of the 4-5 October 2012 retreat of the High Level Committee on Programmes highlighting cross-cutting/sectoral issues to be considered as constituent elements of an overall strategic vision to guide system-wide work on the post-2015 development agenda and the way the UN system should reposition itself to best support the implementation of this agenda, taking into account the changing geo-political, social, environmental, and economic realities of the world.

We, therefore resolve,

- to reaffirm our commitment to working together as geoinformatics professionals from UN entities and in partnerships with Member States, standards setting bodies, academia and industry to build the UN Spatial Data Infrastructure;

- to jointly clarify the governance structure that would integrate and strengthen the technical capacity and geospatial outputs of GGIM, UNGIWG and UNSDI towards Delivering as One;

- to affirm the importance of a stable, credible, and reliable UN Spatial Data infrastructure built on internationally recognized standards and solid inclusive governance that integrates, manages, and delivers geospatial information for timely, evidence based and efficient decision-making and policy formulation for the UN system on issues including, *inter alia,* climate change, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian and crisis response, and business continuity;

- to affirm the importance of an agreed set of authoritative core global reference datasets that support sustainable development and humanitarian activities and to work jointly to support the creation, improvement and maintenance of these core global

reference datasets in partnership with relevant stakeholders;

- to coordinate with relevant UN Committees such as the Committee on the Peaceful use of Outer Space (COPUOS), the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and GGIM to help bridging the various communities within and across Member States which are providing quality geospatial data and/or services or are users of data, information and knowledge;

- to continue building on the UNSDI and the appropriate mechanism to meet the operational requirements of this declaration and to ensure that the benefits accrue at the national level and within the stakeholder community.

Issued on 1st March 2013

GSDI and the UNGIWG and GGIM

A Position Paper has been prepared by the Australian Delegation to the Second Session of UN-GGIM and the CoE4UNSDI Programme Manager titled "***The Roles and Relationships between UNGGIM AND UNSDI***". The GSDI Association has been involved with the UNSDI developments of the UN GI Working Group, in a technical advisory capacity, almost from the beginning of the initiative within the UN, including participation in meetings, conducting workshops, and providing SDI implementation advice. GSDI is associated to the more recent UN-GGIM initiative (United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management) via its membership of the Joint Board of GI Societies (JBGIS). The full position paper (7 pages) can be found on the GSDI web site for those who are interested.

INSPIRE – the pan-European SDI

Powered by the European INSPIRE program, spatial data under 34 environmental themes is made digitally available for re-use. How do organizations benefit from this? On March 4 and 5, over 250 participants from Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands and United Kingdom shared experiences at the conference "***Safety, Mobility, Sustainability... Powered by INSPIRE***". The conference included a mixture of presentations, panel discussions, and demonstrations.

Most of the presentations from March 4 and 5 are accessible online at the links below:

http://www.poweredbyinspire.eu/p/100/Presentations-March-4
http://www.poweredbyinspire.eu/p/101/Presentations-March-5

For an overview of the program, with short descriptions of the presentations, you can download the program booklet:
http://www.poweredbyinspire.eu//documents/20130220_programmaboekje.pdf

There's also a video which captures event visually in two and a half minutes at http://vimeo.com/61163260.

GSDI INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

- Digital Earth (International Society for Digital Earth) – visit www.digitalearth-isde.org.
- Eye on Earth – visit www.eyeonearth.org.
- Group on Earth Observations (GEO) / Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) – see
- www.earthobservations.org.
- EuroGEOSS – GEOSS Project funded by the European Union – see www.eurogeoss.eu/default.aspx.
- INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu.
- International Hydrographic Organisation – Marine SDI Working Group – see www.iho.int.
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit www.iode.org.
- UNSD (Statistics Division) – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit ggim.un.org.
- UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit www.ungiwg.org.
- UNESCO IOC – Marine/Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure development – visit www.iode.org.
- UNSDI – UN-GGIM (UN Global Geospatial Information Management) – visit ggim.un.org.
- UNSDI – UNGIWG (UN GI Working Group) – visit www.ungiwg.org.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS UPDATES

To see the latest news from the different e-mail forums maintained by the GSDI Committees (4) and the regional SDI Newsletters (5), visit the web site at http://www.gsdi.org/discussionlists, choose the forum of interest and select the 'Archives' option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above.

For more information on any of these items, visit the **GSDI Association** web site at http://www.gsdi.org.

GSDI AND IGS GLOBAL NEWS - News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society – is published by the GSDI Association, edited by Roger Longhorn, vice-Chair, Communications, of the GSDI Outreach and Membership Committee. The Editor may be contacted at ral@alum.mit.edu. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to GSDI and IGS Member news or SDI initiatives at any level.