



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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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.gsdi.org/newsletters.asp>
Best regards, Changsup Han, Editor, chan@usgs.gov.



Input to this Issue

Thank you to Kate Lance, ITC (USA/the Netherlands), Markku Villikka (FIG Director), Robert Zomer, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (Sri Lanka); Prasad Thenkabil, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (Sri Lanka) 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

[Development of national geospatial metadata standard for Thailand](#)

Recently, the International Standard for Geographical metadata, ISO19115, has been adopted as the Thai Industrial Standard 19115. This has intensified the attention of all members of Thailand GIS community in the contents and the practical implementation of this ISO19115. This paper reveals the result of the study conducted by Teerasan (2006) which has prioritized the metadata items in ISO19115 based on the requirements and the filling up abilities of Thai GIS data producers and users. The results in the study were analyzed together with the metadata items' obligation specification of ISO19115 and the FGDC's CSDGM metadata standard. In general, Thai users' opinions on metadata requirement conform to both the ISO19115 and CSDGM specifications. However, a number of metadata items related to coordinate reference system, lineage of data, and security constraints appear to be a major concern of most of Thai users. It is also concluded that the prioritized metadata items from the study could and should be defined with a more stringent obligation specification. Also, some additional and modified code lists should be introduced into the Thailand National profile of ISO19115. [Source: GIS Development - November 2006]

[South Korea to update its meteorological Information System with Open Source](#)

In the midst of global concerns with every change in earth's environmental conditions, working with digitized information which involves actively exchanging huge data between nations, it is clear need for weather forecasting system that can deliver rapid response; handle accordingly is greater than ever now. National meteorological system faced with the current dilemma, found solution with open-source. Korea



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



Meteorological Administration (KMA) is now updating its third phase of Combined Meteorological Information System project (COMIS-3) with open source platform environment. COMIS system is designed to provide improved weather information, through various weather data and integrated communications. The system is comprised mainly in data collection/distribution, storage, view hit counter. COMIS-3 provides more reliable IT infrastructure for precise digital forecast. COMIS-3 project is running on total scale of \$215 million, 3-year development phases from 2006 to 2008. This year's phase one will include network and security revamping, develop an exclusive systematic information infrastructure using standardized modules and establish fully operational web based weather data center. Second phase in 2007, develop a data ingest structure that includes decoders for all of meteorological data within KMA, automated data (both domestic and abroad) collection and delivery system to prepare an international meteorological broadcasting station. The third and last phase in year 2008, establishing backup and disaster recovery system, basing from Meta data, construct next generation information system WMO system that conforms to international standards.

[Cartographic community has a key role to play in national development](#), India

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam said on 22 November 2006 that Cartographic community has a key role to play in national development and expressed hope that the community will provide value added services to all national missions. He said this while inaugurating a seminar on Cartography-Expanding Horizons, organized by Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA) in collaboration with Survey of India. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that India has a vision of transforming itself into a developed nation before 2020. The program such as Bharat Nirman Program including PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas), networking of rivers, infrastructure development in 63 cities through Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewable Mission, mapping of earthquake prone areas and recurring floods in north Bihar and Assam require vital inputs at the stage of planning and implementation level. The mission of INCA should be to assist the implementation of developed India vision using their core competence in cartography in partnership with ISRO, NRSA, Survey of India, State Remote Sensing centers, Thematic map making organizations, Indian Remote Sensing Industries, Academia, Research Institutions and other IT organizations.

[Pakistan constitutes National Disaster Management Authority](#)

The Pakistan government has constituted the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to co-ordinate disaster management throughout the country. The NDMA has come into being one year after the devastating earthquake in the country's north that killed more than 73,000 people. The authority will be formalized through a piece of legislation. Major functions are to:

- Lay down policies on disaster management;
- Approve the National Plan;
- Approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Divisions of the Federal Government in accordance with the National Plan
- Lay down guidelines to be followed by Federal and Provincial Authorities;
- Arrange for, and oversee, the provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation measures, preparedness and response;
- Provide such support to other countries affected by major disasters as may be determined by the Federal Government;
- Take such other measures for the prevention of disaster, or the mitigation, or for preparedness and capacity building for dealing with disaster situation as It may consider necessary.

[Green Map Projects in Asia](#)

Green Maps are being made all around the world! For each place there is a description of what's happening. Not all projects have completed their map yet, but works-in-progress - workshops, tours, presentations - also are having positive impacts on local environments. About 50-60 new communities join Green Map System every year, so the list is growing! To learn about the projects, browse by continent, there is also a section for online projects, where you can click directly to see Green Maps and explore local projects' websites. See [Online Maps](#).

[China to build satellite navigation system](#)

China has announced plans to build a satellite navigation system that will include up to 35 satellites and be working in the Asian region by 2008. The system, called "Beidou", will include five geostationary earth orbit satellites and 30 medium earth orbit satellites, Xinhua news agency said. Navigation services open to commercial customers will provide users with positioning accuracy within 10 meters (33 feet), velocity



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



accuracy within 0.2 meters per second and timing accuracy within 50 nanoseconds, the report said. It was also not clear how the Chinese system would rival the American global positioning satellite system or the EU's Galileo satellite navigational system which is expected to be built with Chinese participation. China would launch two "Compass" navigation satellites next year as part of the Beidou project, Xinhua said. The system is expected to cover China and parts of neighboring countries by 2008, before being expanded into a global network of satellites, it said.

[ICIMOD, Keio University, GICAIT sign agreement for collaboration on Digital Asia project](#)

A Letter of Agreement (LoA) between ICIMOD and Geoinformatics Centre of Asian Institute of Technology (GICAIT), Thailand was signed on 21 November 2006 concerning the cooperation and participation in the Digital Asia project. The Digital Asia project is being promoted by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan in collaboration with Japanese Space Agency (JAXA) and implemented by Keio University, Japan. Under the LoA, ICIMOD will establish a node for the distributed database of Digital Asia Project among one of the 18 nodes in the Asia Pacific region. Similar to the Digital Earth vision, the long-term goal of the project is to support and conduct research on human security, natural disasters and environmental problems in Asian region by promoting geospatial data infrastructure. The "Digital Asia" project conducts research on the establishment of a Digital Asia by utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) technology in collaboration with other research institutions in Japan and abroad. Based on technologies for environmental management, risk management and information technology, the project comprehensively understands and verifies Asia's regional strategy.

[GIS-IDEAS 2006 \(9-11 November 2006\) concluded successfully](#)

The conference was jointly organized by the [Japan-Vietnam Geoinformatics Consortium](#) (JVGC) and the Institute for Environment and Resources (IER-HCMC). More than 150 participants from Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Germany, Belgium, France, Australia, Russia and India attend the meeting. GIS-IDEAS 2006 attracted 40 participants for overseas. A detailed report has been published at the conference website. The pre-conference workshop on Open Source Geoinformatics which attracted 50 participants and the live video conferencing session between the conference venue (Rex Hotel HCMC) and Kyoto University, Japan was a major highlight of the conference. The pre-conference workshop concluded with a resolution to establish the Vietnam [OSGeo](#) Chapter in the near future. See an article about the conference which appeared in Viet Nam News (the largest English language daily in Vietnam): Hi-tech forecasts can help urban planners avert disasters: [Seminar](#).

[Conferences in Thailand promote cooperation in geospatial activities](#)

The [Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency](#) (GISTDA) in cooperation with the Royal Thai Survey Department and other concerned agencies in Thailand and international strategic partners, jointly held the "International Conference on Space Technology and Geo-Informatics 2006" and the "National Conference on Mapping and Geo-Informatics 2006" on November 5-8, 2006. The main objectives were to strengthen cooperation in space related activities, to provide a forum for sharing information and exchange of scientific knowledge in the field of geo-informatics technology applications and related technologies, as well as to share visions and knowledge in advanced technology. There were 450 participants from many countries. The [keynote speech and other talks](#) can be downloaded. Contact: training@gistda.or.th.

[Regional Workshop on Sharing Geographic Information in the HKH region's Geo-Network Metadata Implementation](#), 11-15 December 2006, ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Contact: Sushil Pandey, ikm@icimod.org.

[Local Government Development Foundation includes Lugait \(Philippines\) in its GIS Project in Misamis Oriental](#)

Lugait together with the municipalities of Manticao and Naawan were included in the Geographic Information System (GIS) Project under the auspices of the Local Government Development Foundation and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung of Germany. The GIS Project facilitated by the Department of the Interior and Local Government aims to assist LGUs to establish a satellite-based mapping system. The output will be vital in real property assessment and local development planning. The first beneficiaries of the Project were the municipalities of Balingoan, Talisayan and Medina.

[Disaster warning in India to be ready by 2007: ISRO](#)

A National Disaster Management Support System, an advanced disaster warning system to be developed by Indian Space Research organization (ISRO), will be in place in India in a year's time. Under this system a



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



data base will be created about flood-prone areas and its vulnerability to other disasters banking on its past history. The data collected will be communicated to the concerned states which will enable their disaster management authorities to act swiftly. The ISRO chairman, Dr. G Madhavan Nair, speaking at a recent conference, raised the concern that at the moment, there is no proper agreement on sharing of various datasets amongst countries. "Many countries consider it as their property and during real time requirements, refuse to share it," he said, adding that the "system needs to be worked out to enable countries share their data." See also: [System to support national disaster management by year-end: say ISRO chief](#)

[Russia to lift Glonass restrictions for accurate civilian use](#)

Russia will lift all precision restrictions from 2007 in the use of military-controlled Glonass to enable accurate and unlimited commercial use of the global positioning system, the defense minister said November 13, 2006. GLONASS, a Russian version of the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS), is designed for both military and civilian purposes, and allows users around the globe to identify their positions in real time. It can also be used in geological prospecting. Sergei Ivanov said: "By January 1, 2007, the General Staff will lift all restrictions on the precision of coordinates, so that the system can be used to develop the economy and transportation system." Current restrictions limit the accuracy for civilian users of Glonass to 30 meters. Ivanov told a meeting between the Cabinet and the president that Glonass would cover all of Russia by the end of 2007, which would require 18 satellites. "The whole project is ready and has received support from the economics ministry," said Ivanov, who is also a deputy prime minister. See also: [Russia to open its best satnav system to all.](#)

[Geographic Information Group \(GIG\) - Nepal \(May 2006\)](#)

The Geographic Information Group (GIG) of Nepal is listed at the [UN Nepal Information Platform](#) as one of a number of coordination mechanisms. This working group brings together organizations involved in geographic information activities. Members are from UN agencies, government, NGOs, and the university. The group provides a platform for information sharing, data standards, and technical expertise. A group meeting is held every month.

NAVTEQ opens shop in Dubai

NAVTEQ, a provider of digital map data for vehicle navigation and location-based solutions, has recently opened its office in Dubai, UAE. The office will serve as a central reference point for NAVTEQ customers in the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia. This local presence will assist customers using NAVTEQ maps in their development of navigation solutions for the region. In the Middle East, NAVTEQ has been a map provider offering full and detailed coverage of United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar plus extensive mapping of Oman and Saudi Arabia. Together this amounts to over 85,000 kilometers of road network and around 50,000 points of interest divided in up to 46 categories including restaurants, hotels, business facilities, gas stations, auto dealerships and auto service & maintenance, banks, schools and places of worship. Opened a couple of months ago, the office in Dubai already hosts the first local digital mapping operations team in the region. At this stage geo-analysts based in Dubai will continue to be supported by the European team but will become increasingly independent as local offices and teams will grow. [Source: Geospatial Today]

Tele Atlas outs Southeast Asia maps

Singapore: Tele Atlas, provider of digital maps and dynamic content for navigation and location based solutions, announced the availability of its integrated digital maps of Southeast Asian countries.

The updated Tele Atlas MultiNet database includes comprehensive maps of Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand and more than 200,000 points of interest (POIs) to help personal navigation system and mobile phone users easily find places and services such as restaurants and cinemas, as well as pharmacies, dentists, doctors and car rental facilities. The news follows Tele Atlas-recent announcement of a license and distribution agreement with Beijing Changdi Youhao Mapping Technologies Co., Ltd., an affiliate of China-based Ritu Information Systems Inc. That agreement will give Tele Atlas Asia Pacific full map coverage of 337 Chinese cities, complete with censor codes, and put the company in a lead position in the region, with maps covering seven countries and territories and hundreds of millions of inhabitants. [Source: Geospatial Today]

[Workshop on Harmonization of Forest and Land Cover Classifications for the Asia Pacific Region](#), 4-8 December 2006, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, India

The GLCN, the MAR initiative and the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), with the financial support of the Governments of Italy, the Netherlands and Japan and the support of the United Nations Environment



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



Programme (UNEP) and the additional support of the Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare (IAO) and the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), are conducting a workshop on the harmonization of Forest and Land Cover Classifications using Land Cover Classification System (LCCS) for the Asia Pacific region. The scope of the workshop is to review the forest classifications in Asia Pacific countries and initiate discussion and dialogue on their harmonization and standardization. The workshop will provide training in use of the GLCN technologies including the Land Cover Classification System (LCCS). The purpose of the training is to assist in harmonizing and standardizing the estimation of forest cover using remote sensing among Asian countries. The benefits of LCCS in standardizing map legends will be demonstrated and participants will discuss the generation of standard classes for FRA 2010.

[13th PCGIAP Annual Meeting](#), 12-15 June 2007, Seoul, Korea, Contact: PCGIAP Secretariat, sec@pcgiap.org

GIS Tools, Software, Data

Australian Geology Database

- [Australian Geological Provinces Database](#)

The Australian Geological Provinces Database contains descriptions and polygon outlines of geological provinces of the Australian continent and surrounding offshore regions.

- [1:250000 scale scanned Geology Maps](#)

A map enabled index to access 1:250 000 scale Geology Maps, scanned from paper versions.

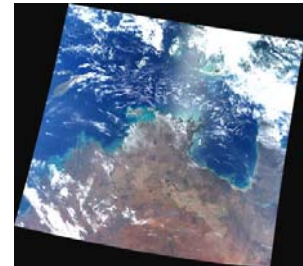
- [National Geoscience GIS](#)

National Geoscience GIS themes include geology, geochemistry, geophysics, geohazards, petroleum and mineral resources. This data is available for [free download](#) and as an [Open GIS Consortium \[OGC\] Web Mapping Service \[WMS\]](#).

Satellite Imagery & Antarctic Data

These datasets are available from Geoscience Australia under the [Commonwealth Government's spatial data policy](#). Downloading these products is free.

- Landsat 7 Picture Mosaic of Australia
- MODIS Satellite Data
- NOAA Satellite Data
- Antarctic Data



China Statistical Yearbook 2006

China Statistical Yearbook 2006 has been now been published by the China Statistical Press. China Statistical Yearbook 2006 covers comprehensive statistics in 2005, and some selected data series in historically important years, and the most recent twenty years at national and local levels of provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government, which reflects various aspects of China's social and economic development. The yearbook contains twenty-five chapters China Statistical Yearbook 2006 is Chinese-English bilingual version. One CD-ROM with excels and html files was attached. For more information, visit [China 2006 Statistical Yearbook](#).

Release of the Global Irrigated Area Mapping (GIAM) Knowledge Gateway

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is very pleased to announce the release of the Global Irrigated Area Mapping (GIAM) knowledge gateway. This is the first satellite sensor based global map of irrigated area. The site provides country-by-country statistics of irrigated areas. The web map option allows you to quickly zoom into area of your interest and produce a irrigated area map of your area. All data and products are available for download from the web portal. Further details of the web portal are provided below:

- [GIAM statistics: Irrigated area statistics for 175 Countries](#)
- [GIAM Map Server](#)
- [GIAM on Google](#)
- [GIAM web portal](#)
- [Review documents](#)

For further details, contact: Prasad S. Thenkabail, p.thenkabail@cgiar.org.



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



[First official streets and landmarks guide map of Doha](#)

As the official mapping agency in Qatar, the Centre for Geographic Information System (CGIS) - Urban Planning and Development Authority, has published the first official streets and landmarks guide map of Doha. "The timing of the publication coincides with the run up to the 15th Asian Games to be held in Doha next month," said CGIS Director Manaf Ahmad al-Sada. The map is expected to be of immense help to the large number of visitors, tourists and media personnel would be descending on Doha for the Games, as it also includes information about competitions in all venues. There is a detailed and enlarged map of Doha city centre, which includes Grand Hamad commercial district and Old Souq area. Relevant landmarks' names are listed with their location and corresponding number. A high-resolution aerial photo map of the West Bay area identifying towers and important agencies, with listing of location and corresponding number, is part of the map. Over 2,000 street names, the new Doha International Airport and all under construction streets leading to it, policy plans of under construction areas in Doha, a quick photo and contacts guide to important hotels and furnished apartments are featured in the map.

[Defense land records to be computerized](#)

In a move to check the encroachment of sprawling cantonments and estates, the defense ministry has begun computerizing defense [land](#) records across the country. The project to put all [date](#) on defense land holdings on computers was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Defense M Pallam Raju at the Delhi Cantonment. The defense estates department is undertaking the project as a joint venture with Chennai-based National Informatics Centre (NIC). Amidst urbanisation across the country, defence estates in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, Bangalore and Goa are being increasingly eyed by the land mafia and widespread encroachments are reported every year. The total defense land holdings located inside 62 cantonments are estimated to be about 17 lakh acres. Raju told that under the new plan, the computerization will involve forming a [geographic information system](#) and all survey and revenue records would be digitized and integrated into a land [records database](#).

[Philippine GIS shape files from various sources](#)

A resource for accessing assorted free data products for the Philippines. See also [A&A Geomatics Corp products webpage](#) to access postal codes and some topos in SHP format.

[JVNWebGIS](#)

The JVNWebGIS website provides map and information of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It was developed by JavaVietnam.org and CIREN Vietnam. There is a detailed map of Ho Chi Minh City with streets, land marks, rivers, buildings, hotels. There is also statistical information about the administrative unit of Ho Chi Minh City including population, area, education and other things. JVNWebGIS uses deegree's igeoportal for the map context page, geoserver for the WMS server and AppFuse framework for administration. JVNGIS also offers a [mobile WMS viewer](#). This mobile application is in its early stages; more features and an official website are expected in the future. Contact: Khanh Le Ngoc Quoc, Khanh.LNQ (AT) JavaVietnam.org (he welcomes requests for information, feedback and bug reports). [Source: OGC News - November 2006]

[Launch of Australian emergency information website](#)

An internet website that allows the public to access emergency information across Australia was launched in November 2006. The Australian Disaster Information Network (AusDIN) will provide links to emergency management organizations in every state and territory and will give people the information they need to learn about events such as bushfires, floods or cyclones. The AusDIN site also will tap into weather reports, spatial information, warnings and alerts, and provide information on preparing for disasters and what to do in times of evacuation. There will be links to recovery organizations, charity and support groups, and international links. AusDIN is the first whole-of-government emergency management initiative to use the internet to link and share information relevant to the sector.

[CGIAR-CSI: Reformatted CRU TS 2.1 Climate Database Online](#)

The CGIAR-CSI is happy to announce that the CRU TS 2.1 Climate Data, reformatted by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) for easy use in geospatial analysis and GIS software packages, is now available through the CGIAR-CSI 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



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



frequency, frost day frequency, vapour pressure and cloud cover. The CGIAR-CSI GeoPortal provides easy to use, reformatted CRU TS 2.1 Global Climate Data for the entire world. 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. The CRU Dataset is provided both in 5 x 5 degrees tiles, and by Continents for easy download and use. It is also available clipped to the Water for Food Challenge Program (CPWF) Priority Basin boundaries. These are available as ArcInfo Grids to facilitate their ease of use in GIS applications. Many thanks to CRU (Phil Jones) for providing this data giving permission for redistribution, and to Antonio Trabucco for reformatting the data, geoprocessing the dataset for distribution on this site, and providing the impetus for this effort.

[Catalog of public web mapping services](#)

This site aims to be a visual catalog of public Web Mapping Service (WMS) resources online.

[SRTM v3.2 Update](#)

The SRTM v3 data has been updated with improved DEM's. In addition, the JRC mirror site in Italy is now functional, which should further improve access. The CGIAR-CSI GeoPortal is able to provide SRTM 90m Digital Elevation Data for the entire world. The SRTM digital elevation data, produced by NASA originally, is a major breakthrough in digital mapping of the world, and provides a major advance in the accessibility of high quality elevation data for large portions of the tropics and other areas of the developing world. The SRTM digital elevation data provided on this site has been processed to fill data voids and to facilitate its ease of use by a wide group of potential users. This data is provided in an effort to promote the use of geospatial science and applications for sustainable development and resource conservation in the developing world. Digital elevation models (DEM) for the entire globe, covering all of the countries of the world, are available for download on this site. The SRTM 90m DEM's have a resolution of 90m at the equator, and are provided in mosaic 5 deg x 5 deg tiles for easy download and use. All are produced from a seamless dataset to allow easy mosaicing. These are available in both ArcInfo ASCII and GeoTiff format to facilitate their ease of use in a variety of image processing and GIS applications. Data can be downloaded using a browser or accessed directly from the ftp site. If you find this digital elevation data useful, please let CGIAR-CSI know at csi@cgiar.org.

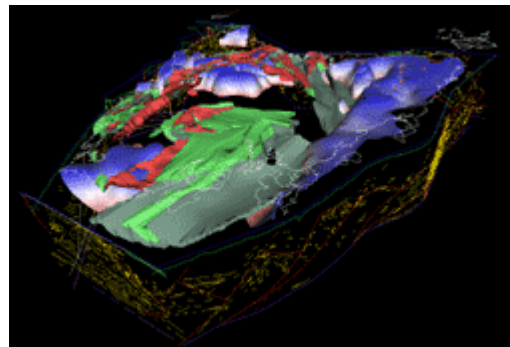
Geospatial Research, Applications, Reference Material

[FIG Guide on Standardization](#), Revised edition 2006

This Guide was created by the FIG Task Force on Standards, and has been updated by the FIG Standards Network, to assist the FIG Council, Commissions and Member Associations in their efforts to make a difference in standardization activities. Standardization activities can often seem complex or even impenetrable, and the Task Force and Network have seen one of their prime roles as filtering important information about standardization activities and explaining how surveyors can be actively engaged in the processes.

[Geoscience Australia's 3D Visualisation Laboratory](#)

Geoscience Australia's 3D Visualization Laboratory (3D Vizlab) is the latest research tool developed to aid geoscientists explores underground Australia. Launched by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Hon Bob Baldwin MP, the 3D Vizlab is a full stereo theatre that uses three-dimensional imagery to identify Australia's underground resources. The 3D Vizlab displays high quality geological interpretations and models that will be critical in exploring Australia for new ore bodies and petroleum fields. The information displayed allows geoscientists to probe Australia's continent without removing a single stone, and applies the latest cutting-edge technology.



[CRISP remote sensing researches](#)

The [Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing](#) (CRISP) conducts research in the processing, analysis and applications of satellite remote sensing data. The initial focus of CRISP's research was on Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data processing, including interferometric SAR processing. The research



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



focus was then extended to the applications of SAR and optical data in ocean and coastal studies, and tropical vegetation studies. CRISP has also undertaken projects in environmental monitoring, such as the daily monitoring of the regional land/forest fires and monitoring of ocean oil pollution.

Current research areas:

- 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 modelling
 - [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](#)

The earlier research projects:

- [Monitoring of rice cropping systems using multitemporal synthetic aperture radar](#)
- [Tropical forest study using interferometric SAR](#)
- [Ships detection](#)
- [Ship Wakes](#)
- [Internal waves](#) in Andaman Sea
- [ERS Mosaic of Southeast Asia](#)

Medical aid during emergencies made easy with digital map

Every new society, new apartment or road that is mushrooming in the expanding city limits now finds its precise location in a digital map that is being updated each month. The Vadodara-based Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council, a network of medical emergency and city hospitals, in an effort to cut down the time taken during a rescue operation, has initiated digital mapping of the city, and is constantly updating it, so as to give precise locations to ambulances which rush to pick up patients/victims in the shortest possible time.

In place of the traditional method of locating a city address and the accompanying lapse of time likely, a constantly updated digital map is now coming to the aid of ambulance drivers, directing them to take precise turns, and informing them about every small lane and landmark. The people manning the EMS Council control room refer to the digital map as soon as they receive an emergency call, and convey directions to get to the address to ambulance drivers equipped with wireless sets.

Satellite Observation Tracks Avian Flu

An international, interdisciplinary team of researchers led by Professor Xiangming Xiao of the University of New Hampshire is taking a novel scientific approach in an attempt to understand the ecology of the avian influenza, develop better methods of predicting its spread, and provide an accurate early warning system. Xiao and colleagues were recently awarded \$1.55 million for a four-year project funded by the U.S. National Institutes for Health (NIH) as part of the Ecology of Infectious Diseases (EID) Program jointly sponsored with the U.S. National Science Foundation. The EID program supports research projects that develop quantitative analysis and modeling capacity for better understanding the relationship between man-made environmental change and transmission of infectious agents. The UNH project will use environmental remote sensing data from Earth observing satellites in combination with research in epidemiology, ornithology, and agriculture to



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



provide a better picture of how the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza survives and gets transmitted among poultry and wild birds. The work focuses on China, where outbreaks of the virus have been prominent.

[ISRO developing vessel monitoring system for fishermen](#)

Fishermen from Gujarat who till now navigated in the seas using nothing but their instinct may soon have the technology to their aid as a satellite-aided tracking system is being developed indigenously to be fitted on their trawlers. Being developed by scientists of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) at Ahmedabad, the low-cost 'vessel monitoring system' (VMS) is expected to be fitted in fishing trawlers that would be linked via satellite with the coast guard, senior coast guard officials said. "The VMS should be ready by 2007. We will conduct a trial after that. As of now, even its pricing has not been decided," another coast guard official supervising the crucial project said.

[3D Urban Models Featured On Web-based Live Search Maps](#)

RealSite(tm) 3D urban city models are now featured by Microsoft in the new release of Live Search Maps at <http://maps.live.com> announced by Harris Corporation. Live Search Maps is a free, online local search and mapping service that combines worldwide road and aerial maps with unique, bird's-eye-view imagery for select metropolitan areas. RealSite models are created using proprietary technology that utilizes data from a variety of high-resolution imagery sources as well as Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and other high-accuracy sensors. These photo-realistic, geo-specific 3D models can be created for virtually any location on the earth to support a broad range of commercial or government applications, and can include a variety of imagery mosaic and elevation data options. Harris Government Communications Systems Division conducts advanced research studies, develops prototypes, and produces and supports state-of-the-art, assured communications™ solutions and information systems that solve the mission-critical challenges of its military and government customers, while serving as the technology base for the company's diverse commercial businesses. Harris Corporation is an international communications and information technology company serving government and commercial markets in more than 150 countries. With headquarters in Melbourne, Florida, the company has annual sales of \$3.5 billion and nearly 14,000 employees, including more than 6,000 engineers and scientists. The company's four operating divisions serve markets for government communications, RF communications, broadcast communications, and microwave communications. For more information, visit www.harris.com.

[Beijing uses satellites to monitor land use](#)

Beijing will use three satellites to monitor land use as part of a crackdown on illegal real estate development activities, a local land official has said. Starting November, Beijing will investigate and prosecute major cases of illegal use of land, especially those that violate government plans or national industrial policies and those that infringe on farmers' legitimate rights, Beijing News reported, quoting An Jiasheng, director of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Land and Resources. Authorities can now avail themselves of satellite remote sensing technologies to discover and prevent the illegal use of land, An told a conference on Friday. The Chinese central government tightened control over land after the economy grew 10.9 percent in the first half, promising to penalize local officials who fail to stop or investigate land use transgressions. The Ministry of Land and Resources laid down in a recent circular that local governments must not approve more land for construction in 2007 than they did in 2006. A survey targeting 16 cities by the Ministry showed that nearly 50 percent of new land under development was acquired illegally last year.

[Afghanistan Opium cultivation monitored by international DMC constellation of small satellites](#)

The Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC) coordinated by DMCii includes satellites of DMC member nations; UK, Algeria, China, Nigeria and Turkey. Unlike single satellites, the Disaster Monitoring Constellation is able to revisit an area every day. This enables data to be collected rapidly and the problems of cloud to be minimized. DMC images were timed to match the peak in crop growth in different areas of Afghanistan. The 32metre resolution multispectral data enables crop characteristics to be measured at a field level, and the 600km wide images help analysts to unify the opium crop estimates from other data sources, including ground surveys, aerial photos and very high resolution satellite spot samples. According to DMCii's Marketing Director, 'This is the first time that a full country survey of Afghanistan at 32 meter resolution has been carried out to coincide with the peak of the opium poppy crop. It really uses the strengths of the international DMC satellites to the full. The constellation of low cost small satellites enables us to monitor wide areas at a useful level of detail, and can keep repeating the images frequently until we get a cloud free shot. We are delighted that our orthorectified data received gold stars for precision, timeliness and quality from the analysts.'



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



Training Opportunities

[APDIP seeks Intern to assist in content development and knowledge management](#)

The internship involves assisting in: (i) the management of online communities of practice on different ICTD issues using websites, mailing lists, wikis and other tools; and (ii) the production and management of APDIP's knowledge products and outreach materials. The internship is for a period of 4-6 months starting 1 February 2007. The deadline for submission of application is 18 December 2006. Qualifications:

- Current enrolment in a degree program in a graduate school (second university degree or higher) at the time of application and during the internship
- Interest in ICTD issues. Studying a related field preferred
- Demonstrated interest and experience in managing information and/or knowledge
- Some experience in using a content management system, Plone preferred
- Good command of written and spoken English and ability to communicate effectively
- A team player and self-starter, able to work with minimum supervision, with sound judgment
- Good communication and interpersonal skills and experience in working effectively in a multicultural environment

Applications should be submitted the [UNDP Internship Application Form](#) by e-mail to hr.thailand@undp.or.th

[Geoinformatics for Conservation and Management](#), Yangon, Myanmar

ICIMOD in collaboration with Department of Forest and University of Forestry, Yezin, Myanmar is conducting a two-week training course on "Geoinformatics for Conservation and Management" from 11 to 22 December 2006 in Department of Forest, Yangon, Myanmar. As many Universities in Myanmar have now started including GIS in their regular curriculum and there has been a huge demand for training of different University faculty members. This training will especially focus on the network of organizations and mainly includes faculty of the Universities of Myanmar. Contact: Sushil Pradhan, suspradhan@icimod.org

[Regional Workshop on Sharing Geographic Information in the HKH region](#), Geo-Network Metadata Implementation, Kathmandu, Nepal, Workshop duration: Monday, December 11, 2006 - Friday, December 15, 2006 (every Week, Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr), Contact: Sushil Pradhan, suspradhan@icimod.org

[Regional Workshop on Policy Priorities for Sustainable Rangeland Management](#), Hindu Kush, Himalayas, This will be followed by a one-day post conference field trip to Nagarkot. Workshop duration: Monday, December 4, 2006 - Thursday, December 7, 2006 (every Day), Contact: Yan Zhaoli, yzhaoli@icimod.org

[2007 ITC Short courses](#)

- [Organisations and spatial data infrastructures](#): 3 January 2007 to 23 March 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 1 December 2006
- [GIS and Remote Sensing for Natural Resource Management](#): 3 January 2007 to 23 March 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 1 December 2006
- [Geo-information for Biodiversity Conservation](#): 3 January 2007 to 30 March 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 1 December 2006
- [Urban Planning and Management and Advanced Use and Application of Geo-information Science](#): 3 January 2007 to 23 March 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 1 December 2006
- [Advanced Geo-information and Earth Observation for Problem Solving in Applied Earth Sciences \(Earth Resources Exploration; Earth Science Data Provision; Geo-Hazards; Geo-Engineering\)](#): 3 January 2007 to 23 March 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 1 December 2006
- [Diploma Course in Geoinformatics in three specialisation topics](#): 15 January 2007 to 16 October, 2007, Duration: 9 months, Application deadline: 16 October 2006
- [Geo-tools for Water Resources Management with 3 Specialisations](#): 12 February 2007 to 11 May 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 15 January 2007
- [Using GIS for Tuberculosis Control](#): 12 March 2007 to 24 March 2007, Duration: 2 weeks, Application deadline: 31 January 2007
- [Open standards and open source web GIS](#): 2 April 2007 to 20 April 2007, Duration: 3 weeks, Application deadline: 15 February 2007



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



- [Advanced Use of Remote Sensing in Water resource, irrigation and drainage management](#): 2 April 2007 to 22 June 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 1 March 2007
- [Concepts and Skills in Applied Earth Sciences Research: Development of a Personal Academic Attitude \(Earth Resources Exploration; Earth Science Data Provision; Geo-Hazards; Geo-Engineering\)](#): 2 April 2007 to 22 June 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 1 March 2007
- [Hazard and Disaster Management](#): 2 April 2007 to 20 April 2007, Duration: 3 weeks, Application deadline: 1 March 2007
- [Spatial information for environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental impact assessment](#): 23 April 2007 to 11 May 2007, Duration: 3 weeks, Application deadline: 1 March 2007
- [Digital Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing](#): 23 April 2007 to 13 July 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 1 April 2007
- [Multi-Hazard risk assessment](#): 23 April 2007 to 11 May 2007, Duration: 3 weeks, Application deadline: 15 March 2007
- [Collaborative spatial decision support systems for conflict management](#): 25 June 2007 to 3 August 2007, Duration: 6 weeks, Application deadline: 15 April 2007
- [Postgraduate Diploma Course in Urban Planning and Management](#): 17 September 2007 to 20 June 2008, Duration: 9 months, Application deadline: 15 June 2007
- [Postgraduate Diploma Course in Water Resources and Environmental Management in two specialisation topics](#): 17 September 2007 to 20 June 2008, Duration: 9 months, Application deadline: 15 June 2007
- [Postgraduate Diploma Course in Applied Earth Sciences \(Earth Resources Exploration; Earth Science Data Provision; Geo-Hazards; Geo-Engineering\)](#): 17 September 2007 to 20 June 2008, Duration: 9 months, Application deadline: 15 June 2007
- [Principles and Applications of Remote Sensing and GIS for Various Applications \(Applied Earth Sciences, Natural Resource Management, Urban Planning and Management, Water Resources Management\)](#): 27 September 2007 to 21 December 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 1 September 2007
- [Principles of Spatial Data Handling: Databases, GIS and Remote Sensing](#): 1 October 2007 to 21 December 2007, Duration: 12 weeks, Application deadline: 1 September 2007

For more information contact: [Education Affairs](#), education@itc.nl.

[GIS Seasonal \(Winter\) Training Program](#), Cairo, Egypt, December 2006.

The [training sessions](#) provide participants with the opportunity to learn the latest ESRI software and its functionalities by highly qualified ESRI certified instructors and to meet up with professionals working in the GIS field. The event is organized and managed by Quality Standards Information Technology, a subsidiary of ESRI NEA. Contact: gistp@qs4it.com.

Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

[Donations to the Jill Landsberg Trust Fund](#)

The Ecological Society of Australia Inc has established the Jill Landsberg Trust Fund, which will fund an ongoing postgraduate scholarship in the field of Applied Ecology. Donations are now invited from friends and colleagues who wish to further this cause. Jill Landsberg's outstanding contributions to ecology extended back 25 years. The common theme to Jill's ecological research interests was the conservation of biodiversity in landscapes managed mainly for primary production. She also made a significant contribution to the conservation of threatened species, through her long service on the Australian Government's Endangered Species Scientific Advisory Committee. Jill Landsberg was well known to all members of the Ecological Society of Australia as a tireless worker in support of the Society's core business. She was one of the longest serving members on the Society's Council, having served as Bulletin Editor and Regional Councilor with great distinction, and as a primary organizer of three ESA conferences. Download the [download here](#) and follow the instructions.

[Call for proposals Asia – invest Program 2006-2007](#)

The Call for Proposals 2006-2007 is open, with two deadlines on 6 October 2006 (Closed) and 9 March 2007 and EUR 16.75 million available for grant support to partnerships of EU and Asian business intermediary organizations, under the following components: BUSINESS MEETINGS and CAPACITY-BUILDING. It



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



includes new co-financing specifications and administrative & technical requirements. See [How to Apply](#) for application materials. For information on completed or ongoing co-financed projects see [Projects](#).

[The First Model e-Village in Sri Lanka by the Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Program](#)

In 2005, the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka, Horizon Lanka Foundation and Enterprise Technology (Pvt) Ltd was awarded a grant by the Pan Asia ICT R&D Grants Programme to develop a low-cost wireless broadband architecture for providing high-speed Internet access services in Mahavilachchiya, Sri Lanka. On 4 November 2006, Mahavilachchiya, a little known village 40km from the nearest town of Anuradhapura and surrounded three sides by the Vilpattu jungle with no terrestrial or mobile phone networks, became the first village in Sri Lanka with 24-hour Internet access. Over 400 rural students also received ICT education as part of the project. Mahavilachchiya now has more than 50 PCs and a sophisticated multimedia lab. The majority of the computers are located at the houses of the children attending the Horizon Lanka Academy. These PCs are now connected by using the "Mesh Wireless Technology" giving families direct Internet and email facilities. This unique project sends an important message to marginal communities all over the world. ICTA's Programme Manager – eSociety Development Initiative, Chitranganie Mubarak commented, "Mahavilachchiya is an outstanding example of promoting inclusion through the use of ICTs. This latest project, which has given Internet access to poor rural families through a mesh network, will certainly be an impetus to other villages." In a related development on 16 November 2006 when Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse, President of Sri Lanka, delivered the annual budget speech in his capacity as the Minister of Finance, proposed to allocate USD 1 million in the year 2007 for the implementation of e-Villages replicating the Mahavilachchiya project. It is expected that international donors and private sector will make further contributions.

[IUCN Alcoa Foundation Conservation and Sustainability Fellowship](#)

The third round of Fellowships will be launched in spring 2007. Potential applicants are encouraged to submit high-quality proposals for applied research in the following areas key to IUCN's work (please note, these areas are likely to change for the third round):

- The linkages of the cultural and spiritual values of indigenous peoples and protected area objectives;
- Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biological resources;
- The implications for conservation of major demographic trends, including ageing, urbanization and population movements;
- The implications for biodiversity of alternative new forms of energy;
- Corporate biodiversity management and reporting systems (including indicators) and the potential for synergy between corporate social responsibility (CSR) investment in social development and conservation outcomes.

Preference is given to projects that are designed and carried out in countries where Alcoa has operations. The Alcoa Foundation supports each fellow with a substantial stipend plus funding for annual meetings of the fellows. Applications should be sent directly to IIE, not IUCN. Further information on the fellowship requirements, including application forms and procedures, can be found on the website of Institute of International Education (IIE). Alternatively, please send an email directly to IIE@iie.org or alternatively to nadine.mccormick@iucn.org at IUCN.

[ASIA Fellowship](#)

Applications are invited from citizens and residents of South Asian countries for the ASIA Fellows Awards 2007-08 awarded by the Asian Scholarship Foundation (ASF), Bangkok, which is funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation. The ASIA Fellows Awards offer opportunities for outstanding Asian scholars and professionals to conduct research in another Asian country for six to nine months. Research proposals must be in the humanities, social sciences and policy sciences only. Projects must be designed to be carried out in six to nine months in the People's Republic of China, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Philippines or Indonesia, or in any of seven designated South Asian countries. While an applicant from South or Southeast Asia may propose a research project in a country within his/her own region, preference is given to applicants who propose to conduct research in a region of Asia other than their own (e.g., an award to an Indian scholar or professional for research in China). Deadline: 12 January 2007. Contact: upiasi@del2.vsnl.net.in.

[Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences \(JIRCAS\) Visiting Research Fellowship Program 2007](#)



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



The JIRCAS Visiting Research Fellowship Program aims at the promotion of collaborative research to address various problems confronting the countries in developing regions on a global scale, including the critical situation of food production, the progression of desertification and the gradual disappearance of genetic resources. Under this Fellowship Program JIRCAS is inviting promising researchers from institutes in developing regions who will play a major role in the activities of these institutes in the future to carry out collaborative research for the sustainable development or rapid progress of agriculture, forestry and fisheries compatible with the preservation of the natural environment. Applicants must have an adequate command of the English language. Deadline: December 20, 2006.

Employment Opportunities

Land Management Consultant, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The World Bank now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultant must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service with significant experience in the implementation of land administration and management projects, as well as natural resources management programs. Broad experience in the development of land policy and regulations, through participatory processes and high level dialogue. Sound knowledge of land administration and land management issues and how they relate to the protection and development of ethnic minority communities and other vulnerable groups in society including women. Working in multi-donor contexts with familiarity with donor funded program requirements related to reporting, supervision, etc. The position, based in the World Bank's Field Office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, is for two years with option of a further extension, subject to requirements of the World Bank. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 0900 to 1700 hours. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 8 December 2006! Contact: nqueen@worldbank.org

Photogrammetry Technicians, Dubai, UAE.

APS Recruitment Consultants, a Reputed Company from USA intends to start Photogrammetry Company in Dubai by December 2006 is seeking for the following qualified Photogrammetry technicians.

Photogrammetric Technical Lead : (3 NOs)

The incumbent must possess 7+ years experience in photogrammetric mapping or technical work in stereo compilation, editing, digital orthos, lidar, radar, etc.; must be able to work in an organized fashion under pressure and have excellent communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills as well as a strong working knowledge of MS products. Applicants must possess excellent technical depth and creativity to develop sound technical solutions as well as, superior team-building skills, excellent organizational, coaching, communication, collaboration, and interpersonal skills, process improvement skills, along with a good knowledge of ISO 9001.

Photogrammetry Operators/ Project Leaders / QC

- FIVE years experience with at least THREE in digital photogrammetry and topographic data collection
- Excellent working knowledge of at least one major digital photogrammetry package
- Extensive experience in digital mapping data collection and QA
- Experience of team leadership, staff mentoring and production management
- Demonstrated problem solving ability
- Desirable Requirement Understanding of available equipment and techniques

Application deadline: 13 December 2006, Contact: jobs_dubai_2006@yahoo.co.uk

GIS / RS Trainer, Hyderabad, India

Geo InfoSpace Pvt Ltd is seeking for a GIS/RS Trainer Who Graduate with adequate training skills in GIS / Remote Sensing fields & softwares and will be a part of the faculty to Train in ESRI softwares, Autocad, Image processing. Application deadline: 27 December 2006, Contact: info@geoinfospace.com

GIS Specialist, Dubai, UAE.

Gulf Computers is seeking for a GIS Specialist who have to be able to develops Enterprise GIS Applications using VB.NET/C#.NET on MapGuide/MapXtreme platforms and to write technical methodologies. Application deadline: 4 December 2006, Contact: V.S.Somayaji Kalaga, somayaji@gulfauh.ae

GIS Developer Utilities GIS (Electrical Network) Specialist, Dubai, UAE.



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



Later is looking for a seasoned professional GIS Developer who has skills Intergraph Geomedia suite, ESRI, .Net, J2EE, Oracle, Networking, basic hardware knowledge. Application deadline: 30 December 2006, Contact: dubaijobs314@yahoo.com. And looking for an Utilities GIS (Electrical Network) Specialist who have a demonstrated skill set and well experienced in building electrical networks in GIS. Application deadline: 2 December 2006, Contact: dubaijobs314@yahoo.com.

[GIS .net application developer](#), chennai, India

Saadhvi technologies is seeking for a GIS .net application developer who have experiences in vb.net/c#. Experience in any kind of DB application is a huge plus. Experience in MapInfo is preferred. Application deadline: 29 December 2006, Contact: Rajkumar, kaali.interactive@gmail.com

[Post-doctoral Fellow, Biophysical Modeller, Washington](#), DC, USA

The Environment and Production Technology Division of IFPRI seeks to recruit a highly-skilled and highly-motivated specialist in biophysical modeling with primary emphasis on cropping system simulation modeling; experience with land degradation or land use change modeling would also be highly advantageous. This is a two-year, fixed-term, renewable appointment within the Environment and Production Technology Division, and the successful candidate will report to the research theme leader. This is an internationally-recruited position, based at IFPRI headquarters in Washington, DC, which will require some international travel. Deadline: December 30, 2006 or until filled.

Other

[Global map shows new patterns of extinction risk](#)

The most detailed world map of mammals, birds and amphibians ever produced shows that endangered species from these groups do not inhabit the same geographical areas, says new research published today. Contrary to conservationists' previous assumptions, the map shows conclusively that geographical areas with a high concentration of endangered species from one group do not necessarily have high numbers from the others. This new finding has far-reaching implications for conservation planning by governments and NGOs, and their decisions about where to focus conservation spending. These decisions have typically been based on the assumption that investing in an area known to have a high concentration of endangered birds, for example, will mean that large numbers of endangered mammal and amphibian species will also be protected. The new study shows that basing conservation decisions on just one type of animal can be very misleading. The study, out in today's issue of *Nature*, is the culmination of many decades of work by field biologists and analysts, during which the planet was divided up into 100km x 100km grids, and all mammal, bird and amphibian species within each grid square were counted, using a variety of pre-existing, but never-before combined, records. The result is a comprehensive worldwide map of all species in these groups, on a finer scale than ever before.

[Vegas firm promises world's largest cultivated coral reef in Singapore](#)

Las Vegas firm Eighth Wonder said the world's first cultivated coral reef will be among the attractions at a major new Singapore gaming resort if it wins the bidding for the project. The reef is part of Eighth Wonder's ambitious plans for its resort, Harry's Island, and will be helmed by Philippe Cousteau, the grandson of the late ocean explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau. "Nothing's been done on this scale before," said Cousteau at a press conference. Rival bidder Kerzner International has already said its project would feature the world's biggest man-made coral reef as well as habitats for live fish and robotic sea creatures. They are to invest 5.5 billion Singapore dollars (3.5 billion US) to build Harry's Island if their bid gets the nod from the government. A decision is expected in early December. It will invest more than five billion dollars in the Marina Bay project to open in 2009.

Conferences, Events

Date	Location	Event
December 2006		
4-5 December	Hong kong, China	<u>The 6th International Workshop on Web and Wireless Geographical Information Systems</u>

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



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



4-6 December	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	8th International Conference on Information Integration and Web-based Applications & Services (iiWAS2006)
4-12 December * NEW *	Tallinn, Estonia	ICTD and e-Governance Community of Practice Meeting
5-7 December	Jakarta, Indonesia	APRSAF-13
6-7 December	Bangkok, Thailand	International Conference on Sustainable Development Issues and Prospects for the Greater Mekong Sub region (brochure). Deadline for extended abstracts: 1 October 2006.
6-8 December	Bangalore, India	1st International Conference on Digital Information Management , (ICDIM 2006) Organized by the Digital Information Research Foundation , Chennai and Christ College, Bangalore
6-8 December	Trivandrum, INDIA	Conference on Business GIS "b-GIS@India" Contact: Conference Secretariat, bgisindia.info@gisesociety.org
6-8 December	Moscow, Russia	6th Annual International Conference and Exposition 'Laser Scanning and Digital Aerial Photography. Today and Tomorrow'
6-9 December * NEW *	Bali, Indonesia	Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Conference abstracts, Contact: idgec@bren.ucsb.edu .
8-9 December	Maharashtra, India	National Seminar on Geo-Informatics Contact: vpm_polytechnic@rediffmail.com
11-15 December	ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal	Regional Workshop on Sharing Geographic Information in the HKH region – Geo-Network Metadata Implementation
12-15 December	Luang Prabang, Lao PDR	2nd International Conference on Sustainable Sloping Lands and Watershed Management Linking research to strengthen upland policies and practices, Abstract deadline: 15 September 2006. Contact: SSWM2006@nafri.org.la .
14-18 December	Vietnam	GISnet 2 Conference and Exhibition on GIScience, RS, GPS, Space Science and Technology Applications
January 2007		
3-5 January	Bangkok, Thailand	7th International Conference on Urban Planning and Environment (UPE 7) Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 15 June 2006. 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
17-18 January	Penang, Malaysia	National Conference on Environment and Community Development 2007
18-19 January	New Delhi, India	Second ESRI Asia-Pacific User Conference Contact: apuc2007@esriindia.com
19 January * NEW *	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: 15 September 2006.
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_seri.at .
February 2007		
5-7 February	Bangalore, India	International Workshop on Integrated Water Resource Management- (IWRM-2007) Abstract deadline: September 19, 2006.
11-17 February	Austria	14 Internationale Geodätische Woche Contact: geodaetischewoche@uibk.ac.at



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



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: October 14, 2006.
19-21 February * NEW *	Queensland, Australia	APCO Australasia 2007 Conference and Exhibition
19-21 February	Kuwait	3rd Annual GIS Conference and Exhibition Abstract deadline: 30 September 2006.
20-22 February * NEW *	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)
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 .
12-14 March	Dhaka, Bangladesh	International Conference on Water and Flood Management (ICWFM) Abstract deadline: 15 September 2006.
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: November 17, 2006.
28 March * NEW *	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		
4-6 April * NEW *	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 * NEW *	Moscow, Russia	Aerial and Satellite Methods and GIS in Silviculture and Forestry - 4th Russian Nation-Wide Conference , (with international inputs), Contact: nlm@smtp.ru .
23-27 April	Montreux, Switzerland	Envisat Symposium
25-27 April * NEW *	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: 1 November 2006
5-9 May * NEW *	Hanoi, Vietnam	5th International Conference on Research, Innovation & Vision for the Future (RIVF'07) Information & Communication Technologies
8-11 May	Aalborg, Denmark	10th AGILE International Conference on Geographic Information Science Deadline of full papers: November 15, 2006.



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



13-17 May	Hong Kong, China	FIG Working Week 2007 Deadline for abstracts: <u>30 November 2006</u> .
14-18 May	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	Spatial Sciences Institute Biennial International Conference Abstract deadline: <u>1 September 2006</u> .
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 2007	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 5 th 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: November 1, 2006.
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 * NEW *	Seoul, Korea	13th PCGIAP Annual Meeting Contact: PCGIAP Secretariat: sec@pcgiap.org
12-16 June	Okinawa, Japan	21st Pacific Science Congress Hosted by the University of the Ryukyus and co-sponsored by the Science Council of Japan. Deadline for abstracts: <u>December 2006</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
20-22 June	Pacifico Yokohama, Japan	Geoinformation Forum Japan 2007 Contact: geoforum@jsurvey.jp .
27-28 June * NEW *	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	Good Land Administration – Its Role in the Economic Development, Abstracts deadline: <u>February 28, 2007</u>
July 2007		
2-13 July	Perugia, Italy	IAG/IUGG Conference. IUGG XXIV General Assembly
10-13 July	Hong Kong	4th International Conference on Population Geographies Abstract deadline: <u>20 December 2006</u> .



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



15-20 July	Cambridge, England	Cambridge Conference for national mapping organisations
25 July * NEW *	Christchurch, New Zealand	Transport 2007
August 2007		
4-10 August * UPDATED *	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 * NEW *	Bakosurtanal; Jakarta	2nd Indonesian Geospatial Technology Exhibition
August * NEW *	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.
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
19-21 September	Munich, Germany	Photogrammetric Image Analysis (PIA) 2007
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 .
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@fksq.utm.my



Spatial Data Infrastructure - Asia and the Pacific Newsletter



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: <u>31 March 2007</u>
December 2007		
4-6 December * UPDATED *	Moscow, Russia	3rd International conference "Earth from space - The Most Effective Solutions" Contact: conference@scanex.ru . Abstract deadline: <u>September 20, 2007</u> .
January 2008		
January * NEW *	Jinju, Korea	6th International Symposium on City Planning and Urban Management in Asian Countries
June 2008		
14-19 June	Stockholm, Sweden	FIG XXXI General Assembly and Working Week Contact: FIG Office, fig@fig.net .
July 2008		
1-5 July	Beijing, China	Spatial Accuracy 2008 Contact: accuracy2008@spatial-accuracy.org .
3-11 July	Beijing, China	XXI ISPRS Congress Contact: Chen Jun, congressdirector@isprs2008-beijing.org .
September 2008		
29 September–3 October * NEW *	Darwin, Australia	14th Australasian Remote Sensing & Photogrammetry Conference (ARSPC)
September (tbc) * NEW *	Nanjing, China	4th World Urban Forum Organized by UN-Habitat.

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