



2017 GSDI Annual Report Summary

as of 31 December 2017

by R A Longhorn, Secretary-General GSDI Association

Introduction

The GSDI Association is an inclusive organization of academic and research institutions, government agencies, commercial firms, NGOs and individuals from around the world. The purpose of the organization is to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international *Spatial Data Infrastructure* research, education, capacity building and implementation challenges, issues and good practice from around the globe that will allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance. Find out more about GSDI at gsdiassociation.org.

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

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

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

At year end, GSDI has 26 Organizational Members from national and regional associations, government agencies, academia and private industry, from 17 countries, including 4 regional (transnational) organizations, and 45 Individual Members.

International Participation

GSDI has Special Consultative status with UN ECOSOC since 1 May 2014. GSDI promotes the open data principles of GEO/GEOSS and is involved in SDI capacity building activities in many developing nations via the GSDI Small Grants Program. The Association works with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Marine SDI Working Group and is represented at both global and regional UN Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) meetings since 2014. GSDI are also represented on the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Marine Domain Working Group, and OGC remains one of the Association's strongest supporters, with more than half of the GSDI Organizational membership also being members of OGC.

Representation at international meetings, since the last report in June 2016, includes:

- Dr Rajabifard represented GSDI at the UN GGIM Expanded Bureau meeting at UN HQ in New York on 7-9 December 2016;
- President David Coleman represented GSDI at the UN GGIM Annual meeting in New York in August 2016;
- GSDI Delegate for Member PAIGH represented the Association at the UN GGIM Americas meeting held in Mexico City, Mexico, on 5-6 October 2016;
- GSDI member Dr Gabor Remetey-Fülöpp represented GSDI at the UN GGIM Regional Committee for Europe meeting in Budapest in November 2016, at which meeting GSDI was officially welcomed as an Observer to the Committee;
- Dr Remetey, past-President Dr Rajabifard and other members represented GSDI at Locate



7/Digital Earth 10 in Sydney in April 2017;

- Dr Remetej represented GSDI at the CEOS WGISS-43 meeting (remotely) in April 2017;
- GSDI President Dave Lovell and Project Leader Georgina Chandler presented the GSDI Project “Towards a Global Assessment of National Spatial Data Infrastructures” at the 7th session of UN GGIM Europe in June in Brussels, Belgium.

GSDI are members of the UN GGIM Geospatial Societies expert group (formerly the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies) and have MoUs with the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE), and the Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety (CDMPS) at the Univ. of Melbourne for joint promotion of activities.

GSDI Small Grants Program

Four GSDI Small Grants Program projects concluded in quarter 3 of 2016, gratefully supported with funding from GSDI member Natural Resources Canada. The call for proposals for 2017, which closed on 8 June 2017, resulted in 31 proposals received, of which 7 were selected for funding. Due to difficulties with one proposal, six awards were made, as shown below:

- Chongqing Survey Institute, PR China – “SDI Promotion Actions in Chongqing, PR China”
- National Environment Management Authority, Kenya – “Unlocking Government Environmental Data in Kenya – the KEIN Project”
- Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography, Mongolia – “Support for Working Group on Formulating the SDI Act in Mongolia”
- Mongolian Geospatial Association, Mongolia – “Translating the GSDI SDI Cookbook” into Mongolian
- ELSAKA - Lembaga Studi dan Advokasi Kebijakan/Center for Study and Policy Advocacy, Indonesia – “SDI and Spatial Data Training”
- ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), Cabo Verde - “SDI to Support Sustainable Energy Planning in West Africa”

Thanks to the generosity of GSDI’s Members and partners such as URISA GISCorps, GSDI was able to support six of the proposals in 2017. This year, the cash awards are made from GSDI’s own reserve funds. We seek further Small Grants Program supporters so that others of the more deserving proposals might be funded in 2017. Support funding can be applied to specific projects, countries and regions.

Conferences and Capacity Building

The GSDI 15 World Conference was held in Taipei, Taiwan, from 29 November to 2 December 2016 under the theme “Spatial Enablement in the Smart Homeland” hosted by GSDI member Taiwan Association for Disaster Prevention Industry (TADPI). The conference was very well attended and produced a digital Proceedings and a conference book of selected and extended peer-reviewed papers, both accessible from the GSDI website.

Work continued on two GSDI Projects, focusing on Marine SDE Best Practice, led by members KU Leuven and LETG-BREST GEOMER, which started in November 2015, and the NSDI Global Index Project. Both these projects will complete their work in 2018 and have



conducted multiple workshops and webinars in the past year, including at the GSDI 15 World Conference and the INSPIRE 2016 and INSPIRE 2017 Conferences, the latter co-funded with support from EuroSDR.

The webinar program included two webinars relating to Marine SDI initiatives around the globe, held on 4 November 2016 and 29 March 2017. The webinars were well attended (typically more than 75 registered participants) and well received, based on follow-up comments from participants.

News Reporting

During 2017, news of GSDI Members, SDI developments and geomatics science and technology continued to be published on the GSDI website. A total of 266 news items were published. The Association no longer publishes periodic paper newsletters, since 2015. The Association is also active on the LinkedIn social network, as well as via its Facebook and Twitter accounts, maintained by Communications Manager, Kate Lance.

Membership Update and Future of the GSDI Association

Unfortunately, 2017 saw a further reduction in the number of full Organisational Members of the Association, from 28 in 2016 to 26 at the end of 2017, with three of these indicating that they did not intend to renew membership in 2018.

Due to falling membership and associated fall in membership revenues, the Board of Directors engaged in a review of the future sustainability of the Association. The results of that review, being conducted by a sub-group of the Board, will be presented to the full Board early in 2018, who will then make a recommendation to the GSDI Council as to possible ways forward for GSDI into the future, on which Council members can then vote for their preferred option.

***Report prepared by Roger Longhorn, GSDI Secretary-General (secgen@godi.org)
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