



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



SDI-Asia/Pacific Newsletter

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Spatial Data Infrastructure – Asia and the Pacific (SDI-AP) is a free electronic newsletter for people interested in GIS, remote sensing, and data management issues in Asia and the Pacific. It aims to raise awareness and provide useful information to strengthen national SDI initiatives and support synchronization of regional activities. The Permanent Committee on Geographic Information for Asia and the Pacific ([PCGIAP](#)) is a regional forum that is promoting SDI development. The newsletter is sponsored and prepared by the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association ([GSDI](#)) with input from PCGIAP.

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Please mention SDI-AP as a source of information in correspondence you may have about items in this issue.

If you have news or information related to GIS, remote sensing, and spatial data infrastructure that you would like to highlight (e.g., workshop announcements, publications, reports, websites of interest, etc.), kindly send us the materials by the 25th of the each month to chan@usgs.gov, sdi-ap@gsdi.org, so that we can include the items in the next newsletter.

PLEASE share this newsletter with colleagues and encourage them to subscribe themselves.

Back issues of the newsletter are at the GSDI website: <http://www.gsd.org/newsletters.asp>
Best regards, Changsup Han, Editor, chan@usgs.gov.



HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2007!

Input to this Issue

Thank you to Kate Lance, ITC (USA/the Netherlands), Michael Gould, Universitat Jaume I (Spain), Markku Villikka (FIG Director), Mohamed Elshayal (Egypt), Ademola Braimoh, Global Land Project, Sapporo Nodal Office (Japan) for their contributions to the issues of this Newsletter.

Have you signed up for the [GSDI News List](#)? It only takes a minute, and then GSDI can alert you of special news and announcements, and you will be notified when a new issue of the SDI-AP newsletter is available. The GSDI Association also hosts an [SDI-AP Discussion List](#) with intermittent announcements.

SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

[GSDI Association Small Grants Program 2006](#)

The [GSDI Association](#), along with partners and participants, has allocated resources from the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee and the GISCorps of URISA, to fund the small grants program to support national or sub-national activities that foster partnerships, develop in-country technical capacity, improve data compatibility and access, and increase political support for spatial data infrastructure and earth observations application development. These resources will be used to offer two types of grants this year: 1) grants in cash up to 2,500 USD and 2) Grants in professional services up to the value of 2,500 USD. Activities to receive support may focus on technical or institutional projects, as long as there are concrete/tangible outputs and several institutions collaborate on the effort. Sample activities include (these are not exhaustive): Convening of national or sub-national seminars or workshops related to SDI; Producing SDI- and EO-related training manuals and modules (these materials must not duplicate existing materials); Establishing metadata and clearinghouse nodes; Establishing web mapping services and applications; Accomplishing surveys or inventories; Producing and disseminating newsletters and awareness-raising materials about SDI; Drafting policy and legislation related to SDI. Priority will be given to projects in developing nations and countries with economies in transition. Grants can be awarded to SDI coordinating bodies (councils, committees) and GIS user groups, but the GSDI Association asks that one institution take



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responsibility for receiving/depositing the funds. Grants will not cover organization overhead expenses. Deadline for applications: 15 January 2007.

[UNDP, IBM and Oracle to Help Asia-Pacific Countries Create Strategies and Policies for Adopting Open Computing Standards](#)

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Asia-Pacific Development Information Program (UNDP-APDIP) will facilitate the development of Government Interoperability Frameworks (GIFs). Many countries around the world have developed GIFs to guide the development of government-wide systems and policies that permit electronic transactions and data and information exchange to take place seamlessly across agencies and jurisdictions. UNDP-APDIP, IBM and Oracle, together with the International Open Source Network (IOSN), have teamed up to conduct a thorough review of how governments in the region and beyond are promoting efficient, government-wide sharing of information and data by focusing on automatic technology services provided by computing networks, rather than individual technologies. For instance, this project will examine how existing GIFs are focused on a service-oriented architecture. The objective is to identify promising practices around interoperability, then document case studies of those practices in action, and ultimately develop and recommend guidelines. Over the next year, UNDP-APDIP will hold workshops to share experiences and findings of the project with interested groups, and publicly release studies and reports at various stages of the project. Further information will be announced on <http://www.apdip.net/projects/gif>.

[Australian Tsunami Warning Centre \(ATWC\) officially opened on Friday 1 December](#)

The Geoscience Australia Operations Hub of the Australian Tsunami Warning Centre (ATWC) was officially opened on Friday 1 December by Australian Industry Minister, Ian Macfarlane, as part of the Australian Government's response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The Geoscience Australia Operations Hub of ATWC will detect earthquakes in the region and determine whether they are likely to cause a tsunami by examining the magnitude, location, depth and other seismic characteristics. This data will be used in conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology's tide gauge data, and the two agencies will work together to determine whether a tsunami warning should be issued. The Australian Tsunami Warning Centre will run 24/7 operations, monitoring around 39 Australian seismic stations and around 70 overseas stations at any time. The Centre will then share its information with other countries in the region. The Australian Tsunami Warning Centre is part of the [Australian Tsunami Warning System](#): a collaborative project involving Geoscience Australia, the Bureau of Meteorology, Emergency Management Australia, and AusAID. The program is coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

[2007-2008 Western Australia State Land Information Capture Program Callout](#)

Submissions are now being invited for the 2007-2008 State Land Information Capture Program (SLICP). SLICP is a whole of Government program designed to identify Western Australia requirements for geographic information and eliminate duplication in its capture. It identifies and collates the capture programs for digital geographic data, aerial photography, satellite imagery and map production within the State. Under the SLICP an agency or local government authority may request provision of a range of data, including aerial photography, topography, built environment information, ortho-images, spatial cadastral upgrade, remote sensing (satellite or aircraft) and bathymetry. If the request is approved, the only cost to the organization placing the request is the cost of extraction and distribution and will not include the cost of flying or capture. There are no charges relating to the capture of raw data. The success of SLICP relies on the strength of the demand for the data. If a request is supported by a number of agencies and/or local authorities it may in some instances stand a better chance of being included in the SLICP.

[Queensland Spatial Information Council \(QSIC\) review of addressing practices](#)

The allocation, maintenance and distribution of standardized street addressing have been a particular issue since the first days of GIS implementation in Queensland. The Queensland Spatial Information Council (QSIC) is working with key stakeholders that collect manage and distribute addressing information to develop a program of activities that will help resolve the addressing issues in Queensland. A recent QSIC review of Addressing Practices reviewed the existing addressing practices in Queensland and provided a proposed redesigned process for a way forward. QSIC endorsed the reports from the completed review in August 2006 and these are available online: Project Initiation (Phase 1 Report); Situation Assessment (Phase 2 Report); Direction Statement (Phase 3 Report); Redesigned Process (Phase 4 Report); Business Case (Phase 5 Report). The QSIC is now progressing the recommendations from the review and is developing an implementation plan for the project. For further information about the implementation, please contact Kevin Landy, kevin.landy@treasury.qld.gov.au. Note: the current Standard for Addressing in Australia and New



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Zealand is Geographic Information - Rural and Urban Addressing (AS/NZS 4819:2003). See: [Rural Addressing Fact Sheet](#) (December 2005).

[New Zealand government to support Geospatial Research Centre](#)

The government will provide \$2 million towards the establishment of a Geospatial Research Centre in Christchurch that will carry out commercially relevant research for the rapidly evolving geospatial industry. The centre is a partnership between the University of Canterbury, the University of Nottingham, and Canterbury Development Corporation. It will be established within Canterbury University's recently announced New Zealand ICT Innovation Institute (UCi3). According to Economic Development Minister Trevor Mallard, "Research at the new centre will help increase revenues, reduce costs, and enhance productivity in a variety of industries, delivering an estimated net economic benefit of \$63 million over 10 years." A key focus of the Labor-led government is economic transformation - working with business and sector groups to deliver a high income, high-wage, export-led economy through growing more globally competitive firms, and the geospatial centre is a step towards this. The Geospatial Research Centre will include a focus on technologies associated with gathering geospatial data, complementing New Zealand's existing strengths in the analysis and use of such information. The centre will establish strong linkages with industry to ensure it delivers clear commercial benefits.

[Home-made GIS software \(in China\) has edge on market](#)

China's domestic GIS software has blown the bugle call for domestic software to break through. At present, the market share of most domestically produced software accounts only about 5 percent in such fields as operating system, database, and office software while domestic GIS software outshines all the others in the market of GIS software with a high proportion of over 35 percent, thus having broken the monopoly of foreign software in that field.

[China to launch 6 geographical survey satellites](#)

The China Center for Resources Satellite Data and Application (CCRSDA) announced that it will launch six geographical survey satellites in five years. The center will also establish a high-resolution land observation project and build a data center for the satellites. Set up in 1991, the CCRSDA completed China's first application system for resources satellites in August 1999. CBERS-1, the first in a series of earth resources satellites, was launched two months later. Data from the satellites has been used in agriculture, forestry, city planning, environmental protection and disaster monitoring.

[52° north Initiative for Geospatial Open Source Software](#)

On September 21, 2006, representatives from con terra GmbH, Westfaelische Wilhelms Universitaet, the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI), established the 52° north Initiative for [Geospatial Open Source Software GmbH](#), in Muenster, Germany. 52° north is an open initiative whose purpose is the development of open source software for Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI). The current focus of development is Sensor Web Enablement, Security and Digital Rights Management. The emphasis will be on research and development in these new areas. Products will be available using two licensing models: GNU General Public License (GPL); and a commercial use license. The initiative is open to anyone who would like to participate. Want to [join](#)? Contact: info@52north.org.

[OGC announces Geospatial Linking Service Interoperability Experiment](#)

On 15 January 2007 the Open Geospatial Consortium Inc. (OGC) will launch an Interoperability Experiment on Geospatial linking? The Geospatial Linking Service Interoperability Experiment will test methods for linking attribute data (typically records in a database) to those data records' geospatial representations (typically stored as digital maps) when both data and geospatial representations are stored at separate locations on the Internet. The experiment is expected to validate the functions of Web services specified in the "Geospatially Linked Data Access Service (GDAS)" and "Geospatial Linking Service (GLS)" OGC Discussion Papers. The initiators of the Interoperability Experiment are: Natural Resources Canada (Geoconnections), University of Nottingham, Safe Software Inc., and Graphical Data Capture Ltd. Other organizations are encouraged to participate in or sign on as observers for this Interoperability Experiment.

[GLP \(Global Land Project\) - Invitation to get involved](#)

The Global Land Project represents the joint research effort of IGBP (International Geosphere-Biosphere Program) and IHDP (International Human Dimensions Program on Global Environmental Change) to improve the understanding of land system dynamics in the context of Earth System functioning. The website



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includes the [GLP Science Plan](#), details on how to be associated with research as described in the Plan, as well as a database entry form where you can sign up to be part of the GLP network and receive information such as newsletters. If you sign up to be part of the GLP network you will receive 2 newsletters per year, as well as a very limited number of email-updates with relevant news and information.

Sapporo Nodal Office of the Global Land Project (GLP) has opened

Humans have become more adept at appropriating and altering the Earth's resources for their needs. Changes in land use and management affect the states, properties and functions of ecosystems, which in turn, affect the provision of ecosystem services necessary for human wellbeing. Anthropogenic activities generate different feedbacks to the coupled human-environment systems at local, regional and global scales. Nonetheless, we lack an adequate understanding of how human actions affect natural processes of the terrestrial biosphere and the consequences of these changes to the sustainability of the Earth System. The [Global Land Project \(GLP\)](#) was established to improve our understanding of the interactions between people and their environments. Three major objectives follow this key purpose:

- To identify the agents, structures and nature of change in coupled human-environment systems on land, and to quantify their effects on the coupled system;
- To assess how the provision of ecosystem services is affected by the changes in (1) above; and
- To identify the character and dynamics of vulnerable and sustainable coupled human-environment systems to interacting perturbations, including climate change.

The [GLP Sapporo Nodal Office at Hokkaido University, Japan](#), manages research related to vulnerability, resilience and sustainability of land systems. They welcome research endeavors that contribute to the scientific agenda outlined in the [GLP Science Plan](#). A number of fast track activities will be implemented, including development of indicators of resilience and vulnerability of land systems, advanced institute for junior researchers on integrated land systems modeling and workshop on governance and land systems sustainability. Contact information: Global Land Project, Sapporo Nodal Office, Hokkaido University, N9W8 Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-0809 Japan. info@glp.hokudai.ac.jp.

Free Elshayal Smart GIS Editor

This Arabian GIS software was developed by an Arabian developer's team, independent of commercial software packages. Current features include: View and Edit shape files, build new layer, add existing layer, remove layers, swap layers, save layer, set layer data source, layer properties, zoom in & zoom out, pan, identify, selecting features, invert selection, show data table, data query builder, location query builder, build network, find shortest path, print map, save map image, copy map image to clipboard, save project map, edit move vertex, edit move features, snap vertexes, set vertex XY, move settings, converting coordinate system, applying VB script, copy selected features to another layer, move selected features to another layer, delete selected features, edit data table, modify table structure, edit map features, drawing new features, GPS, 3D, etc. Expected features include viewing raster image and image georeferencing. The software can be [downloaded](#). Contact: Mohamed Elshayal, elshayal@smartwebonline.com.

[GEOSS Symposium on Integrated Observation for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region](#), 11-12 January 2007, Tokyo, Japan

The GEOSS AP Symposium is being organized by the GEO Secretariat with the support of the government of Japan, and its goal is to exchange information and enhance common understanding for realizing GEOSS as a tool for sustainable development. The goals of this symposium are to:

- Present progress on GEOSS implementation to a wide audience of government officials, experts, scientists, the public and the press from Asia-Pacific countries;
- Summarize the current situation of in-situ networks, satellite capability, model predictability, and data integration, and discuss future plans for filling the observational gaps, avoiding duplication and contributing to socio-economic benefit;
- Explore convergence of existing observational networks in Asian-Pacific countries under GEOSS.

To focus the discussion, technical sessions have been organized on the following topics: Monitoring Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Climate change and the water cycle; and Space and in-situ observation for geohazard monitoring. Contact: geoss_ap@restec.or.jp.

[International Workshop on Good Land Administration: Its Role in Economic Development](#), June 27-28, 2007, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

This workshop will be the meeting point of the officials, academics, non-governmental organizations and private sector representatives working in the land administration sector in Asia and Europe. East & West will



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meet with the intention to establish a land administration sector network to share experiences between the Asian and European countries. The workshop is being hosted by the Administration of Land Affairs, Geodesy and Cartography (ALAGaC), which was established in 2002. Deadline for abstracts: February 28, 2007. Contact: info@la-east-west.mn.

[An assessment of existing information systems and databases for a National FIVIMS](#): Samoa [FIVIMS/FAO, 2005]

The aim of this report is to provide a summery assessment of the existing institutional capacity in Samoa to undertake integrated FIVIMS-related work. The document was used as a background for discussions at the national FIVIMS strategy workshop (30 September-4 October 2002) on a contextual framework for FIVIMS-type work in Samoa.

GIS Tools, Software, Data

[New Version Bathymetric Data Management Software by CARIS](#)

Bathy DataBASE 2.0 for the creation and management of bathymetric surfaces was released by [CARIS](#). Bathy DataBASE was developed to allow hydrographers to overcome obstacles of large bathymetric data sets and data sources. The software allows users to validate, prepare and compile bathymetric data from multiple formats and sources to create products. Among some of the features of Version 2.0 are new source data management and storage tools, Subset Editor for point editing, redesigned 3D graphics display and navigation tools, and true position contouring. With ever expanding volumes of raw multibeam survey data and large numbers of archived historical data sources, a data management system for source bathymetry is essential. The management of high-density bathymetry is essential for product creation where safety of navigation is applicable. The goal then is not to manage bathymetry at survey density but at a useful and significant resolution. Bathy DataBASE covers this crucial need allowing users to focus the management of bathymetry data at the "optimal" density for the most functional and practical solution.

[The first public demonstration of new web-based data delivery tool](#)

The first public demonstration in Australia of [GeoSciML](#), a new web-based data delivery tool, has been completed at the International [Solid Earth and Environmental Grid \(SEE Grid\) Conference](#) in Canberra. Geoscience Australia, [CSIRO](#) and [GeoScience Victoria](#) completed the demonstration in front of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Hon Bob Baldwin MP, and a crowd of earth, environmental and computer scientists. The demonstration highlighted the immediate impact this will provide to the future management and exploration of Australia's natural resources. "GeoSciML is a new web platform that enables users to access and exchange data between computers, and view internationally standardized information immediately," Mr. Baldwin said. "GeoSciML standards are the result of a collaborative project involving Australia, France, Canada, UK and Sweden." In introducing the demonstration, Dr Lesley Wyborn, a Senior Scientist with Geoscience Australia, said that "data sharing between computers, both internationally and nationally is difficult due to the number of different computer systems, technologies and programs that organizations use. Time is lost as data is re-formatted to suit individual systems." "The development of GeoSciML will impact significantly on mineral exploration, as well as environmental and emergency management due to increased access to the pools of data that have, up until now, been locked away on computers," said Dr Wyborn.



[GIS mapping of 50,000-km Indian national highway by 2009](#)

The Central Road Research Institute (CRR) is hopeful of completing the GIS (geographic information system) mapping of 50,000 km of India's national highways by mid-2009. The 15,000 km of the highway being excluded from the survey are projects under the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). The GIS survey and a global positioning system (GPS) for better navigation across India are two major projects underway for better road freight management and improving the driving experience. Mounted on a Tata Sumo, the Hawkeye instrumentation system that includes a laser profiler and pavement view cameras will be used for measuring road surface, collecting and processing digital images of pavements and other roadside assets. Being used in countries like South Korea, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Portugal, the United



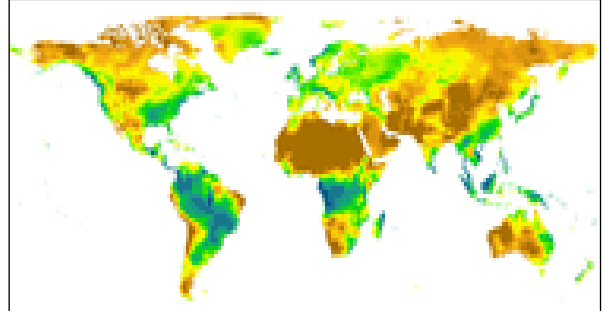
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Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, Warren said the Hawkeye deployment has resulted in Indonesia changing its highway map after the original was found inaccurate by the GIS survey.

[Reformatted CRU TS 2.1 Climate Database Online](#)

The CRU TS 2.1 Climate Data, reformatted for easy use in geospatial analysis and GIS software packages by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), is now available through the CGIAR Geoportal. The CRU TS 2.1 Global Climate Dataset is comprised of 1224 monthly time-series of climate variables, for the period 1901-2002, covering the global land surface, excluding Antarctica, at 0.5 degrees resolution. The nine climate variables available through this dataset are: daily mean, minimum and maximum temperature, diurnal temperature range, precipitation, wet day frequency, frost day frequency, vapor pressure and cloud cover. This data has been produced by the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) of University of East Anglia (UEA), and reformatted by International Water Management Institute (IWMI) for use in geospatial analysis using common GIS software.



Geospatial Research, Applications, Reference Material

[Livestock health initiative in Philippines utilizes GIS](#)

ESRI announced that ArcGIS software is playing a role in the Philippine government's Environmental Animal Health Management Initiative (EAHMI), launched earlier this year. The initiative will analyze animal disease distribution and environmental conditions, identify risk factors, and develop sustainable environmental animal health management strategies for the Philippines and be essential for cost-efficient disease control and sustainable agricultural development. A core component of the initiative is the establishment of the GIS, which focuses on livestock resources, animal disease distribution, and environmental conditions throughout the country. The Philippines government's goal is to strengthen the national capacity in data collection, management, and analysis and develop mathematical models to map disease risk and identify hot spots of potential disease occurrence and environmental concerns through the implementation of GIS technology. EAHMI's Chief Technical Adviser Dr. David Bourn explained the establishment of a georeferenced animal disease and livestock resource information system is essential for sound strategic planning and the formulation of more effective, differential animal disease management strategies for both smallholders and large-scale commercial producers. Because of the rapid growth of livestock production in the Philippines, particularly in the country's densely populated peri-urban areas, there is a growing concern about pollution and the potential for outbreaks of disease. A three-year pilot project to create a safer, cleaner, and more productive environment for livestock production has been initiated by the Bureau of Animal Industry in collaboration with the Philippine Carabao Center and the National Dairy Authority, with funding from the Italian government and technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

[Hong Kong Census & Statistics Department using GIS for population by-census](#)

To enhance the efficiency of data capture, the [Census & Statistics Department of Hong Kong](#), used GIS for the 2006 population by-census, conducted in July and August 2006, to support field operations and to let respondents furnish online data. The earliest set of 2006 by-census results will be released in February 2007. Commissioner for Census & Statistics Fung Hing-wang said the Department will provide free downloads of detailed statistical data on its website. The new initiative will promote statistical literacy and informed decision making in Hong Kong through enhanced availability and accessibility of official statistics. The download policy initially was rolled out at the [Hong Kong Statistical Bookstore](#), in June and the department's website later in 2006. See also: [2006 Population By-census: Dissemination of Results](#).

[Presentations from Census Discovery 2006](#), November 9, 2006, Brisbane, Australia

Presentations included state and regional perspectives and provided examples of demographic data being used spatially to address environmental, social and community issues.

[Free Booklets Showcase Users' GIS Stories](#)

ESRI has created a free, downloadable [case study series](#) that tells the stories of real-world users succeeding with [geographic information system \(GIS\) technology](#) in many disciplines such as [agriculture](#), [forestry](#), [law](#)



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[enforcement](#), [mining](#), and [public works](#). These [GIS Best Practices](#) booklets are discipline-driven collections of previously published ESRI articles that highlight successful GIS projects, suggest solutions for GIS challenges, and help GIS users develop their [business cases](#). To date, ESRI has published more than a dozen GIS Best Practices booklets, in PDF format, on a variety of topics such as public works, law enforcement, forest assessment, and mining. More than 20 additional titles will become available throughout 2007. For a complete list of the currently available GIS Best Practices booklets, visit www.esri.com/bestpractices.

[1st issue of Geospatial Health online](#)

Geospatial Health is an international peer-reviewed journal launched in 2005 that publishes research papers, short communications and reviews on application of the geospatial sciences to global health issues. The first issue of Geospatial Health now is available online ([Vol. 1, No. 1](#), November 2006).

- [Meteorological, environmental remote sensing and neural network analysis](#) of the epidemiology of malaria transmission in Thailand.
- [Remote sensing for predicting potential habitats](#) of *Oncomelania hupensis* in Hongze, Baima and Gaoyou lakes in Jiangsu province, China.

The submission deadline for the second issue of Geospatial Health is [January 15, 2007](#). For more information and instructions for Internet submission and review contact the Editor-in-Chief, Robert Bergquist, robert@ingerod.net.

[Introduction of the National University of Singapore's current research](#)

- Very high spatial resolution imagery
 - Mapping at large scales (1:5000 to 1:25,000) with high positional accuracies
 - [Detection and enumeration of trees in high resolution imagery of oil palm plantations](#)
 - Extraction of linear features in high resolution imagery
- Digital elevation models and 3D modeling
 - [Generating digital elevation models](#) from high resolution optical and SAR data
- Cloud-free mosaics
 - [Cloud-free Mosaics of high resolution optical remote sensing images](#)
- Multiple polarization SAR
 - Land cover classification using multipolarization SAR
- Hyperspectral Data
 - Applications of hyperspectral data from the EO-1 Hyperion sensor in land cover classification
 - [Retrieval of coastal water quality parameters from ocean colour and hyperspectral data](#)
- Environmental Monitoring
 - Derivation of environmental information from wide coverage satellite data with tens of spectral bands (such as MODIS, MERIS and GLI)
 - [Detection and mapping of land/forest fires](#)
 - [Using MODIS for fire monitoring](#)
 - [Red tide study using ocean colour data](#)
 - [Oil pollution detection using satellite imagery](#)
 - [Rapid environmental evaluation using remote sensing data](#)
 - [Flood Monitoring](#)

[Tracking map to give 2 days' warning of cyclone](#)

A new computer tracking system will allow forecasters to inform the public about the path of a cyclone two days in advance. That is double the previous standard. The cyclone map, released today, was trailed by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM, Australia) during the last wet season. The map can be viewed online or faxed to communities in the cyclone's path. BOM's spokesman for the Northern Territory, Andrew Tupper, says the new visual graphic is easier to understand and more accessible than the old plotting maps. "Trying to listen to latitude, longitudes, plot it all out, visualizes what's going on is always difficult when it's just text products," he said. "So we know from last season that probably people will be using this much more than even the written warning." Mr. Tupper says BOM has worked for two years to develop the tool but he is hoping forecasters will not have a chance to use it until next year.

[Using GIS to track property tax defaulters in India](#)

The MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi)'s Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping project to track defaulters of property tax has finally taken off after being shelved for over two years. The civic agency has



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set up a pilot project in the Central zone through which the department will be creating a fresh database of the properties that need to be covered under the tax net. "The company which the agency has tied up has its own database of satellite images of the entire city which include small details of every road and building in the city through which we will be able to list the actual number of properties in the area," said a senior MCD official. In Central zone alone, officials say, even though the MCD has over 1.28 lakh properties listed, only 43,000 property owners filed their returns. "Since the system is based on self-assessment, people often pay less tax by showing less covered area to escape as much tax as possible," said the MCD official. With the tax evaluation committee set up to look at re-evaluation of tax categories, officials are hoping the project will help them re-categories and identify areas under the tax net. "We can track new properties that have come up in the last two years which haven't been recorded by our department and increase our tax net," said an official. The pilot project has been currently set up at the property tax office at Lajpat Nagar.

Satellites draw up maps of ancient city in Xinjiang

Researchers using satellite technology are drawing up maps of the ancient city of Milan in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in a bid to better protect this important point along the Silk Road. Milan is home to many cultural relics, including the world-renowned angel murals that were created some 2,000 years ago. A team of experts from the Beijing Special Engineering Design Research Institute visited the region early this month to survey the ruins. Using cutting-edge satellite technology, the team collected detailed data on the 40-plus-square-kilometre area surrounding the ruins of Milan, said Lu Hanqian, the senior engineer leading the team. Once the survey and maps are completed, concerned authorities will come up with measures to further restore and protect the ancient ruins, said Sheng Chunshou, director of the Administration Bureau of Cultural Heritage of Xinjiang. The ancient Silk Road starts in Xi'an, capital of the Western Han Dynasty, and ends in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Xinjiang was an important section along a route that spanned the Eurasian continent, Sheng said.

Training Opportunities

CSSTEAP's Training Course

The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) established in India in November, 1995 and hosted by The Government of India, Department of Space. Government of India will be conducting following Courses mentioned below:

- Sixth POST GRADUATE COURSE in SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS from August 01, 2007 at Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad.
- 4 Weeks Short Course in REMOTE SENSING & GIS from August - September 2007 at Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun. Contact: dean@iirs.gov.in
- Twelfth POST GRADUATE COURSE in REMOTE SENSING & GIS from October 01, 2007 to June 30, 2008 at Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun. Contact: dean@iirs.gov.in

Gulfgis Short Training Courses

During the Kuwait Third GIS Conference, which will be held from February 19th to the 21st, 2007, the following four short training courses will be provided:

- GIS Project Management: This course serves as an introduction to professionalism in the business of GIS and Geomatics. Professional standards for communications and documentation are introduced at the beginning of the course. An overview of the GIS profession follows (public and private sectors).
- The Digital City, GIS and Urban Planning: The present short course aims at introducing GIS to architects, urban planners, and staff of municipality and built-environment-related ministries as a new tool of city planning, managing urban development of villages, cities and territories.
- GIS for Homeland Security: The GIS in Homeland Security short course will address innovative management and decision-making applications of geo-spatial data. A focus will be directed at the role of GIS in the development of government agency and services management and homeland security applications.
- Introducing to GIS in Public Health: This course provides hands-on examples of GIS applications in the Public Health field. The course will teach healthcare professionals how to use GIS in the context of visualizing and analyzing health-related data. By outlining a hands-on approach that simulates how a GIS project would be developed in the real world.

Coordinate transformations & datums for spatial industry, Sydney and Melbourne Australia



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This two-day workshop on April 2007 will give an overview of theory and practice of different coordinate transformations with particular view on the Australian situation. It will cover the conversion between 3D Cartesian coordinates, ellipsoidal coordinates, map-grid coordinates (2D) and different height systems as well as the transformation between different datum realizations such as AGD66, AGD84 and GDA94. Course notes, free computer software and several worked examples will complement the theory presented. This course is important in surveying, cartography, photogrammetry, GIS and other related areas of the spatial industry and is specially designed for users dealing with geo-referenced points. Participants will be able to realize/perform their own coordinate transformations and get a deeper understanding of available software and results. Contact: training@crCSI

[Geo-mining and Coastal Zone Management](#), 26 February-9 March 2007, Sardinia, Italy

[Forgea International](#), a training and cooperation centre in the field of geo-mining and environment, and TWAS will be holding a two-week training course. The course is open to a limited number of participants from south Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and Balkan countries and is aimed at university researchers, decision makers, technologists and professionals from public authorities and private companies involved in the exploitation of non-renewable mineral resources and coastal zone management. Participants will be selected by a committee appointed by TWAS and FORGEA International. Selection will be based on the academic background, professional experience and evaluation of the case study abstracts presented by the applicant. Deadline for applications: 12 January 2007. Contact: forgea@tin.it.

[2007 Summer Certificate Course in Sustainable Environmental Management](#)

The [Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program at the University of California, Berkeley](#), is offering its summer certificate course from 22 June-14 July, 2007. The Beahrs ELP seeks participants who are mid-career environmental and development professionals from academia, government, NGOs and the private sector. A limited number of partial scholarships are available. Application review begins 1 January, and applications must be received no later than 1 February 2007.

[Extraction of Geospatial Information from High Resolution Optical Satellite Sensors](#), ISPRS Technical Commission IV Symposium, Goa, India, 27-30 September 2006

- [Introduction \(definition of HR, current HR sensors, main characteristics, technological alternatives\)](#) - Emmanuel Baltsavias
- [Image quality, radiometric analysis, preprocessing](#) - Emmanuel Baltsavias
- [Geometric sensor models and bundle block adjustment](#) - T.P. Srinivasan
- [Automated DSM generation](#) - Li Zhang, Emmanuel Baltsavias
- [Orthoimage Generation](#) - B.Gopala Krishna
- [Automated and semi-automated object extraction \(mainly roads and buildings\)](#) - Li Zhang, Emmanuel Baltsavias
- [Land use and land cover mapping](#) - David Holland
- [Use of high resolution satellite imagery for mapping, landscape change detection and map update](#) - David Holland
- [Cartosat Mission](#) - P.K. Srivastava

Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

[Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs master's and doctorate scholarships in sustainable development](#)

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the [Asian Institute of Technology](#), have partnered to offer a program called Education for Sustainable Development from 2006 to 2009. Master's and doctoral scholarships will be provided to students from countries in South and Southeast Asia - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, East Timor, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam - the Mekong region low-income countries of Lao PDR and Cambodia, as well as other less developed countries in Asia. The scholarships cover degree programs in fields relevant to sustainable environment, human rights and gender, and poverty alleviation. The core idea of the scholarships is to support Norwegian program countries in Asia with emphasis on sustainable development for enhancing institutional capacity building. Deadlines: January semester, 15 October; August semester, 15 March.

[ASIA Fellows Awards](#)



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The Asian Scholarship Foundation (ASF) is an Asian-led non-profit organization funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation that is mandated to:

- strengthen regional capacity to produce scholarly research on Asian societies;
- create a network of Asian specialists on Asian Studies in Asia;
- develop a regional perspective among scholars working in the field of Asian Studies.

ASF grants are made available to scholars, researchers and professionals who are citizens of or residents in any of the following participating countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, the Republic of Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. ASF makes it possible for young and middle-level scholars, researchers and professionals to undertake a research project or make a study, to conduct seminars and workshops, to help build a network of Asian scholars in Asia in the field of Asian Studies and/or to write papers on the Arts, Culture, Humanities or Social Sciences in another Asian country in a number of grant categories, Deadline: January 12, 2007.

2007 Banksia Awards Program

The Banksia Environmental Foundation was created in 1989 by a diverse group of 44 Australians who shared a common goal – to do more to support and recognize members of the community for their positive contribution to the environment. To this end, they joined forces to launch a national environmental awards program, from Melbourne, that same year. Each of the original members devoted their time, skills and, in many cases, finances to get the Banksia Foundation and its awards program off the ground. After lengthy deliberation, the name Banksia was chosen because a Banksia tree cannot be destroyed. Even in fire it regenerates by re-seeding. Their commitment and enthusiasm was such that, just seven weeks after the Foundation was formed, more than ninety nominations had been received for the inaugural Banksia Environmental Awards, which were presented at a gala dinner in Melbourne. From the outset, the Banksia Environmental Foundation has remained an apolitical and non-confrontational organization that endorses a cooperative approach to finding environmental solutions. In the award program's inaugural year in 1989, over ninety nominations for the awards were received.

- Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award; Open for Entry: 22 January 2007
- Banksia Entry Workshops; Melbourne: RSVP Close 24 January 2007, Sydney: RSVP Close 24 January 2007, Perth: RSVP Close 29 January 2007, Adelaide: RSVP Close 30 January 2007, Brisbane: RSVP Close 1 February 2007
- Banksia Category Awards; Early Bird Entry: Applies only to entries received between 22 November 2006 & 16 April 2007, Normal Entry: Applies to entries received between 17 April and 8 May 2007
- Prime Minister's Award; Close of entry: 8 May 2007
- DaimlerChrysler Research Award; Close of entry: 8 May 2007
- Banksia People's Choice Award; Nominees announced and voting open: 12 June 2007, Banksia Forum; Presentation of Banksia International Award: 19 July 2007, Sydney

New Zealand AID Short Term Training Awards

A wide range of short-term vocational and/or skills courses or work attachments within New Zealand are offered (duration may be up to one year). The Short Term Training Awards cover payment of fees, return economy air fares, an establishment grant, a basic living allowance and provision for health care. Costs and allowances are paid through a management services consultant. Applicants from the following countries are eligible to apply for Training Awards: Cook Islands, Philippines, French Polynesia, Timor-Leste, Kiribati, Viet Nam, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis & Futuna. Generally, candidates apply to the nominating authority in their home country responsible for selecting candidates for study or training abroad under development country programs. The nominating authority holds copies of NZAID Short Term Training Award application forms.

AUSAID Asia Public Sector Linkages Program (PSLP)

The Asia Public Sector Linkages Program aims to improve public sector capacity for governance and management for nationally determined development outcomes in selected partner Asian countries. PSLP offers departments and agencies of Australian federal, state and territory governments, as well as Australian public universities, the opportunity to compete for grant funding that will:

- transfer capacity-building skills and expertise to their public sector counterpart institutions in partner countries



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- support strengthening of sustainable development-focused public sector bilateral and regional linkages.

Grants are generally, but not necessarily, between \$15,000 and \$250,000. PSLP 2006-07 Round Three will open on 1 March 2007 and close on 30 March 2007. Contact: PSLP Secretariat, pslp@ausaid.gov.au.

[Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program](#)

The Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Program (AYAD) program aims to strengthen mutual understanding between Australia and countries in the Asia Pacific region. AYAD places skilled Australians on short term assignments for periods of 6-12 months to support development activities in various sectors. Interested organizations that have a development focus (rural development, education, health, infrastructure, environment, governance, and gender) are invited to send an application to host an Australian Youth Ambassador. Inquiries about the AYAD Program can be sent to ayad@austraining.com.au.

[Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program in Viet Nam](#)

The IFP provides opportunities for advanced study to exceptional individuals who will use this education to make outstanding contributions in their respective fields, furthering development in their own countries and greater economic and social justice worldwide. IFP will actively recruit candidates from social groups and communities that lack systematic access to higher education. Applicants may choose to pursue an academic discipline or field of study related to one of the following Ford Foundation program areas: Environment & Development, Social Sciences & Humanities, Health, Arts & Culture, Education, Governance & Civil Society, Media, Community Development, Development Finance & Economic Security. Deadline: April 15, 2007.

[Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program in India](#)

Applications for the next IFP-India round are now open. Deadline: 31 January 2007. Write to IFP or email ask@ifpsa.org for Pre Application Forms.

[Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program in Palestine](#)

Applicant must hold a Jerusalem laissez-passer or a Palestinian ID card and legally reside in the West Bank and Gaza. Applicants should not have studied and received a degree at a university outside of the Middle East/North Africa region. Deadline: January 15, 2007.

[UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi \(Japan\) Co-Sponsored Research Fellowships Program](#)

The UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme funded under a Japan Funds-in-Trust project will aim, in particular, to impact on capacitybuilding and research activities in the following areas which were of particular importance to Mr Keizo Obuchi: 1. Environment (with particular attention to Water Sciences); 2. Intercultural Dialogue; 3. Information and Communication Technologies; and 4. Peaceful conflict resolution. Applicants, a maximum of two from each applying National Commission, must meet the following general criteria:

- Candidates under this Programme must be post-graduate researchers, already holding either an M.A. or M.Sc. degree (or equivalent) and wishing to pursue research work abroad (preferably in their own region) with a view to enhancing knowledge in one of the four specific fields identified. Thus, those who are in the process of completing their Master's degree must have completed it PRIOR to taking up their Fellowship.
- Candidates must be persons of high intellectual promise who may be expected to make significant contributions to their country on return.
- Candidates must be no more than 40 years of age.

Deadline for the submission of applications: 12 January 2007.

[Evaluation Research Awards](#)

These awards will assist Canadian and developing-country graduate students undertake their thesis research in the field of evaluation - the systematic collection of information about the activities, characteristics, and results of projects, programs, organizations, and policies aimed to influence action and decision-making. The IDRC Evaluation Research Awards are intended to promote the growth of Canadian and developing-country capacity in evaluation and to better the theory and practice of evaluation. Applications will be accepted for research on evaluation at the doctoral and master's level that focus on the themes of: (i) development or use of innovative evaluation methodologies; (ii) evaluation capacity building; (iii) development or use of evaluation processes for organizational learning. Deadline: January 15, 2007.



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[Annual Asia-Europe Workshop Series 2007/2008](#)

The European Alliance for Asian Studies and the Asia-Europe Foundation welcomes proposals for workshops on themes of common interest to Asia and Europe, to take place in 2007/2008. Criteria are as follows: Three day expert workshop, to be held between September 2007 and September 2008 in an ASEM member country. Jointly organised by an Asian and a European institute from ASEM member countries. Participants: coming from at least eight different ASEM countries (Asia and Europe equally); male/female parity; balance between senior experts and promising junior researchers. Participants are invited primarily from academia - though contributions from politicians, journalists and representatives of industry are welcome. The topic should be innovative and interdisciplinary, address shared interests between Asia and Europe, be of interregional/multilateral importance, and stimulate interregional dialogue. Workshops initiated by young postdocs aimed at creating an academic network are favoured. Deadline: 1 February 2007.

[2007 RGT Joint Research Program for Visiting Scholars](#)

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) announced 2007 RGT Joint Research Program for Visiting Scholars. Brief Proposal: 20 January 2007, Short List Candidate Announcement: 25 January 2007, Contact: Ms. Wannapa Pliansri, wannapa@ait.ac.th

[Studentships for MPhil and PhD Studies \(2007-2008\), The University of Hong Kong](#)

Founded in 1911, the University of Hong Kong (HKU) is the longest established English speaking university in Hong Kong. It has gained the reputation as a world-class comprehensive research university with excellent research record and facilities. To further promote an international and multicultural campus, HKU encourages students from different nationalities and cultural backgrounds to join its MPhil and PhD programs. HKU offers University Postgraduate Fellowships of HK\$70,000 (US\$8,900) plus not less than HK\$150,000 (US\$19,230) per year for selected full-time PhD candidates with excellent academic record. Also offered are Postgraduate Studentships currently at not less than HK\$150,000 (US\$19,230) per year for every qualified full-time MPhil (2 years) and PhD (3 to 4 years) candidate. Students may also be offered opportunity of spending part of their study period away from campus to gain more exposure. Applications must reach the Graduate School by 31 January 2007. Refer to the Graduate School homepage for program details, eligibility, application procedures and further information. Contact: Graduate School, The University of Hong Kong, gradsch@hku.hk.

[Scholarships of the Erasmus Mundus program](#) (for non Europeans only)

The Erasmus Mundus program is offering 12 to 20 scholarships for non Europeans to come to Europe and undertake the new "Master of Science Program in Geospatial Technologies", beginning in September 2007. These are high level scholarships (such as the US Fulbright program) that provide approximately 31,500 euro during the 18 months period of the Master. Deadline for applications (including evidence of having taken the TOEFL or Cambridge exams) is January 31, 2007.

Employment Opportunities

[USAID's Land Titling and Economic Restructuring Program in Afghanistan](#)

USAID's Land Titling and Economic Restructuring Program in Afghanistan is looking for three experts:

- [GIS and database expert](#)
- [Property-related Tax and Valuation expert](#)
- [Cadastral Regulation adviser](#)

Selection will be made in January 2007. Contact: Andre Hernandez, Tel. + 93 799 825 907, andreherna@gmail.com

Current Vacancies of Geoscience Australia

Consistent with the Public Service Act 1999 Geoscience Australia employs Australian Citizens first and foremost and it would only be in exceptional circumstances that a non-Australian Citizen would be considered for employment in GA. An exceptional circumstance would be where the CEO is satisfied that there are no Australian Citizens suitable for the position as a result of an open and competitive merit selection process.

- [Senior Geoscientist](#), Close: 9 January 2007

The Petroleum and Marine Division is seeking a senior geoscientist to lead one of a series of regional basin studies. In conjunction with other geoscientists, you will be responsible for undertaking regional studies that involve the acquisition and interpretation of new geophysical and geological data sets to assess the



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petroleum prospectivity of frontier basins. The position requires a senior geoscientist experienced in petroleum-related research, and a proven ability to lead and manage teams to achieve key outcomes in short (1-2 year) time frames. Level at appointment will be dependant upon previous experience. This position is available until 30 June 2011. Contact: [Dr Marita Bradshaw](#)

- [Geodatabase Developer](#), Close: 8 January 2007

The Petroleum and Marine Division (PMD) currently has an opportunity for an application and database developer specialising in ESRI ArcSDE and ORACLE. The successful applicant will be highly motivated with demonstrated results in the development of ESRI geodatabases within an Oracle environment, both in the development of database structure and custom data maintenance applications (JAVA, .NET, COM, SQL etc). Experience in the ESRI ArcObjects model or other similar development environment would be highly regarded. This position will be providing a service to all projects within the division and will support emerging GIS development solutions. This position is available until 30 June 2011. Contact: [Mark Webster](#)

- [Software Engineer](#), Close: 8 January 2007

The Petroleum and Marine Division requires a software engineer to develop and implement systems and tools that help clients collect, manage and deliver geoscience datasets. This will include a range of web and database technologies. You will need experience in software engineering techniques and methodologies, good communication skills and be innovative and creative. Contact: [Geoff Tuckerman](#)

- [Web Developer](#), Close: 8 January 2007

The Petroleum and Marine Division is seeking a new Web Developer to support the administration and development of its web pages. They are in search of a motivated person who has experience with web design and development. Your role will help with the research, development and deployment of new web delivery systems in compliance with corporate standards. You will be working in a small technical team and be solely responsible for the maintenance and on going development of divisional websites. The role requires effective communication and negotiation with staff within PMD, other divisions and external agencies. This position is available until 30 June 2011. Contact: [Mark Webster](#)

- [Geospatial Data Officer](#), Close: 11 January 2007

The Geospatial Data Officer will work as a member of a team responsible for validation and testing of data and map products in the National Mapping & Information Group (NMIG). This involves predominantly using GIS technology (ESRI) and databases (Oracle). The Geospatial Data Officer will undertake various aspects of GIS work, such as testing and validation, data extraction and technical documentation in a UNIX and PC environment. Contact: [Geoff Grimmitt](#)

[GIS Executive](#), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

[World Express Mapping Sdn Bhd](#), seeks candidates for GIS Executive position. Candidates should have degree in GIS/Remote Sensing/Surveying/Town Planning or equivalent; knowledge in data entry, editing and compilation using GIS software; experience with development, maintenance and quality control of database; proficiency in ArcGIS, MapInfo, ArcView; experience in GPS data capture and updating would be an advantage. Fresh graduates are welcomed to apply. Contact: job@wems.com.my; Telephone 03-78032082; Fax 03-78032093.

[Researcher - Water Resources Sciences](#), Tehran, Iran

The [International Water Management Institute](#) (IWMI), requires an experienced, highly competent and motivated individual for the position of Researcher - Water Resources Sciences. The Researcher, under the guidance of the Director Asia, will coordinate and implement multidisciplinary research projects on different aspects of water and land management such as water policy, basin management, efficient irrigation water use, salinization and environmental issues. The research focus will be to identify comprehensively the constraints and opportunities to increase efficiency of water use and water productivity in different agricultural systems especially from the basin perspective. Position requires a PhD with a minimum of 3 to 5 years post PhD experience in Water Resources Management, Natural Resources Economics or related field. Proven record of publishing quality scientific and other publications related to integrated management of land and water resources. The position will be for two years. Contact: work-at-iwmi@cgiar.org, Fax:(94-11) 2786854. Applications will be accepted until [15 January 2007](#) or until the position is filled.

[Project Manager - Integrated Data and Information Systems](#), Colombo, Sri Lanka

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI), <http://www.iwmi.org>, requires a highly competent and motivated individual for the position of Project Manager - Integrated Data and Information Systems. The principal function of the Project Manager - Integrated Data and Information Systems is to ensure the proper functioning of the Integrated Data and Information Systems through efficient and effective management of



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human, financial and technical resources directed towards: assessment of data and information needs; capturing, collating, storing and analyzing data and information; and improving security, quality, access and use of data and information. Position requires an MSc or PhD degree in information management, geography, agriculture or water resources with focus on database and information management; formal or on-the-job training in database, GIS and information management; and over five years of relevant experience. The position will be for two years. Contact: work-at-iwmi@cgiar.org, Fax : (94-11) 2786854. Applications will be accepted until 15 January 2007 or until the position is filled.

[Water Program Coordinator](#), Amman, Jordan

The IUCN WESCANA Regional Office, based in Amman, Jordan, is in the process of developing a regional water programme which covers West Asia, Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA). This post is intended to be linked with the IUCN Global Water Program and will be informed by the IUCN global expertise in the IUCN Water and Nature Initiative. Deadline has been extended to January 15, 2007.

[Coordinator for Asia, Regional Water & Wetlands Program \(RWWP\)](#), Bangkok, Thailand

The Coordinator of the IUCN Asia Regional Water & Wetlands Program (RWWP) is a senior member of the Ecosystems and Livelihood Group (ELG) that delivers the technical program of IUCN at the regional level in Asia. The key duty and responsibility is managing and further developing the RWWP, strengthening the contribution by IUCN to the broad fields of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and wetlands management. As part of that role s/he will also be required to provide technical advice to IUCN country, regional and global programmes, members and partners. Duties will include formulating project proposals and preparing project documents; identifying and mobilising funding; supporting project implementation; supervising staff; assisting in the coordination, planning, and administration of RWWP; supporting capacity building; and participating in relevant global, regional and country events and meetings related to water management and wetlands. Deadline has been extended to January 15, 2007.

[Environmental Science Research Internship Program](#)

The Environmental Science Research Internship Program (ESRIP) is an educational initiative, a special partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, [FIU](#) and 12 other academic institutions and the public-private sector aimed at preparing the next generation of students to pursue careers, advanced academic studies, and the new opportunities in the NOAA sciences. The program is designed to develop and enhance educational programs and hands-on learning experiences for students in atmospheric, environmental, oceanic sciences and remote sensing technologies. This internship pays each selected student for up to 260 hours of research work in conjunction with one of the partnering institutions at FIU. Students may opt to work up to 20 hrs per week for one semester, or up to 10 hrs per week over the course of two semesters, or some combination thereof. The research projects will be aimed at gaining experience for students in order to succeed in graduate programs in the environmental sciences in the future. ESRIP will sponsor a student-led symposium on campus at the end of each academic year, during which interns will present their findings to their peers and research sponsors. Application deadline: January 12, 2007, [Application](#) Contact: [Dr. Joel Heinen](#)

Qualifications for Participation:

- a Junior or a Senior in a 4-year undergraduate program
- a major in Environmental Studies, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Geography, Earth Sciences, Meteorology or related fields
- has a GPA of 3.2 or above
- has completed significant coursework related to the research
- has a strong interest in going to graduate school in Environmental Sciences/Studies

[Production GIS Technician](#), Dubai, United Arab Emirates

International Solution is seeking for a Production GIS Technician who has following experiences; Experience at least 8 years in same field, Printing Maps, Digitizing Maps, Editing Maps, ArcGIS 9.1, Closing date: January 26, 2007

[Program Assistance](#), Beijing, China

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is seeking for Program Assistance. Closing Date: 19 January 2007, Contact: escap-application@un.org, 1-66-2-288-1045.

[A number of specialist positions](#), Australia



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Land Equity International Which is a world leader in developing, implementing and managing assistance programs in the land administration, land management and land reform sectors is seeking for a number of specialists.

- Data Capture Adviser: 3 month position, Closing date: 3 January 2007, [Click here](#) to download application
- Automated Mapping & GIS Adviser: 2 month position, Closing date: 4 January 2007, [Click here](#) to download application [PDF 67KB]
- Cadastral Survey Records Management Adviser: 3 month position, Closing date: 4 January 2007, [Click here](#) to download application [PDF 66KB]
- Land Survey Trainer Adviser: 3 month position, Closing date: 4 January 2007, [Click here](#) to download application

Other

[South-east SA hopes to be home to nation's first 'Geopark'](#)

South-east South Australia could be home to Australia's first United Nations-recognized 'Geopark' by next year. An application for recognition of more than 26,000 square kilometers of volcanic structures across the south-east and into south-west Victoria has been lodged. Geoparks are international areas of economic and environmental significance. Joanne McKnight from the Volcanoes Discovery Trail says after years of bringing the project to this stage, it is now up to the UN to decide. "Paris will receive it at UNESCO headquarters and it will be assessed - it is possible that we may have to host an assessment team from overseas, or it could be that they will run on the assessment that was done December last year - that is up to UNESCO to decide," she said.

[Indian islands disappear under rising seas](#)

Two islands off the Indian subcontinent seem to have disappeared. Scientists believe it is more evidence of the impact of rising sea levels caused by global warming. For six years scientists based in Kolkata have been examining the impact of climate change on the islands of the Sunderbans, a vast area where the Ganges and the Brahmaputra rivers empty into the Bay of Bengal. Official records list 102 islands in Indian Territory, but scientists examining satellite imagery now say two have disappeared and a dozen more could go under. The Sunderbans are a natural buffer shielding millions from storms and tidal waves whipped up in the Bay of Bengal. Scientists say cyclones are now more intense, causing more severe flooding, erosion and salt water contamination in coastal areas.

[NCRIS Strategy Roadmap released](#) - \$500 million boost for Australian science infrastructure

Australian science infrastructure will be significantly upgraded by \$500 million in Australian Government funding announced by the Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP. "The investments, provided under the [National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy](#) (NCRIS), are essential to build our national capacity to generate knowledge and use it to advance our economic, social and environmental objectives," Minister Bishop said. "The infrastructure will support emerging industries, such as nanotechnology and biotechnology products, underpin mature industries and help to address national challenges, such as generating sustainable energy and managing our natural resources."

Among the many successful projects are programs that will:

- Establish a national network of medical imaging facilities across Australia.
- Provide facilities to support gene discovery and genome analysis in universities and specialist centers around Australia.
- Establish a comprehensive fabrication capability for Australia's emerging nanotechnology industry.
- Develop a Networked Biosecurity Framework to improve collaboration between the existing agencies and institutions involved in biosecurity research, to help prevent the entry into Australia of new diseases and pathogens.

Facilities are being developed by a collaborative effort between the Australian Government, state and territory governments, universities, research agencies and industry. An extra \$640 million in cash and in-kind contributions have been pledged thus far for the facilities, in addition to the NCRIS funding. NCRIS is an initiative under the Australian Government's *Backing Australia's Ability* package which is providing \$8.3 billion over ten years to 2011 to strengthen Australia's ability to generate ideas, accelerate the commercialization of ideas and develop and retain skills. Further information, including fact sheets, is available at <http://www.ncris.dest.gov.au/>



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Conferences, Events

Items newly added to this listing of events since the last SDI-AP issue are marked *** NEW ***

Date	Location	Event
January 2007		
3-5 January	Bangkok, Thailand	7th International Conference on Urban Planning and Environment (UPE 7) Deadline for abstracts/proposals: <u>15 June 2006</u> . Contact: upebangkok@ku.ac.th .
3-7 January	Delhi, India	Planet Earth, 94th Indian Science Congress Contact: isca2007@yahoo.com
11-12 January * NEW *	Tokyo, Japan	GEOSS Symposium on Integrated Observation for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region Contact: geoss_ap@restec.or.jp .
17-18 January	Penang, Malaysia	National Conference on Environment and Community Development 2007
17-19 January * NEW *	Jinju, Korea	City Planning and Urban Management in Asian Countries
18-19 January	New Delhi, India	Second ESRI Asia-Pacific User Conference Contact: apuc2007@esriindia.com
19 January	Kowloon, Hong Kong	Asia Pacific DMC User Group Meeting Contact: Sara Lee, sara.lee@intergraph.com
22-25 January	Hyderabad, India	Map World Forum Abstract deadline: <u>15 September 2006</u> .
23-27 January	Chiang Mai, Thailand	International Dialogue on Science and Practice in Sustainable Development Contact: Jill Jäger, Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI), jill.jaeger_AT_seriat .
30-31 January * NEW *	Mumbai, India	International Conference on Urban Planning and Environment: Strategies and Challenges , Abstract deadline: <u>December 20, 2006</u> . Contact: icupelphinstone@hotmail.com or ecopoints@gmail.com .
February 2007		
5-7 February	Bangalore, India	International Workshop on Integrated Water Resource Management- (IWRM-2007) Abstract deadline: <u>September 19, 2006</u> .
6-8 February * NEW *	Putrajaya, Malaysia	eHealth Asia 2007 , Abstract deadline: <u>December 15, 2006</u> .
8-9 February * NEW *	Seoul, Korea	OECD Regional Conference for Asia "Statistics, Knowledge and Policy"
11-15 February * NEW *	Canberra, Australia	35th Annual Conference of the Australian Map Circle , Contact: Dr Martin Woods, mwoods@nla.gov.au
11-17 February	Austria	14 Internationale Geodätische Woche Contact: geodaetischewoche@uibk.ac.at
12-17 February * NEW *	Havana, Cuba	V International Congress GEOMATICS 2007
15-17 February	West Bengal, India	Conference on 'Current Trends in Remote Sensing and GIS Applications' Contact: iitkgpconf2007@yahoo.com , amkb@gg.iitkgp.ernet.in . Abstract deadline: <u>October 14, 2006</u> .
19-21 February	Queensland, Australia	APCO Australasia 2007 Conference and Exhibition
19-21 February	Kuwait	3rd Annual GIS Conference and Exhibition Abstract deadline: <u>30 September 2006</u> .
20-22 February	Barcelona, Spain	GlobalGeo 2007, 3rd Geomatics and Geotelematics International Show , Contact: globalgeo@firabcn.es
21-23 February	Cairns, Australia	Inaugural IEEE International Digital EcoSystems Technologies Conference (DEST-IEEE 2007)



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March 2007		
4-7 March	Las Vegas, US	11th Annual Integrating GIS & CAMA Conference Organized by URISA (Urban and Regional Information Systems Association)
5-9 March	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	11th Annual CARIS User Group Conference and Educational Sessions Contact: caris2007@caris.com .
8-9 March * NEW *	Melbourne, Victoria, Australia	Housing Congress 2007 , Contact: registration@informa.com.au
12-14 March	Dhaka, Bangladesh	International Conference on Water and Flood Management (ICWFM) Abstract deadline: <u>15 September 2006</u> .
13-16 March	Moscow, Russia	GEOFORM+ 2007
21-22 March	Sydney, Australia	CRCSI Workshop: Geophysical Image Processing Enquiries: training@crcsi.com.au
21-23 March	Singapore	3rd Asian Space conference Paper deadline: 6 November 2006.
27-30 March	Phuket, Thailand	Asia Modeling Symposium (ASM 2007) Deadline for papers/posters: <u>November 17, 2006</u> .
28-30 March	Victoria, Australia	Intergraph Australia User Conference 2007 - Security, Government & Infrastructure
28-31 March	Athens, Greece	FIG Commission 3 Annual Meeting and Workshop on Spatial Information Management towards Legalizing Informal Urban Development Contact: chryssyp@survey.ntua.gr .
April 2007		
1 April * NEW *	Sydney, Australia	Mapping & 3D Information Extraction from High Resolution Sat. Imagery , Contact: training@crcsi.com.au
2-3 April * NEW *	Sydney, Australia	Australian Water Summit Sydney 2007 , Contact: Shahida Sweeney, shahida@acevents.com.au
2-5 April * NEW *	Amman, Jordan	6th International Symposium on Eastern Mediterranean Geology and 9th International Geological Conference of the Jordanian Geologists Association
4-6 April	Hong Kong, China	Location Asia 2007 , Contact: Email
9-11 April	Dubai, UAE	Map Middle East Contact: info@mapmiddleeast.org
16-19 April	Ottawa, Canada	April 2007 OGC Technical Committee Meeting
17-20 April	Graz, Austria	Ingenieurvermessung 2007 - 15th International Course on Engineering Surveying
18-19 April	Moscow, Russia	Aerial and Satellite Methods and GIS in Silviculture and Forestry - 4th Russian Nation-Wide Conference , (with international inputs), Contact: nlm@smtp.ru .
23-25 April * NEW *	Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia	2nd National GIS Symposium in Saudi Arabia Abstract deadline: <u>December 2, 2006</u> . Contact: info@saudigis.org .
23-27 April	Montreux, Switzerland	Envisat Symposium
25-27 April	Novosibirsk, Russia	GEO-SIBERIA 2007 The Third International Exhibition and Scientific Congress , E-mail: nenash@sibfair.ru and geo-sib@ssga.ru
May 2007		
5-6 May	Tainan, Taiwan	4th International Conference on Planning and Design (ICPD) Abstract deadline: <u>1 November 2006</u>
5-9 May	Hanoi, Vietnam	5th International Conference on Research, Innovation & Vision for the Future (RIVF'07) Information & Communication Technologies



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8-11 May	Aalborg, Denmark	10th AGILE International Conference on Geographic Information Science Deadline of full papers: <u>November 15, 2006</u> .
13-17 May *UPDATED*	Hong Kong China	FIG Working Week 2007 Deadline for abstracts: <u>30 November 2006</u> . Deadline for full papers is <u>15 February 2007</u> .
14-18 May	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	Spatial Sciences Institute Biennial International Conference Abstract deadline: <u>1 September 2006</u> .
15-18 May *NEW*	Taipei, Taiwan	5th Taipei International Digital Earth Symposium - TIDES 2007 , Abstract deadline: <u>December 31, 2006</u> , Contact: derc@mail.pccu.edu.tw .
20-23 May	New Orleans, US	1st Annual URISA GIS in Public Health Conference Organized by URISA (Urban and Regional Information Systems Association). Call for presentations will be published soon.
21-24 May	Nashville, Tennessee, USA	Intergraph 2007
23-25 May	Toronto, Canada	3rd International Symposium on Geoinformation for Disaster Management (Gi4DM2007) Abstract deadline: <u>December 1, 2006</u> . Contact: Dr. Jonathan Li, junli@ryerson.ca . (Call for proposals)
27-29 May	St.Petersburg, Russia	International Workshop on Information Fusion and Geographical Information Systems (IF&GIS07) Organized by The research group of object-oriented geoinformation systems.
28-30 May	Saint Petersburg, Russia	14th Saint Petersburg International Conference on Integrated Navigation System Contact: elprib-onti@telros.net
28-31 May	Padova, Italy	5th International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology Organized by FIG Commission 5, IAG and ISPRS. Mobile Mapping Summer School 28 May 2007 and the 5th MMT Symposium 29-31 May 2007. Contact: naser@geomatics.ucalgary.ca .
June 2007		
3-6 June	St. Petersburg, Russia	International Conference on Globalisation of Landscape Architecture: issues for education and practice Contact: imelnichuk@peterlink.ru or ignatiem@lincoln.ac.nz . Abstract deadline: <u>November 1, 2006</u> .
6-8 June	Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia	Rivers 2007: 2nd International Conference on Managing Rivers in the 21st Century Solutions Towards Sustainable River Basins Deadline for papers submission: <u>January 31, 2007</u> . Contact: rivers2007@gmail.com .
12-15 June	Seoul, Korea	13th PCGIAP Annual Meeting Contact: PCGIAP Secretariat: sec@pcgiap.org
12-18 June *UPDATED*	Okinawa, Japan	21st Pacific Science Congress , Theme: Diversity and Change: Challenges and Opportunities for Managing Natural and Social Systems in Asia-Pacific. Abstract deadline: <u>January 15, 2007</u> . Contact: PSC Secretariat, psc21@to.jim.u-ryukyu.ac.jp .
13-15 June	Enschede, Netherlands	WG II/7 Workshop 5th International Symposium on Spatial Data Quality Submission of abstract: <u>15 November 2006</u> , Early registration deadline: <u>15 March 2007</u> .
16-19 June	San Diego, California	7th Annual ESRI Education User Conference
16-19 June	San Diego, California	5th Annual Survey and GIS Summit
18-21 June	San Diego, California	27th Annual ESRI International User Conference
20-27 June	Pacifico Yokohama, Japan	Geoinformation Forum Japan 2007 Contact: geoforum@jsurvey.jp .



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27-28 June * NEW *	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	Good Land Administration – Its Role in the Economic Development, Abstracts deadline: February 28, 2007
July 2007		
2-13 July	Perugia, Italy	IAG/IUGG Conference. IUGG XXIV General Assembly
4-6 July * NEW *	Auckland, New Zealand	Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems (PACIS) , Submission deadline: March 3, 2007 .
10-12 July * NEW *	Kuching, Malaysia	5th International Conference on IT in Asia (CITA '07) , Theme: Social computing: engaging communities. Abstract deadline: extended to December 31, 2006 .
10-13 July	Hong Kong	4th International Conference on Population Geographies Abstract deadline: 20 December 2006.
15-20 July	Cambridge, England	Cambridge Conference for national mapping organisations
25 July	Christchurch, New Zealand	Transport 2007
30 July – 3 August * NEW *	Bangkok, Thailand	Asia Oceania Geosciences Society, 4th Annual Meeting
August 2007		
1-3 August * NEW *	Beijing, China	7th International Workshop of Geographical Information System , Contact: iwgis@lreis.ac.cn
4-10 August	Moscow, Russia	XXIII ICA International Cartographic Conference Contact: info@icc2007.com . Abstract deadline: December 15, 2006 .
15-21 August	Honiara, Solomon Islands	PacINET 2007 Deadline for registrations of interest: April 30, 2007 . Contact: rajnesh.singh@gmail.com
28-29 August	Urumchi, Xinjiang, China	ISPRS Workshop on Updating Geo-spatial Databases with Imagery & 5th ISPRS Workshop on DMGIS (1st call) Deadline for abstracts: 1 February 2007. Deadline for extended abstracts: February 1, 2007 . Contact: Dr. Jie JIANG, jjie@nsdi.gov.cn , jiangjie_263@263.net .
29 August - 1 September * UPDATED *	Bakosurtanal; Jakarta	2nd Indonesian Geospatial Technology Exhibition
August	Beijing, China	7th International Workshop of Geographical Information Systems (IWGIS'07) , Deadline for papers: January 1, 2007.
September 2007		
3-6 September	Brisbane, Australia	10th International River Symposium and Environmental Flows Conference Abstract deadline: 31 January 2007 .
8-11 September * NEW *	Lijiang, China	1st International Symposium on Geospatial Health , Theme: Geospatial Health and Control of Fish-borne Parasites in Asia
10-13 September	Chengdu, China	The Fourth International Conference on Debris-Flow Hazards Mitigation Organized by ICIMOD. Call for papers (Submittal of manuscripts for peer review): August 15, 2006 .
12-14 September	Warsaw, Poland	21st ENVIROINFO 2007 Environmental Informatics Meets Systems Research
17-18 September * NEW *	Beijing, China	5th International Conference on Current and Future Trends in Bridge Design, Construction and Maintenance
17-23 September * NEW *	Guangzhou and Three Gorges, China	2nd International Conference of GIS/RS in Hydrology, Water Resources and Environment (ICGRHWE'07) & 2nd International Symposium on Flood Forecasting and Management with GIS and Remote Sensing (FM2S'07) Abstract deadline: March 31, 2007 . Contact: hydrolab@zsu.edu.cn .
19-21 September	Munich, Germany	Photogrammetric Image Analysis (PIA) 2007



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19-23 September	Melbourne, Australia	2007 Conference on Spatial Information Theory (COSIT) Contact: Stephan Winter, winter@unimelb.edu.au .
21-24 September	Nanjing, China	APAC 2007: The Fourth International Conference on Asian and Pacific Coasts Abstract deadline: December, 15, 2006. Contact: jfge@nhri.cn .
25-27 September	Chengdu, China	WG VII/6+7 Joint Conference on Techniques & Applications of Optical & SAR Imagery Fusion 'Mapping without the Sun' Contact: Jixian Zhang, zhangjx@casm.ac.cn .
October 2007		
2-5 October	Quebec City, Canada	GeoCongress Quebec 2007 Histoire de voir le monde and General Assembly of the Federation des Geometres Francophones
7-12 October	Christchurch, New Zealand	NZIS/South East Asian Survey Conference (SEASC) / CASLE Conference Contact: email: nzis@surveyors.org.nz
16-19 October	Dongying City, China	3rd International Yellow River Forum (IYRF) Sustainable Water Resources Management and Delta Ecosystem Maintenance, Abstract deadline: October 31, 2006. Contact: iyrf@yellowriver.gov.cn .
22-24 October * NEW *	Beijing, China	4th International Conference on Agriculture Statistics (ICAS-4) World Bank Fund Application for this Conference , Contact: icas4@stats.gov.cn .
28-31 October * NEW *	Christchurch, New Zealand	9th South East Asian Survey Conference , Contact: lsl@eliotsinclair.co.nz
28 October – 1 November * NEW *	Perth, Western Australia	2nd IWA – ASPIRE , Contact: aspire@awa.asn.au
28 October – 2 November	Jaipur, Rajasthan, India	12th World Lakes Conference Contact: dalwani@taal2007.org , info@taal2007.org
28 October - 2 November	Christchurch, New Zealand	9th South-East Asian Survey Congress
November 2007		
6-8 November	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	International Symposium & Exhibition on Geoinformation/Global Navigation Satellite System (ISG/GNSS 2007) Contact: Dr. Md. Nor Kamaruddin, md.nor@fksg.utm.my
13-16 November	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	WG I/6 Workshop on Earth Observation Small Satellites for Remote Sensing Applications Contact: Mazlan Hashim, mazlan@fksg.utm.my
15-17 November	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	WG VII/7 Workshop , Contact: Sultan Al Sultan, rsensing_2004@yahoo.com
27-29 November	Taipei, Taiwan	2007 Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction Abstract deadline: 31 March 2007
December 2007		
4-6 December	Moscow, Russia	3rd International conference "Earth from space - The Most Effective Solutions" Contact: conference@scanex.ru . Abstract deadline: September 20, 2007.
January 2008		
January	Jinju, Korea	6th International Symposium on City Planning and Urban Management in Asian Countries
March 2008		
10-14 March * NEW *	Burswood, Australia	WALIS International Forum 2008 - Management of Geographic Information , Contact: David Lee Steere, davidls@walis.wa.gov.au .
June 2008		
14-19 June	Stockholm, Sweden	FIG XXXI General Assembly and Working Week Contact: FIG Office, fig@fig.net .
July 2008		



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1-5 July	Beijing, China	<u>Spatial Accuracy 2008</u> Contact: accuracy2008@spatial-accuracy.org .
3-11 July	Beijing, China	<u>XXI ISPRS Congress</u> Contact: Chen Jun, congressdirector@isprs2008-beijing.org .
3-11 July * NEW *	Beijing, China	4th International Symposium on Geospatial Information for Disaster Management (Gi4DM 2008) , Contact: Sisi Zlatanova, s.zlatanova@otb.tudelft.nl .
September 2008		
29 September–3 October	Darwin, Australia	14th Australasian Remote Sensing & Photogrammetry Conference (ARSPC)
September (tbc)	Nanjing, China	4th World Urban Forum , Organized by UN-Habitat.

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