GeoForAll

Monthly Newsletter

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As a Preface

By Nikos Lambrinos, Chief Editor

Why "Geo For All" ?

In September 2011, the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of developing on a global basis collaboration opportunities for academia, industry, and government organizations in open source GIS software and data. The MoU aims to provide expertise and support for the establishment of Open Source Geospatial Laboratories and Research Centres across the world for supporting development of open-source geospatial software technologies, training, and expertise. Over 100 Open Source Geospatial Labs have already been established in universities around the world as part of this initiative.

The motto of ICA-OSGeo Lab initiative is "Geo For All." Having free and open GI software is key for making it possible for students from economically poor backgrounds worldwide to be able to get geospatial education (without the need for high cost proprietary GI software).

For more information on Geo For All initiative, go to http://www.geoforall.org/

Another important thing is that the news from South America is bilingual. It is in Spanish and English to give access to those who speak only Spanish but are interested to know about the activities of GeoForAll.

Editorial

Dear GeoForAll members, dear readers of the Newsletter,

Two months ago, as I was reading an email sent through our list, one out of dozens of emails sent almost per day, I realized that it was difficult for me to follow the discussion. That was due to many other previous emails sent with the same subject which I couldn't recall in my mind. So, I had to search in the past emails, which was not the easiest thing to do.

This is how the idea of a newsletter came up. This excellent initiative, GeoForAll, didn't have a Newsletter to announce the events, discussions and all the activities undertaken by so many members scattered around the globe. This is the main reason of the creation of this Newsletter.

Our intention is to have it published once every month. We hope that, thanks to you, we will have many topics to cover like, activities of the members and network, presentation of the Lab of the month and its people and their work, conferences, webinars, courses, training programs, key research publications, free books, articles, open software, funding opportunities like bids, exchange programs for students and staff, useful web sites, social contribution and any other ideas and proposals.

Anyone who would like to share with the members is kindly requested to forward the news to one of the co-editors or to the Chief Editor, depending on the region in which he/she is active.

We are still looking for two co-editors for Africa and Oceania. Anyone interested please contact Chief Editor Nikos Lambrinos (labrinos@eled.auth.gr)

Also, you can see that the contents are numbered and we follow the same numbers in the text. When we have skipped numbers in the text, it means that we didn't have any news in that topic. We preferred to keep the same numbering, and we will keep it that way for all upcoming Newsletters for indexing reasons.

Nikos Lambrinos

Editorial Board

Please refer to the appropriate person according to the following table:

Chief Editor	Nikos Lambrinos, Associate Professor, Dept. of Primary Education, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. President of the Hellenic digital earth Centre of Excellence labrinos@eled.auth.gr	Africa, Oceania
Co-editor	Rizwan Bulbul, Assistant Professor of GIScience Head of Geospatial Research and Education Lab Department of Space Science, Institute of Space Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan bulbul@grel.ist.edu.pk	India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Burma, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Islands of S. Pacific.
Co-editors	Pavel Kikin, Senior Lecturer "Department of applied informatics and IT", Siberian State University of Geosystems and Technologies Alexey Kolesnikov, Senior Lecturer "Department of cartography and GIS", Siberian State University of Geosystems and Technologies it-technologies@yandex.ru	Russia, Mongolia, China, Japan, S. Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.
Co-editor	Elżbieta Wołoszyńska-Wiśniewska (Ela), Head of Education Unit UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre ela@gridw.pl	Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Slovakia.
Co-editor	Antoni Perez Navaro, Associate Professor at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) Computer Sciences and Multimedia Department aperezn@uoc.edu	Portugal, Spain, France, U.K., Ireland, Iceland, Luxemburg, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, The Balkans.
Co-editor	Emma Strong, GIS Coordinator with Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District eestrong118@gmail.com	North and Central America
Co-editor	Sergio Acosta Y Lara, Departamento de Geomática Dirección, Nacional de Topografía, Ministerio de Transporte y Obras Públicas, URUGUAY sergio.acostaylara@mtop.gub.uy	South America
Production Designer	Nikos Voudrislis, Principal of the 1st Primary School of Asvestohori, Thessaloniki, Greece, MSc, PhD candidate in geography education. nvoudris@gmail.com	Design and final formation of the newsletter

GeoForAll Regional Chairs and Contact Information

North America Region

Chairs: Helena Mitasova (USA), Charles Schweik (USA), Phillip Davis (USA) Subscribe at mail list http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-northamerica

Email: cschweik@pubpol.umass.edu; hmitaso@ncsu.edu; pdavis@delmar.edu

South America Region

Chairs: Sergio Acosta y Lara (Uruguay) and Silvana Camboim (Brazil) Subscribe at mail list http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-southamerica

Email: sergio.acostaylara@mtop.gub.uy; silvanacamboim@gmail.com

Africa Region

Chairs: Rania Elsayed Ibrahim (Egypt), Serena Coetzee (South Africa) and Bridget Fleming (South Africa) Subscribe at mail list http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-africa

Email: bridget@afrispatial.co.za; serenacoetzee@gmail.com; ranyaalsayed@gmail.com

Asia Region (including Australia)

Chairs: Tuong Thuy Vu (Malaysia/Vietnam) and Venkatesh Raghavan (Japan/India) Subscribe at maillist http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-asiaaustralia

Email: raghavan@media.osaka-cu.ac.jp; Tuongthuy.Vu@nottingham.edu.my

Europe Region

Chairs: Maria Brovelli (Italy) and Peter Mooney (Ireland) Subscribe at mail list http://lists.osgeo.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/geoforall-europe

Email: maria.brovelli@polimi.it; petermooney78@gmail.com

GeoForAll Themes

- **Urban Science - City Analytics: "CitySmart App Road Map"**

  - Chairs: Chris Pettit (Australia), Patrick Hogan (USA)

  - Mail list: geoforall-urbanscience@lists.osgeo.org

  - Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_UrbanScience_CityAnalytics

- **Teacher Training & School Education**

  - Chairs: Elżbieta Wołoszyńska-Wiśniewska (Poland), Nikos Lambrinos (Greece), Adrian Manning (UK)

  - Mail list: geoforall-teachertraining@lists.osgeo.org

  - Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_TeacherTraining_SchoolEducation

- **GeoForAll (GeoParaTodos) Themes in Spanish**

  - Chairs: Sergio Acosta y Lara (Uruguay), Antoni Pérez Navarro (Spain)

  - Mail list: Spanish : geoforall-spanish@lists.osgeo.org

  - Website: http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/GeoForAll_Spanish

1. Activities

- In the last month, Geo For All spent a considerable amount of time discussing how to proceed with the education of trainers, teachers, and students of all levels of education. So far, the discussion has established the "Teacher Training and School Education" thematic to build GIS educational scenarios. The main idea is to promote GIS and web GIS in schools globally. For this purpose, teachers and students can use *MapStory*, (www.mapstory.org) which helps them build lessons for teaching local history or any theme that may change over time. Also, gvSIG and QGIS are OS GIS software available for use in schools. According to Dr. Sergio Acosta Y Lara, from the Department of Geomatics, Ministry of Transport, Uruguay, gvSIG is being used by thousands of teachers and students in S. America.

- American Geographical Society Announces Endorsement of the *"Geo for All"* Initiative (http://americangeo.org/7142015-american-geographical-society-announces-endorsement-of-the-geo-for-all-initiative/).

- "Geo for All" has already arrived in Burundi and will keep expanding to make sure geoeducation opportunities are available to all. Our colleagues at The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) are our key link to Burundi and other countries in Africa. We hope that over time, dedicated labs will be established in many universities and schools across Africa, including in Burundi. RCMRD was established in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1975 under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the then Organization of African Unity (OAU), today African Union (AU). RCMRD is an inter-governmental organization and currently has 20 Contracting Member States in the Eastern and Southern Africa Regions: Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somali, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Details at http://www.rcmrd.org/organization/.

2. Lab of the Month

Open Source Geospatial Lab, Kathmandu University, Nepal

By Suchith Anand

Suchith Anand, Nottingham Geospatial Institute, University of Nottingham, UK

Dear GeoForAll Colleagues,

First of all, my sincere thanks to Dr. Nikos Lambrinos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece) for taking initiative to start newsletter for GeoforAll and being the chief editor and his excellent team for making this newsletter possible.

Thank you to Antoni, Ela, Emma, Rizwan, Pavel, Alexey and Nikos for their help for the newsletter.

As we have been growing rapidly (with over 100 Labs), it is timely that we have our newsletter to share the many developments, events, activities etc from all members.

Our congratulations to all the nominees and winners of the **GeoForAll Educator of the Year award 2015.** This is an opportunity for us to thank all colleagues for their excellent contributions to Openness in Education principles in the Geo domain. They all are our stars and "Geo for All" community would to like to thank all educators worldwide who have made contributions to open education efforts and being good global citizens by helping spread the benefits of education to all.

It is our great pleasure to share the excellent development of **the American Geographical Society's endorsement of the "Geo for All Initiative**". This endorsement from the American Geographical Society comes at an important phase in our development. We crossed our 100th lab milestone last week with UCL as our 101st Open Source Geospatial Lab bringing together staff and students from the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, the Department of Archaeology and the Department of Geography at UCL.

3. Events

1. Free Open Source Geospatial Software organized a Training School entitled: "Using free and Open Source Software with VGI: integration, analysis and visualization" in Como, Italy, on July 12-14, 2015. The school offered a number of scholarships to students (including PhD students) and Early Stage Researchers. Immediately after the school event, FOSS4G organized the International Conference. The Training School took place at Politecnico di Milano – Como Campus.

   FOSS4G-Europe - GeoforAll meetings at Como-Italy, July 14-17, 2015. More information available here http://europe.foss4g.org/2015

2. The Conference aims to bring together FOSS4G users and developers worldwide and foster closer interactions with and amongst European communities in order to share ideas for improving geodata, software, and applications openness.

3. Open Education principles and FOSS4G tools are included in the ConnectED concept of AAG in order to support the New Advanced Placement course in Geographic Information Science and Technology. The inclusion was based on a written request sent by Dr. Suchith Anand (chair of the ICA Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies) to Dr. Michael Solem (AAG Director of Educational Research and Programs).

4. gvSIG Batoví workshop for high school teachers (Montevideo). Taller sobre gvSIG Batoví para profesores en el liceo Nº54 del Prado (Montevideo) https://gvsigbatovi.wordpress.com/2015/07/21/taller-sobre-gvsig-batovi-para-profesores-en-el-liceo-no54-del-prado-montevideo/

4. Conferences

Asia

1. Next International Conference of FOSS4G will take place in Seoul, South Korea, in September, 14-19, 2015 (http://2015.foss4g.org/).

North and Central America and the Caribbean

2. The 2015 CyberGIS All Hands Meeting will take place in USGS Reston National Center Dallas Peck Auditorium, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA, on September 15-17, 2015. For more information visit http://cybergis.cigi.uiuc.edu/cyberGISwiki/doku.php/ahm15/index

   #### August

3. 4-5: National Geospatial Preparedness Summit

   Washington, DC, USA

4. 10-11: Geo Buiz Summit

   Bethesda, Maryland, USA

5. 19-21: OpenSym 2015

   San Francisco, California, USA

6. 26-28: Latin America and Caribbean Conference for gvSIG

   Toluca, Mexico

7. 30 August - 2 September: International Conference on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Geomatics

   Toronto, Ontario, Canada

   #### September

8. 9-11: International Drone Conference and Exposition

   Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

9. 22-25: VII Congreso de Cartografía e Infrastructuras de Datos Espaciales

   La Habana, Cuba

10. 27-30: International Map Industry Association Americas Conference

    Washington, DC, USA

Conferences

October

11. 5-7: Commercial UAV Expo

Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

12. 5-9: International Society for Digital Earth 2015

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

13. 2-16: Conference on Spatial Information Theory (COSIT)

Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

14. 27-28: Open Government Partnership Global Summit Mexico

Mexico City, Mexico

15. 27-29: Polar Data Forum

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

November

16. 10-12: Latin America Geospatial Forum

Mexico City, Mexico

17. 11-13: Group on Earth Observations Plenary & Mexico City Ministerial Summit

Mexico City, Mexico

December

18. 9-11: Spatial Information for Human Health

Santa Barbara, California, USA

19. 14-18: American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting

San Francisco, California, USA

January 2016

20. 5-8: Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences

Kauai, Hawaii, USA

February 2016

21. 22-25: URISA GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference

Savannah, Georgia, USA

Europe

22. Earth Observation Open Science 2.0 workshop in Esrin (Frascati, Italy) on 12-14 Oct 2015. More details in http://www.eoscience20.org

23. Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) - Europe "Open Innovation for Europe"

24. The 14th International Conference of the Geological Society of Greece will take place on May 25-27, 2016, in Thessaloniki, northern Greece. The conference addresses all subjects of Earth Sciences. Among many others, GIS and geoinformatics, Remote Sensing, etc. More details in www.ege2016.gr

South America

25. 7as Jornadas de Latinoamérica y Caribe de gvSIG: http://www.gvsig.com/es/_eventos/jornadas-lac/2015. The 7th Latin America and Caribbean gvSIG Conference will be held from August 26th to 28th 2015 at the College of Geography from the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico, under the slogan "free software development as an engine of change."

26. Del 26 al 28 de agosto de 2015 se celebrarán las 7as Jornadas de gvSIG Latinoamérica y Caribe en la Facultad de Geografía de la Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, bajo el lema "Desarrollo en software libre como motor de cambio."

27. 2as Jornadas de gvSIG Perú. "Ciencia, tecnología y desarrollo" http://jornadas-gvsig-peru.icip.edu.pe/

The 2nd gvSIG Conference in Peru will be held from September 25th to 26th at the Auditorium of the Municipality of Huancayo, under the slogan "Science, technology and development"

Los días 25 y 26 de septiembre de 2015 tendrán lugar las 2as Jornadas gvSIG Perú, que se celebrarán en el Auditorio de la Municipalidad de Huancayo, bajo el lema "Ciencia, tecnología y desarrollo"

Asia

Russia

28. The International Geographical Union (IGU) will meet in Moscow in August 17-21, 2015. More details in http://www.igu2015.ru/

Malaysia

29. GeosmartAsia is the premioum conference in Asia Pacific bringing together diverse stakeholders of geospatial technology and geoinformation. The Conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from September 29 until October 1st, 2015. More details in http://geosmartasia.org/

6. Courses

Talleres/workshops:
http://blog.gvsig.org/2015/05/07/3397/

Free workshops at the 7th Latin America and Caribbean gvSIG Conference

Talleres gratuitos en las 7as Jornadas gvSIG de Latinoamérica y Caribe.

Free QGIS video tutorial
 (http://discoverspatial.com/courses/qgis-for-beginners).
The tutorials cover the following areas: Why QGIS?, Identifying the main elements of the QGIS interface, Loading Shapefiles, Creating a map, Advanced styling techniques, Classifying vector data, Preparing a map for export & print, and Creating vector data.

7. Training programs

- MOOC usuarios: http://web.gvsig-training.com/index.php/es/quienes-somos-2/noticias-2/145-the-free-mooc-cycle-gvsig-for-users
  This free MOOC cycle "gvSIG for Users" (in English) is offered by gvSIG Association, in collaboration with GISMAP, and it is made up of three different Modules:
    Module 1: "Introduction to GIS"
    Module 2: "Layer Editing"
    Module 3: "Raster Analysis" (starting in Autumn 2015)

- MOOC scripting: http://web.gvsig-training.com/index.php/es/quienes-somos-2/noticias-2/140-massive-online-open-course-de-introduccion-a-scripting-en-gvsig-2-1
  Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) about "Introducción a Scripting en gvSIG 2.1" 2nd edition (Spanish only)
  Curso Abierto Masivo en línea (MOOC) de "Introducción a Scripting en gvSIG 2.1" 2a. edición (en español solamente)
- http://philippines.eahmi.org/9-articles/21-eahmi-philippines-conducts-qgis-training-for-applied-veterinary-epidemiology-training-avet-program
- International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography (MIIGAiK) invite you to participate in the 6th International Summer Student Seminar 3S – 2015 to be held in MIIGAiK from 17 to 21 August 2015. More details in http://www.isprs.org/uploads/calendar/150506_Announcement_of_GEOMIR_-_3S-2015.pdf and
   http://www.miigaik.ru/eng/training.htm

8. Key Research Publications

For those interested in publishing go to http://www.opengeospatialdata.com/. *Open Geospatial Data, Software and Standards* provides an advanced forum for the science and technology of open data, crowdsourced information, and sensor web through the publication of reviews and regular research papers.

9. Funding opportunities

http://www.cyted.org/?q=es/node/114
Each year the CYTED Program carries out a public call for proposals for financing activities of coordination related to scientific and technical research in several priority areas. The next edition will be in 2016, and we make a call on stakeholders to formulate a joint proposal.

Cada año el Programa CYTED lleva a cabo una convocatoria pública para la presentación de propuestas de financiación de actividades de coordinación de la investigación científica y técnica en varios temas prioritarios. La próxima convocatoria será en 2016 y convocamos a interesados en formular una propuesta conjunta.

Australia-New Zealand

QGIS now has official shops for buying QGIS stuff. About $3 from each purchase goes towards the project itself as a bit of a small fund raiser. Details in http://qgis.spreadshirt.com.au/

10. New free and open software

- **New gvSIG 2.2 final version**
  Continuing with the development of the branch of gvSIG 2 version, a new final version, gvSIG 2.2, has been released.

Australia – New Zealand

- The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research of New Zealand (NIWA) develops and supplies custom software for environmental analysis and modelling. It also offers training and collaborates with schools. More details in https://www.niwa.co.nz/our-services/software-tools/quantum-map

Russia

- Open MapSurfer maps in QGIS. A new free plugin called QuickMapServices, that has been recently developed and published by a Russian company NextGIS, Ltd., allows adding and using web maps in a few clicks. By default, this plugin provides a predefined list of web map services that can be easily extended by creating an ini file. More details in http://k1z.blog.uni-heidelberg.de/2015/02/13/openmapsurfer-maps-in-qgis/
- Plugin: QuickMapServices. QGIS plugin for convenient way to add various map services in one click. http://plugins.qgis.org/plugins/quick_map_services/
- GDAL 2.0. GDAL is a raster and vector format abstraction library. The latest version gives support to Remote sensing data metadata for: Alos, Eros, OrbView, Landsat, Pleiades, Resurs-DK1, Spot, Formosat, and DigitalGlobe satellite products: QuickBird, WorldView-1,2,3, GeoEye-1, Ikonos. The source code is available in http://nextgis.ru/en/blog/gdal-2-0-is-released-our-contribution/

11. Free books

- Free e-book for those who love programming in Python (http://gislounge.tradepub.com/free/w_dive01/?p=w_dive01)

12. Articles

OS GIS training in Mississippi State

By Emma Strong, Co-Editor

Dr. Scott Samson
Extension Professor
Mississippi State University
ssamson@gri.msstate.edu

Being the poorest state in the United States does not stand in the way of Mississippi to adopt and implement GIS in the workplace. Open source GIS software is finding its way into local and state government, academia, and the private sector.

The Mississippi Geospatial Education and Outreach (GEO) Project has been training and providing technical support to the people of Mississippi for over 8 years. External funding has made it possible to offer the workshops at no cost to local and state government personnel in Mississippi ($25 USD for all others) at several sites around the state.

The GEO Project was founded in 2008 by Dr. Scott A. Samson, Extension Professor with the Mississippi State University's Geosystems Research Institute. Over 3,200 people participated in over 325 workshops, ranging from introductory GIS concepts to multi-user database systems and server technology. Although the GEO Project offered over a half dozen different 2 and 3 day workshops using proprietary software for over 7 years, the maturity of open source software is now taking the forefront in the workshop offerings with 3 courses using QGIS.

Introduction to QGIS covers the foundation concepts of GIS. Participants in the 2 day workshop leave with abilities to implement GIS in the workplace and perform common tasks required on a day to day basis. *Intermediate QGIS* builds upon the concepts covered in the introductory course as well as customizing the QGIS interface, mobile GIS and advanced geoprocessing techniques. The third course, *Advanced QGIS*, focuses on the integration of QGIS with the *OpenGeo* suite (*PostGIS*, *GeoServer* and *OpenLayers*). In the fall of 2015, a course in geospatial python programming will be available.

Several local and state government agencies had a small GIS user base due to financial constraints with the cost of licensing proprietary software. Since offering QGIS workshops, many local and state government agencies are able to expand the number of GIS users and, subsequently, improved the efficiency of the operations of the agencies.

Additional information, including workshop schedules, may be found on the GEO Project website (https://www.gri.msstate.edu/geoproject). Dr. Samson may be contacted at ssamson@gri.msstate.edu.

GIS and Politics

by Emma Strong, Co-Editor

The Fifth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held from August 3 through 7 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Topics of discussion include fundamental geospatial data themes, global data standards, and sustainable development related activities. More information can be seen here.

The NASA DEVELOP National Program Using OSGeo Products in Term Projects

by Emma Strong, Co-Editor

The NASA DEVELOP National Program fosters an interdisciplinary research environment where applied science research projects are conducted under the guidance of NASA and partner science advisors. These projects take place across the U.S. at DEVELOP office locations and provide participants an opportunity to conduct feasibility projects that focus on utilizing NASA Earth observations to address community concerns and public policy issues. DEVELOP runs three terms per year (spring, summer, and fall), and interested candidates can visit http://develop.larc.nasa.gov for applications and deadlines.

Spring 2015, International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), Palisades, New York

"Malawi Disasters: Comparing Techniques of Inundation Detection for the January 2015 Malawi Floods Using NASA Earth Observations"

by Emma Strong, Co-Editor

The team for this project partnered with Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCRCCC) and the Malawi Red Cross Society in order to run a comparative analysis of various flood map products for use in relief deployment in flood affected areas. Team members utilized QGIS for raster manipulation and analysis and to create maps using various flood products, including products from Dartmouth Flood Observatory (DFO), NASA Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectro radiometer Near Real-Time Global Flood Mapping Project (NRT-GFM), TerraSAR-X (German satellite), RADARSAT and RADARSAT-2 (Canadian satellites), and the University of Maryland Global Flood Monitoring System Flood Detection (GFMS-FD). The team was able to determine which products maybe most useful for different types of flood events and predict that flood maps will be available 24 hours after a flood event occurs. Their project's video and abstract can be seen here

Abbreviations

by Nikos Lambrinos, Chief Editor

In many cases there are abbreviations written in a manuscript which, for any reason, are not known to everyone. This makes it difficult for a reader to follow the text. For this reason we decided to start building a kind of glossary of more or less common abbreviations which will be updated in every Newsletter. This is mainly for those who are not very much familiarized to the US or UK way of information exchange (the truth is that US and UK writers love to use abbreviations). After a few issues, because the number of abbreviations may be quite big, we will upload all these to Geo4All web site in alphabetical order.

For those who would like to support this effort, please send any abbreviations to the Chief Editor (labrinos@eled.auth.gr).

1. USGIF: United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation
2. OSGeo: Open Source Geospatial Foundation
3. NGA: National Geospatial Intelligence Agency
4. ASPRS: American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
5. FOSS: Free and Open Source Software
6. FOSS4G: Free and Open Source Software For Geospatial
7. AAG: Association of American Geographers
8. AGS: American Geographical Society
9. HOT: Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team
10. MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
11. EOS: Earth Observation Science
12. AURIN: Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network
13. RCMRD: Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development

The Teacher Training discussion in Como Conference

by Elżbieta Wołoszyńska-Wiśniewska (Ela), co-editor

After a long discussion in Como, the participants came up with the following:

- The Network should address all levels of education, starting from nursery education.
- We don't have to be so strict by talking only about FOSS4G. It is better to talk about Open Science, resources, and education.
- Gather in a repository all educational material.
- Make more Labs, even in schools, and get the schools involved as partners.
- Make a website as part of GeoForAll main web site.
- Connect to existing educational networks.
- Create educator opportunity across the globe at each FOSS4G, ISPRS, ICA events (EU, NA, Asia, SA, etc).
- Organize training workshops and other events in the next FOSS4G NA in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Bonn.
- Gather more partners around GeoForAll school initiative like companies, private partners, associations, etc.

13. Scholarships for Students and Staff

Geographic Information Science College Scholarship Information (USA)

- CollegeScholarships.Org
- GIS Pathway
- Montana, USA, Scholarships for Students and Teachers

15. Awards

- The GeoForAll Educator Award Selection Committee, has announced the Individual and Team Awards for the "GeoForAll - Global Educator of the Year Award 2015" http://www.osgeo.org/node/1506 at the FOSS4G 2015- Europe "Open Innovation for Europe" conference at Como, Italy.

GeoForAll would like to thank The Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo), The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), and The International Cartographic Association (ICA) whose contributions made possible the conferment of financial awards to the top three academic teams.

The top award was given to a group from a high school in Alaska that demonstrated leading edge scientific research along with the technology to collect, analyze, and visualize data in real time http://www.edlinesites.net/pages/America_Bridge_Project/ Europa_Challenge.

The second place team was led by Computer Science Professor Jim Miller of Kansas University, http://people.eecs.ku.edu/~miller/WorldWindProjects/ lidar/Europa Challenge/EuropaChallengeNotes.html

The third place team was led by Computer Science Professor Jing Li at the University of Denver, http://geovizcloud.github.io/GeoVizCloud/

- The gvSIG Association received one of the "Europa Challenge" awards, given by NASA and the European Commission last Friday, during the "FOSS4G Europe" in Como, Italy.

16. Web sites

Important Web sites: An important web page that corresponds to the project is http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Main_Page. This page contains many interesting details about OSGeo Foundation and forthcoming events.

The Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN) has released the "Open Source Online What if? Planning Support System" which is an online open source realisation of Professor Richard Klosterman's (1999) desktop version of the tool and can be used to create and explore land suitability, land demand, and land allocation scenarios for municipality and city scale land use futures. For more information go to http://aurin.org.au/projects/portal-and-infrastructure/what-if/. There is a cloud based version where you can upload your own project, or you can download the source code from Github and install your own version (https://github.com/AURIN/ online-whatif). There are instructions on how to prepare your data and setup a new project (http://docs.aurin.org.au/what-if/).

Looking for conferences to attend? There is a good link where you could find what you are looking for. It is a link of the upcoming conferences from the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association. It contains many conferences around the world which have to do with GIS, Remote Sensing, Cartography etc.

Official portal for Malaysia Geospatial
http://www.mygeoportal.gov.my/

For those interested in Educational materials (either to download or upload) they can visit http://www.osgeo.org/educational_content which is the official site of the Network for this purpose.

17. Ideas

- Four very important questions have been aroused in Como Conference (see more details in "Conferences" section) for the future of GeoForAll.
- Geo4All - What would you like to see for Geo4All in 5 years 2015-2020 in the context of educational collaboration?
- Geo4All - What do we need to do together to achieve this vision?
- Geo4All - What can we do THIS YEAR to move forward?
- Geo4All - What can YOU DO THIS YEAR to move us toward this vision?

It is essential for the Network to get ideas and proposals from the members. Please email your ideas to Suchith Anand [Suchith.Anand@nottingham.ac.uk]

- All the pioneer labs of the Network (first 101) to mentor at least one new lab in their area of specialization/country/region as a resolution for this year. If you are the only ICA-OSGeo lab in your country, you are the national headquarters of GeoForAll and have a responsibility to mentor and enable other universities/government organizations/schools to get the opportunity to develop capacity in Geospatial Science. If there are many labs in your country (like USA or UK), then you can mentor based on your specialization. Universities/research institutions/government organizations, etc. in our Pioneer list should mentor at least one other new university/government/SMEs etc. to establish their own GeoforAll lab. It is very important to mentor with our school teacher training in MapStory/QGIS/gvSIG etc.

18. Social Contribution

NEPAL earthquake

Since the earthquake struck Nepal (April, 25, 2015), Geo For All Initiative members contributed in the crisis mapping action launched by the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team. Especially Geo For All colleagues and students at GEO Lab in Como (which is one of the GeoForAll Labs) organized a mapping initiative to support the relief efforts. Details at http://www.polo-como.polimi.it/news/dettaglio-della-news/article/165/ helping-nepal-with-a-mapping-action-at-como-campus-967/

This endorsement from the American Geographical Society is a great boost to all our "Geo for All" colleagues worldwide. "Geo for All" started from nothing and it is 100 percent the efforts of all our colleagues from OSGeo, ICA and ISPRS who joined together on a common education mission that made this all possible. I am grateful to each and every colleague for their hard work and dedication for our mission for building a better world and better future for all our future generations.

It is also our great pleasure to use this opportunity to highlight the contributions of one lab in each newsletter issue to help all of us learn more about our members, share ideas and build collaborations for the future.
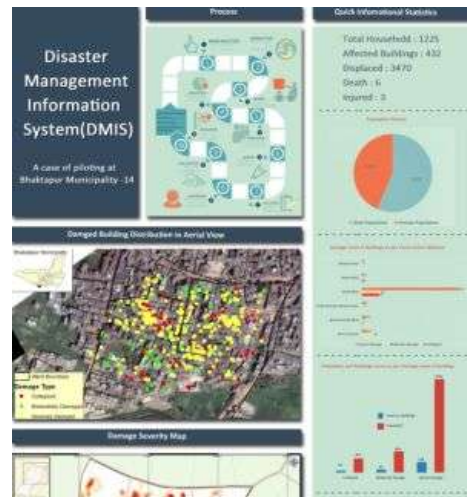
It is my great pleasure, to introduce our colleagues at **the Open Source Geospatial Lab , Kathmandu University, Nepal** as our first "GeoForAll" lab of the month.

We are especially grateful for the work and relief efforts done (and still doing) after the terrible earthquakes by our colleagues in Kathmandu University lead by Dr Shashish Maharjan in these challenging circumstances and may God help them to help others in need. Their whole team along with many students and volunteers were key in helping the recovery efforts. They have been carrying out many activities from piloting of household surveys for detail earthquake assessment

to development of disaster reporting apps

The statement they put in the website along with the app release that "*Your one report can change the lives of hundreds who are in need.*" is so true.

More details of our Nepal lab at the weblinks below

https://sites.google.com/a/ku.edu.np/opensourcegeospatial/

https://geospatiallab.wordpress.com

It is also a time for all of us to think on how we all can contribute to better capacity building in national/regional/local levels globally to help with not only relief efforts but also be better prepared for combating natural disasters from earthquakes to flooding to landslides. Especially there is very limited capacity in geospatial technologies in developing countries as many of the developing countries do not even have local capacity or ability to buy expensive proprietary GIS software tools needed. That is why it is very important that there is local capacity build in all countries using free and open technologies and principles. So making geospatial education opportunities accessible to all is key long term aim that we all should work together. All colleagues and volunteers who have contributed for the Humanitarian Open Street Map Team's efforts are our "Geo for All" Heroes.

Thanks to the unique convergence of some key developments (hardware costs will keep decreasing, internet access will keep increasing even in developing and poor countries, availability of free and open source software, open education resources etc.), we are in the first time in history truly have a real opportunity for making quality education opportunities accessible for all. I have seen this already happening even in some poor government schools in rural India and also many examples in our GeoForAll community from gvSIG Batovi in Uruguay to GIS at Schools etc, has proved that it is possible if we have the will power and determination.

In spite of all the economic & technological developments, it is a sad fact that thousands of schools globally (esp. in developing countries) even today do not have access to even a single computer. Many of these poor schools do not even have a proper library. So GeoForAll aims to welcome ideas from the wider community on how we can work together for building global synergies and collaborations for enabling this even for the poorest and remotest schools worldwide to enable quality education opportunities for all.

One of the important decisions made at Como meeting during FOSS4G 2015 Europe was to welcome Governments, Industry, SME's, NGOs etc who support GeoForAll's education mission and criteria to join us as "Partners".

So we have global network of Open Geospatial Science Research and Education 'Labs' and 'Partners' to expand more collaborations for the future. We will bring together all key players (Government organizations, Industry, SMEs, NGOs) on the common mission of education and opportunities for all.

I am fully confident that if we are able to focus and bring together the amazing energies and reach of the wider community for our education mission, it will be game changer not just for Geoeducation but for the wider Education also. Our focus in addition to Universities and Higher Education is also on "Teacher Training programs" and accelerating the establishment of small GeoForAll labs (with access to internet) even in the poorest and remotest schools worldwide to enable quality education opportunities for all. These "GeoForAll" labs (tablets or low cost hardware based) in addition to help teach geoeducation will be help bring quality teaching and learning opportunities for all. Technology is a big leveller and enabler for the poorer sections of the society to also be part of the global economy and we should not allow creation of artificial barriers (being forced to buy high cost proprietary software) to deny this opportunity for the bottom billions. It is their right to also be part of the digital opportunities.

I am confident if we keep focus, we can achieve the target to enable digital education opportunities (tablets or low cost hardware based) in many of the poorest schools globally in just 10 years time and having this partnership with universities, governments, Industry, SMEs and NGOs is key for this. So even if till now many of these schools did not have access to any proper library or other learning resources, they will now have access to the best digital education resources available globally from wikipedia to MOOCs.

Education + Empowerment = Geo4All

Access to quality education and opportunities is key for getting rid of extreme poverty and enable broadly shared prosperity for all.

We look forward to working and building collaborations with all interested on this education mission.

Best wishes,

Suchith Anand