



GSDI REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

for the Global Geospatial Community

covering



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

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



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Announce your news or information!

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

Support and Contributions to this Issue

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

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Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

Burundi: Office of Geomatics Centralisation (BCG) recently acquires GIS lab

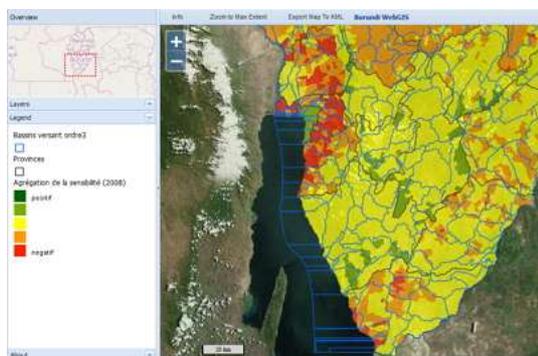


Burundi has a National Technical GIS Committee, and has been in the process of establishing a National Geomatics Center (BCG, Office of Geomatics Centralisation, <http://sp-bcg.gov.bi/>) following Decree No. 100/06 (9 January 2013). Through the Center, various training modules already

have been given to members of the National Technical GIS Committee GIS and focal points from government departments and various partners in geomatics. With the establishment of the Center's new GIS lab in April 2015, many other GIS training modules are planned. In addition, an effort is underway to map/geocode schools, health facilities, and markets for better planning of infrastructure in municipalities. Contact: Secrétariat Exécutif Permanent du Bureau de Centralisation Géomatique, info@sp-bcg.gov.bi. See history of BCG's evolution: <http://sp-bcg.gov.bi/index.php/a-propos-du-bcg/historique>.

Source: <http://sp-bcg.gov.bi/index.php/publications/actualites/110-le-bcg-vient-de-se-doter-d-un-laboratoire-informatique>

Burundi: WebGIS for project 'Vulnerability to Climate Change Analysis'



The project "Vulnerability to Climate Change Analysis in Burundi" is a project of GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) funded by the German Cooperation. The objectives of the project are to:

- (1) develop climate projections at the national level for Burundi, based on the models of the latest climate simulations, and
- (2) prepare a national vulnerability map for Burundi in order to identify 'hotspots' or the most vulnerable areas at national level and areas of intervention for the GIZ project locally.

The aim of the vulnerability assessment in Burundi is to identify those regions most susceptible to climate change effects. Focusing on soil and water resources, the assessment provides scientific input for the selection of "climate change hotspots" in Burundi and the development of appropriate adaptation measures on the national and local level, which are used by a GIZ climate change adaptation project.

Source: <http://webgis.eurac.edu/burundi/>

Uganda: Modernization of land administration at the national level



Uganda's Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in conjunction with the

consortium IGN France International/IGN France now is implementing the second phase of the computerization of the Land Registry. The Design, Supply, Installation and Implementation of National LIS Infrastructure (DeSINLISI, <http://nlis.go.ug/contact-2/desinlisi-project/>) project will fully integrate physical planning, surveying, valuation, land administration and land registration. The DeSINLISI project consists of the implementation of the Land Information System at the national level and is a continuation of the DeSiliSor project completed by IGN France International in 2014. The DeSINLISI project is a five year programme (February 2015/ February 2020) that will finalise the process of

transformation of land records into digital format. Once completed, a comprehensive, decentralized, self-contained system will be operational and provide one stop services in 21 Ministry Zonal Offices across Uganda.

During this new phase, the consortium will:

- update the LIS system and software architecture developed during the initial phase,
- update and upgrade the existing LIS solution with open source tools, implementing new functionalities,
- train personnel on the operation and management of the system,
- and extend the LIS infrastructure to the rest of the country, and
- sensitize the public on the benefits of the LIS.



The objective of this new phase is to extend and enhance the technologies already implemented under the first phase. It will also include the conversion and rehabilitation of cadastral and other land administration data and records started during the first stage of the LIS system development. This component includes the rehabilitation, conversion and scanning of various types of documents including maps, job record jackets, microfilms, certificate of titles and valuation documents before they are integrated in the LIS system. Special attention will be given to the capacity building and communication components. These components are crucial and communication materials will be

translated into local languages to ensure that the messages reach the final users. The modernization of the procedures at the national level clearly contributes to a reduction in delays and costs associated with the registration of titles, prevent land encroachment on wetlands, forests, road reserves and other public land reserves, reduce the risk of fraud and litigation amongst individuals, families and communities, and improve the service delivery to the public.

Note also: Ministry of Land Housing and Urban Development Land Registry Open Days: 27-29 May 2015. The Public was invited to verify land title information in the new computerized Land Information System (LIS) in order to confirm ownership and authenticity of the land titles. <http://nlis.go.ug/event/ministry-of-land-housing-and-urban-development-land-registry-open-days-27-29-may-2015/>

Source: <http://www.ignfi.fr/en/content/modernization-land-administration-uganda-ign-france-international-chosen-implement-land-info>

Kenya: MajiData, pro-poor urban database



MajiData is a pro-poor database covering all the urban low income areas of Kenya which has been prepared by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) and the Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) in cooperation with UN-Habitat, the German Development Bank (KfW), Google org. and GIZ.

MajiData contains a large amount of important information on all urban low income areas of Kenya. This online database will assist the Water Service Providers (WSPs) and Water Services Boards (WSBs) to prepare tailor-made water supply and sanitation proposals for the urban slums and low income planned areas located within their service areas. The fact that data is linked to satellite imagery will also allow for the improved management and operation of these areas by WSPs.

Source: <http://www.majidata.go.ke/>

Developing a prototype Geo-Portal for Zimbabwe (Thesis, 2013)

Author(s): Mike Murefu, <http://uz-ac.academia.edu/mikemurefu/Papers>

A project submitted in partial fulfillment of the Bsc Honours in Geoinformatics and Surveying, University of Zimbabwe, May 2013

Abstract: In Zimbabwe, geospatial data sets are isolated amongst different organizations and individuals. As a result, geospatial data users are unaware of the availability and location of important geospatial data sets. On the other hand the producers of geospatial data face difficulty in publishing their geospatial data to the consumers. Moreso, similar data sets are being created many times by different organizations, a situation which is retrogressive as well as economically burdening. Taking into consideration that geospatial data plays a vital role especially in decision making, the above

painted scenario is negatively affecting the nation by depriving the decision makers with sound and up-to-date data. The solution to this problem is a geoportal.

A geoportal is online based platform that enables for search, discovery, access, share and publishing of geospatial data. In a time where internet use is increasing in Zimbabwe, the geoportal is the befitting solution. It avoids the sequestration of geospatial data through the provision of a common gateway to all geospatial data. A geoportal also facilitates for easier searching and sharing of geospatial data. The provision of comprehensive metadata services by the geoportal also enables users to ascertain whether the data sets meet their needs. It also helps avoid duplication of data thereby saving money which could have been wasted. Finally a geoportal enables for publishing of geospatial data by producers over the internet thereby directly reaching the intended users and also at the same time gaining value for their data through purchases that might occur as a result. This document explores in detail the development of a prototype geoportal for Zimbabwe.

A study was carried out through the use of questionnaires to establish how geospatial data is shared or exchanged between organizations and the geospatial metadata standards that are being used. The research was also meant to establish if there are any metadata interoperability challenges. Using free and open source software a prototype geoportal was then developed. The prototype enables one to search, discover, access, share and publish geospatial data over the internet. The geospatial data is published using the ISO 19139 metadata standard, a standard derived from ISO 19115, which has been adopted in Zimbabwe.

Source: http://www.academia.edu/12286842/Developing_a_prototype_Geo-Portal_for_Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: UNDP to support Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS)



Zimbabwe's land information database is also not up to date. The Department of Surveyor General (DSG, <http://www.surveyorgeneral.gov.zw/>) has not been sufficiently upgraded in line with international standards/practices in the

use of new technologies that include, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), global positioning systems (GPS), which would not only speed up the processes but ensure a robust and accurate land information database. The updating of maps can be accelerated considerably with the use of satellite data in combination with field verification.

It is in this context that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) intends to engage a consultant(s) to undertake the needs assessment of the establishment and upgrading of the base stations for the DSG around the country. In doing so the consultant(s) will engage the MLRR, DSG, UNDP, and key stakeholders that include the public and private sectors, as well as tertiary training institutions. Detailed activities will include:

- Analyse the terrain to select sites for the base stations;
- Recommend the appropriate specifications for the Continuously Operating Reference System (CORS) infrastructure;
- Determine the infrastructure and services required- security, electricity supply both from the grid and back-up etc);
- Determine the suitable sites for the installation of 5 base stations (in consultation with DSG staff);
- Assess the training requirements of the Department of the Surveyor General (DSG) staff to operate the CORS.

Source: https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=56242

Zambia and Angola: SASSCAL WeatherNet grows with additional Automatic Weather Stations

In cooperation with the national weather authorities of Angola, Botswana and Zambia, the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) initiated the installation of 30 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) to contribute to the national meteorological networks. These new AWS extend the already running SASSCAL WeatherNet, consisting of 37 AWS implemented in Namibia since 2010. All Automatic Weather Stations send measurements in near real-time via cellphone networks to the SASSCAL server and met services respectively. Processed results are available in open access at the website. This enables comparison of stations and periods. The Data included: Hourly, daily and monthly values, Time series, Visualisation as diagrams, Generation of MS Excel files, Information sheets and additional information.





By May 2015, six additional automatic weather stations were recently established in Zambia and added to the SASSCAL WeatherNet. They contribute to the national weather observation network of Zambia and will further support ongoing research in SASSCAL by providing information on local climatic conditions. The stations were installed from February 2015 to April 2015 and send climate data at 15-minutes intervals by either satellite or GPRS transmission, which can be accessed in nearly real-time through SASSCAL WeatherNet, <http://www.sasscalweathernet.org/index.php?MIsoCode=ZM>.

By February, ten additional automatic weather stations were put into operation in Angola and added to the SASSCAL WeatherNet. The stations are installed as part of a monitoring activity in the SASSCAL research portfolio task 141 Development of Meteorological Observation Conditions in Angolan Southwest – Province of Namibe and slopes of Serra da Chela which is undertaken by the research team of Prof. Carlos Ribeiro, ISP Tundavala. The stations were installed in October 2014 and send eight climate variables (Rainfall, temperature) at 15-minutes intervals. As for all SASSCAL automatic weather stations, the data are freely available nearly real-time through SASSCAL WeatherNet, <http://www.sasscalweathernet.org/index.php?MIsoCode=AO>

Source: http://www.sasscal.org/news_sasscal.php

Namibia: Namibia Statistics Agency Spatial Data and NSDI Division



By virtue of the power held by the Statistics Act, Act No. 9 of 2011, the Central Bureau of Statistics was transformed into a newly established Namibia Statistics Agency. The Namibia Statistics Agency also maintains geographic databases of infrastructure (dwelling units) use for residential, commercial and public services such as agriculture, hospital and clinics, schools, police stations, filling stations, transport, water points, etc. These databases also includes data-layers on vital geographical referenced features such as roads, rivers, dams, among many other. The Spatial Data and NSDI (National Spatial Data Infrastructure) Division of the NSA also provides direct assistance upon request to other ministerial institutions, private and public entities,

academic institutions, researchers and spatial planning consultants, NGOs with geographic data capturing and updating, sampling frames for various socio-economic surveys, and spatial analysis and planning works that are not covered during the main censuses and survey activities.



How to request for Geo-data and other services? The NSA proudly makes its data and services available for public use upon request and completion of a formal agreement form specifying your needs and intended use of the data. You can access an online request form by clicking here: <http://nsa.org.na/page/request-form/>

Alternatively, as a valuable end-user and producer, you are at liberty to access for analysed geo-statistical on the website through a web-based GIS enabled application. To access the WebGIS

applications on the following specific subjects, namely, 2011 Census highlights, 2011 Census Enumeration Areas and 2011 Census Migration, return to NSA's home-page (<http://nsa.org.na/>) and explore the WebGIS applications.

Source: <http://nsa.org.na/page/spatial-data-surveys-cartography-and-regional-affairs>

Mauritius: Government pursues efforts to establish its National Spatial Data Infrastructure



A one-week National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Technical Training Workshop kicked off in May, in the presence of the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, Mr Showkutally Soodhun, to further support efforts of the Government of Mauritius to properly develop and establish its NSDI. The Technical Training Workshop was organised by the Ministry of Housing and Lands (<http://housing.govmu.org/>) in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD).

NSDI will provide a framework that will enable government staff, industry, and citizens at large to readily access a range of geo-spatial information. It includes tools for analysing and determining solutions to the needs and requirements of national development objectives. A workshop on initiation of the implementation of the

NSDI in Mauritius was held last year to sensitise stakeholders on the importance of sharing, disseminating and access to geospatial data (See: Mauritius to establish its National Spatial Data Infrastructure (May 2014), <http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/Mauritius-to-establish-its-National-Spatial-Data-Infrastructure.aspx>).



At the opening ceremony of the NSDI Technical Training Workshop, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, stated that the workshop comes at the most appropriate time, when so many changes are taking place in the national development landscape in Mauritius. He stressed on the crucial importance of an appropriate and effective land administration system for sustainable development as well as the need to harness all the efforts and build up capacity to cope with the emerging needs and challenges. Recalling that the Land Administration, Valuation Information and Management System (LAVIMS, <http://www.geo-airbusds.com/en/176-mauritius-case-study>, <http://geosurveysolutions.com/land-management>), which provides a comprehensive national integrated set of spatial data for effective land use planning, is in place in his Ministry, Mr Soodhun said that LAVIMS has moved the technology forward, from a paper-based system to a modern state-of-the-art digital system, which delivers a range of benefits to all those involved in land administration in Mauritius. “LAVIMS acts now as an important instrument which paves the way for the establishment of a NSDI,” he pointed out.

The Vice-Prime Minister also highlighted the necessity, in establishing a National Spatial Data Infrastructure, for a strict protocol on data production and sharing to be put in place with all the stakeholders involved in management of spatial data in Mauritius, namely the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management, the Mauritius Meteorological Services, the National Disaster and Risk Management Department, Statistics Mauritius and the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute. He added that the adoption of a policy and a corresponding framework will facilitate the sharing of Geographic Information System data and will improve access to computerised mechanisms such as sharing platforms to facilitate the use of data, standard for data format, exchange and metadata.

Source: <http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/Mauritius-pursues-efforts-to-establish-its-National-Spatial-Data-Infrastructure.aspx>

SADC Institutional Support to African Climate Institutions Project seeks GIS Specialist



The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) has received a Grant from the African Development Bank toward the cost of the Institutional Support to African Climate Institutions Project (ISACIP) and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for an individual consultant to carry out consulting services as a GIS Specialist for SADC-CSC ISACIP.

The ISACIP project (<http://www.afdb.org/en/projects-and-operations/project-portfolio/project/p-z1-cz0-003/>), aims to strengthen the capacity of African Climate Institutions to generate climate information and to allow their wide dissemination to end users. These Institutions are: the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) Regional Centre for Agro-meteorology and Operational Hydrology (AGRHYMET), IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and SADC Climate Services Centre (SADC-CSC) former Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC) in Nairobi and Gaborone respectively. ISACIP will strengthen the capacity of African Climate Institutions in order for them to generate relevant information on climate and to make them available to end users through appropriate channels.

As part of implementation of ISACIP in SADC, the SADC Secretariat now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services of a short-term GIS Specialist under the Downscaling of Global Climate Data and Scenarios-Services component. The GIS Specialist is mainly responsible for the provision of GIS/Remote Sensing technical assistance to SADC Climate Service Centre focusing on geo-spatial technology applications to support hydrology & climate mapping and modelling as well as other projects implemented by the Climate Services Centre. He /She will also be responsible for the creation of the remote sensing products developed by the centre and providing capacity building support to SADC Member States. Application deadline: **5 June 2015** at 10.00 hours Botswana time.

Source: <http://www.sadc.int/opportunities/procurement/open-procurement-opportunities/gis-specialist-sadc-csc-isacip/>

Ethiopia: Mekelle University seeks International GIS/RS Expert(s) for teaching and research responsibilities

Deadline: **26 June 2015**



Mekelle University is one of the fastest growing Universities in Ethiopia. It currently caters for over 31, 000 students for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies. To this end it has established several institutes of which the Institute of Geo-Information and Earth Observation Sciences (I-GEOS) is one of them (<http://www.mu.edu.et/index.php/institute-of-geo-information-and-earth-observation-sciences-i-geos>). The Institute is now seeking an international GIS/RS expert(s) whose responsibility will be to help the institute in teaching and research of GIS sciences and applications, to help the institute create international links with similar academic and research institutions, help the institute build its capacity to make it one of

the best GIS institutes in Eastern Africa. The position is for a two year contract and renewable according to the performance of the candidate. Starting salary is US\$ 2000 (equivalent to US\$4000 in western standards) and can increase depending on the qualifications of the candidate. See link for required qualifications and experience. All interested and qualified applicants may send their applications (CV and Cover letter) by mail to i-geos.hr@mu.edu.et For further explanation needed please contact: Telephone: +251 914707395.

Source: <http://zunia.org/post/mekelle-university-vacancy-announcement>

South Africa: Two vacancies for Software Developers, Meraka Institute, Scientia, Pretoria



The CSIR-Meraka Institute is looking to appoint two experienced Software Developers within the CSIR Meraka Institute, Earth Observation Science and Information Technology (EOS IT) research areas (in Pretoria). (http://www.csir.co.za/meraka/eos/overview_eos.html). More and more sensor data is represented in some form of map to provide real-world context to the observations being made. The EOSIT Competence Area is a high performance research group, who, through

continuous research and development (R&D), develops capabilities to provide complete spatial information systems. These systems through the innovative use of ICT turn sensor data (satellite or in-situ) into valuable contextual geospatial information solutions able to scale to meet global needs. The Software Developers will play a key role in architecting, developing and operating these systems.

Software Developer, Vacancy No. 305547

S/he will work in teams with other developers and researchers to develop code and systems for operational geospatial information solutions that find application globally. Requirements for the position include: minimum qualification of a bachelor's degree in computer sciences or engineering and/or postgraduate geo-informatics; and a minimum of 3-5 years' experience in software development with a proven track record of delivery on end-to-end software systems; strong experience with Open Source development tools and platforms – Linux; experience in development with Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial systems, spatial database management systems and OGC standards; strong quantitative skills (mathematics / statistics / computer science, spatial analytics); experience in developing web applications utilising web frameworks; and previous experience in developing rich client-side web applications would be advantageous. Deadline: **12 June 2015**.

Software Developer, Vacancy No. 305548

S/he will develop and manage a bespoke operational geospatial information solution that finds application globally; and contribute within a team in implementing new system requirements to meet the needs of customers. Requirements for the position include: minimum qualification of a bachelor's degree in computer sciences or engineering; postgraduate qualification/experience in geo-informatics would be advantageous; a minimum of 5-8 years' experience in software development with a proven track record of delivery on end-to-end operational software systems; strong experience with Open Source development tools and platforms – Linux; previous experience in development with Free and Open Source Software for geospatial solutions, spatial database management systems and OGC standards (e.g. GeoServer, PostGIS, GDAL) would be highly advantageous; at least three years' experience in Python and Javascript; strong quantitative skills (mathematics / statistics / computer science, spatial analytics); experience in developing web applications both backend and frontend utilising web frameworks; experience in Linux server administration; previous experience in developing rich client-side web applications including geospatial libraries (e.g. Openlayers) would also be advantageous. Closing date: **12 June 2015**.

Source: <http://www.csir.co.za/recruitment/vacancy.php>

Gabon: Supporting the development of BIOPAMA tools

The BIOPAMA Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity in West and Central Africa has finalized testing the tools for protected area data collection and will start soon their dissemination and use in the region, with the support of

regional and national actors. The Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux de Gabon (ANPN - National Parks Agency) and the Réseau des Aires Protégées d’Afrique Centrale (RAPAC – Central Africa Protected Areas Network) have been crucial partners for BIOPAMA in this process designed to support decision making through the collection, management, and analysis of protected areas data.

Source: https://www.iucn.org/news_homepage/all_news_by_theme/?21325/Gabon-supports-the-development-of-BIOPAMA-tools
http://www.biopama.org/learn_more/?21325/Gabon-supports-the-development-of-BIOPAMA-tools

11th International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment 24-28 October 2016, Kampala, Uganda



The 11th International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the

Environment (AARSE2016) will be held in Kampala, Uganda from Monday 24th to Friday 28th October 2016. Makerere University together with other organizations and institutions in Uganda are taking the local lead in organizing the conference. At the international level, the AARSE executive together with leading scientists will be involved in the conference organization to ensure a smooth running and realization of the conference goals. The conference is expected to host between 700-1000 participants from all over the world including conference oral presenters, conference poster presenters, exhibitors, organizers of special sessions, policy makers and a range of young scientists. The gist of the conference is to learn from ongoing technological advancements and applications and to explore modalities of galvanizing space science and geospatial technologies into policy and evidence-based decision making that will contribute to the realization of the sustainable development goals.

Source: <http://aarse2016.org/>

Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

Cambodia: LICADHO opens up its land concessions data, urges full transparency from Government

The Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO) is releasing to the public its land concession dataset and urges the government to follow suit by publicly disclosing details of all land concessions granted in Cambodia. The information released is the culmination of five years of investigation into this sector.



In May 2012, the Prime Minister signed a directive declaring a moratorium on the granting of new Economic Land Concessions (ELCs). The directive also contained the announcement of a systematic review of ELCs. However, so far the government has yet to fully disclose the extent of its grand land giveaway.

To date, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery has published an oversimplified and incomplete list of companies; the Ministry of Environment has done even less, simply releasing the total number of companies involved and the total land area leased. Neither has disclosed the exact location of the 2.1 million hectares of Cambodian land covered by existing ELCs. A proper review can only be carried out if the government fully disclose all its land dealings to the public.

LICADHO hopes the information it is releasing can help progress the debate on the ELC scheme and its impacts. For those interested in the spatial data of land concessions, it can be downloaded in multiple formats (Shapefile, Google Earth's KML, or GeoJSON) at http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/land_concessions/.

Source: <http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/pressrelease.php?perm=380>

Bangladesh: Do-it-yourself mapping by mobile telephone

In November 2014 an expert team of Kadaster visited Bangladesh. The purpose of this mission was to carry out a needs assessment for capacity building and institutional development of the Bangladesh Department of Land Records and Surveys (DLRS). The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) has made capacity building funds available for this purpose. During the fact-finding mission, Kadaster interviewed representatives from institutes related to Land Administration. They also organised a two day training workshop in Dhaka. During these sessions, they introduced opinion leaders of Land Administration to modern concepts and visions regarding Fit-for-Purpose methods for land administration and modern geo-referencing processes. In 2015 the project will continue. Two workshops on Spatial Data Infrastructure and

Transparency of Data will take place. Furthermore, they have planned another training on Fit-for-Purpose methods. The project is linked to the Capacity Building component of the EU ‘Strengthening Access To Land And Property Rights For All Citizens Of Bangladesh’ Project.

Source: <http://www.kadaster.nl/web/artikel/download/Abroad-March-2015-1.htm>; Kadaster Abroad is a newsletter of Kadaster International. Kadaster International is a department of the Netherlands’ Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster).

Sri Lanka: Hi-tech system aims to enhance monitoring of the country’s water resources



The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) has launched a hi-tech information system that promises to help enhance water management in Sri Lanka. The Water Information System for Sri Lanka provides facts, figures and maps on trends in water availability, water use and water quality for the country.

The tool, launched in January 2014, is available free online (<http://slwater.iwmi.org/>) and is the first of its kind for helping scientists and

policymakers in Sri Lanka accurately monitor the dynamics of the country’s water resources. It also provides a secure platform for cooperation among all the agencies involved in water management in the country to share their data.

It was developed in conjunction with several national partners, including the Department of Irrigation, the National Water Supply and Drainage Board, the Institute of Fundamental Studies, the Water Resources Board and the University of Jaffna.

Source: <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/2015/05/boosting-water-management-in-sri-lanka/>

Kazakhstan: Experts learn from US to create Geoportals for climate data



Within the USAID/UNDP project on Improving the Climate Resiliency of Kazakhstan Wheat and Central Asian Food Security, five representatives of the National Center on Space Research and Technology (<http://www.spaceres.kz/>) participated in a 10-day specialized training programme on the development of geoportals for improving the early drought warning system in close cooperation with Spatial Development International, Inc., based in Seattle, WA, USA.

As part of its broader goal and objective, and with financial support from USAID, UNDP’s Climate Resilient Wheat project in Kazakhstan (<http://www.engilitycorp.com/service-offerings/specialized-technical-consulting/international-development/kazakhstan-climate-resilient-wheat-project/>) has supported the collaborative initiative of the National Center on Space Research and Technology to help build a web based information management platform to enhance the delivery of drought information to farmers for better planning and management of their farming production systems. As part of the collaborative initiative, the USAID/UNDP project has consolidated the concept for development of geoportal, whose main aim is to improve the present system of weather and climate data information delivery as a self-driven mechanism covering functionally not only Kazakhstan but also other Central Asian countries in the long perspective. The geoportal system is conceptualized to post updated cartographic and climate data information to define optimal planting times and better track and monitor the drought season in the wheat production sectors in Kazakhstan.

The official launch of geoportal is planned for July 2015 in the administrative building of the National Center for Space Research and Technology in Almaty, Kazakhstan. In this way, Kazakhstan will be the first country amongst the Eastern and Central European nations that would have such a comprehensive web based information management platform.

Source: <http://www.kz.undp.org/content/kazakhstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/04/23/usaid-undp-climate-resilience-wheat-project-provides-professional-study-tour-to-the-us-to-build-kazakh-experts-geoportals-capacity.html>

Georgia: Developing a Geospatial Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Utility Management System

This document (March 2015) is a project completion report prepared the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the technical assistance (TA) project 43531-012 in Georgia. The TA aimed to produce a geospatial water supply and sanitation (WSS) utility management system to facilitate infrastructure design and maintenance of assets to improve urban service delivery. It provided a GIS interface for decision makers, linking an asset and consumer database created through extensive ground surveys with digital maps generated from aerial photographs and satellite imagery. The GIS has an

additional feature of web-based access for general users to access the data. The TA was approved by ADB on 23 June 2010 for an amount of \$800,000. The TA was further upgraded to expand geospatial mapping to cover urban transport assets in addition to WSS assets through a major change in scope and increasing the TA amount by \$600,000.



Major Lessons: The basic infrastructure asset mapping is essential and can be considered an integral part of urban planning while designing for any major urban infrastructure investments. It is better to adopt a holistic approach by advance identification of various utilities to be mapped and how the database can be used by various service providers. This would involve dialogue at various levels in different government departments before designing such initiative, and the consulting firm should be engaged only after clarity on such issues. It is equally important for the utility staff to understand importance of such exercise and engage from the beginning of the TA. This would help the staff to have clarity on the outputs, which would be required to be updated on continuous basis for its effective use, based on future investments in the assets creation or rehabilitation.

Source: <http://www.eptisa.com/en/experience/developing-a-geospatial-urban-water-supply-and-sanitation-utility-management-system-in-georgia/eptisa-worldwide/>; <http://www.adb.org/projects/documents/geo-developing-geospatial-urban-wss-utility-management-system-tcr>

Scholarships for UNIGIS MSc candidates from Central Asia (and Russia)



The University of Salzburg with its Interfaculty Department of Geoinformatics - Z_GIS (<http://www.zgis.at/index.php/en/>) is offering up to 10 partial scholarships for UNIGIS distance learning MSc students for students from Central Asia (and Russia). UNIGIS Salzburg is inviting applications for scholarships covering approx. 60% of the Euro 9,800- tuition fee.

Following the vision of 'Educating GIS Professionals Worldwide', the UNIGIS MSc degree is a highly regarded and widely acknowledged postgraduate qualification offered in English language. Candidates from the Russia / CIS region are offered the opportunity of Russian language consultation, guidance and support.



Applications for scholarships will be ranked based upon prior knowledge, a detailed letter of motivation, date of application and regional diversity. Applicants have to fulfill University of Salzburg admission requirements. Deadline for applications is **July 31, 2015** the course will start in October 2015.

Brochure: <http://www.flipsnack.com/7E67F697C6F/fh3l6fsi.html>

Info video: <https://youtu.be/khGed9vEGIs>

Details: <http://salzburg.unigis.net> and <http://slidesha.re/hqFBtJ>

Contact: office.unigis.ru@zgis.net

Source: <http://unigis.blogspot.com/2015/05/unigis-scholarships-for-russia-students.html>

Singapore Geospatial Challenge SGC2015



Singapore Geospatial Challenge (SGC) is an initiative of the Singapore Land Authority (SLA, <http://www.sla.gov.sg/>) to encourage the use of Geographic Information Science & Technology GIST in schools. The Challenge first started in 2008 and has been organized annually. This year, SGC2015 is themed “Unlocking your 6th sense. Enabling our Smart Nation”. The Challenge aims to introduce sensor technology to the students and give them opportunities to explore innovative ideas using GIST as part of the national effort of moving Singapore towards becoming a Smart Nation.

In partnership with National Parks Board and Ministry of Education, SGC2015 will be engaging around 200 students to collect environmental data as a cohort in parks. The students will go on to use a myriad of data, in addition to their crowdsourced data, to create geospatial visualisation and analysis. The Challenge kickstarts by end-May with a series of trainings, workshops, startathon etc. and culminate at the SGC GeoAwards

ceremony on 29 July 2015. For more information, contact: jonathan_goh@sla.gov.sg or alvin_yeo@sla.gov.sg.

Register: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19ZWCrPV0HbHKXB6b3nTGYMZ9qrV3kB6r8ZA3Z7d8dww/viewform>

Source: <http://sgeospatial.weebly.com/sgc2015.html> ; <https://www.facebook.com/likeSGC>

India: Department of Science & Technology recruiting staff to work on NSDI



Per an announcement issued May 11, 2015, the Department of Science & Technology (DST) of the Ministry of Science & Technology currently has openings for a Hardware Engineer (one post) and System Analyst (two posts) to focus on National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Applications from prospective candidates are due within two months from the date of publication of the employment advertisement. See announcement:

http://dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new15/vacanciesHardwareSystemAnalyst.pdf

Note: Earlier this year, DST advertised an opening for the post of Chief Executive Officer (General Central Service Group 'A', Gazetted, Non-Ministerial) on deputation (including short-term contract) basis in National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The deadline for applications was May 13, 2015. See announcement: http://dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new14/CEO&Russian%20Interpreter.pdf

Further, DST's Office of the NSDI issued an invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for proposals for the upgrade and maintenance of India's NSDI geoportal (<https://nsdiindia.gov.in/nsdi/welcome.html>; <https://nsdiindia.gov.in/nsdi-portal/index.jsp>). The EOI was not an offer by DST or a tender document; rather it was an invitation to receive responses from eligible interested parties. The deadline for proposals originally was April 15th, 2015, but it had been extended to April 30th. The Service Provider in general will be responsible for:

- a) Regular maintenance and updating of website content, addition/deletion of data/ information content at short notices.
- b) On-line and off line archiving of the content of the web portal on a regular basis.
- c) Regular Monitoring and fine-tuning of web services available at Portal, creation of new OGC compatible web services by various means like from relational databases, and other available commercial and open source software packages.
- d) Development of Catalogue Service on Web (CSW) and registration of web services (e.g. WMS, WFS, WMTS, etc.) from other agencies on the portal for access.
- e) Making and keeping all the tools and functionalities available in the portal operational.
- f) Revamping the storage and search mechanism of metadata on India Geo Portal in order to make it feature/ theme-based, more user-friendly and efficient.
- g) Supporting NSDI in conducting experiments on the India Geo Portal towards operationalisation of Registry Services from relational databases containing geo-spatial data, metadata, and tools (processing).

See EOI invitation: https://nsdiindia.gov.in/nsdi/nsdiportal/meetings/EOI_India_Geoportal_Eng.pdf. Any further information/clarification with respect of this EOI may be sought from Shri Nirmalendu Kumar, Hardware Engineer, NSDI, nirmalendu.kumar@nic.in.

Source: http://dst.gov.in/whats_new/advertisements.htm; <https://nsdiindia.gov.in/nsdi/welcome.html>

New Zealand: LGGA conducting survey to improve local government consents data



The Local Government Geospatial Alliance (LGGA) is conducting an important survey to assess the state of spatial consents data in local government. LGGA is seeking feedback so that it can get a picture of spatial consents data in local government and understand common issues. With this information, LGGA hopes to be able to help resolve some issues and perhaps work towards building a nationally consistent dataset. A resource consent is the authorisation given to certain activities or uses of natural and physical resources required under the New Zealand Resource Management Act. A resource consent means any of the following: land use consent, subdivision consent, water permit, discharge permit, coastal permit. The survey, which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NGZSLSX>, is to be completed by Friday, **5 June 2015**.

LGGA aims to bring together local government to enable geospatial collaboration, capability and communication. See LGGA Terms of Reference at <http://lgga-nz.blogspot.com/p/terms-of-reference-for-lgga.html>.

Source: <http://lgga-nz.blogspot.com/>

Workshop: Moving on from Experimental Approaches to Advancing National Systems for Measuring and Monitoring Forest Degradation across Asia
16-18 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand



As part of the Lower Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS) Global Partnership, the JRC is co-organising a workshop on approaches to measuring and monitoring forest degradation across Asia, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 16-18 June 2015. The other organisers include USAID Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (USAID LEAF), the United States Forest Service International Program (USFS IP), the United States Government SilvaCarbon Program, UN-REDD Program (Asia-Pacific), and the USAID SERVIR Program.

The workshop is designed to build a common regional understanding of the rationale for measuring and monitoring forest degradation in the context of climate change mitigation, and provide a platform for national policy makers and technicians and international researchers to share information on methodologies and approaches for measuring and monitoring forest degradation. It will focus on the key questions of why and how forest degradation can be measured, and what needs to be done to overcome the barriers and limitations. These questions will be explored in the context of developing cost-effective national systems for measuring and monitoring forest degradation.

The workshop will produce three documents – a synthesis paper for national land-use decision makers, a strategy paper for national policy leaders and the donor community, and a guidance document targeting national technicians. Participants will represent 14 countries from across South and Southeast Asia.

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/workshop/moving-experimental-approaches-advancing-national-systems-measuring-and-monitoring-forest>

Maldives: UNDP seeks Local Planning Officers for LECReD Programme



A three year, US\$9.2 million UN Joint Programme, is assisting the Laamu Atoll and its islands to realize Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development (LECREd,

http://www.mv.undp.org/content/maldives/en/home/operations/projects/environment_and_energy/Joint-programmeDoc.html). UNDP currently has four positions for Local Planning Officers on the LECReD programme open to Maldivian Nationals only. Application deadline: **4 June 2015**

The programme seeks to mainstream LECReD issues into local level development planning and service delivery for greater community-level ownership and sustainability of programme benefits. Towards this objective, the programme is supporting local councils, civil society, private sector and other local stakeholders to establish platforms for stronger partnerships, improved coordination, and enhanced participation in local planning for LECReD; it will strengthen data and knowledge systems for LECReD; improve local level LECReD development planning and management of service delivery; and through a learning-by-doing approach establish early lessons and build demand for LECReD planning and management for replication and scaling-up. In pursuit of the core objective, the programme will achieve the following outputs:

- Output 1: Partnership, coordination and participation platform for local LECReD planning and action is strengthened.
- Output 2: Data and knowledge systems established or identified to support evidence-based planning and policy development for LECReD at the local level.
- Output 3: Improved Local Level Planning and Management for LECReD.
- Output 4: Practical local experience in LECReDs interventions leads to learning and promotes replication.

Source: http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=56687

FutureGov Asia Pacific Awards



For the ninth successful year Asia Pacific's government technology awards are back – celebrating the programmes of the region's most successful government, education and healthcare organisations. Will your agency be among those honoured? To stand a chance of winning – you have to nominate! Nomination deadline: **30 June 2015**.

Nomination form:

<https://docs.google.com/a/futuregov.net/forms/d/1oA7UXkN1q0MJpMEORs3x9yUWfPvqxhdhvreyAICH-eM/viewform>

Source: <http://www.futuregov.asia/>

Europe Region SDI News

Spain: Regulation of Geographical Institute of Aragon and Aragon Mapping System approved



On May 11th, the Official Bulletin of Aragon (BOA) published the Decree 81/2015, of 5 May, the Government of Aragon, by Regulation approving the

Institute of Aragon Geographic and Cartographic System of Aragon. Decree 81/2015 states:

“The Geographic Institute of Aragon (<http://www.aragon.es/DepartamentosOrganismosPublicos/Institutos/IGEAR>), with nature integrated in the department responsible for regional planning service is a support service to all administrative units of the Government of Aragon, to other public administrations and citizens, in everything related with geographical information and documentation on the Management of the Aragonese territory.

The Geographic Institute of Aragon is the body responsible for the planning and development of basic and derived mapping of the Autonomous Community and coordination of thematic cartography, remote sensing, geographic databases, the network of Global Navigation Satellite positioning System (GNSS) and document information management Aragonese territory.” <http://idearagon.aragon.es/>

Decreto 81/2015, de 5 de mayo, del Gobierno de Aragón, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento del Instituto Geográfico de Aragón y del Sistema Cartográfico de Aragón. <http://www.boa.aragon.es/cgi-bin/EBOA/BRSCGI?CMD=VEROBJ&MLKOB=853399225555>

Decreto 82/2015, de 5 de mayo, del Gobierno de Aragón, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento regulador de la información geográfica de Aragón. <http://www.boa.aragon.es/cgi-bin/EBOA/BRSCGI?CMD=VEROBJ&MLKOB=853401245555>

Source: <http://blog-idee.blogspot.com/2015/05/se-aprueba-el-reglamento-del-instituto.html>

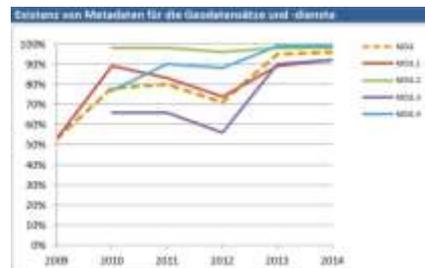
Germany: Current state of implementation of INSPIRE in Germany



Every year, under INSPIRE’s monitoring programme, EU Member States must provide by mid-May information on the structure and operation of their spatial information infrastructures. Germany’s Steering Committee for Spatial Data

Infrastructure (GDI-DE), which is responsible for implementation of the INSPIRE Directive at the national level, has prepared a report.

According to the report, there are currently more than 11,000 drop spatial data sets with the INSPIRE Directive, which are accessible via more than 15,000 viewer and download services. So far, 96% of the data sets and services with INSPIRE metadata are described in the GDI-DE on the Geodatenkatalog.de and are searchable. About three quarters of the records are accessible on a service viewer, e.g., visualized in Geoportal.de, while more than two thirds are unable to be downloaded via a download service.



Since the end of 2013 all spatial data sets covered by the INSPIRE directive must be described with metadata and be accessible through a view service and a download service. This objective could not be achieved so far, even if an overall positive trend can be observed.

The results of the INSPIRE Monitoring 2014 have been published at <http://www.gdi-de.org/monitoring2014/>. The development of the collected indicators (monitoring indicators) may be <https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/insp/Indikatoren> be viewed.

Source: http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/GDI-DE-Aktuelles/2015/Meldung_INSPIRE_Monitoring_EU.html

Germany: Upcoming Thematic Workshops on Open Data Action Plan



The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Initiative D21 invites participation in three thematic workshops concerning the Open Data Action Plan ([http://www.verwaltung-](http://www.verwaltung-innovativ.de/DE/E_Government/Open_Government/Aktionsplan/Aktionsplan_node.html)

[innovativ.de/DE/E_Government/Open_Government/Aktionsplan/Aktionsplan_node.html](http://www.verwaltung-innovativ.de/DE/E_Government/Open_Government/Aktionsplan/Aktionsplan_node.html)).

Workshop 1: Energy policy and climate protection, 16 June 2015, 13:00 - 17:00, Berlin

In this workshop, experts, creative minds and employees from the corresponding authorities will discuss on the basis of the submitted ideas in the platform issues such as the use of open weather information, information about the energy mix in Germany or supporting the work of environmentalists through open access to waters cards. Registration: <http://www.initiated21.de/portfolio/anmeldung-themenworkshop-i-open-data-aktionsplan/>



Workshop 2: Transport and mobility, 17 June 2015, 13:00 - 17:00, Berlin

The area of transport and mobility is repeatedly used as an example of the enormous potential of Open Data for business, science and consumers. On the platform, among other ideas about transport infrastructure, price data of the service-station operator and an accessible navigation filed, which form the basis for substantive discussion during the workshop. Registration: <http://www.initiated21.de/portfolio/anmeldung-themenworkshop-ii-open-data-aktionsplan/>

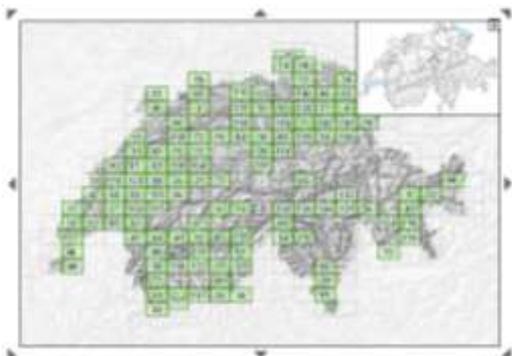
Workshop 3: Government transparency and participation, 18 June 2015, 13:00 - 17:00, Berlin

On the participation platform open-data-aktionsplan.de many ideas were submitted, aimed at government transparency and participation. In this workshop, the intention is to talk about the ideas, e.g., how to make, for example the machine-readable access to legislative and regulatory texts in the context of the Open Data Action Plan.

Registration: <http://www.initiated21.de/portfolio/anmeldung-themenworkshop-iii-open-data-aktionsplan/>

Source: http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/GDI-DE-Aktuelles/2015/D21_Workshop_2015.html

Switzerland: Geological Atlas of Switzerland 1:25 000 - 137 Alpnach



With the Atlas sheet 137 Alpnach, swisstopo has closed another gap in the coverage of the national geological mapping. It is the first sheet to represent the central Swiss Alps in detail at a scale of 1:25 000. The area between Hergiswil in the north and Sarnen in the south, with Pilatus and Stanserhorn as formative peaks, shows the geological wealth of the central Swiss mountains.

To access: Geological Atlas of Switzerland 1:25 000 - 137 Alpnach

<http://www.swisstopo.admin.ch/internet/swisstopo/en/home/products/maps/geology/atlas.html>

The sheets of the Geological Atlas of Switzerland give detailed information on the uppermost layers of sediment and bedrock. Geological formations are represented by colours, conventional signs and symbols, in accordance with their age, composition and tectonic structure. The topographic background of the series in preparation is provided by the Swiss National Map at 1:25,000 scale. For each sheet, an explanatory booklet is also published, in which the geological formations and special features of the area in question are described. The Atlas is an indispensable tool for geologists, engineers, planners, government departments, scientists and schools.

Source: <http://www.swisstopo.admin.ch/internet/swisstopo/en/home/current/newproducts/20150528.html>

Switzerland: Folio 2014 (Federal Office of Topography swisstopo Annual Report, in English)



One of the most important measures in 2014 is without a doubt the resolution that from now on swisstopo shall be managed as an independent administrative office. This is a positive turn for swisstopo, bringing with it increased interest and a distinctive profile. The decision is also strategically important: It confirms the position of swisstopo as a significant interdisciplinary institution, considering that today almost all offices need and use geodata in some kind of form.

Access Folio 2014:

http://www.swisstopo.admin.ch/internet/swisstopo/en/home/swisstopo/annual_reports.parsys.00011.downloadList.36415.DownloadFile.tmp/swisstopofolio14enweb.pdf

Source: http://www.swisstopo.admin.ch/internet/swisstopo/en/home/swisstopo/annual_reports.html

Switzerland: Magazine «cadastre» No. 17 / April 2015

cadastre

Revue spécialisée consacrée au cadastre suisse

The Swiss journal 'cadastre' (<http://www.cadastre.ch>) is for professionals in surveying, as well as professionals who are involved in the construction and operation of the PLR cadastre (Cadastre of Public-law Restrictions on land ownership) in Switzerland. It is an important means of communication of the Federal Directorate of Cadastral Surveying, containing opinions of specialists, information on specific events, and reflections on legal matters. It is published three times annually (in German and French) and is free (subscription).

Magazine, Number 17, April 2015 (in German): http://www.cadastre.ch/internet/cadastre/de/home/docu/info_vd.html

Magazine Number 17, April 2015 (in French): http://www.cadastre.ch/internet/cadastre/fr/home/docu/info_vd.html

Source: http://www.cadastre.ch/internet/cadastre/de/home/docu/info_vd.html

The Netherlands: Geonovum in a Nutshell



The publication Geonovum in Vogelvlucht (*in a nutshell*) was published on May 29, 2015. Based on interviews and illustrations, this edition better acquaints readers with Geonovum's organization and work. The starting point is work in 2014. So, the publication takes readers into the world of linked data, the living lab for the Internet of Everything, building blocks for the Environment Act and our contribution to the Building Information Modeling. Interviews with Dimitri van Hees (Apiwise), Cees Moons (Ministry of Infrastructure and

Environment), Mary-Ann Schreurs (alderman Municipality of Eindhoven) and Herman Stores (Programme Office of the Building Information Council).

Access the publication: Geonovum in Vogelvlucht (May 2015 edition), in Dutch

<http://www.geonovum.nl/sites/default/files/Geonovum%20in%20vogelvlucht-2014.pdf>

Note also: Geonovum Long-Term Vision and Strategy 2014-2018

<http://www.geonovum.nl/sites/default/files/20131211%20Meerjarenvisie%20en%20strategie%20Geonovum2014%20-%202017.pdf>

Geonovum implementation in 2015

<http://www.geonovum.nl/sites/default/files/Geonovum%20Uitvoeringsplan%202015%20v1%200.pdf>

Source: <http://www.geonovum.nl/nieuws/geonovum-vogelvlucht-0>

Netherlands: Announcement for Open Geoday 2015 - Year of the (digital) Space



On September 2, 2015, Geonovum will organize the Open Geoday. In this Year of the (digital) Space, Geonovum invite you for a day of inspiring lectures and refreshing sessions. Registration is at <http://www.geonovum.nl/formulieren/open-geodag-2015>

Source: <http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/kennisplein/nieuws/vooraankondiging-open-geodag-2015-jaar-van-de-digitale-ruimte>

Netherlands: Competition Best Linked Data Application 2015

In 2015, the Linked Data Platform Netherlands awards a prize for "Best Linked Data Application of 2015". Geonovum invites Dutch community to cordially to submit applications / projects for this prize. Interested parties may register and submit (<http://www.semantics.cc/bldt>) up to **August 1, 2015**. The prize "Best Application of Linked Data 2015" will be awarded in two categories, one in the area of Linked Open Data, and one in the area of Linked Data Enterprise. Winners will receive an award and a film / animation of their application / project. The winners are also the Dutch nominations for European Linked Data contest, to be awarded at the Semantics Conference, 15-17 September 2015, in Vienna, Austria.

Source: <http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/linked-data/nieuws/prijsvraag-beste-linked-data-toepassing-2015>

Sweden: Lantmäteriet (Land Survey) releasing small-scale map information for free



As a first step to open geodata, Lantmäteriet has decided to open their databases with small-scale map information. This means that public, private and public actors get free access to many of the maps used in conjunction with outdoor recreation, transportation and general planning. It is an important step towards the full opening of geographical data, says Lantmäteriet Director General Bengt Kjellson. However, to open all geographic data, such as aerial imagery, high resolution elevation data and addresses, political decisions are required on a new funding model. This would require an annual allocation of about 100 million per year, which Lantmäteriet called for in the budget proposal for 2016-18, says Bengt Kjellson.

The information Lantmäteriet gradually opens up is being made available under Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) open data license, version 4.0. This means that information can be used, distributed, redone, modified and built upon, even for commercial purposes, as long as the user states that Lantmäteriet is the author of the source data, when the user uses, processes, or disseminates his/her work.

Source: <http://www.lantmateriet.se/en/Nyheter-pa-Lantmateriet/pressmeddelande-lantmateriet-slapper-smaskalig-kartinformation-fri/>

Finland: First social responsibility report from the National Land Survey



The National Land Survey of Finland published a description of its social responsibility for the first time. Social responsibility reports are still rare within organisations in the public administration.

The National Land Survey's social responsibility includes acting in an open and ethical manner, respecting stakeholders, compliance with laws and international codes of conduct as well as voluntary activities, through which the organisation promotes sustainable development.

"Our social responsibility report tells the story of our responsibilities towards our customers, employees, society at large and the environment", says Director of Communications Pirkko Yliselä.

"Socially significant we find at least a total productivity of five percent last year and promoting the free use of topographic data, for instance, through the Map service for the public administration, which is free of charge for authorities", says Yliselä.

The report also presents the Property Transaction Service, which saves customers time, our strict information security and our continuous quality work. Our environmental targets consist of work in multiple locations, a new concept of premises and Green Office work.

Download Social Responsibility Report 2014 (in English):

http://www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/sites/default/files/mml_socialresponsibility_2014_en.pdf

Source: <http://www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/en/tiedotteet/2015/05/first-social-responsibility-report-national-land-survey>

UK: Ordnance Survey seeks Senior Technical Product Manager, Southampton



Ordnance Survey (OS) is looking for a permanent, full-time Senior Technical Product Manager to join the OS APIs Group, part of our Digital Products Group. The role will focus on our growing portfolio of web services and APIs. You will play a key role in driving the development of this key product family. Working closely with the Head of APIs, API Product Managers and supported by Technical Product Managers you will provide the senior technical leadership and day-to-day direction of the project teams developing our APIs.

With responsibility for supporting stakeholders, you will make informed technical decisions across all aspects of the product lifecycle. You will become an expert in Ordnance Survey APIs, web services, data products and applications, and will develop technical specifications and product backlogs based on user requirements. For more information about the competencies and what OS is looking for, click here: <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/docs/application-forms/competency-framework.pdf>. Salary: Circa £37,000, plus excellent benefits. Further information is available from Gary Gale, Head of APIs, (023 8005) 4358. This recruitment campaign will remain open until the vacancy has been filled

Source: <https://ordnancesurvey.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx?id=259>

European cadastre and mapping authorities meet in Riga



Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union

The State Land Service of the Republic of Latvia hosted the Conference and Plenary Meeting of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union, <http://www.eurocadastre.org/>, in Riga on 12-13 May 2015. The conference “Digital Europa – Towards Cadastre 2034” endorsed the development of digital solutions for Cadastre as a foundation for sustainable land governance and a greater coordination among the different European cadastral systems and their users.

The EU Member States currently hold information about more than 560 million land parcels across the EU. The conference participants focused on discussing the quality of cadastral data and new sources for obtaining cadastral information. This information is fundamental not only for the implementation of tax policy, but also for secure land management, environment protection and sustainable land development at both national and European level. Therefore, the participants shared their experience on how to ensure up-to date data, the monitoring of such data structures that facilitate important decision-making process, and the acquisition of new data sets that are in accordance with the needs of future planning.

Presentations from the conference are available online: <http://www.vzd.gov.lv/en/About%20us/latvian-presidency-of-the-council-of-the/latvian-presidency-of-the-pcc-in-the-eu/presentations/>

Source: <http://www.vzd.gov.lv/en/About%20us/latvian-presidency-of-the-council-of-the/latvian-presidency-of-the-pcc-in-the-eu>

3rd Eurographics Workshop on Urban Data Modelling and Visualisation (UDMV 2015) 23 November 2015, Delft, the Netherlands

Paper submission deadline: **July 3, 2015**



The objective of this workshop is to discuss the modelling and visualisation of the city at various temporal and spatial scales, and aims at sharing associated techniques, methods, uses and points of view. Managing and understanding urban data are major issues as there are represented by several kind of different data at different scales. Urban data not only embed the geometry of the city model, but also data related to human activities (e.g. social data, transportation, mobility, history), to physical phenomena (e.g. light, wind, heat), and to environment (e.g. geography, climate). Thus, the processing of urban data is a huge

challenge for current computing capabilities, especially considering all the sustainable development parameters related to architectural design, urban planning and urban climate studies; but also considering the specific needs of entertainment, cultural heritage or any domains using urban data.



After being organised in Spain in 2013 and in France in 2014 as a co-located event of the Eurographics conference, this third workshop moves on its own to the Netherlands in autumn as a stand-alone event. It is organised at TU Delft on November 23rd 2015 by the 3D geoinformation group. Once again, the organizers expect fruitful exchanges by the involvement of the computer graphics and the geoinformatics communities. Contributions addressing the following topics are welcome:

- Modelling the static and dynamic features of the city (spatio-temporal data)
- Multi-scale geometric data (from building scale to urban scale)
- Multi-scale temporal data (from real time to history time)
- Visualisation of several urban data layers (aggregated indicators)
- Visual analytics using urban data (decision making processes and CAD)
- Acquisition and generation of real or realistic urban data

Source: <http://3dgeoinfo.bk.tudelft.nl/events/udmv2015/>

ISO/TC 211 Standards in Action Workshop, 10 June 2015, Southampton, U.K.



Ordnance Survey and ISO/TC 211 (<http://www.isotc211.org/>) are please to invite you to the standards in action workshop that will be held at Ordnance Survey, in Southampton UK, on 10 June

2015. You can register for the morning or afternoon session, or both (they're free). The agenda for the Standards in Action workshop is as follows:

Morning session, 9:30am-1:30pm

Introduction/host: Peter ter Haar

Speakers:

- Olaf Østensen, ISO TC211 chair: an overview of TC211's current programme
- Denise McKenzie, Open Geospatial Consortium Executive Director, Communication & Outreach: an overview of OGC's current programme
- Phil Archer, W3C data activity lead: Spatial Data on the Web

Tea/coffee break

- Dr David Forrest (Glasgow University, Chair of the UK Committee for Cartography): ICA's International Map Year
- Richard Waterhouse, RIBA Enterprises, chair of British Standards Institution's Construction design, modelling and data exchange technical committee: current BIM activities and the BIM toolkit
- Gary Gale, OS Head of APIs: Web map APIs - standards and usability

Panel discussion

Afternoon session, 1pm-5pm including tea/coffee break (please arrive by 12:30pm if you would like lunch)

Host: Peter Parslow

Speakers:

- Suprajaka, Head of Center for Geospatial Information Standardization, Geospatial Information Agency of the Republic of Indonesia: Indonesia's road map in standards for geospatial information
- Zenon Parzyński, Główny Urząd Geodezji i Kartografii (GUGiK, the General Office of Geodesy and Cartography): The Polish method of harmonization of data models
- (Speaker TBC) European Location Framework (an open standard based multi-national web mapping project, building on INSPIRE)
- Eddie Curtis, CTO, Snowflake Software: "Common ground - how disparate industries can share resources"
- Stan Smith, US Geological Survey and Josh Bradley, US Fish and Wildlife Service: Alaska Data Integration Working Group (ADIwg) Open Source ISO Metadata Toolkit

For more information and registration, <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/tc211/standards-workshop.html>

9th GEO European Projects Workshop, 15-16 June 2015, Copenhagen - Registration is now open

The 9th GEO European Projects Workshop is being organised in Copenhagen on 15 and 16 June 2015. The purpose of the Workshop is to bring together European stakeholders interested in and actively contributing to the Global Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS). The event is a forum to exchange ideas and inform participants about work and initiatives undertaken in the context of GEOSS. Click here to register: <http://geo.pbe.eea.europa.eu/library/9th-geo>

Organised jointly by the Danish Meteorological Institute, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency, the meeting has been timed to maximise early insight and awareness of the new implementation plan for the next decade of GEO. In addition, it will provide input to and raise awareness of the Horizon 2020 work programme for 2016 and 2017.

Key features this year include the transition from the first to the second GEO ten-year implementation plan, the ambition to involve the private sector more closely in GEO, especially SMEs, and the need to develop the use of GEO data and information to respond more pro-actively to societal issues and challenges. The event will offer strategic insight through keynotes from the host organisations as well as enabling participants to present their work and discuss how Europe can contribute to this international effort.

The workshop will explore priorities for future flagship initiatives, foreseen to be strengthened in the next phase of GEO in order to fulfil GEO's ambition to provide information for decision making. Marine Information systems will also be in focus. Success in this ambition is critically dependent on user engagement, which will be an underpinning theme throughout the workshop.

Draft agenda: <http://geo.pbe.eea.europa.eu/library/9th-geo/agenda>

Source: <http://geo.pbe.eionet.europa.eu/>

European Linked Data Contest



In all matters related to Semantic Technologies, European Research and European Industry plays a leading role. The annual SEMANTiCS conference is the focal point to showcase the vital European Semantic Web and Linked Data scene. This year, the European Linked Data Contest (ELDC) is awarded in the categories Linked Enterprise Data and Linked Open Data, with €1.500,- for each of the winners. Winners

also get tickets for the SEMANTiCS conference in September this year. Second and third place will get a honorable mention together with the ELDC trophy. The award ceremony will be held on September 17th in Vienna. Every individual, company, association, institution or informal group of individuals is eligible to submit nominations. Submitters should have their focus of activity in Europe. Submission is open until **August 31, 2015**.

Source: <http://www.semantics.cc/eldc>

Semantics Conference, 15-17 September 2015, Vienna, Austria



The annual SEMANTiCS conference is the meeting place for professionals who make semantic computing work, and understand its benefits and know its limitations. Every year, SEMANTiCS attracts information managers, IT-architects, software engineers, and researchers, from organisations ranging from NPOs, universities, public administrations to the largest companies in the world. SEMANTiCS 2015 (#semantics2015) continues a long tradition of bringing together colleagues from around the world to present best practices, panels, papers and posters to discuss semantic systems in birds-of-a-feather sessions and informal settings. Calls for Research & Innovation Papers, Industry Presentations and Poster/Demos are now open.

Source: <http://www.semantics.cc>

Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

Peru: Se desarrolló la Primera Sesión Ordinaria 2015 del Comité Coordinador Permanente para la implementación de la IDEP



GEOIDEP
Portal de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Perú

El 31 de marzo del 2015 en la Sala del Acuerdo Nacional en la Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros, se desarrolló la Primera

Sesión Ordinaria del año 2015 del Comité Coordinador Permanente para la implementación de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Perú (CCIDEP). La agenda tratada fue la siguiente:

- Informe de la Secretaría Técnica sobre los avances en la implementación de la IDEP durante el año 2014.
- Presentación del Portal de Datos Espaciales del Perú, <http://www.geoidep.gob.pe>.
- Presentación de los avances de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Loreto y el Consejo Interregional Amazónico (CIAM).
- Plan de trabajo del año 2015.
- Solicitudes de la secretaría técnica : Organización de Seminario Taller Nacional sobre Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales

La reunión contó con la participación de 17 de los 19 representantes ministeriales ante este comité y la presencia del Coordinador de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Gobierno Regional Iquitos.

Los acuerdos tomados fueron los siguientes:

- Aprobación del Plan de Trabajo 2015 propuesta por la Oficina Nacional de Gobierno Electrónico e Informática (ONGEI).
- Crear del grupo del trabajo para proponer alternativas para fortalecer la red geodésica nacional. Se propuso al IGN como responsable del grupo. Se incorporaría a MINAM y CONIDA en dicho grupo.
- Crear un grupo de trabajo que presente una propuesta de Directiva de Acceso a la Información de imágenes del Satélite Peruano. El grupo estaría coordinado por CONIDA, con un representante de ONGEI, MINAM y el Gobierno Regional de Loreto.

En la siguiente sesión del CCIDEP se presentará el Plan de los Grupos de trabajo para el presente año.

Acta 1ra Sesión Ordinaria 2015 CCIDEP 31 de marzo

<http://www.geoidep.gob.pe/index.php/component/phocadownload/category/21-actas?download=56:acta-1era-reunion-del-ccidep-31-de-marzo-del-2015>

English summary: **First Regular Session 2015 held of the Permanent Coordinating Committee for the implementation of the IDEP**

On March 31, 2015, in Conference Room of the National Agreement on the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the First Regular Session 2015 was held of the Permanent Coordinating Committee for the implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructure of Peru (CCIDEP). The agenda covered:

- Report of the Technical Secretariat on progress in the implementation of the IDEP for 2014.
- Presentation of Spatial Data Portal Peru, <http://www.geoidep.gob.pe>.
- Presentation of the progress of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Loreto and Amazon Interregional Council CIAM.
- Work Plan for 2015.
- Requests for technical secretariat: Organization Workshop on National Spatial Data Infrastructure

The meeting was attended by 17 of the 19 ministerial representatives before this committee and the presence of the Coordinator of the Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Government Iquitos.

The agreements reached were:

- Approval of the Work Plan 2015 proposed by the National Office of Electronic Government and Information (ONGEI).
- Create a work group to propose ways to strengthen national geodetic network. IGN was proposed as group leader. It would join MINAM and CONIDA in that group.
- Create a working group to submit a proposal for a directive on Access to Information Satellite Images of Peru. The group would be coordinated by CONIDA, with a representative of ONGEI, MINAM and the Regional Government of Loreto.

In the next session of CCIDEP, the Plan for Working Groups for the current year will be presented.

Fuente: <http://www.geoidep.gob.pe/index.php/noticias/190-primera-sesion-ordinaria-del-ccidep-llevada-a-cabo-el-31-de-marzo-del-2015>

Peru: Catálogo de Objetos Geográficos de Datos Fundamentales del Departamento de Loreto



En el marco del fortalecimiento de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Perú – IDEP, la Oficina Nacional de Gobierno Electrónico e Informática - ONGEI de la Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros - PCM, participó en la presentación del “Catálogo de Objetos Geográficos de Datos Fundamentales del Departamento de Loreto”.

El cual será un estándar fundamental en la normalización de información geográfica, y permitirá tanto a los usuarios como a los productores hablar en un lenguaje común respecto al contenido de los conjuntos de datos y por consiguiente tener una mayor comprensión de su contenido y alcance. Ver nota de la Region: <http://www.regionloreto.gob.pe/gore-loreto-esta-a-la-vanguardia-con-infraestructura-de-datos-espaciales-regional/>

English summary: Catalogue of Geographic Objects of Fundamental Data of Loreto

In the framework of strengthening the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Peru - IDEP, the National Office of Electronic Government and Information - ONGEI of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM), participated in the presentation of the “Catalogue of Geographic Objects of Fundamental Data of Loreto.” This will be a key standard in the standardization of geographical information. It will allow both users and producers to speak a common language regarding the content of data sets, and thus have a greater understanding of data content and scope.

Fuente: <http://www.geoidep.gob.pe/index.php/noticias/189-el-gobierno-regional-de-loreto-presento-catalogo-de-objetos-geograficos-de-datos-fundamentales-del-departamento-de-loreto>

Ecuador: Conversatorio de la infraestructura de datos espaciales 2015



Un conversatorio sobre “Interoperabilidad de los Datos Geográficos abiertos como apoyo en los procesos del sector público” fue realizado en las Instalaciones del Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM), el día Lunes 6 de Abril del 2015. Este encuentro fue organizado por IGM con el objetivo para fortalecer los vínculos de las entidades públicas para una correcta interoperabilidad de datos geográficos. Las presentaciones realizadas en el evento (de las instituciones del Estado como: el Ministerio de Agricultura Ganadería Acuacultura y Pesca (MAGAP), la Secretaría Nacional de la Administración Pública (SNAP), Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo (SENPLADES), Ministerio del Ambiente (MAE) y la Universidad del Azuay) están al disposición del público.



English summary: Discussion on spatial data infrastructure 2015

A discussion on "Interoperability of geographic data to support open processes in the public sector," was held at the premises of the Military Geographical Institute on Monday, April 6, 2015. This meeting was organized by the Military Geographical Institute with the objective to strengthen the ties of public bodies for proper interoperability of geographic data. The presentations made at the event are available online.

Fuente: <http://www.geoportaligm.gob.ec/portal/index.php/conversatorio-ides-2015/>

Ecuador: La nueva imagen del GEOPORTAL del Agro ecuatoriano

El Ministerio de Agricultura Ganadería Acuacultura y Pesca (MAGAP), a través de la Coordinación General del Sistema de Información Nacional (CGSIN), tiene un nuevo diseño del GEOPORTAL del agro ecuatoriano, con las facilidades de búsqueda y acceso a la información para el usuario.

Además, la CGSIN tiene la información en cuanto a encuestas, registros administrativos, catastro bananero, ubicación de agroindustrias, zonificaciones agroecológicas, entre otras temáticas que están disponibles en la página <http://sinagap.agricultura.gob.ec/>. Para que usted pueda navegar en el GEOPORTAL del agro ecuatoriano visite el sitio <http://geoportal.agricultura.gob.ec/> y si requiere que el MAGAP participe o realice alguna capacitación escribanos a: sinagap@magap.gob.ec



La Coordinación General del Sistema de Información Nacional pone a su disposición la zonificación agroecológica de 47 cultivos a nivel nacional en función del tipo de suelo, relieve y clima, que tiene por objetivo identificar las áreas geográficas aptas para la siembra de un cultivo. Entre los principales tenemos: Arroz, maíz duro, café, cacao, banano, palma, soya y papa.

English summary: New design of the Ecuadorian agro GEOPORTAL

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP), through the General Coordination of the National Information System (CGSIN), has introduced a new design of the Ecuadorian agro GEOPORTAL with search facilities and access to information for users. In addition, the CGSIN has information regarding surveys, administrative records, banana land, location of agribusiness, agro-ecological zoning, among other themes that are available on the website <http://sinagap.agricultura.gob.ec/>. So you can navigate the Ecuadorian agro GEOPORTAL visit <http://geoportal.agricultura.gob.ec/> and if required to participate or do any MAGAP training write to: sinagap@magap.gob.ec.

The General Coordination of the National Information System offers 47 agro-ecological zoning of crops nationwide depending on soil type, topography and climate, which aims to identify suitable geographic areas for crop planting. Among the main ones are: rice, hard corn, coffee, cocoa, bananas, palm, soybeans and potatoes.

Fuente: <http://sinagap.agricultura.gob.ec/noticias-cgsin/469-la-cgsin-presenta-la-nueva-imagen-del-geoportal-del-agro-ecuatoriano-durante-el-conversatorio-de-infraestructura-de-datos-espaciales>

Ecuador: Revista Técnica – Informativa del Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM) 2015

El Instituto Geográfico Militar pone a disposición las Revistas Técnicas - Informativas en digital, con el fin de dar a conocer las actividades de investigación, productos y servicios que la institución brinda. Es una publicación anual (en español, con resúmenes en inglés) que pretende orientar a la sociedad ecuatoriana sobre la temática Cartográfica – Geográfica y su incidencia en la planificación de planes y programas que coadyuvan al desarrollo nacional, a través de artículos técnicos. El lema del IGM: “Unidos por la ciencia y el espíritu para el progreso del Ecuador”, exterioriza su compromiso con el País, con sus instituciones y su población, contribuyendo a la construcción de la Sociedad del Buen Vivir en el Ecuador. Dar clic en el siguiente link:



http://www.igm.gob.ec/work/files/PUBLICACIONES_2015/REVISTA_TECNICA_IGM2015.swf

English summary: Technical Review – Information from Military Geographic Institute 2015

The Military Geographic Institute makes available digital Informative Technical Magazines in order to raise awareness of the research, products, and services that the institution offers. It is an annual publication (in Spanish, with English abstracts) that aims to guide the Ecuadorian society through technical articles on Cartographic - Geographic field and its impact on the planning of plans and programs that contribute to national development. IGM's motto: "United in science and spirit for the progress of Ecuador," externalizes its commitment to the country, with its institutions and its people, contributing to the construction of the Society of Good Living in Ecuador.

Source: http://www.igm.gob.ec/work/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=607:revista-tecnica-informativa-2015&catid=62:publicaciones&Itemid=200006

Venezuela: Gobierno municipal crea moderno SIG de San Cristóbal



Un moderno Sistema de Información Geográfica que recoge ubicación y condiciones de cada alcantarilla de la ciudad, prepara la alcaldía de San Cristóbal (<http://www.sancristobal-tachira.gob.ve/index.php>), para dar mantenimiento continuo a estos dispositivos de drenaje.

La extensión de la ciudad de San Cristóbal es enorme en materia de sistemas viales menores, el inventario de alcantarillas y sumideros está entre tres mil y cuatro mil en la capital del Táchira, de acuerdo a la data que presenta el Jefe de la División de Aguas y Acueductos de la alcaldía de San Cristóbal, Norberto Cáceres, quien dijo que la Gestión Ceballos realiza un monitoreo para ubicar puntos exactos de localización, condiciones, dimensiones y características de cada una de las alcantarillas del municipio San Cristóbal.

La idea del inventario es construir un Sistema de Información Geográfico con una firme base de datos que permita tener la secuencia del mantenimiento y generar un circuito de limpieza continuo en todos el sistema de alcantarillado de San Cristóbal: "es regla de la alcaldesa Patricia de Ceballos la planificación, y así lo observan los ciudadanos en su obra municipal. Con un plan se asegura una mejor gestión, y para planificar se debe conocer la realidad al detalle de la ciudad, es parte de la gerencia responsable que desarrollamos", mencionó.

English summary: Municipal government creates modern GIS of San Cristobal

A modern geographic information system that collects location and conditions of each city sewer prepares the municipality of San Cristobal to continue to maintain these drainage devices. The extension of the city of San Cristobal is huge in terms of lower road systems, inventory of sewers and drains is between three thousand and four thousand in the capital of Tachira, according to data presented by the Chief of the Division of Water Aqueducts and mayor of San Cristobal, Norberto Cáceres, who said Ceballos Management performs monitoring to locate exact points of location, condition, size and characteristics of each of the sewers of San Cristobal municipality. The idea of the inventory is to build a Geographic Information System with a firm database that enables the sequence of maintenance and generation of a circuit of continuous cleaning of all sewers of San Cristobal.

Fuente: <http://el-informe.com/05/05/2015/general/gobierno-municipal-crea-moderno-sistema-de-informacion-geografico-de-san-cristobal/>

Colombia: ITC and Kadaster assist with registration of land rights of 3.5 million parcels



For some time, the Colombian government has been mapping land properties. A solid land administration is at the forefront of the peace negotiations with FARC. This means restitution of land to people who were driven from it during the civil war. It also means the formalisation of land rights. This is especially relevant to the vast rural areas of Colombia. Many small farmers are not able to prove in writing that they own a specific piece of land. Together with ITC (University of Twente) Kadaster will assist Colombia to formally register those land rights. On March 13, 2015 they signed an agreement with the Dutch embassy of Colombia and Colombian stakeholders.

The assistance consists of providing a method that measures parcel boundaries and registers the properties much faster. This method uses aerial photos and population surveys. Furthermore, they will develop an application for mobile phones. Land owners of the impoverished country side can track the boundaries of their parcel themselves using the app on their mobile phone. Most of those boundaries are clearly visible on the aerial photos. The data from the tracks recorded with the mobile phones are combined with the aerial photos into a GIS.

Source: <http://www.kadaster.nl/web/Nieuws/Nieuwsberichten/Bericht/The-Netherlands-assists-Colombia-to-register-properties-on->

[land-1.htm](#)

Brazil: IBGE maps areas related to quality labels and domestic guarantees of origin



The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, <http://www.ibge.gov.br/>) has launched the map of Geographical Indications in Brazil, the result of a partnership with the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI). The map integrates cartographic information regarding the quality seal and guarantee of domestic origin, called Geographical Indication seals, locating the regions of origin of 39 products and services national certificates. It can be accessed on the scale of 1: 5,000,000 (ie 1 cm = 50 km) in the link ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.br/mapas_tematicos/mapas_murais/ .

The Seal of Geographical Indication (GI) refers to the location of origin and the special conditions of the manufacturing of products, allowing consumers must be sure that they are getting a unique product for the quality of its origin, in addition to valuing the local culture and foster tourist activities. In Brazil, already consecrated Geographical Indications, for example, include wines and sparkling wines from the Valley of the Vineyards, beef from the Pampa Gaúcho of Southern Campaign, and shrimp of the Black Coast.

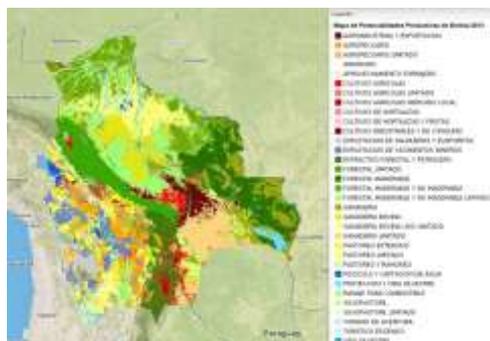
The Map of Geographical Indications of Brazil was generated from the integration of Geographical Indication areas, whose perimeters were defined by local clusters (associations, unions, cooperatives) and the Cartographic Base Continuous, the millionth, of the IBGE mapping.



The Geographical Indication seal is certified by the INPI (National Institute of Industrial Property), regulated by the Law of Intellectual Property No. 9,279, of 14/05/1996, and can take two models: Indication of Origin (IP) - Article 177 and Designation of Origin (DO) - Article 178 (http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/leis/L9279.htm).

Source: <http://www.inde.gov.br/noticias-inde/8321-ibge-mapeia-areas-relacionadas-a-selos-de-qualidade-e-garantias-de-procedencia-de-produtos-nacionais>; <http://saladeimprensa.ibge.gov.br/noticias?view=noticia&id=1&idnoticia=2890>

Bolivia: GeoBolivia: Mapa del mes Mayo 2015



En el mes de Mayo, GeoBolivia (<http://geo.gob.bo/>) pone a disposición de sus usuarios el Mapa de potencialidades productivas de Bolivia (2013), elaborado por el Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo y Economía Plural, a través de la Unidad de Análisis Productivo (UDAPRO) y el Sistema de Información Territorial de Apoyo a la Producción (SITAP) a escala 1:100000 en el año 2013.

El mapa muestra el potencial productivo del país en sus diferentes rubros y áreas geográficas, identificadas en base al tipo de uso de la tierra, especialización biofísica y especialización socioeconómica a nivel departamental y municipal de Bolivia.

A su vez forma parte del El Atlas de Potencialidades Productivas del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia (2013), que es un documento creado con el propósito de contar información a nivel municipal de las potencialidades productivas relacionadas con educación, salud, vías y principalmente procesos comerciales. Constituyéndose en un valioso instrumento de consulta para quienes apuestan por un mayor desarrollo productivo.

Si se desea consultar a detalle las características de la información mencionada, se recomienda consultar el metadato correspondiente:

- Mapa de potenciales productivas de Bolivia, 2013 <http://geo.gob.bo/geonetwork/apps/georchestra/?uuiid=c06bc0c5-cca7-4f41-b8ea-7a7359d6a24e>
- el Atlas, a continuación: <http://geo.gob.bo/geonetwork/apps/georchestra/?uuiid=f3f5e61a-5e13-4cfd-a5e0-562cb2bf8a9f>
- Atlas de potenciales productivas de Bolivia, 2013 http://geo.gob.bo/IMG/zip/atlas_potencialidades_2013.zip
- Si desea acceder al mapa en el visualizador de GeoBolivia haga click aquí. http://geo.gob.bo/mapfishapp/?wmc=http://geo.gob.bo/IMG/wmc/sitap_potencialidades.wmc
- Finalmente, si requiere conectarse al servicio de mapas (WMS), copie y pegue la dirección en su sistema de información geográfico (SIG) de escritorio: WMS: <http://geo.gob.bo/geoserver/mddpyep/wms>

English summary: **GeoBolivia: Map of the month May 2015**

This May, GeoBolivia offers its users the productive potential map of Bolivia (2013) , prepared by the Ministry of Productive Development and Plural Economy , through Production Analysis Unit (UDAPRO) and Information System Territorial Support Production (SITAP) at 1: 100,000 in 2013. The map shows the productive potential of the country in different categories and geographic areas identified based on the type of land use, and socioeconomic specialization specialization biophysics at departmental and municipal level Bolivia.

It is part of The Atlas of Productive Potential of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (2013), a document created with the purpose of having information at the municipal level of the productive potential related to education, health, roads and main business processes. Constituting a valuable reference tool for those who opt for more productive development. If you need to connect to the map service (WMS), copy and paste the address on your geographic information system (GIS) desktop: WMS: <http://geo.gob.bo/geoserver/mddpyep/wms>

Fuente: <http://geo.gob.bo/?GeoBolivia-Mapa-del-mes-Mayo-2015>

Argentina: Presentaciones de las X Jornadas



Las X Jornadas de IDERA se realizaron los días 14 y 15 de mayo en la ciudad de Mendoza, con récord de asistentes. Están disponibles para su descarga las presentaciones de las X Jornadas de IDERA. Estas Jornadas, que contaron con la declaración de interés provincial por parte de la

Cámara de Senadores y del Gobernador de la Provincia de Mendoza, tuvieron un récord de participación, con más de 380 participantes de todo el país.

La Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de la República Argentina (IDERA) es una comunidad de información geoespacial que tiene como objetivo propiciar la publicación de datos, productos y servicios, de manera eficiente y oportuna como un aporte fundamental a la democratización del acceso de la información producida por el Estado y diversos actores, y al apoyo en la toma de decisiones en las diferentes actividades de los ámbitos público, privado, académico, no gubernamental y sociedad civil. A través de su representación, IDERA busca mantener un carácter nacional y federal.

Nota tambien: Se realizaron las X Jornadas IDERA en Mendoza:

http://www.idera.gob.ar/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=322

English summary: **Presentations available from IDERA 10 Days**

IDERA X Days were held on 14 and 15 May in the city of Mendoza, with record attendance. They are available for download presentations IDERA X Days. This conference, which had the declaration of provincial interest by the Senate and the Governor of the Province of Mendoza, had a record turnout, with more than 380 participants from around the country.

Spatial Data Infrastructure of Argentina (IDERA) is a community of geospatial information that aims to promote the publication of data, products and services in an efficient and timely manner as a fundamental contribution to the democratization of access to information produced by the State and various actors, and to support decision making in the various activities of the public, private, academic, non-governmental and civil society levels. Through its representation, it seeks to maintain a character IDERA national and federal .

Fuente: http://www.idera.gob.ar/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=334&Itemid=290

GeoSUR Newsletter, numbers 3 and 4, March-April 2015, now available



The GeoSUR Newsletter seeks to disseminate GeoSUR Program's achievements and

characteristics as well as events, projects, and best practices for the application of geographic information into sustainable development and decision making in the region, as part of the Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas. Inside the March-April 2015 issue, the importance of legislation, funding, and administrative decentralization for effectively applied SDI and geographic information is emphasized. Leveraging disaster prevention through an updated and interoperable SDI is stressed in the interview of the month, while making informed decisions based on the possibility of production, integration and continuous updating of geographical information to effectively achieve the global sustainable development goals is enhanced in the permanent columns of this edition. The international "Alliance" to support the Eye on Earth initiative as to leading the world community of environmental data, as well as a proposal on an integrated

Mesoamerican GIS, is exemplified.

The Bulletin is available in two languages:

Spanish: http://www.geosur.info/geosur/contents/GeoSURv2n3_4_esp.pdf

English: http://www.geosur.info/geosur/contents/GeoSURv2n3_4_eng.pdf

Source: <http://www.geosur.info/geosur/index.php/en/news>

Participatory Mapping: Caribbean Small Island Developing States



Author(s): Alison K. DeGraff and Bheshem Ramlall

Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management, Faculty of Engineering, University of the West Indies – Saint Augustine, Trinidad

Forum on The Future of the Caribbean, 5-7 May 2015, Port of Spain, Trinidad,

<http://caribbeanfutureforum.com/>

Abstract: Participatory mapping has emerged as a powerful tool for the collection and use of geospatially oriented traditional and local ecological knowledge (LEK) across a variety of disciplines. The growth of this initiative in small island developing states (SIDS) has been widely applied to strengthen public awareness and capacity, particularly for environmental conservation, cultural preservation, and climate change adaptation. Participatory mapping strives to build community resilience and has proven to be a valuable technique in taking positive steps towards sustainable development especially in vulnerable communities. This paper examines participatory mapping and community engagement, the value of this practise in Caribbean SIDS facing the impacts of global climate change, and the lessons learnt from a variety of case studies that have been conducted in the wider Caribbean.

Keywords: Participatory Mapping, Participatory GIS, Participatory Three-Dimensional Modelling, Geographic Information Systems, Caribbean, Small Island Developing States, Climate Change

Source: <http://caribbeanfutureforum.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/DeGraff.pdf>

U.S. Virgin Islands: Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS) Network now active

The U.S. Virgin Islands is now participating in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS, <http://www.cocorahs.org/>) Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation. By providing high-quality, accurate measurements, the observers are able to supplement existing networks and provide useful results to scientists, resource managers, decision makers, and other users.

CoCoRaHS volunteer observers in the U.S. Virgin Islands (<http://www.cocorahs.org/state.aspx?state=vi>) are helping to fill in important pieces of the climate puzzle that affects the Caribbean. Their efforts are making important contributions to scientists' understanding of floods and even drought situations in the region. Due to its complex topography, ground observations are necessary to understand precipitation patterns in the Virgin Islands. Combining CoCoRaHS with National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program observations provides good area coverage across the Islands.

Source: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/news/cocorahs-us-virgin-islands>



VII Congress of Cartography and Spatial Data Infrastructures, 23-25 September 2015, Havana, Cuba

The VII Congress of Cartography and Spatial Data Infrastructures within the framework of the VII Convention “Agrimensura 2015” (<http://www.agrimensuracuba.com>) will take place in the Hotel TRYP Habana Libre in the Havana city, between 21 and 25 of September. This Congress in its seventh issue is taking into account some of the main trends of Modern Cartography and Geographic Information Management.

Some issues related to Mapping in the Cloud, Spatial Big Data, Linked Data, Internet of Things, VGI & new roles for cartographers will be discussed. So far, interested colleagues from academy, government, and industry from around 15 countries have planned to participate, mainly from the Latin-American and the Caribbean region, but also from Europe and North-America.

As a pre-congress activity on 22 September 2015, a Workshop on Mapping in the Cloud and Spatial Big Data also is being organized, with the support of Professor Michael Peterson from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, EUA, who is also the Chair of the International Cartographic Association Publications Committee.

For further information, contact Tatiana Delgado, PhD, Chair, Congress of Cartography and Spatial Data Infrastructures, VII Convention “Agrimensura 2015”, tdelgado@ind.cujae.edu.cu.

Source: <http://lists.gsd.org/pipermail/sdi-latinamericacaribbean/attachments/20150525/d1bf2c3f/attachment-0001.docx>

**Coloquio Internacional sobre Acceso Abierto y Democratización del Conocimiento
VII Conferencia Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Ciencias Sociales
9-13 November 2015, Medellín, Colombia**



The Latin American and Caribbean Conferences on Social Sciences are initiatives promoted by the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLASCO, <http://www.clasco.org/>) held every three years in a selected city of the region. They are ranked among the most significant academic events within the field of social science and humanities research worldwide.

Thousands of researchers from more than 40 countries hold meetings for five days in order to discuss, present and suggest alternatives to tackle the main social problems currently endured by Latin American and Caribbean nations. It is an event of utmost academic, political and cultural significance, with a huge impact on national and international media. In addition to researchers from the region, North American, Canadian, European, African and Asian scholars will take part in its several activities as well.

At CLASCO's VII Latin American and Caribbean Conferences on Social Sciences, there will be an International Colloquium on ‘Open access, natural resources, and democratization of knowledge.’ http://www.clasco.org.ar/conferencia2015/conferencia_coloquios.php

Source: http://www.clasco.org.ar/conferencia2015_eng/conferencia.php

North America Region SDI News

Canada: Case Study of the Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table



NRCan has released Open Government in Transition: A Case Study of the Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table. This is a case study of the Canadian Geomatics Community Roundtable (CGCRT, <http://cgcrt.ca/en/>), which is made up of representatives from industry, academia, professional associations, NGOs as well as federal and territorial

governments. The study traces the history and successes of the CGCRT, including the development of a Pan-Canadian Geomatics Strategy and its evolution into a permanent organization. The CGCRT is held up as an innovative example of collaboration and Open Government.

NRCan is pleased to announce the release of a report called Open Government in Transition: A Case Study of the Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table. This publication highlights NRCan's role in Open Government in action, to engage, mobilize and facilitate collaboration across Canada's geomatics sector.

At present, the CGCRT's primary focus is on the development and delivery of a pan-Canadian geomatics strategy. The origins of this project are rooted in major technological changes in the field of geomatics, underway for more than a decade, and in the economic opportunities created by opening up the access to government geospatial data.

In the fall of 2007, Canadian governments launched a country-wide consultation process to re-think the way the geomatics community operates in a digital world. The final report identified eight "elements" on which a new national strategy was to be based. However, it soon became clear that these elements were less a strategy than elements that needed to be included in a strategy. For example, while the report called on the community to collaborate more effectively to modernize the sector, it provided no real direction on how to make collaboration happen. Over the next three years, a second wave of conferences and meetings was convened to discuss what a real strategy to modernize the sector would look like. During this period, two key developments took place.

First, a Round Table was formed and eventually emerged as an independent body whose main purpose was to act as a multi-stakeholder advisory group to existing government bodies. However, views on this began to change quickly, which led to the second development. Some participants argued that the geomatics community needed a credible and influential body that could propose and advocate for broad directions for the community as a whole. To compete globally and to

become leaders in the global geomatics industry, the Canadian sector needed to distinguish itself; it needed to find a "Canadian niche."

Download the report: http://ftp2.cits.nrcan.gc.ca/pub/geott/ess_pubs/296/296396/cgdi_ip_40e.pdf
<http://geoscan.nrcan.gc.ca/starweb/geoscan/servlet.starweb?path=geoscan/fulle.web&search1=R=296396>

Source: <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geomatics/canadas-spatial-data-infrastructure/10783>

Canada: Harper Government announces funding to establish the Open Data Exchange



On May 19, 2015, FedDev Ontario announced up to \$3 million in funding over three years for Communitech Corporation to establish the Open Data Exchange (ODX), which will be located

in Waterloo, Ontario. The goal of the ODX is to “support the development of industry standards for open data, build a national marketplace where commercialization of open data can flourish, and support a pan-Canadian open data innovation community that will incubate the next generation of data-driven companies.” The project is expected to result in the incubation of 15 new data-driven companies. It is also expected to create a total of 370 direct and indirect jobs, and to leverage \$3-million from project partners and an additional \$50 million in venture capital and other financing. Overall, the purpose of the ODX is to unlock the economic potential of open data for the Canadian economy, by supporting a sustainable collaboration between the private sector, academia and government.

Source: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=975799>

Canada: GeoConnections webinar on Guide to Geospatial Data Quality

English Webinar: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 – 1:30-3:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)

French Webinar: Thursday, June 18, 2015 – 2:30-4:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)

GeoConnections (<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geomatics/canadas-spatial-data-infrastructure/8906>), a national initiative led by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), invites you to learn about the importance of geospatial data quality in the context of Earth observation and geomatics in Canada.

The context in which geospatial data is produced and used has changed significantly in the last decades. Today, as we are entering the “Data Era”, more and more data, including geospatial data, is being collected and published on the Web every day. Now, everyone, even without geospatial knowledge, can make maps, geospatial mashups and various types of geospatial applications for different purposes and even share them to other users. However, today’s typical users do not understand the uncertain nature of geospatial data and take digital data for granted, without considering their quality and validity for their intended usage. Users have limited knowledge of the risks associated with the use of geospatial data which may have significant social, political and even economical consequences. Geospatial data quality is therefore an important topic in the context of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure.

The purpose of this GeoConnections webinar is to review the concepts underlying geospatial data quality, to discuss the geospatial data quality evaluation process (based on ISO 19157 and ISO 19158 standards) and to understand how to reduce the risk when using geospatial data (based on ISO 31000 standard). This webinar also informs on how the production and the distribution of quality geospatial data may affect the whole geomatics community. Finally, the webinar provides examples on quality evaluation and risk management in the contexts of Business-to-Business (B2B), Business-to-Consumer (B2C) and Consumer-to-Consumer (C2C). During the webinar, you will learn:

- Why is geospatial data quality important?;
- The concepts underlying geospatial data quality;
- The fundamentals of geospatial data quality evaluation and risk management;
- Geospatial data quality evaluation and risk management in practice;
- Recommendations for B2B, B2C and C2C contexts.

To register for this webinar, please contact Eric Wright by e-mail at Eric.Wright@RNCAN-NRCAN.gc.ca, or by telephone at (613) 715-5483. Registered participants will receive a follow-up e-mail with information about how to access and participate in the webinar.

Canada: Why should governments make their spatial data open?

These days, most government organizations collect and use spatial data in their day-to-day operations. Many provide this data for others to use via an open data policy. In Canada, the federal government has mandated that all federal government-collected data be open, including spatial data. This has led to a healthy supply of open geospatial data from the federal government. While many provinces have adopted an open data policy, some are just putting these policies in place. So, at the federal and most provincial levels of government in Canada, some open spatial data is available. The exception here is the cadastral data layer, which is most often not available from the provinces, and there are no plans to make it

nationally available anytime soon. For example, in Ontario, cadastral data is created and controlled by Teranet – a private-sector company that licenses their data for a fee.



At the local and municipal levels of government, there's quite a different picture emerging. Many progressive local governments have made their data freely available to be used in creating apps and other services that would benefit their citizens. There are many examples of these, including public transit timetable apps, street finders, zoning maps and so on. Esri Canada uses open data in support of the national initiative that's creating the Community Map of Canada – a Web basemap upon which others can develop useful applications, <http://www.esri.ca/en/content/community-maps-canada-program>. See Esri Canada SDI blog for full story.

Source: <http://esri.ca/en/blog/why-should-governments-make-their-spatial-data-open>

USA: FY 2015 Implementation Plan for NSDI 2014-16 Strategic Plan (April 29, 2015)



In fiscal year 2014, the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) completed a new strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The plan, which covers the years 2014-2016, describes a shared National vision for the sustainable continued development of the Nation's

critical geospatial infrastructure and includes goals and objectives for the Federal government's role in achieving this vision.

Strategic Goal 1 – Develop Capabilities for National Shared Services

- Objective 1.1 – Develop geospatial interoperability reference architecture
- Objective 1.2 – Establish the Geospatial Platform as the Federal geospatial data, services, and applications Web-based service environment
- Objective 1.3 – Expand the use of cloud computing
- Objective 1.4 – Promote the use of geospatial multiagency acquisition vehicles for interagency and intergovernmental purchases

Strategic Goal 2 – Ensure Accountability and Effective Development and Management of Federal Geospatial Resources

- Objective 2.1 – Advance the portfolio management process for National Geospatial Data Assets
- Objective 2.2 – Identify potentially duplicative investments and opportunities for collaborative investments

Strategic Goal 3 – Convene Leadership of the National Geospatial Community

- Objective 3.1 – Lead and participate in the development and coordination of national and international standards applicable to the geospatial community
- Objective 3.2 – Convene the leadership of the geospatial and non-geospatial communities to develop public/private partnerships and shared approaches for addressing critical national issues
- Objective 3.3 – Raise awareness of the NSDI and its impact on critical national and international issues

This document, the NSDI Strategic Plan FY 2015 Implementation Plan, updates the initial implementation plans and includes the following:

- FY 14 Targets: Updated status reports on FY 14 targets
- FY 15 Targets: Final targets for FY 15 activities.
- Draft FY 16 Targets: Updated draft FY 16 targets. These targets will be finalized in early FY 16.

Source: <http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/implementation/nsdi-strategic-plan-fy-15-implementation-plan-20150429.pdf>

USA: National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting, 9-10 June, Washington, DC

June 9, 2015, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and June 10, 2015, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) will meet on June 9-10, 2015 at the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior (South Interior Building Auditorium, 1951 Constitution Avenue N).

The NGAC, which is composed of representatives from governmental, private sector, non-profit, and academic organizations, was established to advise the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC, www.fgdc.gov) on management of Federal geospatial programs, the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and the implementation of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16.

Topics to be addressed at the meeting include:

- Leadership Dialogue
- FGDC Report (Geospatial Platform, NSDI Strategic Plan, National Geospatial Data Asset Management)
- Crowd-Sourced Geospatial Data• Geospatial Privacy
- 3D Elevation Program
- Landsat
- NSDI Communications and Outreach
- Subcommittee Activities

The meeting will include an opportunity for public comment on June 10. Comments may also be submitted to the NGAC in writing. Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting must register in advance. Please register by contacting Lucia Foulkes at the U.S. Geological Survey (Tel 703–648–4142, lfoulkes@usgs.gov). Registrations are due by June 5, 2015. While the meeting will be open to the public, registration is required for entrance to the South Interior Building, and seating may be limited due to room capacity.

Meetings of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee are open to the public. Additional information about the NGAC and the meeting is available at www.fgdc.gov/ngac.

Source: Federal Register/Vol. 80, No. 89/Friday, May 8, 2015, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-08/pdf/2015-11203.pdf>

USA: Accelerating Data Innovation: A Legislative Agenda for Congress

By Daniel Castro & Joshua New (May 11, 2015)

Summary: Data is increasingly vital to both growing the economy and solving important social problems, and Congress has many opportunities to pave the way for more use of data in the public and private sectors. This report lays out twelve concrete steps Congress can take in 2015 to accelerate data innovation in the United States.

This report outlines 12 such opportunities. Each represents an actionable recommendation that Congress can realistically accomplish in 2015 to extend the benefits of data innovation to the public, industry or government. This agenda is not intended to be an exhaustive list of

everything Congress could possibly accomplish on data issues; rather it is a timely to-do list for policymakers looking to proactively support data-driven innovation. These are specific policy recommendations with clear paths to success. Many have already withstood scrutiny by industry groups, nonprofits, and other stakeholders. And all would generate economic and social improvements, whether by promoting government transparency, reducing inefficiencies in healthcare, empowering consumers, or creating new business opportunities for the private sector.

These recommendations are: 1. Codify open government data efforts. 2. Improve financial regulatory data requirements. 3. Close the satellite data gap. 4. Develop robust data on U.S. coastlines. 5. Improve the management of geospatial data. 6. Improve education reporting systems. 7. Adopt universal patient identifiers for healthcare. 8. Address the LGBT health data gap. 9. Prohibit using data on gender and sexual orientation for employment discrimination. 10. Take advantage of new data technologies to modernize supply chains. 11. Let consumers access their energy data from smart meters. 12. Establish a globally competitive smart cities pilot project.

Access the report: <https://www2.datainnovation.org/2015-data-innovation-agenda.pdf>

Source: <http://www.datainnovation.org/2015/05/accelerating-data-innovation-a-legislative-agenda-for-congress/>

The Federal Geospatial Data Act of 2015: A NYS Local Perspective



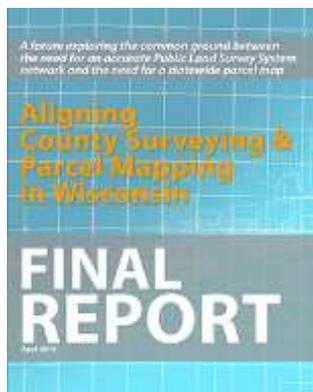
A recent blog post from May 4, 2015 takes a critical look at the Federal Geospatial Data Act of 2015 and raises concerns regarding local government involvement. Blog: eSpatially New York - Perspectives on the Geospatial Community in the Empire State

The blog begins "There has been a limited amount of fanfare and support – or even discussion for that matter – here in the Empire State on the proposed Geospatial Data Act of 2015. Beyond one or two acknowledgements on the state listservs, the announcement really didn't generate any buzz or visible discussion throughout the GIS community. Though it comes as no real surprise as few in New York statewide GIS community have had any meaningful exposure or introduction to past legislation/bills regarding federal agencies referenced in the proposed 2015 act introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah. In absence of any real meaningful dialog here in the New York between the GIS professional community and elected officials on federal legislation (or any geospatial legislation for that matter except perhaps the never-ending "Surveyor" Legislation), one wonders if New York's federal delegation is even aware of the proposed act. Or its stated benefits."

The blog continues: "Unless a methodical and accepted process – adopted by pertinent local/state/federal stakeholders – is institutionalized by the FGDC, the Geospatial Data Act of 2015 will continue to be more about federal and state geospatial programs and less about truly integrating and taking advantage of the vast amount of local government data. The Act needs to specify and fund building work flows which communicate directly with the source of the data as well as working towards reducing the reliance on state "middle men" GIS programs as means to acquire local geospatial data."

Source: <http://espatiallynewyork.com/2015/05/04/the-federal-geospatial-data-act-of-2015-a-nys-local-perspective/>

USA (Wisconsin): Final report on Surveying-Parcel Forum available



On March 12, 2015, the Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office organized and hosted a one-day forum, entitled "Aligning County Surveying and Parcel Mapping Efforts in Wisconsin." Over 100 surveyors, GIS professionals, real property listers, and other members of the community attended the event. A final report on the Forum is now available online.

The forum was intended to initiate a dialog about county surveying and tax parcel mapping activities in Wisconsin. Recent legislative changes have set the stage for increased public access to statewide parcel data. Act 20, the state's last biennial budget, instructed the Wisconsin Department of Administration to develop a statewide parcel map online by 2017 by integrating county parcel data. Greater public access to parcel data will result in heightened awareness of errors unless steps are taken to begin to eliminate these errors.

Different viewpoints exist within the community about how to coordinate surveying and parcel mapping efforts, and what activities should be prioritized to enhance parcel map accuracy. On the one hand, there is a clear business need (and statutory mandate) for a statewide parcel map. On the other hand, any parcel map created without a base of up-to-date PLSS (Public Land Survey System) data will ultimately need to be readjusted once the PLSS network is complete.

The main focus of the forum was on gathering community input into the statewide parcel mapping effort. In addition to a series of short presentations, there were two group discussion sessions at each table. Discussion focused on the following questions:

- What are our common interests and goals for a statewide parcel map?
- Why do we care about accuracy and why is accuracy important for the map?
- What are the top challenges we face contributing to a uniform statewide parcel map?
- What are the potential solutions to these challenges?

In a final scorecard session, participants were asked to respond to the following question:

- What is one concrete step we can take to build a statewide parcel map everyone can use?

Access the report:

http://www.sco.wisc.edu/images/stories/publications/Surveying_Parcel_Forum_2015_Final_Project_Report.pdf

Source: <http://www.sco.wisc.edu/wisconsin-geospatial-news/final-report-on-surveying-parcel-forum-available.html>

USA: NRCS Caribbean area conservation grants available

Deadline: **June 19, 2015**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) Caribbean Area is offering 2015 Caribbean Area Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applications will be accepted from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and will be awarded on a competitive basis.

CIG projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems and innovative approaches into NRCS policy, technical manuals, guides, and references, or to the private sector. CIG does not fund research projects; it funds projects targeting on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations.

CIG is focusing on greenhouse gas reduction, water management practices, soil health management biogas use, environmental markets for water, renewable energy systems, air quality assessment, as well as conservation practices and overcome their barriers.

Outreach projects benefiting the underserved will also be considered. Such projects may include Spanish/English video clips or other appropriate video material on routine maintenance procedures for installed conservation practices to train

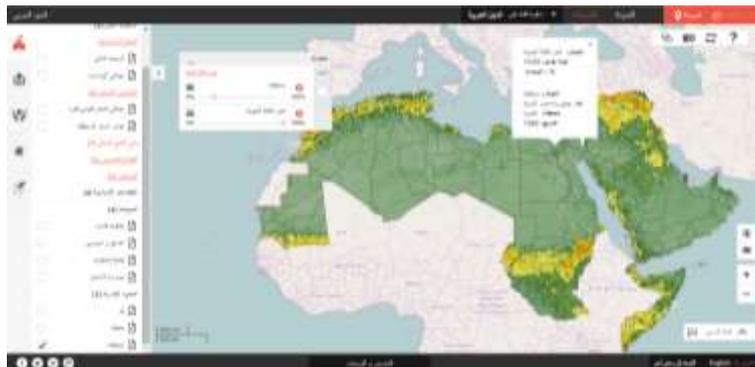
underserved farmers/clients; Spanish/English outreach material or technology on integrated pest management; Spanish/English material on overcoming forest wildfires; conservation technology for underserved groups; and projects that develop technical training for any of the above mentioned.

Approximately \$150,000 is available to fund selected projects in the Caribbean area. Applications will be accepted from eligible government agencies, non-governmental organizations or individuals for projects between one and three years in duration. Applications must be received by NRCS by June 19, 2015. Late applications will not be considered.

Source: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=USDA-NRCS-CIG-PR-15-01>

Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

Arab Spatial 3.0 focusing on food security in Middle East - now in Arabic



A new, interactive site, launched in April 2015, provides comprehensive snapshots of food and nutrition security and other key data points for 22 Arab countries across the Middle East and North Africa, and for the first time, is available in Arabic, in addition to English.

Compiled by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions and Markets, and the UN

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Arab Spatial 3.0 (<http://www.arabspatial.org/>) provides an interactive atlas (<http://www.arabspatial.org/map>) and data repository for the Arab World, including more than 150 socio-economic and biophysical indicators. It was unveiled at the Near East and North Africa Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition at the Kampinsky Hotel in Amman on April 28 and 29.

The site provides data on diverse indicators, such as food consumption, malnutrition and disease, government expenditure on agriculture, health, and education, and the number of people with access to water and sanitation. It soon will feature a policy monitoring tool for the Arab region designed to provide a comprehensive overview of food security-related policy changes. Now in its third iteration, Arab Spatial was created to provide accurate information on the state of food security in the Middle East following food crises in several Arab countries in the late 2000s. It remains an important tool for providing accurate data and analysis on food policy indicators amid ongoing conflicts in many Middle Eastern countries.

Source: <http://www.ifpri.org/pressrelease/website-focusing-food-security-middle-east-now-arabic>

Saudi Arabia: Development of health care systems in subareas of KSA using GIS concept



Author(s): Magdy Shayboub A. Mahmoud, Mohamed Ibrahim Abdel Magid, Samir Mahmud A. Abdullah, Nasreldin M. El-Tayeb
Journal of Information Sciences and Computing Technologies, Vol. 1, No. 1 (January 2015)

Abstract: The present study was directed to show how Geographical Information Systems (GIS) can be used to support health planning and demanding on a micro-scale and explore the possibilities of using GIS for health care services in hospitals in Saudi Arabia subareas. The first part of

this work explained the issues that affect a local health care planning and monitoring of catchment area and facilities management. Each one of these issues was covered using several GIS functions including network analysis and spatial data analysis. The second part defined GIS and its possible application in the health care field. In this section, the relevant GIS functions have also been explained. In response, alternative sources were used, such as Google Earth, printed maps and information gathered on the ground by GPS. The third part discussed the creation and implementation of GIS application models, which was made for a local health care center in Makah Al-Mokaramah region and Taif city in Saudi Arabia. All the produced models can be applied in any private or public hospital in Makkah region and Taif city. They can be used to build a spatial decision making support system for hospitals in Taif region and serves five local health services neighborhoods named as Tarabah, Al-Khurma, Rania, Zulam and Al-Moya. The most important results of this research were the determination of geographic locations of healthcare institutions, identifying ways and distances to reach the nearest access roads to these institutions. As well as being able to extract administrative regions on a large number of

population, hospitals, health centers, number of beds, number of doctors and number of nurses. One of the recommendations of this research the need of using GIS and GPS (Global Positional System) to determine the locations of health institutions on a number of sites.

Keywords: GIS; Health planners; GPS; ArcGIS; spatial data.

Source: <http://www.scitecresearch.com/journals/index.php/jisct/article/view/16>

UAE Federal Government's E-Participation Roadmap: Developments in UAE Empowerment Initiatives with VGI/PGIS and Location Based Services (LBS)



Author(s): Ahmad BinTouq
Canadian Social Science, Vol. 11, No. 5 (2015), pp. 1-10

Canadian Social Science

Abstract: This research assesses the effectiveness of the UAE Federal Government's e-Participation Policy as used by Cabinet level organizations. Within a vision of Smart City, the UAE E-participation guidelines seem to emulate other public administration approaches to ICT, crowd source information, and interactive communication such as Public Participation Geographic Information System (PPGIS), Volunteer Geographic Information (VGI), and Location Based Services (LBS). It finds that the UAE Federal government uses PGIS in limited ways within a process intending to implement Smart Government, but used in a spontaneous rather than systematic way, thus less efficient in developing increased participation and empowerments. The emphasis on use of LBS linked mobile telephony and online participation tools reflect the government's forward approach to enhance participation on the road to citizen empowerment.

Keywords: UAE Federal Government; PGIS; VGI; LBS; Smart Government

Source: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/css/article/view/6919>

UAE: Abu Dhabi Education Council integrates GIS in maths and science



The Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) has launched an initiative that integrates GIS technology into mathematics and science. The project is implemented in collaboration with ADEC's GIS and curriculum teams, Abu Dhabi Systems and Information Centre (ADSIC), and ESRI. GIS technology has been integrated into Grades 6 and 7 mathematics and science in 98 schools across Abu Dhabi. In the next academic year it will cover Grade 8 students. During the pilot stage, the project solely targeted Grade 6 students in 12 schools in the emirate through a range of exercises on various topics.

Dr. Alaaeldin Aly, ADEC's knowledge management division manager: "The Abu Dhabi school model focuses on improving critical thinking, problem solving, interpersonal, collaboration and leadership skills in addition to self-awareness and global awareness."

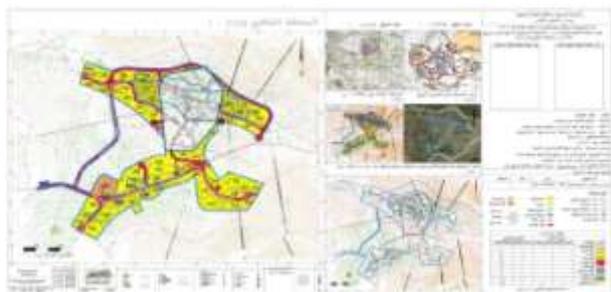
ADEC's GIS and curriculum teams, in collaboration with a specialized ESRI team, organised training workshops for 350 teachers and supervisors on the use of the technology. All necessary tools such as GPS devices and geospatial technology have been provided for schools participating in the project. In addition, ADEC has designed applications and software to help students and teachers make necessary exercises. Implementation stages of the initiatives have been monitored and technical support provided to schools to ensure effective implementation of exercises.

Source: http://www.educationjournalme.com/news/adec-integrates-gis-in-maths-and-science_61

Spatial Planning in Area C of the Israeli occupied West Bank of the Palestinian territory Report of an International Advisory Board, commissioned by UN-Habitat, Palestine (May 2015)



Area C is fundamental to the contiguity of the West Bank and the viability of Palestine and its economy. It is essential for the expansion of public infrastructure, such as transportation, water and electricity networks, wastewater treatment plants and landfills, private sector development, and the development needs of communities in Areas A and B. Communities in Area C are some of the most vulnerable in the West Bank in terms of humanitarian needs, yet Area C carries vast potential for the oPt and the human development of the Palestinian people. Development of Area C will also increase the PA's tax revenue.



In this context, effective and efficient urban and regional planning is essential if sustainable development is to be realized. Without the establishment of a “fair” planning regime, vulnerable communities in Area C remain at risk of demolitions and displacement. This, first and foremost, undermines the possibility of those communities leading decent lives, but also undermines the possibility of realizing real economic development. This report, prepared by an independent group of international experienced planners, represents an important step in addressing these issues,

providing recommendations that are based on the principles of human rights and administrative justice.

Access the report: <http://unhabitat.org/?wpdmact=process&did=MTY2MC5ob3RsaW5r>

Source: <http://unhabitat.org/spatial-planning-in-area-c-of-the-israeli-occupied-west-bank-of-the-palestinian-territory/>

Tunisia: Signing of a partnership agreement between Ministry of Vocational Training and AGSI-Tunisia



The African Geospatial Sciences Institute (AGSI, <http://www.agsi-tunisia.org>) is an NGO to accelerate the geospatial capacity development in North Africa. In May 2015, during the 4th Geo-spatial Conference held from 12 to 14 May in Gammarth, AGSI signed a 3-year, renewable partnership agreement with the Tunisian Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment.

This agreement aims to promote the creation of more opportunities for employability of jobseekers, developing the spirit of entrepreneurship among young people and enhancing employability through additional training tailored to labour market needs. Minister of Vocational Training and Employment, Zied Laadhari, said that this agreement will contribute to attracting young people to the sectors and occupations of the future, noting that the evolution of the geospatial information industry promotes the development of industrial, agricultural, tourism, and trade.

Source: <http://www.babnet.net/cadredetail-105037.asp>; <https://www.facebook.com/AGSI.Tunisia>

Global SDI News

TropForest dataset available online for free



The TropForest dataset is now freely available online for immediate download to the scientific user community from EU member states, and Switzerland and Norway. This dataset is the result of the TropForest ESA Data User Element project established in 2010 between the European Space Agency, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) TREES-3 project, and the FAO's UN-REDD programme with the aim to jointly estimate the degree of forest cover change and degradation in the tropical forests of Latin America and South East Asia through the utilisation of earth

observation data. It provides a harmonised ALOS, DEIMOS-1 and KOMPSAT-2 satellite image database covering both tropical forests for the period 2009-2010.

Further details are available on the TropForest dataset description page.

https://earth.esa.int/web/guest/data-access/browse-data-products/-/asset_publisher/y8Qb/content/tropforest

The dataset is made available online for free after fast registration (<https://earth.esa.int/aos/tropforest>) on ESA's Earth Online Portal (<https://earth.esa.int/>).

New web-based GIS tool for disease mapping launched



The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has launched a web-based geographic information system (GIS) tool to support epidemiologists and public health professionals worldwide in the production of maps. The tool, called

ECDC Map Maker or EMMA, targets communicable disease surveillance experts to identify disease patterns in surveillance data or during outbreak investigations.

The maps are based on disease and other data related to geographical locations that the user imports in a comma separated value (CSV) format. To facilitate data preparation, EMMA offers a CSV template. The user can choose to display the data on one of the existing base maps or from a wide range of display options. Maps can be exported in a number of layout standard formats for presentations, reports and websites. EMMA also provides a geocoding tool to facilitate mapping of national and subnational areas worldwide.



EMMA is publicly available and free of charge at <https://emma.ecdc.europa.eu/Pages/home.aspx>. Registration is required. Users of EMMA retain ownership of the maps they produce; users' data and mapping projects are stored only on their computers.

Source: http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/press/news/layouts/forms/News_DispForm.aspx?ID=1221&List=8db7286c-fe2d-476c-9133-18ff4cb1b568

OGC to demo results of major interoperability testbed



On 4 June, 2015 the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) will demonstrate

the results of the eleventh OGC Interoperability Testbed. The demonstration will be held during the OGC Technical Committee Meeting in Boulder, Colorado, USA (<http://www.opengeospatial.org/event/1506tc>).

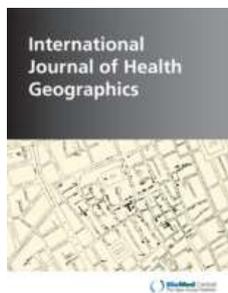
Testbed 11 supports national climate-change preparedness by focusing on ways in which open standards support cross-community interoperability, urban-climate resilience (preparation for impacts of climate change), and secure exchange of spatial information in the context of the US National Information Exchange Model NIEM.

Nine Testbed 11 sponsors first documented interoperability requirements and objectives for this activity, described in a Call for Proposals. Then, 30 organizations selected to participate in Testbed 11 developed solutions based on the sponsors' use cases, requirements and scenarios. Participants' solutions implement existing OGC standards, as well as prototypes of possible interface and encoding candidate standards. Some of the prototypes may ultimately become OGC standards, revisions to existing OGC standards, or best practices for using OGC standards.

The demo results have enormous potential for the testbed stakeholders – both technology users and the technology providers – and for the world at large. The return on the shared investment in spatial standards is extraordinary, much like the return on the original shared investments in http and html. If you would like to learn more about the upcoming Testbed 11 demo and/or the upcoming Testbed 12 opportunity, please contact Lew Leinenweber, Director Interoperability Programs (lleinenweber [at] opengeospatial.org). Also, see <http://www.opengeospatial.org/ogc/programs/ip> for more information about the 15 year old OGC Interoperability Program in which OGC testbeds, pilot projects and interoperability experiments are organized, planned and managed.

Source: <http://www.opengeospatial.org/pressroom/pressreleases/2221>

Real-time GIS data model and sensor web service platform for environmental data management



Author(s): Jianya Gong, Jing Geng, Zeqiang Chen
International Journal of Health Geographics, January 2015, 14:2

Abstract: Background: Effective environmental data management is meaningful for human health. In the past, environmental data management involved developing a specific environmental data management system, but this method often lacks real-time data retrieving and sharing/interoperating capability. With the development of information technology, a Geospatial Service Web method is proposed that can be employed for environmental data management. The purpose of this study is to determine a method to realize environmental data management under the Geospatial Service Web framework.

Methods: A real-time GIS (Geographic Information System) data model and a Sensor Web service platform to realize environmental data management under the Geospatial Service Web framework are proposed in this study. The real-time GIS data model manages real-time data. The Sensor Web service platform is applied to support the realization of the real-time GIS data model based on the Sensor Web technologies.

Results: To support the realization of the proposed real-time GIS data model, a Sensor Web service platform is

implemented. Real-time environmental data, such as meteorological data, air quality data, soil moisture data, soil temperature data, and landslide data, are managed in the Sensor Web service platform. In addition, two use cases of real-time air quality monitoring and real-time soil moisture monitoring based on the real-time GIS data model in the Sensor Web service platform are realized and demonstrated. The total time efficiency of the two experiments is 3.7 s and 9.2 s.

Conclusions: The experimental results show that the method integrating real-time GIS data model and Sensor Web Service Platform is an effective way to manage environmental data under the Geospatial Service Web framework.

Keywords: Real-time GIS data model, Sensor Web service platform, Environmental data management

Source: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/1476-072X-14-2>

GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR

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

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS

To see the latest news from the e-mail Forums maintained by the GSDI Committees and the regional SDI news, visit the website at <http://www.gsdi.org/discussionlists>, choose the Forum of interest and select the 'Archives' option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above. You do not have to be a member of the GSDI Association in order to join a Forum.



The GSDI Association

Our Vision ... is of a world where everyone can readily discover, access and apply geographic information to improve their daily lives.

Our Purpose ... is to encourage international cooperation that stimulates the implementation and development of national, regional and local spatial data infrastructures.

Our Mission ... is to advance geo-information best practices, knowledge sharing and capacity building for the improved sharing and application of geographic information.

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

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