http://www.gsdi.org

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association

… a global forum to support exchange of ideas and encourage joint activities at the global level

Members: Think global, act local
Organization: Think local, act global

GSDI 1 Bonn, Germany 4-6 Sept, 1996
GSDI 2 Chapel Hill, USA 20-21 Oct, 1997
GSDI 3 Canberra, Australia 17-19 Nov, 1998
GSDI 4 Cape Town, South Africa 13-15 Mr2000
GSDI 5 Cartagena, Colombia 21-24 May, 2001
GSDI 6 Budapest, Hungary 16-19 Sept, 2002
GSDI 7 Bangalore, India 30 Jan – 6 Feb, 2003
GSDI 8 Cairo, Egypt 16-21 April, 2005
GSDI 9 Santiago, Chile 2006

While primary work tends to be focused on addressing technical and policy issues, done within the context of important social goals.

The **goals** of the GSDI Association are to:

• support the <u>establishment and expansion of</u> local, national, and regional (multi-nation) <u>spatial data infrastructures</u> that are globally compatible,

• provide an organization to <u>foster international communication and collaborative efforts</u> for advancing spatial data infrastructure innovations,

• support interdisciplinary <u>research and education</u> activities that advance spatial data infrastructure concepts, theories and methods;

• enable better <u>public policy and scientific decision-making</u> through spatial data infrastructure advancements;

• promote the <u>ethical use</u> of and access to geographic information;

• foster spatial data infrastructure developments in <u>support of important worldwide needs</u> such as:

    -- improving local to national economic
          competitiveness,
    -- addressing local to global environmental
          quality and change,
    -- increasing efficiency, effectiveness, and
          equity in all levels of government, and
    -- advancing the health, safety and social
          wellbeing of humankind in all nations.

Non-Profit Organization
- heavy focus on inclusiveness and democratic processes

A. Membership
 - full, associate and individual memberships
- agencies (national to local), companies (all sizes), academic institutions, non-profits, individuals
- dues scaled upon approximate ability to pay

B. Board of Directors (18 - most elected)

Officers - President, President-elect, Past President
Sectors – Industry, Government, Academia, Non-Profit
Regions – Africa, Asia/Pacific, Europe, N. America, S. America
Permanent Regional Committees – Europe, Africa, Americas, etc.
International & Global Organizations - International Geographic Org., GSDI Related Global Initiative, International Industry Org.
Ex-Officio Members

Ongoing Activities

Newslist (news@gsdi.org - 1500 subscribers)
Monthly Regional Newsletters – Africa, Latin America, Asia/Pacific (electronic-Kate)
Working Groups – Technical, Legal & Economic, Standing Committees, etc.
Web Discussion Forums
Small Grants Program
Annual Meeting plus **Training Workshops**
Affiliated Projects: ESRI Global Map, Intergraph Open Interoperability Grant Program

GSDI Secretariat Support

Europe - EUROGI
US – International Programs, FGDC
Asia - Indian Space Research Organization
(ISRO)

Current Hot Projects

Developing SDIs (i.e., the SDI Cookbook)

- how to implement SDI concepts within any nation adhering to interoperable standards
- ongoing international cooperative effort (Version 2, Jan 2004, several languages)

Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration (UDDI)

- connecting islands of interoperability
- creation of hundreds of catalogues of data and services is inevitable but difficult to navigate
- registry of all services at a global level is needed (experimentation: GSDI Industry Advisory Group - **Geographic Gateway**)

Global Commons and Global Marketplace in Geographic Data

 - redirect technological and legal approaches towards providing *incentives* for sharing locally collected data and *enabling* sharing
- new conceptual approach

See
http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11079.html
http://www.spatial.maine.edu/geodatacommons

Problem:
Assume tens of thousands of common people creating spatial works on desktops

    • Middle school biology teacher - detailed tree map
     • Community group - 3D animation of how pollutants moving through water supply system
     • Local government - detailed map files about storm and sanitary sewers, streets, water lines, power lines, …
     • Scientists - glaciologist, epidemiologist, …

Basic principles in establishing a GSDI Association (Michael Brand, 1998)

- be inclusive
- enhance democratic decision making processes
- be as simple, transparent and open as possible
- be flexible and adaptable to change
- support sustainable development
- build on and support existing initiatives
- engender partnerships

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