



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR DIGITAL EARTH (ISDE)

AND

THE GLOBAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATION (GSDI)

1. Parties

This document constitutes an agreement between the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) and the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI).

2. Background

ISDE and GSDI each recognise that the other is an international organisation with many complementary activities serving similar professional constituencies.

Digital Earth is a global initiative to construct a comprehensive virtual representation of the planet. It is a collaborative effort between Earth sciences, space sciences and information sciences to monitor and forecast natural and human phenomena. The International Society for Digital Earth is a non-political, non-governmental and not-for-profit international organization, principally for promoting academic exchange, science and technology innovation, education, and international collaboration towards Digital Earth.

The GSDI Association is an inclusive non-profit organization whose members include non-profit and non-governmental organizations (NPOs/NGOs), academic and research institutions, government agencies, commercial firms, and individuals from around the world. The purpose of the Association is to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure (SDI) developments that will allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance. GSDI is represented on the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) and has special consultative status with the United Nations.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for a continuing liaison between the two organisations. This will be achieved by maintaining and increasing the opportunities of scientific, technical and professional as well as academic and educational exchange between their members, through a continuing programme of cooperation leading to mutual sharing of knowledge and expertise to the advantage of both organisations.

4. Programme of Activities

In accordance with the background and purpose, both organisations will endeavour to intensify their co-operation for mutual benefit. The following steps will be taken, amongst others:

- a) Regular contact will be established between the two organisations in order to institute and maintain a continuing liaison to address matters of common interest;
- b) Each organisation will inform the other of all Commissions, Working groups, etc. that it has established and invite representation from the other where it is agreed that it would be appropriate.
- c) Each organisation will inform the other of its programme of proposed seminars, workshops, or similar capacity building activities to enable joint participation should it be of mutual benefit and will inform its members of these events as appropriate.
- d) Both organisations will identify opportunities to organise joint sessions at conferences, meetings, specialised seminars or workshops under joint sponsorship where appropriate.
- e) Each organisation will invite a representative from the other organisation to attend respective Congresses/Conferences and offer complimentary registration.

5. Financial Commitment

It is understood that neither organisation can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this agreement, without the specific written agreement of both organisations.

6. Legal Status

This Memorandum does not create a legal relationship between the two organisations, who will maintain their mutual independence.

This Memorandum of Understanding is valid until ISDE or GSDI proposes changes to it. Each organisation has the right to propose changes to this Memorandum at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the written agreement of both organisations.

Date: 4/04/15

On behalf of ISDE:

Prof. Huadong GUO
President, International Society for Digital Earth

On behalf of GSDI:

Dr. David Coleman
President, GSDI Association