SDI-LAC

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Spatial Data Infrastructure-Latin America and the Caribbean (SDI-LAC) is a regional, monthly, and free, electronic newsletter from the <u>Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association</u> (GSDI). It focuses on aspects related with Spatial Data Infrastructure, and on GIS, remote sensing, and data management issues, related with SDI in Latin America and the Caribbean. It aims to raise awareness, provide useful information to strengthen national SDI initiatives, and support synchronization of regional efforts.



The <u>Pan-American Institute of Geography and History</u> (PAIGH), member organization of GSDI, and the <u>Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas</u> (PC-IDEA), promote SDI development in the region. The newsletter is prepared by PAIGH for GSDI.

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Message from the Editor

From PAIGH, to the wide community on geospatial information, we thank you very much your affiliation, contributions, and suggestions, which made possible the publication of GSDI regional Newsletter for Latin America and the Caribbean (SDI-LAC) in 2009. We wish you all a happy and successful year 2010! And look forward for continuously and mutually supporting ready global access to geographic information in the region.

Due to an increasing volume of information on events, the respective section will be restricted to those events taking place in the Americas. However, for "The Rest of the World: Conferences, SDI Events", please find a link to upcoming events of global or major international interest in GSDI webpage at: http://www.gsdi.org/events/upcnf.asp

We kindly inform that SDI-LAC Newsletter is taking correspondent members in each country of the LAC region. Next issues will include their contributions. If you would like to become a correspondent for your country please contact Nancy Aguirre cnaguirre@ipgh.org. In principle the only requirement is that you are an active member in the Spatial Data Infrastructure activities of your country.

If you have news or information related to GIS, remote sensing, and Spatial Data Infrastructure that you would like to highlight (e.g., projects, conferences, workshop announcements, publications, reports, websites of interest, etc.), kindly send them in. We would be happy to include them in the newsletter. We also encourage you to send to the editor your comments and suggestions for the continuous improvement of SDI-LAC Newsletter. **PLEASE share this newsletter with colleagues who may find the information useful, and ideally they will subscribe themselves.**

Back issues of the newsletter are at the GSDI website: http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters.asp

Editor, Nancy Aguirre, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), http://www.ipgh.org, <a href="mailto:cname="cname

Input to this Issue

Thank you for their contributions to this issue of the SDI-LAC newsletter to:

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SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

Become Founding Member of International Geospatial Society: Last Chance



International Geospatial Society



The International Geospatial Society is a new venture of the GSDI Association to establish and support an international community of individual specialists and professionals with Geospatial, Spatial data Infrastructure, GIS and related interests. The goal is to engage and enhance communications internationally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing Spatial Data Infrastructure and affiliated concepts. The benefits of joining are listed at http://geospatialsociety.org or http://www.igeoss.org. Join now to have a voice and be actively engaged in developing the bylaws and operating procedures. Those joining in 2009 are being recorded as founding members. The usual annual dues are \$50 US for individuals and \$25 US for students. If you would like to be recorded as a founding member choose one of the options at http://www.igeoss.org/join Because there are only one month left in 2009 we are providing you with a discount for the 2009 founding membership if you also pay your dues for 2010. Please join us in this new and exciting international venture! http://www.igeoss.org/join

Abbas Rajabifard, President GSDI Association

Argentina's Candidate is new PAIGH's President

Source: http://www.ign.gob.ar/

The 19th General Assembly and Technical Consultative Meetings of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) were held on October 26-30, in Quito, Ecuador. During the event, the Argentinean candidate, Prof. Hector Oscar Jose Pena, was elected by acclamation as President of PAIGH. Professor Pena will be honored to lead the PAIGH during the 2010-2014 period.

Guide on ISO / TC 211 Standards - Geographic Information / Geomatics

Source: Santiago Borrero

The Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) has published the Spanish version of the *Guide to ISO/TC 211 Standards* as a result of an agreement and pertinent approval by the ISO/TC 211 Outreach Advisory Group. The purpose of this publication is the promotion of international standards within the specialized Hispanic community consistent with the mandate of PAIGH. Please log on to the Index here.

Survey on Geospatial Information Availability - Subproject of Global Map of the Americas Project

Source: Monica Duque by way of Jean Parcher

The Center for Integrated Surveys of Natural Resources with Remote Sensing (CLIRSEN) in coordination with Executive Committee members of the "Global Map of the Americas", participated in the Consultative Meetings of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) Cartography Commission, by presenting the "Geospatial Information Access for the Global Map of the Americas Survey Results," in Quito - Ecuador, on October 27, 2009. Objectives of the survey included the following:

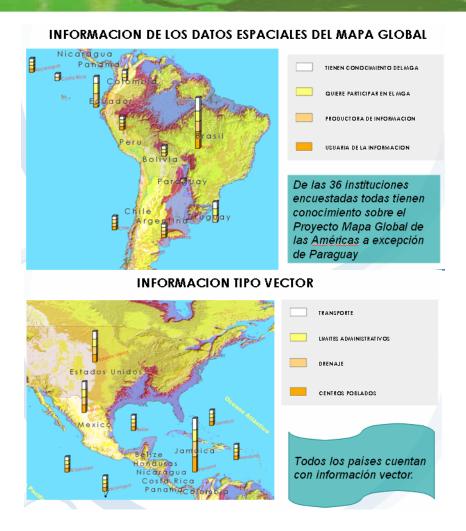
- Determining the availability of geospatial information from each country.
- Assessing each country's level of development of SDIs components.
- Defining a regional strategy for technological transfer assistance to countries, prioritizing pertinent resources appropriately.

	Información tipo vector											
PAIS	TRA	INSPO	ORTE		LIMITE	S ATIVOS	D	RENA	JE		ENTR	
	SI	NO	PROD	SI	NO	PROD	SI	NO	PROD	SI	NO	PROD
Argentina	1			1			1			1		
Belize	1			1			1			- 1		
Bolivia	1			1			1			1		
Brasil	2			2			2			2		
Chile	1			1			1		1	1		
Colombia	1			1			1		11	1		
Costa Rica	1			1		4	1		9	1		
Ecuador	2			2			2		1	2		
El Salvador	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		1
Honduras	1			1			1			1		
Jamaica	1			1			1			1		
México	2	1		2	- 1		2	1		2	- 1	
Nicaragua	1			1			1			1		
Paraguay	1			1			1			1		
Perú	1			1			1			1		
Panamá	3			3			4			4		
Estados Unidos	2			2			2		1	2		
Uruguay	2			2			2			2		
TOTAL:	25	1	1	25	1	1	26	1	2	26	1	1

- Achieving an increased cooperation between member countries of the PAIGH.
- Learning on application types which require small-scale spatial data for the Americas.

18 countries of the Americas contributed with their valuable feedback: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, which totals a contribution of 38% of institutions and users of geoinformation from American countries. For more detailed information about the results please see the maps below, and log on to www.clirsen.com/Asamblealpgh09





IDECAN Geoportal

Source: IGAC 2009, Issue No.41 Geographical Analysis; http://www.cce.gov.co/web/guest/publicaciones

Geoportal de la IDECAN INFRAESTRUCTURA DE DATOS ESPACIALES DE LA COMUNIDAD ANDINA

Based on the development of national information infrastructures, the Andean Community of Nations (in Spanish CAN), to which Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru are affiliated, has established a regional data infrastructure that centralizes access to information from member countries. The National Geographic Institute "Agustin Codazzi" (in Spanish IGAC) has led this initiative with the creation of a geographic information portal that integrates data from these four countries allowing their use as a sub-regional integration mechanism. The Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Andean Community of Nations (in Spanish IDECAN) portal architecture (http://serviciaf.igac.gov.co/GeoportalIdecan/) is based on the Joomla (PHP) content management system; and map visualization is possible by the Degree Igeoportal client implementation. Currently, IDECAN geoportal includes basic information layers of the above countries. Regarding thematic information, users can now query and access data related to transportation and hydrography.

Geospatial Data Infrastructure of Venezuela (IDEGeoVen)

Source: Zaida Pinto by way of Gabriel Carrión Rico



GEOPORTAL VENEZOLANO "Simón Bolívar"



As a result of processes seeking to identify limiting factors to Geographic Information Systems development in Venezuela, the National Center of Information Technology (in Spanish CNTI), in its role as promoter and principal on information technologies, drafted the Venezuelan Portal "Simón Bolívar" project. The Venezuelan Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) became a necessity for national institutions and individuals who require geospatial information for their activities. The Venezuelan portal will consist of a set of technologies, policies, standards, and human resources needed to acquire, store, distribute and improve the use of geospatial information of the Geographic Institute of Venezuela Simón Bolívar (in Spanish IGVSB), to a large users community that will remotely access and discover spatial information, as an initial stage of the Geospatial Data Infrastructure of Venezuela (IDEGeoVen). The proposed architecture provides that the institutions or Nodes that generate geographic information could be integrated to the SDI, through their connection to the portal according to cartographic standards, ISO, and OGC (Open GIS Consortuim) SDIs standards. This will allow integrating Web services for publishing image maps (WMS), vector maps (WFS) and satellite imagery (WCS), in addition to including metadata and query services based on geographic names. In September 2008, the CNTI drafted the project's terms of reference and in January 2009 the execution of the initial phase of the project began, by incorporating IGVSB as the country's governing mapping agency. The overall project objective is to design and implement the Simón Bolívar Portal under free software (including gvSIG among others) as to enable the integration of georeferenced information from producers that could be remotely accessed by users in general, with purposes of contributing to a better planning and resource management for the benefit of the Venezuelan population. Specific objectives include defining elements for operating IDEGeoVen components under free software (i.e. information visualization; metadata catalog; and WMS, WCS and WFS data services), and to build competencies in the CNTI and IGVSB for managing FOSS GIS, among others. The project is up and running at the stage of knowledge transfer by the designated staff at CNTI and the IGVSB. The project is expected to be launched to the general public by the end of December 2009. Among most important project developments are the culmination of a functional portal prototype; server installation; preparation of the required software environment; adaptation and loading of IGVSB basic geographic data into the database; metadata management program installation and configuration; and configuration of OGC services. The completion of Phase I portal is estimated for December 2009. The portal currently displays information on nine country-wide basic cartography layers including various layers of population centers, main roads, hydrographic information, contour lines, maritime boundaries, and political and administrative divisions. The overall objective of the second phase is to consolidate IDEGeoVen through improving the portal's geographic information visualization; adding two more geographic information nodes; and incorporating new services to the IGVSB node. IDEGeoVen Project will also include the development of a Communal GIS Pilot aimed at defining procedures and supporting technologies to be used in a standardized way at any deprived area. For more information please contact: atencionusuario@cnti.gob.ve

SNIT in the Classroom

Source: http://www.snit.cl/



During the week of October 5-11, the Executive Secretariat of the National Territorial Information System of Chile (in Spanish SNIT) visited five schools to show the usefulness of Geospatial Data Infrastructures in the modern world. Over 300 students from 4th grade were the recipients of this initiative.

Jamaica Gets \$46m to Upgrade Vital Statistics Systems

Source: JIS e-Newsletter, volume 9, issue 44

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has granted Jamaica a J\$46.3 million (US\$520,000) grant to fund a Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems Modernization Programme. The system is utilized, within the Government service, to capture and record vital data and statistics, such as births and deaths. The project, which will be spearheaded by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), aims to effect improvements to inter-agency co-ordination and communication, relative to data collection, processing and management and resource strengthening. It will be executed over an 18-month period, with disbursement of the funds spanning 24 months. The Government will provide counterpart funding, totaling J\$4.1 million.

ONE develops technology for more and better statistics, Dominican Republic

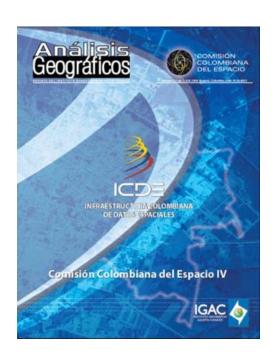
Source: http://www.hoy.com.do/

General Director of National Statistics, Pablo Tactuk, said that "the production of more and better statistics with increasing use of information and communications technology provide government authorities with powerful tools to build a smart government, improving decision making, knowledge management, and public policy drafting in the Dominican Republic". Tactuk commented this at the Brazilian city of Salvador de Bahia, in the framework of the XIV International Congress on State Reform and Public Administration of the Latin American Center for Development Administration (CLAD); where he presented a paper on "Dominican Republic National Statistics Office (NSO) statistical information, technological platform and government decision making, Central Data Repository and other technological tools."

Análisis Geográficos No. 41 on ICDE, Colombia

Fuente: http://www.cce.gov.co/web/guest/publicaciones

Excepts of the Presentation by Ivan D. Gomez, Director General of IGAC This publication is the result of the investigative effort made by the work groups and also of the permanent participation in institutional, national and international projects related to Spatial Data Infrastructures and geographic information management, in which the Instituto Geográfico "Agustin Codazzi" (in Spanish IGAC) has had more than the chance to be a part, but to lead many of the strategic processes. Specifically presents the advances of the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ICDE, by its acronym in Spanish), as a strategy to optimize the production, promote the dissemination and access to qualified geographic information, based on the definition of policies and standards to increase the use of this type of information to support decision makings. The content of this publication is divided in four themes named: general concepts of Spatial Data Infrastructure, management, standards and technologies of geographic information. Similarly, this edition finishes with some annexes referred to the proposed document of the National Council for Economic and Social Policy (in Spanish CONPES) called "Consolidation of the National Geographic Information and the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure (in Spanish ICDE). The third instance of the magazine is one of the most interesting ones because it determines initiatives referred to the definition and implementation of standards of geographic information in Colombia, in terms of quality evaluation -procedures and measures- of this information, the update of the quality standard about basic concepts of



geographic data (NTC 5043); methodology for the documentation of geographic contents, updating the standard for geographic metadata (Second update NTC 4611) and technical specifications for geographic information. [The complete publication may be accessed here]

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

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Celebrating GIS Day for the first time in Cuba. November 18, 2009.

Source: Yoander Gomez-Rodriguez



GIS Day is an important initiative for geographic knowledge development around the world. This celebration has become a global forum for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) users to show applications offered by this technology. Cuba first joins this initiative resulting from a call by young members of the grassroots organization of the Institute of Tropical Geography (in Spanish IGT) of the Cuban Society of Geography (in Spanish SCG) that have engaged specialists from other institutions in the country, namely: GEOCUBA, the Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, and the Department of Geography at the University of Havana (UH). The activity began with three keynote addresses:

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyses: Application Examples. Dr. Richard Remond Noa. Department of Geography (UH)
- Geologic Information System of Cuba: Past, Present and Future. MSc. Kenya Núñez Cambra and Dr. Henry A. Castellanos Abella. Institute of Geology and Paleontology (IGP)
- Premises for Developing the Environmental Information System of Cuba. Dr. Yoel Cuzán Fajardo. Tropical Geography Institute (IGT)

Once concluded the above keynote addresses these were followed by poster presentations on scientific works in the field of GIS by 50 specialists. Among most important issues of this GIS Day were an agreement for conducting the Cuban GIS Day 2010 and establishing a Working Committee for this purpose that involve specialists from several institutions. Any initiative is welcome. For more information on the various GIS Day events held around the world please visit: www.gisday.com. Contact: Yoander Gomez yggmez@geotech.cu

24th International Cartographic Conference finished successfully.

Source: http://www.icc2009.cl/ by way of Santiago Borrero



The 24th International Cartographic Conference (ICC) (http://www.icc2009.cl/), that was held on November 15-21, 2009 in Santiago, Chile at headquarters of the Escuela Militar del Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins, and co-organized by the Military Geographic Institute (http://www.igm.cl/), has successfully finished. The ICA President, Prof. William Cartwright thanked all of the Organizing Committee for their participation and cooperation in this Conference, and especially congratulated the President of the Organizing Committee and Director of the Geographic Military Institute, Colonel Juan Vidal García-Huidobro, recognizing his labor. The representative of the Organizing Committee for next International Cartographic Conference (ICC France, 2011), Mr. Francois Lecordix invited everyone to the next 25th ICC in the City of Paris. Colonel Juan Vidal García-Huidobro thanked all the attendees at the close of this Conference. For more information please log on to the Conference website at: http://www.icc2009.cl/

Caribbean Land Conference 2009, Trinidad and Tobago

Source: Carlene Bodoo

RICS Americas, the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE), the Institute of Surveyors of Trinidad & Tobago (ISTT) and the University of the West Indies (UWI) hosted the 2009 Caribbean Land Conference which was held in Trinidad over a two day period; 19th and 20th November. The theme of this year's conference was "Land Development and Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Current Global Financial Dynamics". Delegates and presenters from around the Caribbean region and also the UK participated in this event which was deemed a success. The first day dealt with land development in the current financial dynamics. Faced with the hardships that come with an economic downturn, once upright men are now turning to corruption, forgetting about the importance of integrity, morals and ethics. Participants were given examples of this here in the Caribbean and were also reminded of the importance of professional bodies in times like these. Day two focused on the social and technical aspects of land conflict and alternative dispute resolution. The causes and effects of land conflict were identified and alternative measures such as arbitration, mediation, adjudication and independent tribunals were highlighted. The technical aspect demonstrated how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) could be used in land conflict and effective land management and development.



4th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM)

Source: Kate Lance



This year as the conference continues to expand the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) in Jamaica are collaborating to host the CDM Conference. ODPEM will serve as the host for the event. The objective of the conference are: To share good practices on youth and community resilience initiatives that promote CDM; to facilitate exchanges on CDM related research, tools, models, products, information and education materials and to promote CDM knowledge sharing underpinned by scientific data and research; and to highlight and promote disaster risk management using multi-sector approaches. The conference will take place on December 7-11, 2009 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. More information at: http://cdm.cdera.org/cccdm/2009/index.html

GEO Data Alliance Workshop in Washington, D.C.

Source: http://unsdihu.blogspot.com/

During this workshop, among others the following topics were addressed: Global datasets, Services for access to data and information, Implications of data sharing principles, Data quality, and Information architecture. Max Craglia of the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) talked using teleconference facilities on the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Data Sharing Principles emphasizing the metadata for datasets and services. INSPIRE geoportal: http://www.inspire-geoportal.eu/

Better Informed Environmental Decision Making through Integrated Spatial Planning

Source: Melissa Burgess

The United Nations Development Program - Regional Centre in Bangkok (UNDP-RCB) is managing a project funded by the Government of Japan titled "Better Informed Environmental Decision Making through Integrated Spatial Planning", which is under implementation in the Asia-Pacific Region. A Toolkit designed to assist governments develop



their capacity for Integrated Spatial Planning is being developed as part of this project. This Toolkit comprises a Module on Spatial Data Infrastructure Standards http://regionalcentrebangkok.undp.or.th

ISPRS: 1910-2010 Centenary Celebration

Source: http://www.isprs100vienna.org/



The ISPRS Commission VII Symposium, will be held on July 5–7, 2010 at the Vienna University of Technology, Austria. To celebrate the centenary of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) the Symposium will discuss advances in remote sensing science. The scope is to provide a comprehensive overview of the major research areas in remote sensing, highlighting past achievements and identifying challenges for the future. Therefore, we seek in particular contributions proving critical reviews of major remote sensing topics, but also original research contributions are welcome. It is an important event for ISPRS Commission VII that deals with the "Thematic Processing, Modeling and Analysis of Remotely Sensed Data". Authors may also submit only their abstracts for review. If accepted for an oral or poster presentation the authors are requested to provide full papers to be included in part B of the proceedings. The deadline for submission of abstracts is **February 28**, 2010. Registration is now open.

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Articles and Publications of the Month



Dr. Clifford Dan and Dr. Jacob Opadevi (Pres. CASLE)

Book Launch

Source: Carlene Bodoo

At the 2009 Caribbean Land Conference the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE) launched a Guide to Dispute Resolution Relating to Matters Affecting Real Estate and Property written by Dr. Clifford Dann and Mr. Brian J. Coutts. This was keeping in line with the theme of this year's conference; "Land Development and Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Current Global Financial Dynamics". The guide was a limited second edition done especially for the conference and sponsored by CASLE. Dr. Dann explained that he expects much feedback from those who purchased books so that they can edit and improve the contents to better suite the needs of land professionals.

Beyond SDI: Integrating Science and Communities to Create Environmental Policies for the Sustainability of the Amazon

By Clodoveu A Davis, Frederico T. T. Fonseca, Gilberto Câmara

Article published in the *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research*, Vol. 4 (2009)

This paper will explore ways to go beyond the traditional SDI (Spatial Data Infrastructures) in the direction of the Digital Earth, with the objective of supporting environmental policies that will lead to sustainability. We use the Amazon region as a starting point for the discussion. Environmental policy making for a place such as the Amazon has to take into account that phenomena occur and are modeled in various geographic scales, ranging from microbiology to planetary

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climate impacts. There are also multiple and sometimes conflicting views on the same reality, including the many scientific disciplines, governmental and non-governmental views, and the view of the local populations. Currently, the combination of technologies, people, and policies that defines an SDI is probably the best approximation we have to solve these problems, but some important elements are missing. A broader SDI would be an enabler for understanding space, not only delivering general-purpose maps, but disseminating spatial data to support policies for sustainable development. We think it is necessary to go beyond SDI to integrate science and communities in the effort of creating, enforcing, assessing, and revising environmental policies. We discuss the limitations of current SDIs with regards to data and information flow, semantics, and community building. We also review the information needs and modeling challenges for SDIs when used as a support for environmental policy making. [the complete article may be found at: http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/article/view/130]

The EcoGeo Cookbook for the assessment of Geographic Information value

By Elisabetta Genovese, Stéphane Roche, Claude Caron, Robert Feick Article under review, *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research*, Vol. 4 (2009) Abstract

The EcoGeo II project has, as its main goal, the establishment of an economic model to evaluate Geographic Information (GI). The first phase of the EcoGeo Project has provided a visual representation, called Socioscope, of the overall flows of geospatial data between the main private and public stakeholders of the geomatic sector in the province of Quebec (Canada). From this foundation, EcoGeo Phase II was launched in 2008 with several goals. The first goal was to analyze the most important existing research and approaches to evaluate the economic value of the GI sector. The results show that the value chain concept is, in theory, one of the most suitable approaches that can be adapted to assess GI value, but also one of the most complex due to the number of variables involved with how GI is produced and used within and between organizations. Our second goal was to define the basis or conventions for evaluating GI and, more specifically, to develop a list of parameters which need to be considered for evaluating GI. We defined a set of guidelines that we called the EcoGeo cookbook, which aims at identifying, listing and describing the most important variables and attributes relating to GI value which have been identified in literature. These attributes relate to how GI is produced and used (value of the location attribute, time dependency, quality, etc.), the costs of the GI product (i.e. transaction costs) and the price definition (based on value pricing strategy). Caution must be used when evaluating intangible benefits, which are less easily estimated than tangible ones. The final goal will be to implement such variables and attributes into the Socioscope's database structure. This will also allow for the definition of a specific value chain for the GI sector in Quebec. [The complete article may be found at: http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/article/view/150]

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Geospatial Research and Applications

Developments on gvSIG for water project in Honduras

Source: Juan I. Varela-García by way of Gabriel Carrión Rico

ESF en Honduras

CartoLab (Cartographic Engineering Laboratory, Universidade da Coruña) is working in Honduras with Enxeñería Sen Fronteiras Galicia (ESF Galicia) in the program "Reducing vulnerability in impoverished areas, through access to safe water, and sustainable management, sanitation, water and land resources sustainable management, under the watershed approach, in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua," along with ISF (Engineers without Borders), APD (Association for Development) and ESF Catalonia.

As part of this complex project we have found that the combination of open source technology gvSIG+Navtable+JavaSWING+SQLite has enabled us to achieve the project objectives, namely:

- Designing a new database system supported with geographic information to improve the water management projects' strategy and planning.
- Replacing the current proprietary information medium, for one that fits the TfHD (Technology for Human Development) concept, which is an important philosophy for ESF Galicia, and more generally, for any cooperation project in developing countries.
- Implementing the collection, management and consultation forms for project-specific data.

For more information about this project, which already has secured funding for its Phase II, please visit: http://esfhonduras.blogspot.com or http://eartolab.udc.es

Technologies to optimize nature, Dominican Republic

Source: http://www.listindiario.com.do/

The use of techniques and technologies for better use of natural resources such as water and land is becoming more common. In agricultural activities, precision farming is a strategy now being implemented to achieve greater profitability and optimal use of these resources using information technology to collect data from various sources that could support crop production decisions. This information is obtained using appropriate tools, for example, Global Positioning System (GPS), and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Since 2006 two precision agriculture projects are being conducted in four areas of the Dominican Republic by the National Institute of Water Resources (in Spanish INDRHI). This initiative is supported by the Technological Institute of Superior Studies of Monterrey (in Spanish ITESM), Mexico.

NATURE-SDIplus geoportal

Source: Geo: International News; http://www.geoconnexion.com/



NATURE-SDIplus supports the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) directive launched by the European Commission in 2002 to make geographic information available for developing community policies and initiatives. "The need to have information on nature conservation geo-referenced and available at the European Union (EU) level has grown in recent years," said Giorgio Saio of the Geographical Information Systems International Group (GISIG) association, project coordinator of NATURE-SDIplus. "The environmental policies of Europe now call for accessible, interoperable and harmonized datasets." NATURE-SDIplus aims to improve the harmonization of national datasets on nature conservation, making them accessible and exploitable at all levels of government and to additional parties including commercial data providers, universities and research institutes, environmental NGOs, industrial and engineering companies and the public. The project defines a common multilingual and multicultural approach for simpler, more standardized access to spatial data. http://www.nature-sdi.eu/

Saving the World, one line of code at a time

Source: http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/

Random Hacks of Kindness, jointly sponsored by Google, Microsoft, Yahoo!, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the World Bank, aims to build an active developer community around disaster response and humanitarian relief. Benevolently-inclined hackers will listen to a keynote from the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate. Then they'll churn out some



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of the most important open source code on the planet—code that saves lives and mitigates human suffering. They'll address problems like, how do we crowd source information from local citizens to aid first responders? How do we quickly collect and publish fresh aerial imagery of an affected area? How do we create a comprehensive missing persons finder after a disaster? Their work will have a positive, lasting impact on the state of the human experience, not just in the U.S, but all around the globe. For more information, visit http://www.randomhacksofkindness.org

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GIS Tools, Software, Data

New gvSIG 1.9 stable version now available

Source: Communication gvSIG

gvSIG has released a new stable version of its desktop application: gvSIG Desktop 1.9. It is available in the Downloads section of gvSIG website at http://www.gvsig.gva.es/cast/gvsig-desktop/todas-las-versiones/descarga/gvsig-19/descargas/. This new version includes numerous new features. In addition, many tools have been integrated from the extension made by the Ministry of Environment of the Junta de Castilla y Leon in Spain.

Cartography 2.0

Source: Arturo Brun-Martinez



Cartography 2.0 is a free online knowledge base and e-textbook for students and professionals interested in interactive and animated maps. Cartography 2.0 is a new site with the purpose of providing up-to-date information about web mapping technologies. The site's authors seeks to provide an extensive knowledge base that will help answer the question, "What's the important stuff I need to know about making great on-demand/interactive maps?" The site is edited by Dr. Mark Harrower, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Anthony Robinson and Robert Roth, both of Penn State's GeoVISTA Center, and Dr. Ben Sheesley, from Axis Maps, round out the contributor team. The site is organized as an electronic textbook with chapters on Map Animation, Map Interaction Techniques, Elements of Design, User Interface and Usability and Advanced Topics. The site continues to grow and there's a sign-up box at the bottom of the chapters page for those interested in being notified when new content is available.

SPOT Comes to USGS Archive of Earth Observation Imagery

Source: http://spatialnews.geocomm.com/

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in partnership with Spot Image Corporation, has begun to distribute, over the Internet, SPOT (Satellite Pour l'Observation de la Terre) satellite data collected over parts of North America between 1986 and 1998. "We are pleased to now offer historic SPOT satellite data acquired between 1986 and 1998 to all users in the U.S.," said Bruce Quirk, head of the USGS Land Remote Sensing Program. "This collection is a valuable

addition to the rich earth observation resources already available from the USGS." The USGS is distributing this data at no charge through the <u>USGS Earth Explorer</u> search and order tool. Access is open to any registered user within the U.S., provided he or she agrees to use the SPOT data for non-commercial purposes. "As the only commercial imagery provider with an archive dating as far back as 1986, we are excited to provide 12 years worth of SPOT archive data to the USGS so that the data will be more widely available," said Greg Buckman, Director of Sales and Marketing, Spot Image Corporation. "These data are especially valuable for projects involving time series data and change detection. We look forward to USGS earth imagery users taking advantage of this new resource."

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Training Opportunities

First Study Abroad Program on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: Zvia Leibler



The Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) introduces an eight-week Study Abroad Program, focusing on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through professional training, hands-on learning, and cultural immersion, students will embark on experiencing how global climate change influences sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Students will have the opportunity to explore firsthand the diverse direct and indirect effects of a changing climate on

natural and human systems. Students are encouraged both individually and as a group to delve into complex topics and address challenging questions relevant to contemporary regional and national climate change problems.

This international program includes a professional training course on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which delivers hands-on training in climate change research methods and tools currently used by climate change practitioners in multilateral and bilateral development agencies, as well as Governments in both developed and developing countries, and engages students in a month-long internship. Students will be culturally immersed through home-stays and excursions in Panama, and will receive intensive Spanish language classes from native speakers. The Study Abroad Program on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean is accredited by the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) and qualifies for six undergraduate credit hours through the Earth System Science academic program. These credits are available for transfer from UAH to any US college or university for current non-UAH students who wish to enroll at UAH for the summer course. CATHALAC also welcomes other universities to accredit the program directly. Consult your studyabroad office for your university's specific credit and transfer policy for this program. Students who wish to receive credits through UAH must enroll in two sections of the Special Topics summer course entitled: "Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean". Payment of tuition (credit hours), which is in addition to the CATHALAC program fee, should be handled directly with the university at enrollment. Students who wish to participate but do not want to receive credits for the Study Abroad Program need only to pay the Program fee directly to CATHALAC. Apply online now for summer 2010! Application deadline: March 8, 2010. Further information is available on: www.cathalac.org/study abroad

Free Online Course on gvSIG 1.9 Applied to Viticulture

Source: Communication gvSIG



Enosat will conduct from December 16, an online course on Applied GIS and Remote Sensing in Viticulture. This course explains the basics of GIS and Remote Sensing, in a way that enables students to apply these concepts in their professional area. It is intended for the wine sector, that is, to technicians responsible for wineries, wine, etc. The maximum number of seats is 100. Admission criteria will be on the first come basis for registration. It is necessary for the student to have a computer with Internet and Windows XP. There will be no classes. Nor has a rigid schedule, but each module must be done in a certain range of software (crySIG 19). For more information please log on to:

dates. The course is free and based on free software (gvSIG 1.9). For more information please log on to: http://www.enosat.com/formacion.php

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Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

Inter-American Foundation Grassroots Development Fellowship Program

Source: Kate Lance





The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) Grassroots Development Fellowship Program Fellowships support dissertation research in Latin America and the Caribbean undertaken by students who have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy in a university in the United States. Fellows must be U.S. citizens or citizens of the independent Latin American or Caribbean countries. Proficiency in the language(s) appropriate to the research proposal is required. IAF's Fellowships are intended to increase awareness of grassroots development efforts while building a community of professionals and scholars knowledgeable in the subject. Fellows examine the efforts of the rural and urban poor to improve their lives, their methods of organization and production, and the policies and programs designed to alleviate their poverty. Deadline: 31 December 2009

ISPRS Announces New Award

Source: http://spatialnews.geocomm.com/

The "Karl Kraus Medal" is a prize to honour the authorship of excellent textbooks in the scientific fields of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, and Spatial Information Sciences. The prize is dedicated to the memory of Professor Karl Kraus, a passionate teacher and author of a number of textbooks. The first award will be made at the ISPRS Centenary Celebration in Vienna on 4th July 2010 according to Article 1 of the Regulations that states: "The 'Karl Kraus Medal' is awarded to authors of excellent textbooks in the fields of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, and Spatial Information Sciences, written in one of the official languages of the ISPRS, and published no more than eight years prior to the commencement of the quadrennial ISPRS Congress at which it is to be presented. On each occasion awarded." The full maximum two prizes can be regulations can http://www.isprs.org/documents/awards.aspx and more information on ISPRS can be found at http://www.isprs.org/ Nominations from an Ordinary Member of the ISPRS, or by authors themselves, together with three copies of the nominated textbook, should reach the General Secretary of ISPRS not later than 1st January 2010.

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Employment Opportunities

Jobs in Infrastructure for Geographic Information and Statistics, Brazil

Source: http://www.ibge.gov.br/



Now is open a public contest calling for the selection of candidates to fill vacancies for the post of Planning, Management and Infrastructure for Geographic Information and Statistics, in the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (in Portuguese IBGE), subject to provisions contained in the laws in force. More information at: http://www.ibge.gov.br/home/presidencia/noticias/retificacao 2009 1.shtm

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte Source: Jennifer Miller

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences is recruiting a tenure-track, Assistant Professor in landscape ecology and human-environment interaction for appointment in August 2010. Required qualifications include: 1) a doctoral degree in geography, ecology, environmental science or a related field at the time of appointment; 2) the ability to develop and maintain an externally funded research program; 3) the ability to teach geographical and environmental science courses at the graduate and undergraduate level; and 4) the ability



to contribute to the department's interdisciplinary mission. Candidates with research interests in global change and ecological sustainability of urban environments are especially encouraged to apply. Desired qualifications also include modeling of ecological processes in heterogeneous landscapes, particularly urban ecosystems, with technical expertise in the integration of field and GIS analytical methods. The successful candidate is expected to develop new courses in their area of expertise and teach an undergraduate level course on the fundamentals of GIScience. We encourage applications from women, minorities, and individuals from underrepresented groups. Review of applications will begin **January 4**, 2010 and continue until the position is filled. Applications must be made electronically at https://jobs.uncc.edu and must include: 1) letter of application describing teaching and research interests along with the applicant's ability to contribute to the department's mission, 2) a full curriculum vita, and 3) the names of three referees. We encourage prospective candidates to review our web sites for the Department (http://www.geoearth.uncc.edu) and Center for Applied GIScience (http://www.gis.uncc.edu) prior to applying. For additional information, contact Dr. Ross Meentemeyer at 704-687-5944 or rkmeente@uncc.edu) prior to applying. For additional information, contact Dr. Ross

Vacancy Announcement: Science Officer, ESSP Office - Paris, France

Earth System Science Partnership Source: Kenneth Young

Ca. Euros (€) 36,000 net per annum. The Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP, www.essp.org) was established in 2001 by four Global Environmental Change (GEC) research programmes: (DIVERSITAS; www.diversitas-international.org), the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP; http://igbp.net), the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP; www.ihdp.org), and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP; http://wcrp.wmo.int). The ESSP facilitates the study of the Earth's environment as an integrated system in order to understand how and why it

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is changing, and to explore the implications of these changes for global and regional sustainability. More information about the ESSP can be obtained from www.essp.org. The successful candidate must have a graduate degree (PhD preferable) in the natural or the social sciences, with relevant international and interdisciplinary experience, excellent oral and written communication skills in English (a good working knowledge of French would be advantageous), and enthusiasm for coordinating international science partnerships. The post will be available in April 2010 for an initial period of two-years, with the possibility of an extension subject to funding. Applications should be submitted (in English) before **7 December** 2009 to Martin Rice, ESSP Executive Officer, with a CV (resume) and contact information of three referees. Please note that we only accept electronic applications. We regret that it will not be possible to acknowledge applications and only the short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview in mid-January. Send Electronic Applications to: Martin Rice, Executive Officer, E-mail: mrice@essp.org Details of the position at: http://www.igbp.net/documents/ESSP_Science_Officer.pdf

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Other

EC Grants €165 Million to Boost CARICOM Integration

Source: JIS e-Newsletter, volume 9, issue 44

Head of Section of the Delegation of the European Commission (EC) to Jamaica Helen Jenkinson, stated that Millions of Euro funding are being made available by the EC to finance projects aimed at boosting regional integration. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is to benefit from an injection of €165 million (Euros), or close to J\$22 billion, in funding from the European Commission as part of its ongoing support for regional integration. This was disclosed by Helen Jenkinson, who also said that the principal objective of the EC initiative is to support trade and other areas of the integration movement.

The 2010 Southwestern Hemisphere Workshop Series on Climate Change: CO2, the Biosphere and Climate

Source: Kenneth Young

School of Exact and Natural Sciences, University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 15-26 March 2010 Organizers: I. Orlanski (NOAA/GFDL, Princeton University, USA), C. Vera (FCEyN/University of Buenos Aires, CONICET, Argentina) Co-sponsored by ICTP, GFDL/NOAA, Princeton University and the FCEyN/University of Buenos Aires Participant registration deadline: **15 December** 2009. Applications are to be submitted online through the activity webpage. The workshop is mainly intended for young researchers and PhD students working in the areas of Physics, Chemistry, Atmospheric Physics and Dynamics, Climatology and Oceanography, from Central and South America countries that are members of the United Nations, UNESCO or IAEA. The principal objective of the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP http://www.ictp.it/) is to help researchers from developing countries through a programme of training activities within a framework of international cooperation. Participants should have an adequate working knowledge of English. Due to budget limitations, every effort should be made by candidates to secure either total or partial support for their expenses. However, limited funds are available for some participants who are nationals of, and working in, developing countries, and who are not more than 45 years old. Participants are required to take part in all aspects of this activity for its entire duration. There is no registration fee. The topic of Carbon cycle selected for the 2010 workshop is one of the important and relevant links to climate change, and it is the focal theme of this year's series.

Microsoft and NASA Announce Partnership to increase knowledge about Mars

Source: Arturo Brun-Martinez

Microsoft and NASA will launch an internet portal to allow the public participation on improving maps of the red planet. NASA and the U.S. software giant Microsoft announced a partnership to create a website that cyber surfers can use to learn more on Mars and help on the investigation of that planet. According to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the web portal will be called "Be a Martian" and allow the public to get involved in research and to help scientists studying data from the red planet.

DigitalGlobe/Microsoft Aerial Imagery Agreement

Source: http://www.gim-international.com/

DigitalGlobe, a leading global provider of commercial high-resolution world-imagery products and services for defence and intelligence, civil government and commercial customers, announced it has signed an agreement with Microsoft Corp to launch the Clear30 program, an initiative to distribute high-resolution, 30cm aerial imagery of contiguous landscapes in the US and Western Europe. These orthophoto mosaics will be available through Bing Maps and through DigitalGlobe channels. The Clear30 initiative is a new agreement that expands the current relationship between Microsoft and DigitalGlobe and reflects a commitment to increase accessibility and use of high-resolution digital imagery. To collect the first ever multi-continental aerial imagery from 30cm, the companies will use the UltraCamG, a large format digital aerial camera manufactured by Vexcel Imaging GmbH (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Microsoft). The camera is based on Vexcel's UltraCam large format systems, the top-selling large-format aerial sensors.

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Americas: Conferences, SDI Events – Year 2009

Year 2009 January February March April May June July August September October November December Year 2010 January February March April May June July August September October November December

		DECEMBER 2009
1-2	San José CA, USA	Navigation & Location USA 2009
NEW		
1-4	Las Vegas NV, USA	Autodesk University
3	São Paulo, SP, Brazil	Google Maps and Earth for enterprises
NEW		
3-4	Mexico City, Mexico	3rd International Conference on Geospatial Semantics (GeoS 2009)
7	Brasilia, Brazil	National Guidelines for Territorial Multipurpose Cadastre (TMC)
NEW		
7-11	Mountainview CA, USA	OGC Technical and Planning Committee Meeting
7-11	Seattle WA, USA	URISA Leadership Academy
7-11	Montego Bay, Jamaica	4th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management
NEW		
9-12	Mérida Venezuela	First Working days on GIS
NEW		
14-18	San Francisco CA, USA	Fall Meeting AGU / http://www.agu.org/meetings.shtml

YEAR 2010

Year 2010 January February March April May June July August September October November December

JANUARY 2010					
5-7	Cuenca, Ecuador	Sixth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability			
6-8	Redlands CA, USA	GeoDesign Summit			

FEBRUARY 2010					
10-15	St. Maarten,	2nd International Conference on Advanced Geographic Information			
	Netherlands Antilles	Systems, Applications, and Services / GEOProcessing 2010			

17-19	Washington DC, USA	2010 ESRI Federal User Conference
NEW		
22-24	Houston TX, USA	2010 ESRI Petroleum User Group Conference
NEW		

		MARCH 2010
3-5	Denver CO, USA	International Lidar Mapping Forum Conference and Exhibition
3-5	Washington DC, USA	International Commercial Remote Sensing Symposium
NEW		
6-10	Annapolis MD, USA	National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Midyear
		Conference
7-13	Cancún, México	First International Conference on Environmental Change Awareness
		(BIOENVIRONMENT 2010)
8-11	Little Rock AR, USA	GIS / CAMA Technologies Conference
14-19	Mérida, Mexico	6th European Geosciences Union Alexander von Humboldt
		International Conference on Climate Change, Natural Hazards, and
		Societies
15-26	Buenos Aires,	2010 Southwestern Hemisphere Workshop Series On Climate Change:
NEW	Argentina	CO ₂ , the Biosphere and Climate
22-25	Marbella, Chile	Workshop on Urban Dynamics
22-25	Miami FL, USA	CARIS 2010
22-25	Palm Springs CA, USA	2010 ESRI Developer Summit
NEW		
22-26	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	World Urban Forum 5
23-25	Tampa FL, USA	DistribuTECH 2010 Conference & Exhibition
24-26	Vancouver, Canada	Globe 2010
NEW		
29-31	Orlando FL, USA	2010 AWRA Spring Specialty Conference
Mar. 30 – Apr. 1	San Jose CA, USA	Where 2.0 Conference 2010

		APRIL 2010
Mar. 30 - Apr. 1	San Jose CA, USA	Where 2.0 Conference 2010
5-9	Orlando FL, USA	SPIE Defense, Security, & Sensing 2010
NEW		
12-14	Charleston WV, USA	GIS-T 2010
14-18	Washington DC, USA	Association of American Geographers 2010 Annual Meeting
18-21	Huntington Beach CA,	16th Annual CalGIS Conference
	USA	
18-22	Kansas City MO, USA	MAGIC 2010 Symposium
19-23	San Diego CA, USA	BAE Systems GXP International User Conference and Professional
		Exchange!
25-29	Phoenix AZ, USA	GITA's 2010 Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference
25-29	Phoenix AZ, USA	Not Your Father's GIS Conference
NEW		
25-30	Huntsville AL, USA	SpaceOps 2010
NEW		
26-30	Austin TX, USA	2010 NatureServe Conferences: Biodiversity without Boundaries
26-30	San Diego CA, USA	ASPRS Annual Conference / asprs@asprs.org



		MAY 2010
16-18	Montego Bay, Jamaica	2010 International Conference on Information Resources Managemen
19	Bethesda MD, USA	NGA Tech Day
20	Reston VA, USA	USGIF Industry Tech Day
		JUNE 2010
1	Las Vegas NV, USA	Consumer Telematics Show
NEW		
1-4	Ithaca NY, USA	36th Annual Conference of the International Association for Social
		Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST)
16-18	Calgary, Canada	Commission I Symposium "Image Data Acquisition - Sensors
		Platforms" Contact: elsheimy@ucalgary.ca
21-25	Santo Domingo,	International Meeting "Virtual Educa" – 2010
	Dominican Republic	
		JULY 2010
3-7	Edmonton Alborto	24th International Congress for Conservation Biology
3- 1	Edmonton Alberta, Canada	24th International Congress for Conservation Biology
10-13	San Diego CA, USA	2010 ESRI Education User Conference
	San Diego CA, OSA	2010 LON Education Oser Contenence
NEW 10-13	San Diego CA, USA	2010 ESRI Survey & Engineering GIS Summit
	San Diego CA, USA	2010 ESKI Survey & Engineering GIS Summit
NEW	0. 5: 04 1104	2040 FORM - 1 - 10 - 14 - 010 0 14
10-13	San Diego CA, USA	2010 ESRI Homeland Security GIS Summit
NEW		
12-16	San Diego CA, USA	2010 ESRI International User Conference
NEW		
12-16	Houston TX, USA	The Fifth International Conference on Environmental Science and
NEW		Technology 2010
26-30	Honolulu, Hawaii, USA	IGARSS'10: IEEE International Geoscience & Remote Sensin
		<u>Symposium</u>
26-30	Los Angeles CA, USA	SIGGRAPH 2010
		AUGUST 2010
3-6	Puonos Airos	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Open Science
3-0	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Conference (OSC)
8-13	Foz do Iguassu, Brazil	American Geophysical Union (AGU) Joint Assembly
0-10	1 02 do Iguassu, Brazil	American deophysical officin (Add) some Assembly
		SEPTEMBER 2010
12-16	Minneapolis MN, USA	National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Annua
.2.10	Willing Copy of the Copy of th	Conference
19-24	Montreal, Canada	IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition
	<u> </u>	
		OCTOBER 2010
4-8	Santiago, Chile	Latin American Remote Sensing Week
18-22	Singapore, Singapore	GSDI 12 World Conference 2010: Realizing Spatially Enabled Societie



E-Learn 2010

18-22

20-22

25-28

Orlando FL, USA

Nashville TN, USA

Santiago, Chile

IAOS/Scorus Conference on official statistics and the environment: approaches, issues, challenges and linkages
GEOINT Symposium 2010

		NOVEMBER 2010
8-12 *NEW*	Guanajuato, Mexico	XIV International SELPER Symposium "Observation & Monitoring of the Earth related to Climate Change" (An ISPRS Regional Conference) E-mail: silvia.casas757@gmail.com
15-19 *NEW*	Orlando FL, USA	AutoCarto 2010
16-18	Orlando FL, USA	Commission IV Symposium "Geodatabases & Digital Mapping" / Marguerite Madden (President Commission IV) / mmadden@uga.edu

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