Spatial Data Infrastructure
Asia & the Pacific Newsletter

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

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

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Message from your hardworking editors (one of them is, at least)

Welcome to the May edition of the newsletter. We note the recent major disruption to air travel in Europe from the Iceland Eyjafjallajokull volcano eruption. In the near future we expect to be able to follow up with the role played by SDI in ameliorating the effects of airborne volcanic ash and perhaps the devising of newer uses to which SDI may be applied.

Please note that the GSDI organisation is currently planning for the GSDI conference and calling for Workshop and Tutorials ─ further information is available from the GSDI website and the Conference, Events section of the Contents of this newsletter.

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

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

Contributions

Thank you to the following people and organisations for their contributions to this issue:
Paul Box, Kate Lance, and Baek Wonkug for news feeds, Jeremy Shen and Jeremy Huang for the Chinese translation as well as Shivani Lal, *GIS Development*, *Asia Surveying Mapping Magazine* for directly contributing to the newsletter.
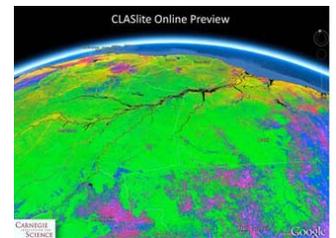
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SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

White Paper on the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles
The GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan explicitly acknowledges the importance of data sharing in achieving the GEOSS vision and anticipated societal benefits. This White Paper reviews the background issues for implementing the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and recommends Implementation Guidelines to ensure the strongest possible framework for data sharing, consistent with both the spirit and the "letter" of the Principles.
The white paper is available from here
Source: Group on Earth Observations

World Bank Frees Up Development Data
April 20, 2010—The World Bank Group said today it will offer free access to more than 2,000 financial, business, health, economic and human development statistics that had mostly been available only to paying subscribers.
The decision—part of a larger effort to increase access to information at the World Bank—means that researchers, journalists, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), entrepreneurs and school children alike will be able to tap into the World Bank's databases via a new website, data.worldbank.org.
Source: WorldBank

The Spatial Enablement of Society in conjunction with Spatial Data Infrastructures
Darren's latest blog entry shares learnings generated by his work colleagues which have been reinforced by presentations at FIG 2010. "The spatial enablement of society (a FIG 2010 congress plenary theme), talks about the engagement of communities, citizens and government for the betterment of society as a whole. This concept at its heart requires that we move towards a system that sees information managed spatially. The concept itself is a change to the normal 'technical' thinking of our industry where Spatial Data Infrastructures and technology to collect, manage and use data is traditionally the focus of our projects.
Source: Darren Mottolini blog

OSGeo-Vietnam Chapter in formation
An official Local Chapter of the OSGeo (Open Source Geospatial Foundation) is in formation in Vietnam. The details of the OSGeo-Vietnam Chapter are available at http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Vietnam and the Chapter mailing list can be subscribed too at http://lists.osgeo.org/mailman/listinfo/vietnam
Mission:
- Promoting Open Source Geospatial tools and publicly available Geodata
- Advocacy of and promoting localization software and educational material and services
- Act as a bridge between various groups like Developers, Application Users, NGOs, Government departments
Thanks to Kate Lance for bringing this item to our attention

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NIMLI (National Infrastructure for Managing Land Information) launched

NIMLI is an ARC Linkage Project funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) in collaboration with The University of Melbourne, Land Victoria (VIC), Landgate (WA), the Land and Property Authority (NSW) and PSMA Australia.

The project aims to design, build and manage a new infrastructure to integrate disparate state based land information and administration processes to meet national needs.

Source: Rohan Bennett CSDILA

From FIG 2010: Economy - Surveying - Geospatial Technology

Warwick Watkins, Surveyor General of New South Wales and researcher author Pedro Harris say "are becoming IT savvy and are increasingly demanding new e-government services... To tackle these information management challenges and structural reforms head on, requires greater reliance of shared infrastructure, shared services and access to current information."

In their FIG Paper 'Spatially Enabled Government in New South Wales, Australia' to be expanded upon at the upcoming FIG 2010 conference in Australia, the authors rightly point to the role of geospatial technology as a key factor in government operations and delivery of services.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

Management and Spatial Data

Spatial data is invariably connected to management and decision making. Very few applications involving remote sensing are oriented solely to the display of images. GNSS is gaining wider attention for the contribution it can make to improved surveying, thus land management, not only to accurately locate places. Spatial information links place to management.

Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

Australia facing geospatial shortage

Australia is not keeping up with the booming demand for Geospatial professionals, UNSW Professor, Chris Rizos, has told a world surveying congress in Sydney.

"Technology has revolutionised the world of surveying and spatial information in general, but we can no longer meet the needs of industry and government here," Professor Rizos said.

Source: GIS Development and Image & Data Manager

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SDI Spotlight

This month's Spotlight feature is based on series of comments which highlight the complexity of locating information on the development of SDIs. This is followed by a summary of the most useful links that describe the implementation of SDIs. If you have any further references please forward these to the newsletter editors for distribution in following issues.

The fathers and mothers of SDIs

The Assistant Director, Survey of Pakistan Asmat Ali has written to us directing our attention to the All points blog at the *Directions Magazine* website. We here reproduce his email:

Recently, I was asked by my employer to submit proposal for NSDI-Pakistan at a short notice to which I agreed. I had in mind that GSDI association's website would be useful in helping me out but to my surprise that proved to be the biggest mistake I ever made.

Please explore the following site for more and also read comments by Harlan Onsrud.

For completeness we also reproduce another response:

[RESPONSE] Dear Asmat Ali, I understand your sentiments. I was once responsible for the Australian SDI proposal and found that SDI was and still is an emerging discipline. I contributed to Prof Masser's paper on the Australian situation. One problem is identifying what is an SDI initiative, as it may be documented in many different guises and found at many levels of government.

An FIG team has just published a new study on SDI in Megacities, if that is of interest. An Internet search by a colleague found that many SDI initiatives are hard to find online. Part of the study had me visiting several

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cities and talking with senior administrators. The problems they experience in finding and using spatial data is indicative of the broader problem found in most jurisdictions.
See http://www.fig.net/pub/figpub/pub48/figpub48.pdf

Which elicited this response from Asmat Ali:

Thanks for such nice reply as well as link to valuable document. I fully agree to your statement, "SDI was and still is an emerging discipline". I would also like to add, rationale for SDI development vary from nation to nation and region to region such as Europeans are more focusing on environment where as countries like Pakistan are supposed to cater for food and fuel, in other words natural resources management. That's why I have been emphasizing this aspect in my research,

Spatial Data Infrastructure for Land Administration in Pakistan
What does Spatial Data Infrastructure mean to Pakistan?

In the beginning, though I was alone in the spatial domain of Pakistan to talk exclusively about rationale and needs for SDI-Pakistan (Pls, see your referred document, p.79) but now many are accompanying me including politicians and head of NMOs. I would admit, both of these have different views about SDI-Pakistan similar to researcher community. Presently, I am in the process of writing a paper and hope that would be published in GSDI-12 proceedings, to convince Pakistani politicians about SDI-Pakistan.

I am happy indeed to see that FIG has started to publish valuable documents and giving open access to such documents. At the same moment, I feel, there should be close collaboration among bodies such as FIG, GSDI and UNSDI etc. As FIG owns practitioners who are more aware of ground realities, GSDI is dominated by academia and research institutions that are contributing towards capacity building, generating new knowledge and promoting SDI concept where as UNSDI can bring funding more easily. Asmat Ali

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GIS Tools, Software, Data

GEO and GEOSS?

The Group on Earth Observations (or GEO) is coordinating international efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). This emerging public infrastructure is interconnecting a diverse and growing array of instruments and systems for monitoring and forecasting changes in the global environment. This "system of systems" supports policymakers, resource managers, science researchers and many other experts and decision-makers.
Source: Group on Earth Observations

MapSys - the Philippines' first real, fully automated parcellary mapping system online

Philippines's first fully-automated web GIS parcellary mapping service at http://www.mapsys.ph, has been launched. It was the project of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations (CREBA). Now, locating and determining the classification or attributes of a piece of land anywhere in the Philippines would not be a problem. The MapSys web service generates an accurate lot plan and information-packed vicinity map for any parcel of land in the country. The information can be downloadable via Internet.
Source: mb.com.ph [Thankyou to Wonkug Baek for this item]

Radar Remote Sensing: Monitoring Ground Deformations and Geohazards from Space

TEWKSBURY LECTURE: Thursday 8th April 2010, University of Melbourne
Professor Xiaoli Ding, Chair Professor of Geomatics & Head of Land Surveying, Geo-Informatics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The earth's surface undergoes various forms of small and large scale deformation, which is often associated with such geohazards as subsidence, earthquakes and landslides. Space-borne interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) is one of the most powerful technologies for measuring large-area ground deformation. This presentation reviews the development of space-borne InSAR and discusses its application to the measurement and monitoring of ground surface deformation and geohazards.

Professor Xiaoli Ding has graciously permitted the newsletter to make his presentation (PowerPoint) (66 mB) available. Also available as a smaller PDF download (7.5 mB).

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Tree-cover mapping in South-East Asia

The European Commission Joint Research Center (JRC) Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES) produced draft tree-cover maps for circa 160 sample sites for continental Southeast Asia for the years 1900 and 2000. These first maps provided the basis for remote sensing experts from this region to produce validated products. All sample sites were validated during a workshop organised by the IES (with participation of the FAO) from 1-12 February 2010. The results will be used for the IES regional estimates of forest cover and forest cover change. Participants, including local experts from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam and FAO staff from the Remote Sensing Survey project, expressed their interest in the IES methodology and specifically in the software tools developed by the IES for the validation of mapping results. The event was held on the premises of the UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific located at the Asian Institute for Technology (AIT) at Pathumthani, Thailand.
Source: IES Monthly Report, February 2010

Land for Taiwan Education Database System on WebGIS

For improving the efficiency of land use and management, the Taiwan Ministry of Education planned to establish a WebGIS platform to completely integrate the data of LEFP, including cadastre, affiliated buildings, lease, occupancy, rental, scene photos, transfer, etc. The personnel can hence utilize and share the data easily via WebGIS, which would facilitate effective use and management of the lands. Therefore, the good intentions of LEFP could be put into practice and benefit more students.
Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and SuperGeo

Marine biologists to map threatened fish species (Australia)

Underwater researchers plan to dive reefs around the Solitary Islands for the first time, mapping threatened and protected fish species, surveying waters between Tweed Heads and Port Macquarie. Marine biologists from Southern Cross University and Coffs Harbour's National Marine Science Centre hope to collect information on where these important marine species are found.
Source: GIS News & the *Coffs Coast Advocate*

Google Earth showcases oceans

The 3-D global mapping system, made up of satellite images, is sinking its feet into the oceans as well. Now all Google Earth users can see maps of the world's oceans and videos, photos and narrative from the world's leading scientists and media sources to bring them to life. Google Oceans officially launched last year as a separate feature, but is now part of Google Earth.
Source: GIS News & the *Toronto Sun*

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) are becoming increasingly popular. While most applications are oriented toward military projects and operations, it is becoming apparent that UAVs role could evolve to include data gathering from non-military environments also.

UAVs offer several advantages from a cost perspective. They can also provide more frequent results. However, privacy issues for non-military applications have not been fully resolved as yet and safety concerns are also considerations.
SPECIM, Spectral Imaging Ltd of Finland recently launched a new hyperspectral sensor. "Current hyperspectral imagers are either bulky with good performance, or compact, with only moderate performance. With the introduction of the new M Series, SPECIM overcomes these drawbacks, and offers clients in defense, security and industrial applications an off-the-shelf hyperspectral sensor that out performs all other sensors in the market." says Timo Hyvärinen, Managing Director of SPECIM.
Vexcel, a Microsft company has been operating several digital mapping cameras that provide high resolution imagery for a number of years. The imagery is also handled through the ULTRAMap software now provided by the company.
Digital cameras capable of providing high resolution imagery are a growth market and as citizens demand more up-to-date information, we are likely to see them applied to a broader range of applications.
Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

Google releases satellite images of China quake damage

Google released satellite imagery on Monday of the devastation from last week's earthquake which killed more than 2,000 people in northwest China.
The imagery, available on Google Earth, the Internet giant's online mapping product, included a before-and-after picture of a city heavily damaged by the 6.9-magnitude quake in Qinghai province on Wednesday.

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Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and Google News

See also **Nasa drone embarks on science flights** (includes 3 minute video)
An unmanned aircraft, operated by Nasa, has successfully started flying scientific research missions over the Pacific Ocean. The Global Hawk drone is a robotic plane that is designed to stay up in the air at very high altitudes for an extended period of time. Nasa has acquired three of the aircraft from the United States Air Force, which used the planes for military surveillance work.
Source: V1 Media "Spatial Sustain" blog & BBC News

Geospatial Education and Research
Our lead stories provide an interesting snapshot of the burgeoning opportunities in the geospatial field. China's geospatial market is set to boom at US$14.6 billion a year. In contrast, the availability of trained GIS professionals is a source of worry. This is the situation after 200 universities have set up GIS related courses since 1998 in China. This story may be about China but my feeling is that this is true for most Asian countries and perhaps to a lesser extent to the Americas and Europe as well.
Source: GIS Development editorial (April 12) by Prof Arup Dasgupta & People's daily Online

GIS industry on fast track in China
The output value of the geographic information industry has been expected to reach CNY 100 billion (about 14.6 billion USD) this year, according to China Association for Geographic Information System (CAGIS).
Source: GIS Development (April 12) & People's Daily (China)

'Land Administration Domain Model' or 'Harmonized Data Model'
Any framework for organizing land information at a national or regional level requires a data model. A data model is a mathematical or conceptual construct for representing geographic objects, usually within a computer. In the realm of land information management the 'Land Administration Domain Model' is the most recognizable data model. It has been under development since the early 2000s and is championed by Peter van Oosterom and his energetic Dutch and FIG Commission 7 colleges. …
Source: University of Melbourne 'NIMLI' blog (April 7)

Heat mapping feature available in SpatialStream
Digital Map Products (DMP) announced the addition of dynamic heat mapping capability to its SpatialStream spatial development platform. Through the heat mapping capability in SpatialStream, spatial developers can easily integrate this data visualisation tool into their applications to more effectively display large data sets.
Source: PR.com Press Release

Tsunami Alert System to be Ready by 2011
The 28 countries bordering the Indian Ocean will form a joint tsunami alert network in 2011, which will compliment and eventually replace the current warning systems operated by the United States and Japan. Representatives from the 28 countries held a three-day conference recently in Banda Aceh, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, to discuss combining their respective tsunami early warning systems into a regional network.
Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping & the Jakarta Post

Pictometry Online
AAM has introduced hosted imagery and spatial tools for major urban areas of Australia and New Zealand, Pictometry Online. It is software and data as a service, which can be used to view one's project site from any angle, providing new capabilities for confirmation of property value and site assessment that includes accurate measurements, all from one's desktop
The hosted solution allows professionals to safely visit and measure difficult to access areas of roofs, buildings, natural hazards and roads. This new source of information and tools will provide cost reductions in field work and related tasks. This

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hosted tool is currently being used by strategic planners, valuers, emergency service personnel, insurance analysts, surveyors, traffic planners, GIS analysts and asset managers.
Source: AAM [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

Ships to be Tracked on Great Barrier Reef
ALL ships passing southern parts of the Great Barrier Reef will be forced to report positions and be tracked by satellite from July next year under a new proposal. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) advice follows the grounding of the *Sheng Neng I* coal carrier this month on Douglas Shoal, outside the current mandatory reporting zone.
Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping & www.AdelaideNow.com.au

Tree rings map 700 years of Asian monsoons: Historical rainfall across the region documented for the first time.
Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping and NatureNews.com

Land use data available online in New-Zealand
New Zealanders will now be able to download the latest land use data following the completion of a major mapping exercise by the Ministry for the Environment. The integrated Land Use Map (LUM), which provides an in-depth snapshot of land use in New Zealand from 1990-2008, has been produced as part of the Land Use and Carbon Analysis System (LUCAS). LUM was derived from satellite imagery provided to government agencies as a result of an all-of-government licence negotiated by the Ministry for the Environment. The data is available now for electronic download from <www.koordinates.com> a geospatial data distribution site.
Source: ScoopNews (NZ) [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

Turkish underwater terrain to be mapped
A New South Wales (NSW) archaeological team will be heading to Turkey next month to carry out the first large-scale mapping of the underwater area off Gallipoli. The team is also hoping to find military relics like the remains of small boats, ammunition and what is left of battlefield jetties.
Source: GIS Development & ABC News

OneMap connects everyone in Singapore
OneMap is a part of the Sg-Space geospatial initiative by the Singapore Land Authority and the Infocomm Development Authority. Parents can use the SchoolQuery service to find out if they stay within a kilometre or two of a certain primary school. Birdwatchers can tap the Nature Society of Singapore's efforts to map out where types of wild species can be found here. These are some services offered on OneMap, the newly-launched common map platform for public agencies. It can also be used by individuals, business or community groups that have information or innovative applications to add. For instance, a local community can create its own kampung Web portal, using the OneMap platform where residents can contribute information on their neighbourhood food, shops and recreation. Businesses can also tap it to provide services to consumers or other businesses.
Source: Today Online [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

Establishing GIS in Philippines government units
The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has urged all Local Government Units to prioritise establishing their own Geographic Information System (GIS) to mainstream disaster risk reduction in planning. Regional Director Milagros A. Rimando said the Regional Geographic Information Network (RGIN) aims to establish a more systematic and organised sharing of geographically referenced information. She said the geographic information from the different municipalities will be incorporated to the information available to the RGIN.
Source: Philippines Information Agency (PIA) [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

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

After a 20-Year Mapping Effort, Hoping to Save Dozens of Native Plants

American colonists once watched for the spring bloom of the Nantucket shadbush, a sign that it was warm enough to bury the winter's dead.

Today, that shadbush and dozens of other flora native to the New York region face extinction, a result of urban development and the encroachment of invasive plants from foreign lands, scientists from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden report.

Hoping to revive the plants, the scientists recently completed a 20-year project mapping species in every county within a 50-mile radius of New York, providing detailed information on the health of more than 15,000 native and nonnative species.

Source: *New York Times* & New York Metropolitan Flora Project

ESA and ITC to jointly supervise African water projects

European Space Agency (ESA) and the Institute for Geo-information Sciences and Earth Observation (ITC) will be jointly working on the Tiger-II initiative. The programme involves using satellite imagery to tackle water problems in the African continent and to improve water management practices. ESA has recently selected twenty-two projects for the programme. The first Tiger initiative resulted from the Sustainable Development Summit in Johannesburg in 2002. The programme was run from 2005 to 2009. In the Tiger I programme, data from ESA earth observations were used by local African organisations for water quality monitoring, groundwater mapping and for investigating the impact of irrigation on agriculture. The Tiger II programme is a follow-up to the initial project. One of its most important goals is to promote the further development of scientific skills on the African continent. All projects will be implemented by local African organizations. ESA will provide the Earth observation data free of charge and will invest in knowledge transfer. Universities, institutes and water authorities will be able to learn how best to use the earth observation data. ITC will also provide training for twenty selected project organisations in the second phase of the Tiger programme (2010-2012). In addition, it will serve as a bridge between the African organizations and research institutes worldwide.

Tiger is an international initiative that contributes to carrying out the strategy of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). It receives support from UNESCO, the Canadian Space Agency, the European Space Agency and is endorsed by the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW).

Source: ITC [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

OS OpenData launched (Great Britain)

Ordnance Survey has launched OS OpenData, an online portal providing free and unrestricted access to a large range of mapping and geographic information (GI). It allows users to download a wide range of mapping and geographic information for free reuse direct to their computers, view maps and boundary information for the whole country and develop web-map applications using Ordnance Survey's OS OpenSpace API (Application Programming Interface). Users can download data at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/opendata.

Source: GIS News & Ordnance Survey News Release

Arctic coastal nations agree on seabed mapping

Arctic coastal states have agreed to work more closely to map the Arctic seabed, regulate polar shipping, respond to accidents and safeguard the region's fragile environment.

Source: GIS News & Yahoo! News

Tanzania keen on surveying its borders

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development, Tanzania, is planning to survey the country's borders. The move follows information that there were relocations of beacons on the borders with some neighbouring countries. The ministry's permanent secretary, Patrick Rutabanzibwa, told the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that the government was aware of the problem and was working hard to solve it.

Source: GIS News & *The Citizen* (Tanzania)

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New human fossils found by satellite imagery

An anthropology professor from South Africa has used Google Earth (satellite imagery) to find a new human ancestor. He found two partial skeletons, dating between 1.78 and 1.95 million years ago, that belong to the species now known as *Australopithecus sediba*.
Source: GIS News & www.readwriteweb.com
Meanwhile, Google has put together an interesting list of discoveries made with Google Earth's satellite imagery.

3D Laser Mapping scans glacial terrains (Great Britain)

The latest laser scanning and remote controlled aircraft technology are to be used to monitor glaciers where unstable slopes and rock falls are a continual threat. A special long range scanner, capable of measuring tiny movements over a 2km range, is being supplied by 3D Laser Mapping for the research by the University of Northumbria. Scan data will be used to help create 3D maps using low level aerial photographs captured by an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).
Source: GIS News & the Marketing Edge News

GIS for risk assessment only in a few EU countries

The EU-funded programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters (PPRD South) has reached the conclusion that GIS for civil protection is used mainly for managing assistance and only in a few countries for risk assessment.
Source: GIS News & www.Enpi-info.eu

Ordnance Survey Ireland unveils MapGenie

MapGenie, a new online mapping service, has been unveiled by Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI). It will provide online access to the most complete and highest quality map data available for Ireland at a range of scales from OSI and Land and Property Services Northern Ireland (LPS) geodatabases through an all-Ireland web mapping service. It will allow users to connect directly from their desktop to provide easy and instant access to premium map data at a variety of scales for the entire island of Ireland. OSI will house all map information and it will update customers' view of map data as the database is expanded.
Built on industry standards, MapGenie will operate across browsers and operating systems and may be used with or to supplement existing web-based applications built around Google Maps or Microsoft Bing interfaces. A number of public and private sector organisations already use MapGenie in its prototype form.
Source: GIS News & the *Irish Times*

Satellite-based monitoring of Russian Arctic seas

On behalf of the Atomflot Federal State Unitary Enterprise, ScanEx RDC will conduct collection and processing of radar data on the ice situation in the Northern Sea-route and non-Arctic freezing seas of Russia
Source: GIS Development Weekly & ScanEx Press Release

Scientists fix GPS on pigeons to analyse leadership

British scientists have strapped tiny GPS systems to pigeons to analyse the way bird flocks change direction and stay together in a study they hope will also give clues to human collective behaviour. Researchers from Britain and Hungary used GPS backpacks to record the flight paths of individual pigeons and then analysed interactions between the birds.
Source: GIS News & Reuters (UK) News Agency

Geospatial tool to monitor penguins

A small group of researchers under the direction of Dr. Dee Boersma, Professor of Biology at the University of Washington, is following individual penguins, monitoring the Magellanic penguin colony and developing the data needed to plan effective conservation efforts, as well as to try and understand the importance of penguins as indicators of global climate change and the health of the environment.
Source: GIS News & Mobile Epiphany

SPRING as you have never seen it before! (dynamic animated map)
Source: InfoTerra Press Release

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Website on America's submerged lands launched

A new Web site, Maps of America's Submerged Lands, is a map-based portal to maps with digital data produced by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Coastal and Marine Geology Program. The site provides links to published USGS maps, reports and digital data that depict the bathymetry, surficial geology and (or) subsurface structure of submerged areas over a wide range of scales. The digital data are available as shape files, images, or grids in GIS format.
Source: GIS News & USGS

U.S. NOAA Launches Marine Mapping Tool

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Protected Areas Center has created a new interactive online mapping tool that allows users to view boundaries and access data for more than a thousand marine protected areas (MPAs) in the United States. MPAs are conservation areas that include the marine environment, such as some national parks and national wildlife refuges, national marine sanctuaries and similar areas managed by state, local and tribal governments. The mapping tool allows users to view all the MPAs in a specific location or across an entire region, as well as search for specific attributes, including conservation purpose, managing agency and level of protection, among others. Data for the mapping tool comes from the newly updated MPA Inventory, a comprehensive database on existing US MPAs. Originally launched in June 2008, the inventory contains a range of information on each of the 1,637 protected areas established or managed by federal, state, or territorial agencies or programmes. Data was collected from most management agencies and programmes and is updated as of January 2010. The mapping tool can be accessed at <www.mpa.gov/mpaviewer>.
Source: NOAA [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

NOAA Assists Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Efforts - Updated Daily

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration is on-scene at the site of the BP/Transocean's Deepwater Horizon oil spill. NOAA provides scientific expertise like running oil spill trajectory models and advises on marine life and resources at risk.
Source: NOAA

Interactive maps over Daugava and Nemunas drainage basins (Zapadnaya Dvina/Neman) RUSSIA

To present the DatabasiN database and the layers/information in the database, two interactive map services have been set up. You can manipulate the layers and the map view to create your own custom maps, or explore and browse the Daugava/Zapadnaya Dvina and Nemunas/Neman databases.
The maps prepared from this service can be used without any restrictions and licensing.?The developers?do appreciate if you give full credit to the DatabasiN project, and link back to the website.
For further information on the database, and the metadata/specification for individual layers, please refer to the database page.
In addition to the interactive maps, there have also been prepared a set of static map graphic files, for download and use, please refer to the maps & graphics page.
An additional service, providing value to this database, is the interactive map of water monitoring stations of two river basins in English and Russian developed by the Russian counterparts. Data on the current, maximal and minimal water levels for the last 20 days in Daugava/Zapadnaya Dvina and Nemunas/Neman and their tributaries is presented.
Thanks to Kate Lance for this item

Website to integrate geospatial information in Brazil

Decisions on resource planning and management, as well as the elaboration of public and private policies, will be facilitated with the introduction of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (INDE). Users will have its access via an internet portal, the SIG Brasil. Initially, the portal will integrate geospatial data of federal institutions of the Brazilian government and will permit information visualisation and access, making it possible to mix geospatial information in the internet environment.
Source: GIS Development & Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE)

Azerbaijan creating E-map base for each region

The State Committee for Property Affairs (SCPA) of Azerbaijan is using GIS to improve the quality of services to its people regarding real estate registration and cadastre management. Electronic base of maps within administrative borders of the country's regions is being prepared with help of WCS-84 (World coordinate

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system) in projection UTM (universal transfer mercator) that is an open system of coordinates applied around the world, according to the committee. The maps also take into account cadastre information gathered in executive power organs, for example, data on property, rent, permanent use rights and restrictions. The committee believes that the role of GIS is irreplaceable when realising infrastructure and other projects.
Source: today.az [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

Saudi Arabian government to monitor Google Earth
The Shura Council's Committee for Transport, Communication and Information Technology has revealed that the Saudi Arabian government has formed a team made up of three governmental agencies to monitor the maps offered by Google Earth and ensure that these do not include images of military sites or other sensitive areas. This was revealed after national security become a subject of concern to a number of Shura Council deputies, and they expressed fears that satellite imaging of the Earth could be used to transgress Saudi Arabia's national security.
Source: Aawsat.com [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

Google releases 'censorship' maps
Google has responded to complaints about its approach to privacy by releasing maps with details of government censorship requests worldwide.
Google's new tool lets users see the number of government requests that it has received from each country across the word to remove data or to get information about its users or has received court orders to remove content from YouTube or its search results.
Source: V1 Media & TechRadar News

New Ocean Mapping Robot Taps Thermal Energy for Extended Exploration
Source: V1 Media & InventorSpot.com

U.S. Census Bureau Manages Massive Spatial Database for 2010 Census (Audio interview)
The decennial census of the United States is a massive undertaking and maintaining the mapping products that support the effort requires managing a large Oracle Spatial database. In this interview, Nick Padfield and Stephanie Spahlinger of the Geography Division of the U.S. Census Bureau describe the process for managing the spatial data that helps them churn out maps for a variety of constituents from census enumerators to Congress. Listen Now
Source: www.directionsmag.com [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

OGC forms Aviation Domain Working Group
The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) announced the formation of an Aviation Domain Working Group (DWG). It will support the evaluation, advancement, operational use and validation of OGC standards within the aviation domain. It will contribute towards increasing global adoption of OGC standards and complementary standards and coordinate the technical input, when required, to support profiling or extending those standards to meet the requirements of the aviation community.
Source: OGC

OGC Calls for Industry Input on Decision Fusion Standards Study
The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit industry input into the second phase of a Fusion Standards Study. Phase 2 of the study focuses on Decision Fusion. Input from the RFI will influence planning for the OGC Web Services, Phase 8 (OWS-8) Testbed. OGC also seeks to establish alliances with other Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) having standards work relevant to fusion. Decision Fusion, as described in the RFI, provides analysts an environment of interoperable services for situation assessment, impact assessment and decision support, based on information from multiple sensors and databases, e.g., multi-INT sources. The study includes recent advances such as social networking for decision fusion. Though the focus of the study is on military intelligence ("INT"), decision fusion is equally relevant to business intelligence, urban planning, and many other domains. The RFI contains a review of requirements and existing standards for decision fusion in several domains. Responses to the RFI will be reviewed during a workshop in July 2010. Responses to the RFI are requested by June 11, 2010.
Source: OGC [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

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Lidar aids Iceland volcanic ash monitoring

While satellites are providing an ideal way of monitoring the cloud of volcanic ash sweeping across much of Europe recently, a ground-based network of lidar instruments has also been providing a valuable source of information to help meteorologists assess this unprecedented event.The Earlinet network of lidar stations has been closely monitoring the cloud of volcanic ash from the Eyjafjallajoekull volcano in Iceland since it started erupting on 15 April. The network, which comprises 26 different stations across Europe, uses lidar, short for 'light detection and ranging', instruments that shoot powerful bursts of light from a laser into the sky to acquire information on the physical properties of the atmosphere. As the light travels through the atmosphere, it interacts with molecules of gas, droplets of water and particles of dust or ash. Since some of the light is 'backscattered' to the instrument on the ground, it is possible to work out the distance of the 'scatterers' by differencing the time between sending and receiving the light. This method offers an excellent opportunity to monitor particles of airborne ash from the ground. For more information click here.
Source: ESA [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

SA, Brazil and India agree to joint satellite programme at trilateral summit

At the conclusion of the fourth India Brazil South Africa Dialogue Forum (Ibsa) summit in Brasília on April 15, the leaders of the three countries – South African President Jacob Zuma, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva – announced that they had agreed to set up a trilateral satellite programme. The programme will involve two satellites, one for Earth observation and the other for space weather and climate studies. As yet, no budget for the programme has been released.
Source: Engineering News [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]
See also: **South African technology key to Ibsa satellite programme**

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Articles

Geoprocessing in Spatial Data Infrastructures by Theodor Foerster, Bastian Schäffer and Bastian Baranski. Science, industry and administration require web-based geoinformation concerning storage, availability and processing. This trend will continue in the future as the available amount of spatial data sets increases. This is due to the availability of more detailed data acquisition techniques and improvements regarding Web technologies. Data is collected through airborne laser scanning, detailed models in 3D, billions of affordable and therefore ubiquitous geo-enabled sensors respectively devices such as smart phones equipped with GPS, as well as data acquisition by the masses (crowd-sourcing).
Source: V1 Media

The science of climate change - The clouds of unknowing

There are lots of uncertainties in climate science. But that does not mean it is fundamentally wrong
Source: The Economist (UK)

Use of remote sensing and GIS in disaster management in Gangtok area, Sikkim

By Ashok Kumar Sharma & Varun Joshi (Disaster Management Faculty-Sikkim, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development Sikkim Unit, Gangtok) & K. Kumar, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora.
Abstract
Geographic information system (GIS) and remote sensing (RS) are very useful and effective tools in disaster management. Various disasters like earthquakes, landslides, floods, fires, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and cyclones are natural hazards that kill lots of people and destroy property and infrastructures every year. Landslides are the most regular geological vulnerabilities in mountain regions, particularly in Sikkim Himalaya. Remotely sensed data can be used very efficiently to assess severity and impact of damage due to these disasters. In the disaster relief phase, GIS, grouped with global positioning system (GPS) is extremely useful in search and rescue operations in areas that have been devastated and where it is difficult to find one's bearings. Disaster mapping is the drawing of areas that have been through excessive natural or man-made troubles to the normal environment where there is a loss of life, property and national infrastructures
Source: GIS Development

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The Paradigm Shifts of Neo-Geography

Attending the world-wide Surveying and Spatial Information Conference FIG2010 this week in Sydney, I can't help but notice a growing divide between the traditional GIS and Surveying community and the rapidly evolving world of 'neo-geography', represented at the Where 2.0 conference just before Easter.
Source: Maurits van der Vlugt blog

Law's Spatial Turn: Geography, Justice and a Certain Fear of Space by Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos

Abstract: This is a critical reading of the current literature on law and geography. The article argues that the literature is characterized by an undertheorization of the concept of space. Instead, the focus is either on the specific geography of law in the form of jurisdiction, or as a simple terminological innovation. Instead, the article suggests that law's spatial turn ought to consider space as a singular parameter to the hitherto legal preoccupation with time, history and waiting. This forces law into dealing with a new, peculiarly spatial kind of uncertainty in terms of simultaneity, disorientation, materiality and exclusionary corporeal emplacement. The main area in which this undertheorization forcefully manifests itself is that of spatial justice. Despite its critical potential, the concept has been reduced by the majority of the relevant literature into another version of social, distributive or regional justice. On the contrary, if the peculiar characteristics of space are to be taken into account, a concept of justice will have to be rethought on a much more fundamental level than that.

Data consistency checks for building of 3D model: A case study of Technical University, Delft Campus, The Netherlands by Tarun Ghawana, Integrated Spatial Analytics Consultants, New Delhi, India & Sisi Zlatanova, GISt, OTB, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands,

Abstract
GIS is changing rapidly its face with the advancement of computing technologies. From merely a 2D representation of real world features, it is moving to present more and more applications in 3D formats. Today 3D GIS is an essential way of handling the spatial data in urban planning. In cities where every inch of land is measured and is consumed by construction of buildings, mere 3D visualisation of the features is not enough. For certain applications which require extensive details of the building architectures, it becomes a prerequisite to maintain a topological accuracy among the features to be represented. This paper describes the process of topologically correcting 2D features to serve as the basis to create topologically correct 3D city models. The 3D model is created from an existing 2D large-scale topographic map and LIDAR height data.
Keywords: Urban planning; GIS; 3D modelling; topological validation; DEM; TIN; breaklines.
Source: GIS Development

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Books and Journals

SALB Newsletter, Volume 10, No 1 (March 2010)

The March 2010 edition of the *Second Administrative Level Boundaries* data set project (SALB) project Newsletter is now available. In this edition is a summary of the progress that has been made for the SALB Asian node.
The SALB project was launched in 2001 in the context of the activities of the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) and has for its objective to provide access to a working platform for the collection, management, visualization and sharing of sub national data and information in a seamless way from the national to the global level. This platform is developed in collaboration with and validated by the National Mapping Agencies (NMA) of each UN Member State.
Source: thanks to Kate Lance for bringing this item to our attention.

Understanding the Changing Planet: Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences

From the oceans to continental heartlands, human activities have altered the physical characteristics of Earth's surface. With Earth's population projected to peak at 8 to 12 billion people by 2050 and the additional stress of climate change, it is more important than ever to understand how and where these changes are happening. Innovation in the geographical sciences has the potential to advance knowledge of place-based environmental change, sustainability, and the impacts of a rapidly changing economy and society.
Understanding the Changing Planet outlines eleven strategic directions to focus research and leverage new technologies to harness the potential that the geographical sciences offer.
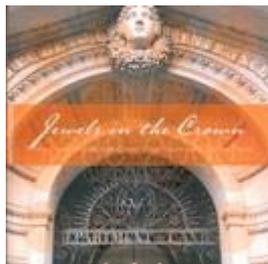
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Read online Free !!
From *GIS Development*:

Rapid Urbanization and Mega Cities: The Need for Spatial Information Management
Research study by FIG Commission 3 (January, 2010)
Spatial information has become indispensable for numerous aspects of urban development, planning and management. The increasing importance of spatial information has been due to recent strides in spatial information capture (especially satellite remote sensing and positioning), management (utilising geographic information systems and database tools) and access (witness the growth in web mapping services), as well as the development of analytical techniques such as high resolution mapping of urban environments.

Jewels in the Crown: a history of the Bridge Street Plan Room and Crown Plans
by Terry Cass & published by the NSW Department of Lands (2008): ISBN 9780975235478
The Bridge Street Plan Room in Sydney is of historical significance due to the architectural history of the building, its connection with land settlement and surveying in NSW, the room itself and the records within the room.
Unfortunately, according to the NSW Government website, this award winning publication is not currently available for sale.

This handsome volume (FIG Sydney 2010 Congress Special Edition) was presented to delegates attending the FIG 2010 conference.
[an 11 page pdf from the NSW Dept of Lands titled *Making what's old new again Bridge Street Plan Room 1828–2007 and beyond* is available for downloading]

Guidebook on Registering Property in Malaysia - Land Transfer Registration Handbook
Speed register a transfer of land is one of the elements that gives Malaysia a competitive edge. The Handbook explains that the registration of transfer of land has been reduced to 1 day. Loading process and procedures for registration of transfer of land to give effect to facilitate many investors doing business in Malaysia. For this purpose the Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (PEMUDAH) through the Focus Group on Registering Property has been improving the process and increase the transparency of the registration of land transfer.
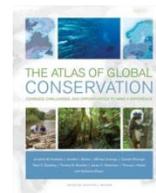Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping & Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment

Queensland (Australia) Land Titles Office Manual
This updated manual is available in 42 parts (pdf format). Users registering their e-mail address will be notified of updates as they are posted.

Atlas of Global Conservation
Eight scientists and geographers at the Nature Conservancy have spent the past three years charting the health of different ecosystems across the globe to create the Atlas of Global Conservation. The detailed ecosystem-level mapping project will be unveiled in book form on Earth Day 2010 in cooperation with the University of California Press. An interactive map of the data can be explored online now.

The Layered Earth - an interactive earth science and geology earth browser and curriculum for middle and high schools.
With the Iceland Eyjafjallajokull volcano eruption being only the most recent of numerous earth shattering events this website is topical.

Call for Papers - Global Human Health
www.Earthzine.org is soliciting articles for its theme issue on observing and monitoring Global Human Health, including contributions addressing current issues, techniques and applications of remote sensing, GIS, and geovisualization. The theme issue is scheduled for the third quarter of 2010, June 21 – September 21. (CfP PDF) Earthzine is an informative scientific online journal dedicated to promoting the societal benefits of Earth Observations and the utilization of Earth information in planning and policy. Sponsored by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), Earthzine supports the Group on Earth Observation in establishing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

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Source: Earthzine [thanks to Wonkug Baek for this item]

GEO News (Issue #8, 28 April 2010)

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Just for Fun!

Nepal, China recognise two heights of Mount Everest
Nepal and China have agreed to recognise the snow and rock heights of Mount Everest, ending a long-standing debate about the height of the world's tallest mountain, officials said on Thursday.
…
But its exact height has remained a matter of debate.
The official Everest snow height of 8,848 metres (29,028 feet) was measured by the Survey of India in 1954. Chinese mountaineers and researchers climbed Mount Everest in May 2005 to determine its height afresh and concluded that the rock height of the peak was about 3.7 metres (11 feet) less than the estimates made in 1954, or the summit was 8,844.43 metres (29,017 feet), with a margin of error of about 0.21 metres.
Officials from China and Nepal who met this week said both heights were accurate.
"Both are correct heights. No measurement is absolute. This is a problem of scientific research," said Raja Ram Chhatkuli, director general of Nepal's survey department, and a delegate.
See also China, Nepal end Everest height row in rock and snow (Daily Telegraph) & DigitalJournal.com
Source: Yahoo news & London *Times* (online)

Mapping a billion people
As soon as the woman opened the door to the census enumerator, she burst into a tirade against the government on uncontrolled price rise. She did not see why she had to answer questions from a representative of such a "useless" government.
The enumerator, Manoj Kumar, a Delhi teacher in a Netaji Nagar school and a veteran of the last census in 2001, is used to people and their unpredictable moods. This time, the area he has to cover is RK Ashram Marg with its government colonies. "What can you do? Price rise has affected people and she's got a right to be angry. But I tried to explain to her that I was merely doing my job, and with some help from neighbours I managed to pacify her and get her to answer the questions in the form," explains Kumar without rancour.
Source: V1 Magazine (April 12) & the Times of India

Mont Saint-Michel
A 1,300 year old monastery built atop a single rock, with accessibility dependent on the tides.
Source: Atlas Obscura [A guide to obscure and curious places]
Well worth a visit !!

Cut-out 3D model of Eyjafjallajökull volcano, Iceland
Source: British Geological Society

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Training Opportunities

United Nations University and ESRI to Collaborate on GIS Research and Training
ESRI and United Nations University (UNU) recently approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the university's headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. They will collaborate on research, create Centres of Excellence, promote the exchange of graduate students and provide GIS training opportunities within and by UNU.
Source: GISLounge

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Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) course in Kenya

University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services Ltd are offering a professional short course on Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) for Health from June 21-25, 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya. The course provides an overview of DHS surveys and how to use DHS data to improve health programs.

DHS are nationally-representative household surveys that provide data for a wide range of monitoring and impact evaluation indicators in the areas of population, health and nutrition. Demographic and Health Surveys provide countries with a standardised tool to obtain indicators for the effective monitoring of national programs such as those on HIV/AIDS, health and family planning services available in a country. Contact: Prof. Mwanthi
Source: Kate Lance

The New Professional Spatial Information Programs at the University of Melbourne

 Master of Engineering (Geomatics)
 Master of Spatial Information Science

This item was extensively covered in Volume 7, issue 3 (March 2010) of the SDI-AP newsletter and is here reprinted in abbreviated form.

Forestry GIS User Group Opens for Membership

ESRI has launched a new user group specifically for its forestry and timberland management customers. The newly formed ESRI Forestry Group (EFG) will build opportunities for foresters to learn about business solutions, network with like-minded professionals and develop professional growth.
Source: Vector1Media

UNIGIS MSc now in Australia

The international UNIGIS MSc postgraduate degree is now offered in Australia through the UNIGIS study centre at the University of Canberra, ACT. Students are invited to enrol in a joint program combining the capacities from the University of Canberra and University of Salzburg, Austria.

This new UNIGIS study centre is led by Prof. George Cho at the Institute of Applied Ecology, University of Canberra. The program offers in-service distance education for professionals interested in GIS and Geo-informatics. Courses towards the MSc were launched with an on-site workshop in 2009 and lead students to obtain recognised international academic degrees.
Source: http://www.unigis.net

Trimble Seminars

Trimble will launch a new series of web seminars for people with an interest in GPS and GIS. They will be offered every 4-6 weeks. The schedule for upcoming 'webinars' includes: an introduction to the new Yuma rugged tablet computer and VRS. Visit the Trimble website for more information.
Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

Web Map Gallery

Web Map Gallery | Contribute Web Map
Web Map Gallery is a resource for readers to see what others geospatial professionals have created. We encourage you to contribute to the gallery so that all may benefit from the breadth of geospatial applications now being used in many industries. Please feel free to use the link "Contribute Web Map" above to add your own Internet-based mapping application with as much information as necessary to explain your contribution.
Source: Directions Magazine

GIS software training by ESRI

ESRI now offers access to more than 40 beginning, intermediate and advanced instructor-led GIS courses through a variety of training alternatives and venues including
• Video teleconferencing training at the ESRI learning centers
• Virtual Classroom **online training delivered to students' own workplaces or home computers**
Source: GIS News

ESRI Training Program

ESRI in Singapore has released its training schedule for the first part of 2010, up to next February. Seats are reserved on a first come, first served basis, upon registration. Training prerequisites will be as indicated in the course notes. For course outlines, contact ESRI direct.

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Geospatial technology update seminars scheduled for SE Asia

ESRI and GIS Development will present free seminars to mapping agencies in Southeast Asia. The Geospatial Technology Update seminars will take place in Jakarta, Indonesia; Bangkok, Thailand; Hanoi, Vietnam; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Manila, Philippines. The seminars commenced January 2010. The seminars will outline technology trends in the geospatial community including how to take advantage of the Web 2.0 environment, the integration of topographic and remotely sensed data and how to best offer published data via cloud computing.

Mapping organisation staff members and managers and their affiliates, including national hydrographic and aeronautical agencies, are invited to attend the free, daylong program in their respective cities. For more information and to register, visit http://www.GISdevelopment.net/GTUS. For more information on how mapping agencies use GIS software, visit www.esri.com/maps

FOSS 4G 2010 Workshops - Barcelona, Spain.

This item was extensively covered in Volume 7, issue 3 (March 2010) of the SDI-AP newsletter and is here reprinted in abbreviated form.

September 6 Workshops (Monday afternoon, 15-18h)
W-01: Web mapping with GeoServer
W-02: gvSIG 1.9 user workshop
W-03: Setting up an OpenStreetMap rendering toolchain
W-04: Introduction to PostGIS
W-05: Introduction to the Mapbender geoportal framwework
W-06: Solid web mapping with Python
W-07: Practical introduction to ZOO, the powerful WPS platform
September 7 Workshops (Tuesday morning, 9-12h)
W-08: Getting started with MapServer
W-09: Quantum GIS and PostGIS: Solving spatial problems and creating web-based analysis tools
W-10: FOSS4G routing with PgRouting tools, OpenStreetMap road data and GeoEXT
W-11: Working with OpenLayers
W-12: GeoNetwork for dummies, or how to setup an SDI in 3 hours
W-13: Geospatial for java
W-14: Practical introduction to GRASS
Source: FOSS4G 2010 press release 5

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Funding Opportunities, Awards, Grants

Call for nominations: Prosper.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award in Sustainable Development

The Prosper.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award in Sustainable Development is given annually to young scientists or researchers, based in the Asia-Pacific region, who have made significant contributions in the area of Sustainable Development. For 2010, awards will be given in each of four areas: Energy, Water, Agriculture & Food Security, and Economics, Business, & Management.

The award is open to those engaged in graduate education and research activities that emphasize sustainable development in any of the above four areas. Candidates are expected to be employed at institutions of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region, and should be less than 40 years old as of 1 July 2010. Candidates may be put forth by nomination or direct application. Nominations and applications must be supported by two letters of recommendation.
Deadline: May 3, 2010

ESRI's Mashup Challenge Winners Announced

Links to the winning mashups and related videos can be found at http://www.esri.com/apimashup.
Source: Directions Magazine

Asia - RS and GIS Scholarships

Remote Sensing and GIS field of study at Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand) has recently announced scholarships for this coming August 2010 semester. These scholarships will be granted to students who have excellent study records. Please take your chance to apply for this scholarship.

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MapGuide Project Sponsorship Program

The MapGuide Project Steering Committee is pleased to announce the MapGuide Open Source Project Sponsorship and Donation program. This program provides a source of funding to help ensure the continued success of MapGuide Open Source. The full details of the program are available at the URL link above. Source: OSGeo

NAVTEQ Global LBS Challenge

The NAVTEQ Global LBS Challenge is focused on driving the development and visibility of innovative location-based solutions (LBS) for wireless devices. The Global LBS Challenge has become the premier event in the wireless industry and a global symbol of LBS innovation and opportunity. From business applications to sports, travel and security, integrating the accuracy and richness of NAVTEQ digital map data facilitates the discovery of the next wave of LBS using dynamic positioning technology.

Winners are chosen by a panel of distinguished judges in each of five regions. Since the launch of the NAVTEQ Global LBS Challenge, over 32 per cent of the finalist companies have gone on to receive venture capital funding or launched commercially-distributed applications, many on major wireless carriers.

Further information on the registration process is available from here

Thanks to Kate Lance & Wonkug Baek for this update on the Challenge:

UPDATE: **Eight new sponsors for NAVTEQ LBS Challenge** **Microsoft, Intel, Digital Globe, Alcatel-Lucent, Atlas CT, Imagination Technologies and Mobile Distillery** are the new added sponsors to the list. Previously announced sponsors were HTC, Blackberry, deCarta, DeviceAnywhere and Tanla. These sponsors are contributing to a prize pool valued at over $10 million, mostly made of professional licenses (maps, geospatial platforms, software testing tools, etc).
Source: NAVTEQ

Earn a PhD in Fuxin

Professor Xu Aigong is seeking PhD students to study under him at Liaoning Technical University in Fuxin, China. His subjects of interest include geodesy and geomatics, GNSS, GIS and intelligent transportation systems. Students may be eligible for support under the 2010 Liaoning Provincial Government Scholarship Program. Email Prof. Xu for details

ICIMOD Photo Contest on Mountain Biodiversity

ICIMOD is organising a Photo Contest on 'Mountain Biodiversity' to mark the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 and raise awareness of the vital role that mountain biodiversity plays in sustaining life in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region and beyond. The themes of the competition reflect the theme of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 'Biodiversity is life. Biodiversity is our life' , and the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May 2010 'Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation'.

Regional Scope

To qualify for the competition, images must be taken within the Hindu-Kush Himalayan portion of ICIMOD's regional member countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan - as shown in the ICIMOD regional map.

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Employment Opportunities

Spatial Jobs Online (Australia) **Because of tight application closing dates the editors provide these websites for employment seekers to access directly:** < http://www.spatialjobs.com.au/ > and < http://www.GISjobs.com.au >

Looking for a GIS - Geomatics Job in Canada?

Here are some links: 1) Geomatics Canada Job Site; 2) GeographyJobs.ca; 3) GoGeomatics Canada; 4) Geomatics Employment Center
Source: V1 Magazine

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Conference Proceedings

FIG 2010 Congress: Why Do Kangaroos Hop?

Keynote speaker at the XXIV FIG Conference in Sydney was Tim Flannery, writer, professor and conservationist and "one of the great explorers of modern time" according to Sir David Attenborough. Expanding on the conference theme "Facing the challenges, building the capacity" Flannery, who is chairman of the International Climate Change Council, homed in on the role of surveyors and land professionals in both contributing to solutions for climate change and convincing the public to take it seriously.
Source: Asian Surveying & Mapping

The 24th FIG International Congress 2010 (Sydney, 11-16 April) has now concluded and the papers from the Technical Proceedings and the Meeting Programme are now available.

2010 ESRI Developer Summit
22-25 March
View the plenary demos and tech session videos. More technical information is going to be posted so check back for this additional information.
Source: ESRI

5th gvSIG Conference Proceedings available

The videos of the report sessions and workshops at the 5th gvSIG Conference, held the first week of December 2009, are now available.
All the videos are available with English and Spanish audio. They are available to be downloaded directly as well as online.
With this publishing, we pretend to bring the Conference closer to the interested people that could not attend the event, having the possibility to access to the recording of the different sessions.

2010 NSGIC Midyear Conference Archive Published

The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) hosted the 2010 NSGIC Midyear Conference on March 7-10, 2010 in Annapolis, Maryland, USA. The NSGIC is an organization committed to efficient and effective government through the prudent adoption of geospatial information technologies (GIT). The archive of PowerPoint presentations and other materials from the 2010 NSGIC Midyear Conference, is now available.The archive includes the final on-site agenda (PDF) as well as the final attendance roster (PDF) from the conference. NSGIC's on-line conference archives include materials from the 1999 Midyear conference to the present.
Source: http://news.nsgic.org/ & Wonkug Baek

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Conferences, Events

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

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

Date	Location	Event
May 2010		
17-21 May 2010	Chicago, USA	**The 2010 International Symposium on Collaborative Technologies and Systems (CTS 2010)** **Contact** contact one of the Symposium's Co-Chairs: **Bill McQuay** or **Waleed W. Smari**. **Workshop on Sensor Web Enablement 2010 (SWE2010)**

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		As part of **The 2010 International Symposium on Collaborative Technologies and Systems (CTS 2010)** Abstract Submission Deadline: December 18, 2009 Paper Submission Deadline: January 8, 2010 Notification of Acceptance: February 7, 2010 Registration & Camera-Ready Paper Due: March 1, 2010 **Note that the workshop paper submission deadline is different from that of the CTS 2010 main conference.**
19-21 May	Istanbul, TURKEY	**INTERGEO East 2010** The conference theme is *Recent Problems in Geodesy and Related Fields with International Importance*. Project developments in Turkey, Southeastern Europe and the Middle-East also will be emphasised. Subject areas include: - Land Management and Cadastre, - GIS Technologies, - Photogrametry and Cartography, - Modern Technologies in Geodesy, Satellite Technologies, - Education, - Case Studies, - Eastern European Collaboration. The conference is co-organised by ISPRS (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) and Istanbul Technical University Faculty of Civil Engineering. The conference will be held in English. Address questions to project manager Daniel Katzer.
19-21 May	Beijing	**The first China Satellite Navigation Conference (CSNC)** <http://www.beidou.org/> Contact
20-21 May 2010	Taipei, Taiwan	**7th Taipei International Digital Earth Symposium (TIDES 2010)** **Abstract deadline: December 31, 2009.** This year's theme is "Digital Earth for the New Generation Towards a Green Earth", and topics are related to the fields of Earth Observation and Technology, Social Science and Education, and Environmental Change and Strategy. The focus through these discussions is to upgrade Digital Earth education for the young generation and attract more young people to become involved in Digital Earth study, to help restore the balance now missing in our relationship with the Earth. Contact
26-28 May	Hong Kong	The **14th International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling** Organisers are inviting abstracts related to the theme Theory, Modelling and Concepts in Geospatial Information Science. The event will explore topics such as digital cartography, data modelling for social science and interoperability. The deadline for abstracts is 31 August. A pdf flyer is available at International Symposium Announcement
27 – 28 May	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	**Fourth Central Asia GIS Conference (GISCA 2010)** **Water: Life, Risk,Energy and Landuse** Contact: Dr. Akylbek Chymyrov Tel:+996 (312) 545-602
June 2010		
2 – 3 June	New Delhi, India	**GeoIntelligence Asia** Conference and Exhibition on Geospatial Technologies for Defence and Security **General Information -** Annu Negi **Exhibition -** Kushagra Agarwal **Registration -** Amit Roshan
7-11 June	Bangkok, Thailand	**Data Democracy Workshop for Asia** **Theme: Climate Change and relevant free-software/data/applications for SE Asia 2010**

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		GISTDA, **Objective:** To transfer technologies about application of EO information for climate change to user community in working level in South East ASIA Contact: Ms. Taksaporn Sungsiri, GISTDA/Thailand
9-11 June	Washington, DC USA	**The First International Conference on Computing for Geospatial (Com.GEO 2010)** **Important Submission Deadlines** Full and Short Papers 19, February 2010, Courses Proposal 19 February 2010 Tech Talks Abstract 22 March 2010, Invited Sessions Proposal 25 January 2009 Workshops Proposal 25 January 2009
9-11 June	Nottingham, United Kingdom	**The British Cartographic Society Annual Symposium 2010 'Talking With Maps'** The closing date for submissions is Friday, 8 January 2010. Successful submissions will be notified by no later than Friday, 22 January. Proposed titles and abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted to: Mr P Jones, Chair of Programme Committee, Defence Geographic Centre, Hotine 141, Elmwood Avenue, Feltham, Middx, TW13 7AH.
14 – 15 June **"NEW"**	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	**4th Malaysia National GIS Conference & Exhibition 2010** Theme: *Mainstreaming GIS in Addressing National Challenges* **Objectives** Serve as a platform of experience for the management, sharing, and exchange of geographic information. Create more effective awareness of geoinformation technology. Strengthening knowledge and encourage the use of geoinformation technology. Strengthen the effectiveness of government delivery systems. Contact
18-20 June 2010	Beijing, China	**18th International Conference on Geoinformatics (Geoinformatics 2010)** The conference theme is "GIScience in Change". **CALL for Papers:** **Abstract deadline:** January 30, 2010. CPGIS will organize student paper competition. The top quality papers will be selected as CPGIS GeoInformatics' 2010 Best Student Paper to receive plaque and cash award and will be invited to submit a revised version to a special journal issue. **Pre-conference workshop:** Topological analysis of urban street networks for better understanding of human mobility patterns
21-22 June	Nottingham, UK	**The OSGIS Conference (Open Source GIS UK Conference)** As a highlighted event, the first gvSIG Day will be held at the Conference. The main activity of this day will be a wide workshop during eight hours the 21st June, where gvSIG Desktop and gvSIG Mobile will be shown in-depth. The entities that wish to contact with the gvSIG Association previously can do it from the form of the website [4], with the objective of planning meetings for the gvSIG Day.
21-24 June	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	**9th GISDECO Conference** Theme: Applying Remote Sensing and GIS in Disaster Management **Abstract deadline: 15 January 2010.** The conference aims to encourage the use of geospatial information in disaster and risk management as well as a basis for spatial planning and regional development. Contact: Dr. Richard Sliuzas, ITC

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		For practical matters: Dr. Projo Danoedoro, PUSPICS Faculty of Geography, Gadjah Mada University,
28-30 June	London	**International Conference on Information Society (i-Society 2010)** Technically Co-Sponsored by IEEE UK/RI Computer Chapter
July 2010		
5 – 7 July	Vienna	**100 Years ISPRS: Call for Papers** Organisers of the ISPRS Commission VII Symposium (5-7 July 2010, Vienna) are inviting papers relating to the theme, 100 Years ISPRS – Advancing Remote Sensing Science. They are particularly seeking contributions that critically review major research areas in remote sensing. The deadline for full-paper review is 28 November 2009. The deadline for abstract-only review is 28 February 2010.
5 – 7 July	Barcelona, SPAIN	**EDULEARN10, the International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies** **Abstract submission:** 1st April 2010 **Acceptance notification:** 22nd April 2010 **Final Paper submission:** 20th May 2010 For more information CONTACT **NOTE** - You can present your projects in two modalities: • **In person:** oral and poster presentations. • **Virtually:** if you can not attend in person
6-9 July	Salzburg, Austria	**GI Forum 2010** The organisers of the **GI Forum 2010** in Austria have issued a call for papers for the conference, which will be held 6-9 July. The conference theme is spatial assessment and analysis of vulnerability. Workshops will be held prior to the conference on 6 July. email **IMPORTANT DATES** Full papers for publication in the conference proceedings and oral presentation **February 1, 2010** Extended abstracts for discussion session **February 1** Extended abstract for poster presentation **June 7** Workshop presentation **February 19** **Registration deadlines** Early registration – until May 28, 2010 Online registration – until June 25 On-the-spot registration commences July 6 The GI Forum pass also provides access to the AGIT Symposium and AGIT Expo.
11-12 July **"NEW"**	San Diego	**ESRI Business GIS Summit**
12 – 16 July	San Diego	**30th Annual ESRI User Conference** Call for papers & presentations – **Abstract deadline closed 6 November** ESRI invites users to tell their GIS story by sharing their experiences with GIS and presenting during a moderated session at the 2010 ESRI International User Conference (ESRI UC).
26 – 28 July	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	**MapAsia 2010 & ISG 2010** Email **Important Dates to Remember** Call for Papers Abstract Submission May 24, 2010 Abstract Acceptance Intimation June 04, 2010 Submission of Full Papers June 30, 2010 Author Registration June 22, 2010 **For any queries related to papers**, contact Simmi Sinha.
26 – 30 July	Vancouver, BC	**GeoWeb 2010 Conference** Update

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	Canada	
28 – 30 July	Baltimore, MA USA	**Intelligent Spatial Decision Analysis (ISDA '10)** & **International Symposium on Intelligent Decision Technologies (IDT'10)** **Important dates** 22 March 2010: *Notification of acceptance 19 April 2010: *Deadline for Camera Ready Papers For further information or questions, please send an e-mail to: Beniamino Murgante (University of Basilicata, Italy) or idt-10@kesinternational.org
August 2010		
2 – 4 August **"NEW"**	Brisbane, Australia	**GITA 2010 - Australia and New Zealand** GITA 2010 is the premier geospatial technologies conference in Australia and New Zealand. This year's program will focus on "Smarter infrastructure for a sustainable future" with particular focus on water reform, smart grid, critical infrastructure protection and emergency management, transportation and safety, and telecommunications and will feature the launch of two world class technology breakthroughs! CONTACT
9 – 12 August	Kyoto, Japan	**ISPRS Commission VIII symposium** International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Contact: (Ms. Kumiko Sekiguchi, Ms. Juri Hikiba)
23 August – 1 September	Bangkok, Thailand	**Call for Applications: Workshop on Asian Coastal Cities** The Southeast Asia START Regional Center and the East-West Center has issued a Call for Applications for an upcoming International Workshop to address the risks of flooding in Asian Megacties. With support from the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) the **Workshop on Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Urban Development Planning for Asian Coastal Cities** will be held on August 23 to September 1. The Workshop objectives include: 1) The development of capacity on the part of urban planners, managers, and researchers in climate change risk and vulnerability assessment and its application to urban development planning and governance. 2) The promotion of locally led risk and vulnerability research in Asian coastal cities that is linked to user needs. 3) The development of partnerships between researchers, planners and policy makers that encourage communities of knowledge for vulnerability assessment in each participating city. The Workshop invites researchers, urban planners and managers, practitioners, professionals and policymakers interested in and working on topics related to the workshop topics to submit an Application to the Southeast Asia Regional Center by 1 March 2010. **The application must include:** A curriculum vitae for each applicant A written letter of interest describing the relevance of the workshop to the applicant/team's academic or professional work and expected benefits of participation All materials should be submitted in English For more information, review the Call for Applications or contact..
September 2010		
1-3 September	Paris	**PCV2010** PCV 2010 will be held in next year. It is an ISPRS selective conference covering all the aspects of computer vision and image

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		analysis dealing with geographic data. PCV focuses on the processing of images and 3D point clouds, acquired from satellites, aircraft or from street level acquisition systems. **Important dates:** 1 March, 2010: for peer reviewed papers; 1 April: abstracts of non peer-reviewed papers. 31 August is tutorial day. Conference dates are 1-3 September, 2010.Visit the Website for further details.
6-9 September	Barcelona, Spain	**FOSS4G 2010** 1 May 2010, Abstract submission deadline **The latest Press Release (#6, March, 2010) states that the Submission Deadline has been postponed until April 15th, 2010, with full papers due by July 15.** 1 Jun 2010, Presenters notified of acceptance for talks 15 Jun 2010, Author/Early registration deadline Aug 2010, Completed program available 6-7 Sep 2010, FOSS4G Workshops 7-9 Sep 2010, FOSS4G Presentations and Tutorials 10 Sep 2010, FOSS4G Code Sprint Contact Conference Chair for further details (Lorenzo Becchi)
20-3 September	Gaeta, Italy	The 10th Anniversary **International Scientific and Technical Conference "From imagery to map: digital photogrammetric technologies"**. *More information about the conference will be available soon on the official site of the Conference.* Contact
22 September **"NEW"**	Washington, DC	**LI GeoCloud 2010** The first conference dedicated to geospatial cloud computing **Call for presentations now open** If you would like to submit a presentation for consideration, please use our submittal form to provide an outline of the topic you would like to present. Preference will be given to sponsors of the conference. Registration for the conference will be $595 but early registration will be held June 1 through August 30. The cost for early registration will be just $495.
22–6 September	Toyama, Japan	**Asia-Pacific Radio Science Conference 2010 (AP-RASC10)** Contact
October 2010		
18 – 22 October	Singapore	**GSDI 12 World Conference – Realising Spatially Enabled Societies** In conjunction with the **16th PCGIAP Annual Meeting**. Call for Papers **EXTENDED SUBMISSION DEADLINES:** Abstract Deadline for All Submissions: 1 April 2010 Full Paper Deadline (if author wants submission considered for a refereed chapter in the Conference Book or refereed paper in the Proceedings): 1 April 2010 Full Paper Deadline (if author wants submission considered for inclusion in the Refereed IJSDIR Special Issue or in the non-refereed portion of the proceedings): 1 July 2010 **ALSO:** there will be a full day pre-conference workshop for PhD students pursuing research on SDI related topics which will be similar to the highly successful workshop held in conjunction with GSDI 11.
24-27 October **"NEW"**	Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa	**22nd International CODATA Conference** Theme: Scientific Information for Society: Scientific Data and Sustainable Development Abstract deadline is now closed: 30 April 2010.

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25-29 October	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	**8th International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)-2010** Theme: Earth Observation for Africa's Development Agenda 2010 Abstract deadline: 30 April 2010. Send to Final paper submission: 1 September 2010. **The four major scientific sub-themes of the conference are:** • Food and Water Security • Energy Resources • Disaster Risk Reduction • Marine and Coastal Management **Conference sub-themes of a more operational nature are:** • Capacity-building: achievement and challenges • Spatial Data Infrastructure, SDI • Space Policy in Africa • National and regional programs and projects • Products
November 2010		
31 October - 3 November	Denver, Colorado	**US - GSA Annual Meeting**
5 – 6 November	Kaohsiung, Taipei	**ASIA GIS 2010** Contact us The theme for this conference is **GIS and Cloud Computing.** Cloud computing is a hot topic in 2010 and GIS is moving to the cloud computing paradigm. Invited keynote speakers will present the future trend of cloud computing and its application in GIS. **Key Dates:** Deadline for Paper Abstracts 30 April Acceptance of Paper Abstracts 31 May Deadline for Early Bird Registration 31 August Paper Submission 31 August
8 – 11 November	London	**The 5th International Conference for Internet Technology and Secured Transactions (ICITST-2010)** Technical Co-Sponsored by IEEE UK/RI Communications Chapter, Contact **IMPORTANT DATES** Full Paper Submission: May 31, 2010 Extended Abstract (Work in Progress) Submission: April 01, 2010 Proposal for Workshops and Tutorials: April 30, 2010 Notification of Workshop and Tutorial Acceptance: March 15, 2010 Proposal for Industrial Presentation: April 30, 2010 Early Registration Deadline: January 01 to July 31, 2010 Late Registration Deadline: July 31 to November 08, 2010
9 – 11 November	Taipei, Taiwan	**2010 The 7th International Symposium on Cadastral Survey**. Main Topic: The Development of Cadastral Survey in New Generation. Contacts: Geographic Information Systems Research Center of Feng Chia University. Email: joy@gis.tw
December 2010		
22 December	Kyoto, Japan	**Japan - Topic Maps Japan 2010** Topic Maps enthusiasts in Japan will gather together for this symposium. They will present the latest case studies, research, etc. They will discuss about identification of Subject/Knowledge/Information, classification, systematisation, the exchange/share of them and improving their findability with the audience. They will also discuss its effective utilisation and a new

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		way of use. They will also aim at the spread, development and promotion of Topic Maps in Japan	
January 2011			
18-21 January	Hyderbad, India	**MapWorld Forum 2011**	Contact
November 2011			
14 – 18 November **"NEW"**	Santiago, Chile	**UGI 2001** International Geographic Union "Regional Geographic Conference" **Brochure & Call for Papers**	**Contact**

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