

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

SDI-LAC

January 2009

Vol. 6, No. 1

Spatial Data Infrastructure-Latin America and the Caribbean (SDI-LAC) is a regional, monthly, and free, electronic newsletter from the [Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association](#) (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.



[GSDI Definition](#)

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

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Message from the Editor

Now, SDI-LAC Newsletter is available in Portuguese! Portuguese Translation of SDI-LAC is possible thanks to Eduardo Freitas-Oliveira, a cartographic engineer, MSc in GIS, editor of MundoGEO Web Portal and InfoGEO Magazine; and Silvana Camboim, a cartographic engineer, MSc in GIS, from GeoPlus Tecnologia e Informatica.

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/newsletters.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>, cnaguirre@ipgh.org

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Input to this Issue

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

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Calina Coakwell	Undergraduate Advisor, University of Texas at Austin, USA
Glenn Hyman	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Colombia
Shawn Laffan	Senior Lecturer in GIS, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Australia
Joanne Ojeda	Marketing Manager, PetroGIS IIR Middle East, United Arab Emirates
Bruce Potter	President and CEO of Island Resources Foundation, Washington, USA
Stuart Shulman	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Amhers, Journal of Information Technology & Politics Editor, USA
Kim Tran	Communications Officer, The GEOIDE Network, Québec, Canada

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SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

GSDI 11 World Conference: 2009 Beating Heart of Geospatial Activities

Source: GSDI News (news@godi.org)

From June 15th through June 19th the GSDI 11 World Conference in Rotterdam will be the beating geospatial heart of the world! GSDI, INSPIRE (EU) and Geonovum/RGI (NL) are organizing in synergy with each other a high-quality integrated conference with top national and international speakers.

This newsletter will inform you on a regular basis about latest breaking news and details of the conference.

CALL FOR PAPERS A BIG SUCCESS

The Call for Papers for the GSDI 11 World Conference attracted close to 350 abstracts. These abstracts cover a wide selection of inspiring geo-related themes drawn from all over the world. The program committee is actively selecting the most innovative and appealing contributions for oral presentation and for the poster program. The conference provides authors an opportunity to present their work in June 2009 in Rotterdam to an international audience. The selection of abstracts for GSDI 11 will be announced on or about February 1.

PLATINUM SPONSORS CONTINUE TO JOIN

With pride we are pleased to announce that Cyclomedia has joined ESRI and EuroGeographics as Platinum Sponsors for the conference.

CEO Paul Bosman states: "CycloMedia recognizes that GSDI is a vast platform to discuss the challenges that different organizations face at the (inter)national, public and private level. It is a pleasure to have the Netherlands act as host country this time and I am proud that CycloMedia can deliver a contribution to this worldwide conference".

ESRI spokesman Frank Holsmuller clarifies: "ESRI recognizes the GSDI conference as THE event to meet and inform the key players in the field of geo information. The GSDI 11 event promises to become extra interesting because it will take place close to the heart of the INSPIRE program."

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EuroGeographics, the association for cadastral organizations in more than 40 European countries, is quite involved as well. The executive director, Dave Lovell, says enthusiastically: "We are building bridges between our members and the many communities of users who rely on their authoritative information. We are pleased to have the opportunity to improve and enrich these inter-connections in the wider community of this conference and look forward to using the GSDI 11 World Conference to further expand the use of spatial data infrastructures for the benefit of all."

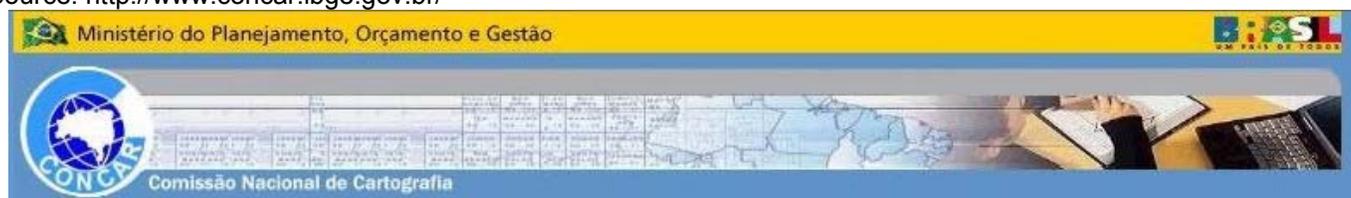
WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Can't wait for the next newsletter? Then visit <http://www.gsdi.org/gsd11>. You can now use your credit card to register on the web and please check out the early bird registration.

See you in Rotterdam!

Established National Spatial Data Infrastructure of Brazil (INDE)

Source: <http://www.concar.ibge.gov.br/>



On November 27, 2008 President Lula signed the decree 6666 that established -within the Executive Federal Power- the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (in Portuguese INDE), among other providences. This INDE's legal framework includes the following objectives:

I - to promote adequate organization on the production, storage, access, exchange, dissemination, and use of geospatial data from municipal, local, state, and federal origin, for the benefit of the country's development;

II - to promote the use and production of geospatial data on the part of public organizations in the municipal, local, state, and federal spheres, based on standards and norms endorsed by the National Cartography Commission - CONCAR; and

III - to avoid duplicity of efforts and waste of resources on the production of geospatial data by public administration organizations, through diffusing metadata on the available data produced by public entities and organizations of municipal, local, state, and federal spheres.

1º In order to achieve the above objective, the Brazilian Directorate of Geospatial Data - DBDG will be established, which will maintain the Brazilian Portal of Geospatial Data, called "Geographic Information System of Brazil - GIS Brazil", main portal to accessing data, and its related metadata and services." The complete Decree was published in the *Diário Oficial* Nº 232, of November 28, 2008, or you may access the text at:

http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/ Ato2007-2010/2008/Decreto/D6666.htm

More information at www.ibge.gov.br and www.concar.ibge.gov.br

IBGE prepares for establishment of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure - INDE

Source: <http://www.concar.ibge.gov.br/>

Among several actions of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (in Portuguese IBGE) for establishment of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure - INDE, a course on Spatial Data Infrastructure was held in cooperation with the Geographic Institute of Spain and the University Politécnica de Madrid. The course took place on December 8-19, 2008, at the CDDI (Center for Information, Documentation and Dissemination), in Rio de Janeiro. It was open to external and internal parties and directed to technicians' capacity building for implementing INDE. Topics included basic principles of spatial data infrastructures, and the implementation of web geographic services.

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[MIDA of Panama to develop and implement an enterprise solution for spatial data management](http://www.gim-international.com/)

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

The objective of the system will be to provide the Ministry of Agricultural Development (in Spanish MIDA) with a means to organize internal geospatial data, discover departmental holdings of geospatial data, and distribute geospatial data inter-agency wide within the country and internationally. This new data management system will also allow MIDA to interchange data with other organizations within the country.

[CNTI technologically adapted 336 City Halls of Venezuela in 2008](http://www.rnv.gov.ve/)

Source: <http://www.rnv.gov.ve/>

During 2008 activities of the National Center of Information Technology (in Spanish CNTI) focused on developing the Free Information Technology adoption within the public administration, and on strengthening the National Industry of Free Software. Outstanding achievements presented by CNTI by the end of 2008 included capacity building of public servants, organized communities, and productive units and specialists on Free and Open Source Software; 336 city Halls equipped and technologically capable; establishment of cooperation agreements with Information Technology enterprises (IT); training and accreditation of inspection organizations; and training of more than 500 multipliers on Free Software in 400 of the country's communities. Developing key applications for the National Public Administration strengthens the State's technological platform, among other central projects of CNTI, such as the Integrated Management System (in Spanish SIGEI), the Spatial Data Infrastructure (jointly with the Geographic Institute of Venezuela "Simón Bolívar" IGVS), e-Government, and the National Health System (in Spanish Sinapsis), currently in progress.

[Aerial photographs of the municipality of Rosario in the Infomapa web, Argentina](http://www.rosario3.com/)

Source: <http://www.rosario3.com/>



The city hall of Rosario, Argentina integrated a new and innovative application based on georeferenced data and information. It is available at www.rosario.gov.ar/infomapa and allows analyzing and linking the users' queries in a map made out of the city's high resolution aerial photographs. Through a friendly graphic interface the user -by using only few functions- will be able to obtain an aerial photograph of a particular zone or plot. To access the image map you may click the upper bar in the screen of Rosario's map and choose the section "fotos". It is possible to continuously add new data layers and functionalities according to users' demands. Therefore, the city hall is currently working on publishing more official information of interest to the neighbor such as: pavement types, street direction, and open drainages, among others. A short-term plan seeks integrating all the city of Rosario's infrastructure on the map. Thus, information to be added includes sewage; electricity, water and gas networks, making this tool useful for contingency plans, urbanization and infrastructure development. Besides, all data produced for Rosario will be integrated to the PROSIGA project (National Geographic Information System of Argentina) as a way to contribute towards building the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Republic of Argentina.

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[Regional workshop on census cartography in Chile](#)

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

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in cooperation with the Latin American and the Caribbean Center of Demography (CELADE) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations (ECLAC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), organized a Regional Workshop on Census Cartography for censuses to be held in 2010 in Latin America. The fundamental objective of this workshop that took place on November 24-27 at ECLAC's headquarters in Santiago was to highlight some qualities of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other geospatial technologies applied to cartographic activities, including census preparation and operation, advanced analysis and dissemination of census information. Along with several presentations, practical workshops were conducted with the active participation of representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.



[Chilean Spatial experience](#)

Source: <http://www.igac.gov.co>

The Earth Observation Program of Chile was presented on December 11 2008, at headquarters of the Geographic Institute "Agustin Codazzi" (in Spanish IGAC) of Colombia. Main objectives of this presentation were to "Inform on a Satellite Earth Observation System, as part of an Information Technology general program, and to conceptualize and integrate constituent parts of a Satellite Observation System".

[Government commits to ICT Development, St. Kitts and Nevis](#)

Source: <http://www.sknvibes.com/>

In order to fund capital projects in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the year 2009, the IT sector has been allotted approximately EC\$6.7M, which represents an 89 percent increase in comparison to last year's allocation. The increase was reported during the 2009 Budget Address delivered by the Minister of Finance, Dr. the Hon. Timothy Harris, on Tuesday, December 16. Deeming the Department of Technology "a key cornerstone to the development of the government's agenda", Harris praised the opening of the National ICT Centre as a significant milestone in the history of St. Kitts. The National ICT Centre established in October 2007 with the objective of training government staff, individuals and private entities. He revealed that a new portal would be established to make available all information that relates to the structure of the government in one location. "This is the start of our e-government presence, and 2009 we will begin to provide some government services online. This will enable the everyday person to obtain over the internet some of the same information and services which presently can only be obtained by traveling and visiting the actual department," said Harris. He also declared the government's intention to emphasize the importance of becoming computer-literate and adopting the technology to empower one's self in this increasingly technological age. Moreover, Harris reported that the appropriate legislation, including the Data Protection Act, the Privacy and Security Act and the E-Commerce Act, would be introduced to facilitate and support the increased deployment and use of cutting edge information technology throughout St. Kitts and Nevis.

[Highway administration of Ecuador scale 1:1'000.000](#)

Source: <http://www.geoportaligm.gov.ec/>

Geoportal of the Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador (in Spanish IGM) has published the Highway Administration map of Ecuador at scale of 1:1'000.000 (national scale) in digital format. Its objective is to represent and identify characteristics of the terrestrial surface of the country according to IGM's mission of producing the national topographic cartography. Other recent publications include several provincial topographic maps at scale of 1:50.000.

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[Internet World experts will meet in Mexico](#)

Source: <http://www.politicadigital.com.mx/>



On March 1-6, 2009, Mexico City will be headquarters of the Meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a non for profit organization committed to preserving the stability and integrity of Internet in the world. This will be the first meeting taking place in Mexico. After introducing new top-level generic names (such as .aero, .biz, .info, .museum, etc.), during the Mexico meeting ICANN will explore possibilities for adding others. Likewise, progresses on IPv6, the new protocol that will increase the number of IP directions (Internet Protocol) in the world, will be presented among many other themes. Forums and conferences of the ICANN will be open to the public, for free, and simultaneous translation, as well as documents in Spanish will be available. Those interested on attending may register at: <http://mex.icann.org/> (click 'Registration' on main menu).

[Ibero-American Land Registry Committee meets in Guatemala](#)

Source: <http://www.guatemala-times.com/>

Land Registry is considered a critical element for resettlement of people uprooted by civil war, as well as a valid tool for guaranteeing rights to indigenous peoples over the territory, and for the economic strengthening of municipalities. The Standing Committee on Land Registration in Latin America (PCCI) was established in May 2006 during a seminar on land registration developed at the Training Center of the Spanish Cooperation in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia). In La Antigua, Guatemala on Monday, November 24, with presence of the President of Guatemala, Alvaro Colom Caballeros, the meeting of directors of the Ibero-American Land Registry Committee of the region was launched. The event took place from November 24 to 28. This second meeting focused on progresses of land registry as a tool for social cohesion in Latin America.

[Eastern Caribbean to get early warning weather system](#)

Source: <http://www.terradaily.com/>

A pan-Caribbean early warning weather radar-system is nearing completion. Through the multi-million dollar project, a series of digital radar stations, each with a 400-kilometer (250 mile) radius, will allow forecasters to monitor weather including hurricanes, a major concern for the region. The Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) Coordinating Director Tyrone Sutherland said the 16.6 million dollar project has seen the construction of digital Doppler weather-radar stations in Guyana, Barbados, Trinidad and Belize. Those stations are now being integrated with similar stations at the European Space Agency (ESA) in French Guiana, as well as in Martinique, Guadeloupe and St Martin. So minute-by-minute data from all the Doppler weather-radar stations will be relayed to a central point in Martinique for retransmission to all meteorological services and the public via satellite, he said. The information will be available "minute by minute as it progresses as opposed to satellite where you get images every thirty minutes," Sutherland told.



[Atmospheric Data access for the Geospatial User Community \(ADAGUC\)](#)

Source: <http://www.unsdi.nl/>

On 5 December the Netherlands Coordination Office of the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI-NCO) presented the UNSDI initiative and the role of National Coordination Offices at the ADAGUC workshop. The purpose of

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this workshop was to evaluate and discuss the advances in multidisciplinary use of geo-, meteo- and climate data as well as advances in multidisciplinary spatial data exchange. Many tools and data formats exist for atmospheric data. To disseminate this wealth of information to the geospatial communities is still very difficult. It is complicated to easily share data among scientists representing the geospatial communities without performing some cumbersome conversions. ADAGUC aims to reduce the need for scientists to invent their own converter tools. Selected space borne atmospheric and land datasets will be made accessible for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for data comparison, resampling, selection, manipulation and visualization. Both geospatial and atmospheric user communities are involved in the project for the definition of the use cases. The ADAGUC Web Portal provides access to different atmospheric datasets. With the portal the datasets can be viewed, queried and downloaded. Multiple layers can be viewed simultaneously allowing for comparison between different datasets. The Adaguc portal is based on the OpenGIS® Web Map, Web Feature and Web Coverage services (WMS, WFS and WCS respectively). For more info: http://geoservices.knmi.nl/adaguc_website/. ADAGUC portal: http://geoservices.knmi.nl/adaguc_portal/index.html

Government of Canada commits \$10.5 million in funding for Canada's GEOIDE Network

Source: Kim Tran by way of Santiago Borrero



The Networks of Centres of Excellence Program is continuing its commitment to the GEOIDE Network with \$10,511,000 in funding over three years. These funds will contribute to GEOIDE's continued support of innovative geomatics research and commercialization activities for the benefit of Canadians. Geomatics is the discipline of gathering, storing, processing and delivering geographic information. Geomatics technologies have become part of everyday life. For instance, over 300 million people around the world use the Global Positioning System (GPS). Its uses include orienting research vessels that hunt for shipwrecks, locating mobile telephone users, and guiding ships, aircraft and pedestrians. The world market for geomatics is estimated to grow from 6% to 30% a year, depending on the sector of activity. Since its launch in 1998, the GEOIDE Network has accomplished substantial advances in research and innovation, abroad and nationally. Successes include creating a strong geomatics research network across Canada, collaborating with 12 international geomatics networks around the world, and commercializing research funded by the Network. In addition, 545 students have completed graduate degrees while contributing to GEOIDE projects. This generation of graduates has taken up positions across the Geomatics community in industry, government and academia, demonstrating a clear result to the cumulative investment. Under GEOIDE, these students were trained to place greater emphasis on interdisciplinary teamwork and to respond to community needs. "The GEOIDE Network has proven itself as a means to enhance innovation and break down the barriers between sectors. We will continue to foster innovation that leads to social and economic benefits," says Dr. Nicholas Chrisman, Scientific Director. "This is an exciting time to contribute to the solution of pressing problems for Canada and the planet. Geomatics has taken centre stage in this location-based economy. I would like to thank everyone for their significant contribution to the review process that led to this funding." Media Contact: Kim Tran, Communications Officer, email: kim.tran@geoide.ulaval.ca; www.geoide.ulaval.ca

[NBII Moving Toward Web 2.0 Technologies to Improve Access to Biological Content](#)

Source: NBII Access Newsletter Volume 11, Number 4 by way of Santiago Borrero

Although there is no hard-and-fast definition of Web 2.0, it is generally considered to be a term describing a "second generation" of the Internet, one that is more interactive, modular, social, and service-oriented. The interactive and social nature of Web 2.0 makes its application a natural fit for outreach, information sharing, and community building. By supporting user participation and information sharing, Web 2.0 turns Web sites into virtual communities. The service-oriented architecture lends itself well to applications with flexible and dynamic content delivery, as well as for

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combining data from multiple sources and enhancing use of existing data. In August 2008, the NBII created a Web 2.0 working group to examine how Web 2.0 technologies can be employed to improve access to biodiversity information and coordinate the implementation of several new Web 2.0 technologies, among others, developing a Web service for the NBII Resource Catalog Database, which contains more than 46,000 biological resources. This Web service would provide a mechanism for sharing this information within the NBII and through partner organizations more readily. In the near future, NBII users can look forward to the introduction of news feeds, tag clouds, gadgets, blog references, and other Web 2.0 technologies.



New and Improved Data Licensing Best Practices Guide Now Available Online

Source: <http://www.geoconnections.org/>



The Data Licensing Guide Working Group, on behalf of GeoConnections, has issued version two of [The Dissemination of Government Geographic Data-Best Practices Guide](#). This updated version of the Best Practices Guide enhances the initial version in several ways. First, it expands the types of licensing templates commonly used in Canada. As with the first version, you'll find licensing templates for the end-user model, the reseller model, and the value-added reseller model. But you now get an unrestricted-use model template as well. Second, the new guide reflects the rapid development and technological advances in web-based services, distributed computing, and other user applications. In other words, the revised guide is more Internet friendly and intuitive. It also accommodates changes in government data dissemination policy. And finally, the new version offers standard legal clauses that allow you to customize your data-licensing agreements, should you want. These clauses deal with topics such as intellectual property rights, source protection and acknowledgment, fees, royalties, reporting, representations, warranties, and indemnities. These additions make it easier for you to design solid agreements that reflect your special circumstances. Version 2 of the Guide was developed based on consultations with government departments and agencies involved in producing, using, and licensing government geographic data.

[INSPIRE Data and Service Sharing Implementing Rule](#)

Source: <http://www.geoconnexion.com/>

The Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) Data and Service Sharing Drafting Team has finalized a first draft of the Implementing Rules (D.4.9), which is now available for comments from REGISTERED members of INSPIRE Spatial Data Interest Communities (SDICs) and Legally Mandated Organizations (LMOs).

[Draft Implementing Rule on Data and Service Sharing](#)

The goal of this document is to define harmonized conditions for the access to spatial data sets and services provided from the Member States to the institutions and bodies of the Community. Each provision is followed by a commentary. The document also contains a section with guidelines.

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[1Spatial and CSI-Piemonte to create the first Italian implementation of a region-wide geographic database](#)

Source: <http://www.directionsmag.com/>

Intesa GIS, "Intesa Stato-Regioni-Enti Locali per la realizzazione dei sistemi informativi geografici", is an initiative sponsored by the Italian Government. It is an agreement between local, regional and national state bodies to develop technical specifications with a view to improving cartographic production and data capture methods. It follows the basic guidelines and methodology described in the European Commission's INSPIRE1 Directive and is a major European SDI (Spatial Data Infrastructure) project. This project will be the first topological geodatabase to support public services in the Piedmont region, structured in accordance with Intesa GIS, Italy's GIS TopographicDB Specification. CSI-Piemonte is the project leader and their objectives are to design an information system geared towards service integration and interoperability.



[Online Cartographic Information of Andalusia](#)

Source: <http://www.cibersur.com/>



The Cartographic Institute of Andalusia (ICA), of the Department of Dwelling and Territorial Ordering, has launched new services to citizens placed in motion for diffusing its cartographic products through internet. It includes three projects: the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Andalusia (IDEAndalusia), an online cartography and ortophotography browser, and a section on historic cartography. The above comply with the objective marked by the Andalusia Government of providing spatial information through the network. The Spatial Data Infrastructure of Andalusia offers more than 40 new query and visualization services of cartographic products from different agencies of the Andalusia Board, as well as of other institutions. Among them are outstanding the new community's ortophoto -which is a seamless aerial image of Andalusia;

the Nazi Army cartography carried out during World War Two; and the environmental cartography.

New Satellite Being Developed for Rural Net Connectivity

Source: WALIS December 2008 eNews

India is developing an "unconventional" satellite which would focus on providing internet connectivity to the rural masses and render timely advice on various aspects of agriculture. Primarily aimed at rural areas, it's an INSAT-class satellite but the specialty would be that instead of having an all-India beam, it would have spot beams covering different parts of the country, and there would be a control hub by which it would be connected to national network. Web link to full article: http://voiceofindia.in/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3331&Itemid=76

Cognitive Mapping and Participatory Research - Special Issue of the Journal of Maps

Source: PPGIS list



We would like to invite contributions to a special edition of the Journal of Maps devoted to cognitive (mental) maps and their application. The broad theme is participatory mapping and more specifically:
- How cognitive maps have developed as a research method;

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- Application areas of cognitive maps;
- Wider development of participatory mapping.

The Journal of Maps (<http://www.journalofmaps.com/>) is an open-access electronic journal that aims to provide a forum for researchers to publish maps and spatial diagrams. It provides a unique outlet for graphical material that may otherwise be expensive or difficult to publish in a conventional paper-based journal. To submit a paper, authors should do the following:

1. Submit a short draft (500 word limit) outlining the key themes and scope of the paper, where possible including example mapping, by **28th February 2009**.
2. Submit a completed paper (2500 word limit) by 31st May 2009.

The special edition will be published in January 2010. Reviewers are happy to discuss ideas for papers and their suitability with potential contributors prior to the short draft submission stage. Please email Dan Jacobson (dan.jacobson@ucalgary.ca) in the first instance.

Planning for JITP-2010 Conference Begins - "The Politics of Open Source Software"

Source: Stuart Shulman by way of Air-L list



With all the wheels in motion for the 2nd annual JITP special issue conference (YouTube08) and journal production under way from the 1st (Web 2.0), now is an opportune moment to begin work on what will be the 3rd Annual JITP special issue conference, JITP-2010, which is tentatively slated for April, 2010. The conference theme will be: "The Politics of Open Source Software" JITP-2010 is accepting volunteers and suggestions for the Program Committee. If you would like to be a part of this planning effort, please send email directly to: Michelle Sagan Gonçalves mgoncalves@pubpol.umass.edu (Conference Manager) and Charlie Schweik cschweik@pubpol.umass.edu (Conference Co-Chair) please cc me (editor@jitp.net) when you do and put JITP-2010 in the subject line.

Call for Papers, GeoComputation 2009

Source: Shawn Laffan by way of UCGIS list



The art and science of solving complex spatial problems with computers

The 10th International Conference on GeoComputation will be held at the University of New South Wales, Australia, from 31 Nov to 02 Dec 2009. The conference web site is at <http://www.biodiverse.unsw.edu.au/geocomputation/index.html> Contributions are invited on all themes in the field of geocomputation and should describe original and unpublished research. Reports of innovative geocomputational applications in ecological, environmental, geographical, health, socioeconomic and urban studies as well as in new problem domains are also welcome. The abstracts should be sent as either Word documents or pdf files to geocomputation@unsw.edu.au. Files larger than 1Mb should be sent as zipped archives. The submission deadline is **30 June 2009**. Authors will be notified of acceptance/rejection in the end of August 2009.

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First International Open source Geospatial Research Symposium (OGRS 2009)

Source: <http://eventseer.net/>



Call For Papers – OGRS 2009: First International Open source Geospatial Research Symposium 2009

Dates and place: July 8th to 10th, 2009, Ecole Centrale de Nantes (France)

Website: <http://www.ogrs2009.org>

Research papers - Full paper deadline: **March, 1st 2009**

Showcases - Paper abstract deadline: March, 22nd 2009

Labs - Paper abstract deadline: March, 22nd 2009

[PetroGIS: Advanced Applications for GIS in Oil and Gas](#)

Source: Joanne Ojeda



PetroGIS will take place on March 28 - April 1 2009 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Manama, Bahrain. Taking place over five days this event brings together over 250 senior decision makers within the field of GIS in Oil & Gas. This cutting-edge conference will provide a plethora of practical, best practice case studies from around the world, interactive technical workshops and work streams, as well as peer-to-peer networking to ensure delegates get the opportunity to learn and share best practice with industry leaders. The conference will bring together the best minds in the industry and allow companies to showcase their innovative projects and future plans as the region's industry gather at the only comprehensive event designed to help them solve their top challenges:

- GIS Business Case Development
- E&P Enterprise Solutions
- Overcoming Interoperability Challenges and Existing Legacy Systems
- Effective Data Analysis Strategies
- Bridging the Gap between GIS Data and Non-GIS Data
- The Value of Enterprise-Wide Data Integration
- GIS Applications in Oil Spill Management
- Quantifying ROI in GIS
- Distinguishing Between GIS Education and GIS in Education

For more information please log on to the event's webpage at <http://www.iirme.com/petroGIS/> or contact Joanne Ojeda joanne.ojeda@iirme.com

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[Global virtual library for scientific data](#)

Fuente: <http://www.icsu.org/>

Scientific organizations representing over one hundred and thirty countries agree to overhaul existing world data centres and services to create a World Data System Maputo, Mozambique—the existing networks for collecting, storing and distributing data in many areas of science are inadequate and not designed to enable the inter-disciplinary research that is necessary to meet major global challenges. These networks must be transformed into a new inter-operable data system and extended around the world and across all areas of science. The General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU) agreed today to take the first strategic steps to establish such a system. The expert report recommending the new system and presented to the ICSU General Assembly asserts: 'there is a need for global federations of professional state of the art data management institutions, working together and exchanging practices. Such federations can provide quality assurance and promote data publishing, providing the backbone for a global virtual library for scientific data'. The report concludes that ICSU itself can play a leading role by re-structuring its own data bodies. ICSU will be implementing the recommendations in the report over the next three years. The report and more information on the General Assembly are available at: www.icsu.org/3_mediacentre/GA_29.html



Just Published: Internet Governance Forum (IGF) - The First Two Years

Source: Air-L list

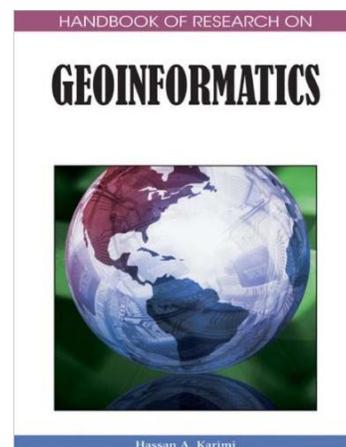
Internet Governance Forum (IGF) - The First Two Years, Edited by Avri Doria and Wolfgang Kleinwächter in cooperation with the IGF Secretariat. A UNESCO Publications for the World Summit of the Information Society - Special issue co-produced with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) (2.34MB) Download Full-text Book: http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/hydera/IGFBook_the_first_two_years.pdf.

Handbook of Research on Geoinformatics ©2009

Chapter V: Spatial Data Infrastructures (by Carlos Granell, Michael Gould, Miguel Angel Manso, and Miguel Angel Bernabé)

Abstract by the Authors:

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are data-centric applications that rely on the input and constant maintenance of large quantities of basic and thematic spatial data in order to be useful tools for decision-making. This chapter presents the institutional collaboration framework to facilitate discovery and sharing of spatial data: Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI). We review the essential software components –metadata editors and associated catalogue services, spatial data content repositories, client applications, and middleware or intermediate geospatial services- that define SDIs as heterogeneous distributed information systems. Finally, we highlight future research needs in the areas of semantic interoperability of SDI services and in improved institutional collaboration. The complete chapter may be found at: <http://books.google.com/books?id=CQ5lf9TQQ-EC&printsec=copyright&dq=spatial+data+infrastructure&lr=#PPA36,M1>



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Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

Article of the Month

Making Sense of the World from High Above

Source: <http://www.spacemart.com/> ``



Making sense of the world an old idea, new technologies offer ways to do it better than ever. A Babylonian clay tablet dating from 600 B.C. is the oldest map of the known world, although not a whole lot of the world was actually "known" at that point. Today, "spatial data infrastructures" national, regional and global in scale rely on a satellite's sensor suite view of the world rather than a bird's-eye view. The systems employ and integrate myriad data collections from satellite and other remote sensing techniques-as well scientific and demographic material, for example, collected on the ground-sifted by powerful supercomputers.

But the idea is the same: to make some sense of the world. And no longer just for the U.S. and fellow developed nations, which have long experience building and using such tools for military, scientific and other purposes, said Gilbert Rochon, who directs the Purdue Terrestrial Observatory, part of Information Technology at Purdue (ITaP) and its Rosen Center for Advanced Computing.

Spatial data infrastructures are appearing in, and have relevance for, places such as Argentina and Brazil, Nigeria and Thailand, in addition to less surprising venues like tech-savvy China, India and Israel.

"There's a big push on for a global spatial data infrastructure", said Rochon, who also is associate vice president for collaborative research in ITaP and chief scientist for the Rosen Center.

Rochon has been discussing the future of spatial data infrastructure technology and its implications worldwide recently. The complete article may be found at:

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Making_Sense_Of_The_World_From_High_Above_999.html

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Geospatial Research and Applications

[First basins website in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

Source: <http://www.catie.ac.cr/>

Enciclopedia Nicaragüense de Cuencas

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The new portal of the Nicaraguan Encyclopedia of Watersheds -the first portal of its type in the Latin American and Caribbean region- has been launched with the aim of strengthening university-level academic programs related to integrated watershed management and co-management. This online encyclopedia is an academic initiative of the

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FOCUENCAS II program of CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Education Center) and the National Agrarian University (UNA) and was financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). According to Estela Alemán, CATIE's representative in Nicaragua, the idea was to compile and organize, in a single site, the knowledge and experience accumulated by university professors and experts on the subject in order to make this information available to university students taking courses related to watershed planning and management. Alemán added that the Web site will also provide useful reference material for technicians who work in this field as well as general information for other people interested in this approach. "This encyclopedia will be continuously updated as the country accumulates experience and learns lessons about the process of co-managing watersheds and in future it will include videos, maps and a photo gallery," explained Alemán. To access the portal, visit www.geolatina.net/cuencasnicaragua.

[New Oceanography Mission Data Now Available](http://www.nasa.gov/)

Source: <http://www.nasa.gov/>

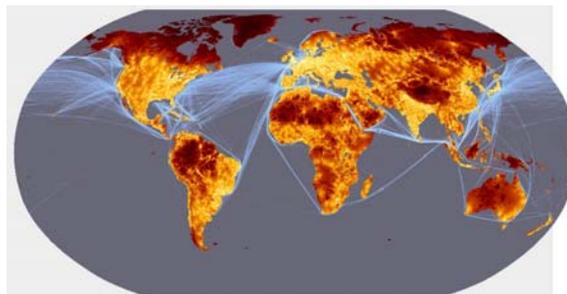


Oceanography data that will help scientists around the world better understand climate change are now available. The data come from the Ocean Surface Topography Mission, also known as OSTM/Jason-2, a spacecraft developed jointly by NASA and the French space agency. Launched June 20, 2008, the mission's first validated data products in support of improved weather, climate and ocean forecasts are now being distributed to the public within a few hours of observation. Beginning in 2009, other data products for climate research will be available a few days to a few weeks after observations are taken by the satellite. "Sea level is rising at a rate of 0.13 inches per year, nearly twice as fast as the previous 100 years," said Laury Miller, chief of NOAA's Laboratory for Satellite Altimetry in Silver Spring, Md. "If this rate continues unchanged during the coming decades, it will have a huge impact on erosion and flooding in coastal regions. We need the OSTM/Jason-2 data to help us monitor what is happening." To learn more about the ocean monitoring mission, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ostm>.

[Travel time to major cities: A global map of Accessibility](http://gem.jrc.ec.europa.eu/gam/index.htm)

Source: <http://gem.jrc.ec.europa.eu/gam/index.htm>

Accessibility maps are made for a specific purpose and they cannot be used as a generic dataset to represent "the" accessibility for a given study area. The data described and presented here were used to create an urban/rural population gradient around large cities of 50,000 or more people. The assumptions made in the generation of this accessibility map can be found in the description and data sources links in this webpage. This map was made for the World Bank's World Development Report 2009 Reshaping Economic Geography. The message of the report can be summarized as: Concentration & density. 95% of the people live on just 10% of the land "As economies grow from low to high income, production becomes more concentrated spatially. Some places -cities, coastal areas, and connected countries- are favored by producers. The way to get both the immediate benefits of concentration of production and the long-term benefits of a convergence in living standards is economic integration. (WDR 2009, Overview)". For measuring the

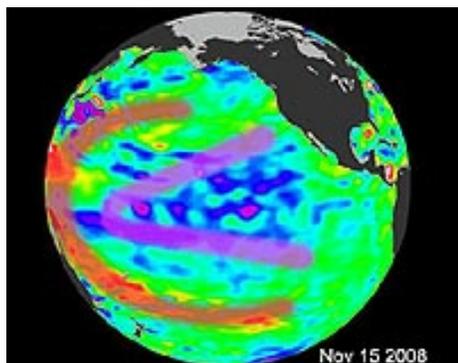


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concentration of economic activity, instead of using binary distinctions of rural versus urban, the report takes advantage of global accessibility measures which can be combined with data on population density to create a much finer typology which is termed the Agglomeration Index (AI).

[Oscillation Rules as the Pacific Cools](#)

Source: <http://www.terradyaily.com/>

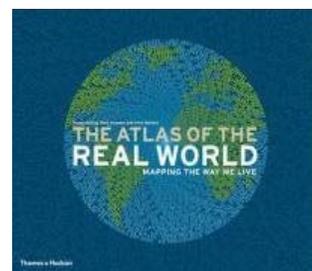


The latest image of sea-surface height measurements from the U.S./French Jason-1 oceanography satellite shows the Pacific Ocean remains locked in a strong, cool phase of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, a large, long-lived pattern of climate variability in the Pacific associated with a general cooling of Pacific waters. The image also confirms that El Niño and La Niña remain absent from the tropical Pacific. The image is based on the average of 10 days of data centered on Nov. 15, 2008, compared to the long-term average of observations from 1993 through 2008. "The present cool phase of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation will have significant implications for shifts in marine ecosystems, and for land temperature and rainfall patterns around the Pacific basin." The new mission has produced excellent data, which have recently been certified for operational use. Fully calibrated and validated data for science use will be released next spring.

[Worldmapper in a book](#)

Source: <http://www.worldmapper.org/>

The Atlas of the Real World: Mapping the way we live. 366 digitally modified maps – known as cartograms – depict the areas and countries of the world not by their physical size, but by their demographic importance on a vast range of subjects ranging from population, health, wealth and occupation to how many toys we import and who's eating their vegetables. Four Worldmapper posters are available in Spanish (Four Worldmapper posters are now available in Spanish); see the Index of Spanish maps at: http://www.worldmapper.org/textindex/text_spanish.html



[Best Practice Guide for Public Crime Mapping](#)

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

"This guide illustrates that a simple, but widely considered approach is key to a truly effective crime mapping strategy and it is possible to implement an affordable solution introduced in stages, developed over time," said Ian Broadbent, Strategic Industry Manager, Policing and Crime Analysis, Pitney Bowes MapInfo. Website: <http://gw.vtrenz.net/?HX4MZQM5SD>

[Dynamic Land Cover Mapping from Space](#)

Source: WALIS December 2008 eNews



Geoscience Australia currently uses Earth observation satellites to capture environmental information over the entire Australian continent. The satellites used, including Landsat, the Advanced Land Observing System, and Resourcesat-1, are operated by the United States, Japan and India respectively. Geoscience Australia now holds an archive of

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satellite observations, over the last 30 years, which supports several nationally significant environmental initiatives. These include the National Carbon Accounting System for the federal Department of Climate Change and the Statewide Land cover and Trees Study (SLATS) by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water. Web link to full article: <http://www.ga.gov.au/ausgeonews/ausgeonews200812/landcover.jsp>

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GIS Tools, Software, Data

[FAO Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species](#)

Source: NBII Access Newsletter Volume 11, Number 4 by way of Santiago Borrero

FAO Home > Fisheries & Aquaculture



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
helping to build a world without hunger

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Fisheries and
Aquaculture Department

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) offers an online database with records of aquatic species introduced or transferred from one country to another, including, where available, a description of the kinds of resulting impacts. This information began to be collected in the 1980s and the freely available online database now contains more than 5,500 records. The site also includes suggested codes of practice for aquatic species introductions. See <http://www.fao.org/fishery/dias> for more details.

[UNdata a World of Information](#)

Source: <http://unstats.un.org/>

The United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has launched a new internet-based data service for the global community. It brings UN statistical databases within easy reach of users through a single endpoint. Users can search and download a variety of statistical resources of the UN system.



[Global Administrative Unit Layers \(GAUL\) Edition 2009](#)

Source: <http://www.fao.org/>



The Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL) is an initiative implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) within the EC-FAO Food Security Programme funded by the European Commission (http://www.foodsecinfoaction.org/News/news_06_06.htm). The GAUL aims at compiling and disseminating the most reliable spatial information on administrative units for all the countries in the world, providing a contribution to the standardization of the spatial dataset representing administrative units. The GAUL is released once a year and the target beneficiary of the GAUL data is the UN community, the Universities and other authorized international and national institutions/agencies.

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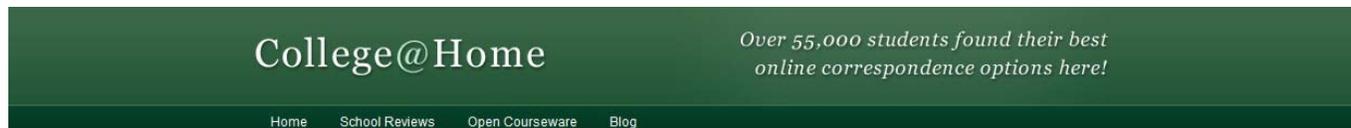
[Google Map Maker, now also available in Argentina and Costa Rica](#)

Source: <http://www.tecnomaps.com/>

Google Map Maker is already available in 43 new countries, among them Uruguay, Argentina and Costa Rica, which totals 164 countries. In all them it is possible to create complete maps, and to add information, places of interest, highways, or to help with corrections.

[100 Helpful Web Tools for Education](#)

Source: <http://dianebrooks.blogspot.com/> and <http://www.collegeathome.com/>



A great place to find different web tools to use for all the different styles of learning. Christina Laun has written this to enable teachers to find tools that are best suited to different learners. You will find tools for mind mapping, charting and diagrams, video and photos, podcasts, presentation tools, audio tools, text readers, audio books, note taking tools, bookmarking, interaction and collaboration.

[CiteSeerX and SeerSuite -Adding to the Semantic Web](#)

Source: <http://newsbreaks.infoday.com/>

An engine or a specialized digital library. It uses a specialized crawler (robot) to find scholarly papers; it then extracts the text from PDF and PostScript files and creates a searchable full-text index. CiteSeer enriches access to these materials by extracting metadata such as author names and publication information. The pioneering Autonomous Citation Indexing tool follows citations and acknowledgments from one paper to another, science mapping and data mining as it progresses. Digital libraries of scholarly works need structure and context. The newly announced SeerSuite open source code base offers excellent tools for this process, from automated citation indexing to web crawling to Boolean queries. CiteSeer, in one version or another, has been running for more than 10 years, with hundreds of thousands of documents and millions of citations from papers in computer and information sciences posted to the web. SeerSuite beta 0.1 (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/citeseerx>) is the Java open source code version of CiteSeerX, distributed under the Apache license. Documentation, currently sparse, will be added within the next 6 months.

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Training Opportunities

[UNIGIS in Latin America](#)

Source: Glenn Hyman



The prototype of the new webpage of UNIGIS in Latin America is online: <http://www.unigis.edu.ec/>. The International Association UNIGIS (UIA) is the first world distance education network offering programs in Geographic Information Science and Systems (GISc). It is an expanding network of higher education institutions aimed at enhancing the

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competence of GIS professional like you! UNIGIS at the University of San Francisco from Quito, Ecuador (in Spanish USFQ) offers programs in Spanish and English languages for GIS professionals worldwide. Students qualify for a Graduate Advanced Diploma Course and a Master of Science, and optionally for a Master of Science (with the University of Salzburg, Europe), who join more than 1000 students that are already lead experts in institutions and organizations globally.

[ESRI's Summer Institute for GIS Educators](#)

Source: <http://www.esri.com/>

Applications Are Due **January 15, 2009**

ESRI is hosting the 2009 ESRI T3G Institute (Teachers Teaching Teachers GIS), June 14-19, 2009, at its company headquarters in Redlands, California. Teachers of grades 5-12, university instructors, and youth and community group leaders will work with ArcGIS software and data to improve their geographic information system (GIS) knowledge and technical skills. Ultimately, attendees will apply what they learn in their own classrooms or programs and show others in their field how to teach using GIS concepts. The 2009 institute will include hands-on exercises; best practices discussions; and presentations about the latest geospatial trends in GIS, Web mapping, and GPS. The institute activities will be led by nationally known geospatial technology educators, and a limit of 30 participants will allow for individual assistance. Additional information and an application for the institute are available at <http://edcommunity.esri.com/t3g-institute>. Acceptance will be announced in February 2009.

[Promoting information and communication technologies \(ICT\) among young women](#)

Source: <http://www.egovmonitor.com/>

According to a recent study, demand for skilled IT workers is expected to reach 250,000 per year by 2010, but only 180,000 are likely to be available. Education and investment to leverage interest in the ICT field from future generations are among the most important ways of addressing this need and creating future growth. Acknowledgement by policy makers of growing gaps in ICT is the key to encouraging industry to invest in education. One of the key priorities is to demonstrate that ICT, an area traditionally associated only with men, provides real and exciting career opportunities for women. Supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and technological progress is the way forward and a particular interest in the promotion of ICT among young women. More information at: <http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/22663>

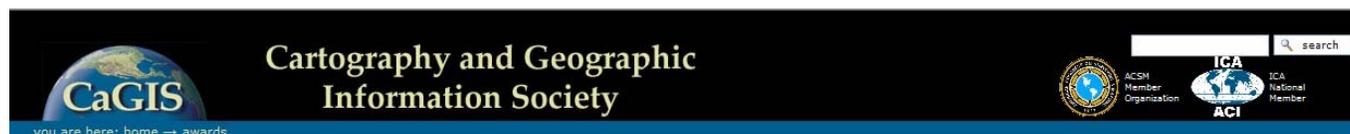


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Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

Call for Applications: CaGIS Scholarships (\$500 and \$1000)

Source: UCGIS list



Each year, the Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS) sponsors two scholarships to students whose research and accomplishments support the mission of CaGIS. The scholarships recognize academic achievement and encourage the continuing education of outstanding cartography, geographic information systems (GIS), and geographic information science (GIScience) students. Scholarships are awarded for research advancing the

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disciplines of cartography or GIScience rather than research applying GIS or mapping as a technique. Winners are selected based on academic achievement, particularly in the calendar year prior to the award. Due date: **January 15, 2009** see www.cartogis.org/awards. Eligibility Candidates must be enrolled full-time in a four-year undergraduate or graduate degree program during 2008 or 2009, studying cartography, geographic information science, or a closely related field. FOR FORMS AND DIRECTIONS go to www.cartogis.org/awards, or contact Rob Edsall, CaGIS Student Activities Coordinator, at edsal001@umn.edu.

Certificate Course: Sustainable Environmental Management (June 26th – July 18th, 2009)

Source: Camilo Botero



The Environment Leadership Program (ELP) from the School of Natural Resources, University of California in Berkeley, calls candidates for the certificate course on Sustainable Environmental Management. Detailed information on the course and the applications are found on the website: <http://cnr.berkeley.edu/BeahrsELP>. Deadline to receiving applications is **February 1st, 2009**. This is an international course taught in English. Graduates are members of an active international network: ELP Berkeley Alumni Network, which promotes learning and continuous connection among graduates after the course, as well as access to small funds to support cooperation projects for sustainable environmental development. It is offered a limited number of partial scholarships. There are not sufficient funds to offer complete scholarships. For further information, please contact the ELP Representative, Elna Brunckhorst, or the Program co-directors, Dr. Robin Marsh and Professor David Zilberman at: BeahrsELP@nature.berkeley.edu. To get the application form directly follow the next link for a Pdf Document: <http://beahrselp.berkeley.edu/Brochures%20and%20Applications/ELP2009Brochurefinal.pdf>.

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Employment Opportunities

PhD position at Eindhoven University , The Netherlands

Source: Air-L list



The Section of Philosophy and Ethics of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology seeks a candidate for the following position: A PhD (1.0 fte) in Philosophy and Ethics of Technology (V39.473) On Ethical Aspects of Modelling in Engineering, Sponsored by the 3TU Centre of Excellence for Ethics and Technology http://w3.tm.tue.nl/en/subdepartments/aw/research/philosophyethics_of_technology/vacancies/v39473/ Please send a written (printed) application letter with a recent, detailed Curriculum Vitae, names and contact details of (at least) two

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referees, and a sample of written work to: Eindhoven University of Technology, Department of Industrial Engineering & Innovation Sciences, Personnel Department, Pav R.1.23. PO Box 513 5600 MB Eindhoven, The Netherlands. Applications should be received by **January 31st**, 2009. Please include the job vacancy code: V39.473.

Director, Information Communications and Technology Division, D-2

Source: <https://jobs.un.org/>



Deadline for Applications: **February 10**, 2009; Duty Station: New York;

Vacancy Announcement Number: 08-IST-DFS-420102-R-NEW YORK

The Director is responsible for managing the Information and Communications Technology Division (ICTD) and its interaction with other departments and offices of the UN Secretariat, partners in the United Nations system, governmental organizations, Member States and other partners in matters related to Information and Communications Technology in the field. The primary responsibilities of the Director, ICTD are to ensure effective management of the Division, exercise overall leadership and responsibility for the conduct of ICT resources and management authorities delegated to DFS, and produce tangible results. More information at:

https://jobs.un.org/Galaxy/Release3/Vacancy/Display_Vac.aspx?lang=1200&VACID=e9d6180f-5f88-4217-9797-18f3e58d5884

Fisheries/GIS position open at TPWD-east Texas

Source: Calina Coakwell

Position Title: Inland Fisheries Habitat Biologist (Natural Resource Specialist-III)

Agency: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Job Location: Jasper State Fish Hatchery, Austin, TX

Responsibilities: Routine work in fisheries and aquatic habitat management. Work involves conducting surveys on freshwater impoundments and streams using GIS/GPS; performing investigative research, studies, and inspections; conducting field or laboratory tests; recommending and implementing aquatic plant control and habitat establishment/restoration/enhancement activities; analyzing and evaluating results; and writing technical reports and scientific publications. Organizes and conducts public outreach activities. An additional duty as assigned complies with all Agency, Division, branch rules, regulations, and procedures. Flexible schedule; occasional work beyond a normal 8-hour day, including weekends/nights, required up to 35% overnight in-state travel. Minimum Qualifications: Graduation from accredited college/university w/ BA/BS in Wildlife or Fisheries or Natural Science, Ecology or closely-related field. Experience: NRS I: None required. NRS II: One year relevant experience. NRSIII: Two years' relevant experience. Salary: \$2,378.84-\$3,063.73/Month Full details -http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/jobs/postings/?page=09_15_111

Closing Date: January 7, 2009. State of Texas Application for Employment plus required forms at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/jobs/> Contact: howard.elder@tpwd.state.tx.us

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Other

[Disasters hit 18 million people in Latin America in 2008: UN](#)

Source: <http://www.terraily.com/>

Natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes and droughts hit 18 million people in Latin America this year causing around 1,000 deaths and seven billion dollars' worth of damages, the UN said Thursday. The high number of floods across the region accounted for around 80 percent of all damages, while landslides caused between 60-70 percent of

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the deaths, said Douglas Reiner, regional disaster response adviser for the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). "Droughts in our region have increased over the last 30 years some 300 percent, hurricanes fivefold and flooding almost 300 percent as well," he said. Disasters invariably hit the poorest and most vulnerable people in the region and states must do more to address social inequalities which exacerbate their impact, warned Gerard Gomez, head of OCHA's regional office for America and the Caribbean.

[Abrupt Climate Change: Will It Happen this Century?](#)

Source: <http://www.usgs.gov/>

The United States faces the potential for abrupt climate change in the 21st century that could pose clear risks to society in terms of our ability to adapt. "Abrupt" changes can occur over decades or less, persist for decades more, and cause substantial disruptions to human and natural systems. A new report, based on an assessment of published science literature, makes the following conclusions about the potential for abrupt climate changes from global warming during this century.

- Climate model simulations and observations suggest that rapid and sustained September arctic sea ice loss is likely in the 21st century.
- The southwestern United States may be beginning an abrupt period of increased drought.
- It is very likely that the northward flow of warm water in the upper layers of the Atlantic Ocean, which has an important impact on the global climate system, will decrease by approximately 25-30 percent. However, it is very unlikely that this circulation will collapse or that the weakening will occur abruptly during the 21st century and beyond.
- An abrupt change in sea level is possible, but predictions are highly uncertain due to shortcomings in existing climate models.
- There is unlikely to be an abrupt release of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, to the atmosphere from deposits in the earth. However, it is very likely that the pace of methane emissions will increase.

To view the full report, titled Synthesis and Assessment Product 3.4: Abrupt Climate Change, and a summary brochure on abrupt climate change, please visit: <http://www.climatescience.gov/default.php>.



[Coral Report](#)

Source: Caribbean Coral reefs List by way of Bruce Potter and <http://www.sciencenews.org/>



Globally, 45 percent of CORALS are healthy. That's the good news. Less heartening: One in five corals are dead - and climate change appears to be a major contributor to the declining health of those that remain (through ocean acidification, seasonal warming, and increasing storm frequency, for instance). That in a nutshell is the conclusion of a report issued by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. The International Union for Conservation of Nature, a member of that network, unveiled the report along with a second one focusing on Indian Ocean corals. Listen to a three-and-a-half-minute interview with the head of IUCN's (International Union for Conservation of Nature) global marine program, who gives you a brief rundown on both reports, at: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/1009_cgl.mp3.

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Americas: Conferences, SDI Events – Year 2009

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[Year 2010](#) [January](#) [February](#) [March](#) [April](#) [May](#) [June](#) [July](#) [August](#) [September](#) [October](#) [November](#) [December](#)

JANUARY 2009

5-8	Waikoloa, Big Island, HI, USA	42 Hawaiian International Conference on System Sciences Conference Administrator: Sandra Laney; hicss@hawaii.edu
7	Omaha NE, USA	Mapping Nebraska Communities: An Introduction to GIS & Community Analysis
18-22	San Jose CA, USA	IS&T/SPIE Conference “3D Electronic Imaging” E-mail: MeetingInfo@SPIE.org
20-24	St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, USA	MAPPS Winter Conference
21-23	Santiago, Chile	WAFLA International Conference: Improving Tools against Desertification and Drought Enhanced Integrated Agro forestry and Water Management Systems for Arid and Semi-Arid Areas in Latin America Contact: conferencia@accionporlatierra.cl
25-27 *NEW*	Newport Beach CA, USA	GeoBase Technology Summit 2009
26-28 *NEW*	Anaheim CA, USA	International Technical Meeting ION ITM 2009 Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Technology: A Path to Sustainable Economic and Social Benefits for Developing Countries Contact: Dorota A. Grejner-Brzezinska, E-mail: dbrzezinska@osu.edu Patricia Doherty, E-mail: dohertpd@bc.edu
26-28 *UPDATED*	New Orleans LA, USA	International LIDAR Mapping Forum E-mail: versha.carter@lidarmap.org .
26-28	San Antonio TX, USA	GIS 2.0: Technical and Programming Developments for Electric and Gas Utilities
27-28	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	IPTV World Forum Latin America

FEBRUARY 2009

1-6	Cancun, México	GEOWS 2009 The International Conference on Advanced Geographic Information Systems & Web Services, Call for Papers: http://www.iaia.org/conferences2009/CfPGEOWS09.html General page: http://www.iaia.org/conferences2009/GEOWS09.html
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3-5	Sacramento CA, USA	2009 CA/HI/NV Regional User Group (CAHINVRUG) Conference
4-5 *NEW*	Bogotá, Colombia	Discussions on Copyright from Science, Art, Libraries and Education National University of Colombia
8-11	Charleston SC, USA	13th Annual GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference
9-13	Havana, Cuba	6th International Congress GEOMATICA 2009 Contact: Tatiana Delgado tatiana@geocuba.co.cu
9-13	Havana, Cuba	Informatics 2009 13th International Convention and Fair http://www.informaticahabana.com/?q=es/node/360
17-18	Bloomington IN, USA	2009 Indiana GIS Conference
18-20	Washington DC, USA	2009 ESRI Federal User Conference (FedUC)
19-20	Raleigh NC, USA	North Carolina GIS Conference
20-21	Palo Alto CA, USA	The Second International Workshop on Intercultural Collaboration (IWIC2009)
20-22 *NEW*	Salt Lake City UT, USA	ACSM-MARLS-UCLS-WFPS Conference E-mail: conference@wfps.org
22-25	Annapolis MD, USA	National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Mid-Year Conference
23-25	Houston TX, USA	2009 Petroleum User Group (PUG) Conference
23-25 *NEW*	Las Vegas NV, USA	Trimble Dimensions 2009
23-27	Mexico City, Mexico	First meeting of the Group of Friends of Co-Chairs on Liability in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

MARCH 2009

1-6 *NEW*	Mexico D.F, Mexico	Meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN 34)
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9-12	Bogotá, Colombia	First National Congress on Protected Areas “Toward a Complete, Representative, and efficiently managed Protected Areas National System” Contact: Julia Miranda Londoño Email: direcciongeneral@parquesnacionales.gov.co
9-13	Baltimore MD, USA	<u>ASPRS Annual Conference</u>
15-18	Chicago IL, USA	<u>12th Annual American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) GIS Conference & Exhibition</u>
16-20	Havana, Cuba	<u>Geosciences 2009: 3rd Cuban Convention on Earth Sciences</u>
21-24	Palm Springs CA, USA	<u>2009 ESRI Worldwide Business Partner Conference (BPC)</u>
22-27	Las Vegas NV, USA	<u>Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting</u>
23-26	Palm Springs CA, USA	<u>2009 ESRI Developer Summit</u>
March 31 - April 2 *NEW*	Los Angeles, Anaheim, CA, USA	<u>World Congress on Computer Science and Information Engineering CSIE 2009</u> E-mail: csie2009@world-research-institutes.org

APRIL 2009

3-7	Montevideo, Uruguay	<u>12th Meeting of Latin American Geographers “Walking through Latin America in Transformation”</u> Contact: info@egal2009.com
5-8	Oklahoma City OK, USA	<u>GeoSpatial Information Systems for Transportation - GIST 2009</u>
6-9	Sacramento CA, USA	<u>15th Annual CalGIS Conference</u>
19-22	Tampa FL, USA	<u>GITA's Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference 32</u>
23	Tampa FL, USA	<u>Oracle Spatial User's Conference</u>
25-30	Natal, Brazil	<u>14th SBSR - Brazilian Symposium on Remote Sensing</u> Contact: sbsr@dsr.inpe.br
27-29	Jacksonville FL, USA	<u>2009 Southeast Regional User Group (SERUG) Conference</u>

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MAY 2009

4-6	Denver CO, USA	<u>2009 ESRI Business GIS Summit</u>
11-14 *NEW*	Charlotte NC, USA	<u>BE Conference 2009</u>
13-15	Santiago de Cuba, Cuba	<u>4th International Conference on Integrated Management of Coastal Zones, CARICOSTAS 2009</u> Contact E-mail: ofelia_haydee@yahoo.es , ofelia@csh.uo.edu.cu , caricostas@cemzc.uo.edu.cu
19-20	Grantville PA, USA	<u>Seventeenth Annual Pennsylvania GIS Conference Announced</u>
19-21	Burlingame CA, USA	<u>Where 2.0</u>
20-22 *NEW*	Quebec, Canada	<u>IUFRO Conference on Extending Forest Inventory & Monitoring Over Space & Time</u> Contact: Dr. Ronald E. McRoberts E-mail: rmcroberts@fs.fed.us
20-24	Washington DC, USA	<u>International Congress on Marine Conservation</u> Contact: IMCCprogram@conbio.org

JUNE 2009

1-4	Vancouver, Canada	<u>GeoTec 2009</u>
3-5	Orlando FL, USA	<u>Pitney Bowes Business Insight User Conference</u>
5-8	Providence Rhode Island, USA	<u>Second GIS in Public Health Conference: "Putting Health in Place with GIS"</u>
8-9	Estes Park CO, USA	<u>GeoGathering 2009</u>
13-16 *NEW*	Green Bay WI, USA	<u>2009 Indigenous Mapping Network Conference</u>
15-18	Washington DC, USA	<u>Intergraph 2009</u>
15-19	Rotterdam, The Netherlands	<u>GSDI - 11 Conference</u> Theme: "SDI convergence on global level: Bridging the SDI's in Europe, the America's, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa" Contact: Harlan Onsrud, e-mail: onsrud@gsdi.org

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JULY 2009

6-8 *NEW*	St. John's (Newfoundland), Canada	6th International Symposium on Spatial Data Quality (ISSDQ 2009) , "Quality: From Process to Decisions" Contact: Rodolphe Devillers, E-mail: issdq2009@mun.ca
6-10	Havana, Cuba	<u>International Convention on Environment and Development</u> Contact: MsC. Isabel Toma Falco Email: convencion@ama.cu
10-13 *NEW*	Orlando FL, USA	<u>The 2nd International Symposium on Academic Globalization: AG 2009 Jointly with the 13th Multi-conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics: WMSCI 2009.</u> E-mail: ag@mail.iiis2009.org
11-14 *NEW*	San Diego CA, USA	<u>2009 ESRI Survey & Engineering GIS Summit</u>
11-14 *NEW*	San Diego CA, USA	<u>2009 ESRI Education User Conference</u>
13-17	San Diego CA, USA	<u>29th ESRI International User Conference</u>
14-16 *UPDATED*	São Paulo, Brazil	<u>GEOBrasil Summit 2009</u> 10° International Geoinformation Congress and Exhibition Brazil Contact: info@geobr.com.br
21-24	Presidente Prudente, Brazil	<u>6th International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology - MMT'09</u> / E-mail: mmt2009@fct.unesp.br

AUGUST 2009

12-14 *NEW*	Fairfax VA, USA	<u>The 17th International Conference on Geoinformatics (Geoinformatics 2009)</u> Contact: info@geoinformatics2009.org
August 31 – September 4 *NEW*	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<u>International Association of Geodesy Scientific Assembly IAG 2009 "Geodesy for Planet Earth"</u> Contact: Dr. Charles K Toth, E-mail : toth@cfm.ohio-state.edu

SEPTEMBER 2009

13-16	Columbus OH, USA	<u>APWA's 2009 International Public Works Congress and Expo</u>
13-17	Houston TX, USA	<u>GIS for Oil & Gas Conference and Exhibition</u>

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OCTOBER 2009

4-7	Campos Do Jordão, São Paulo, Brazil	Latin American Conference IALE 2009 "Landscape Ecology in Latin America: Challenges and Perspectives" Contact: Congress Secretariat and Information E-mail: ialebr2009@eventus.com.br
5-7 *NEW*	Westin Westminster CO, USA	Location Intelligence 2009
8-25	Buenos Aires, Argentina	13th World Forestry Congress
18-21 *NEW*	San Antonio TX, USA	GEOINT 2009

NOVEMBER 2009

15-21	Santiago, Chile	ICC2009- 24th International Cartographic Conference 2009 http://www.icc2009.cl/
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YEAR 2010

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APRIL 2010

26-30 *NEW*	San Diego CA, USA	ASPRS Annual Conference
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