



VISION

Geographic Information with all its aspects should become a fully integrated component of the European knowledge-based society

MISSION

In order to ensure good governance, economic and social development, environmental protection and sustainability, and informed public participation, the mission is to maximise the availability and effective use of GI throughout Europe

This will require EUROGI to stimulate, encourage and support the development and effective use of GI and relevant technologies, and to act as the voice for the European GI community

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IMPRESSIONS FROM THE GSDI 11 WORLD CONFERENCE

Spatial Data Infrastructure Convergence: Building SDI Bridges to address Global Challenges
Rotterdam, NL 15-19 June 2009

By Bino Marchesini



GSDI 11 WORLD CONFERENCE

Spatial Data Infrastructure Convergence:
Building SDI Bridges to address Global Challenges

ROTTERDAM - THE NETHERLANDS
JUNE 15TH - JUNE 19TH 2009

The combined EUROGI, Ravi/Geonovum, TU Delft and JRC initiative to host the GSDI 11 conference in Europe, The Netherlands, proved to be a winning success. The conference's theme was SDI Convergence: Building SDI Bridges to Address Global Challenges and was a combined global GSDI, European INSPIRE and Dutch Geonovum/RGI one.

FIGURES

Close to 1200 participants registered from about 80 countries. There were 26 exhibitors and 14 sponsors. Never in its history GSDI saw such incredible high figures. The participants also set a record for the WTC congress hall: never before so many had made use of the WiFi of the WTC. So, record after record.

Some other figures: 31 preconference workshops, 70 parallel sessions and roundtables, hundreds of presentations, more than 80 posters. Bas Kok as GSDI President responsible for the conference, Geonovum director Rob van de Velde and JRC's Alessandro Annoni and their teams did a wonderful job.

The pre-conference day had with many very well attended workshops, two of which were organized by EUROGI, both having as subject Lessons learned and best practices from GI-SDI projects. On the conference itself every day had its own specific theme. The first day was the plenary opening session with key-notes from all parts of the world. The second day the plenary session was dedicated to INSPIRE and the third day the plenary was a Dutch one. The final day the plenary session was the closing session with conclusions and the launch of the next GSDI conference in Singapore and the INSPIRE conference in Krakow.



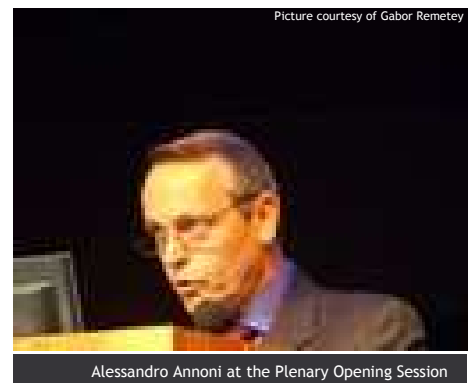
Picture courtesy of Gabor Remetey

Bas Kok, GSDI President



Picture courtesy of Gabor Remetey

A full parallel session



Picture courtesy of Gabor Remetey

Alessandro Annoni at the Plenary Opening Session



EUROPEAN UMBRELLA ORGANISATION FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

EUROGI

EUROGI not only was one of the initiators but also was one of the co-organisers and participated actively in the Program committee as well as in the Steering Committee by its member and Vice President Bruce McCormack.

At the conference EUROGI with its partners organised two successful workshops on the projects it is involved in, EUROGI members moderated several sessions, and EUROGI members gave various presentations.

EUROGI had its own booth at the exhibition that hosted also a number of the projects it works for.

EUROGI had a well recognized prominent role in making the congress possible.

A thank-you to all its members!

SOME CONCLUSIONS

In his wrap up of the conference on Friday 19 June Arnold Bregt (RGI, Space for GI) amongst others concluded the following:

- There are clear developments from SDI-construction to SDI-use, including new research challenges;
- Local levels play a crucial role and they are more and more aware of this;
- The public sector dominance now includes an increasing private participation;
- There is still small yet growing tendency to voluntary citizen's participation;
- A clear need is visible to attract more students and this is a very important challenge for the future of GI;
- The heart of SDI's are the bridges, the



EUROGI's booth



Current EUROGI President Mauro Salvemini puts a EUROGI-pin on the lapel of EUROGI's first President Michael Band; in the middle Francois Salgé, like Michael Brand a founding father of EUROGI

interlinkage; there are still separate domains though that need to be linked.

And Max Craglia (JRC) in his summary said mainly:

- The community moved from talking about SDI's to the implementation, which is an impressive step;
- The combined conference was an enormous opportunity to share experiences amongst experts from all over the world;
- The participative approach of INSPIRE has been and is a great benefit; the voluntary work by all involved is of immeasurable value;
- We start seeing real benefits now of INSPIRE, we should keep the momentum;
- This is the right moment for all to innovate, including the private sector;
- There is great need to develop expertise, by training and education;
- The conference was very successful, all participants shared a lot of experiences in a very pleasant atmosphere.



Max Craglia and Arnold Bregt

The new President of GSDI, Abbas Rajabifard stated that GSDI had played and plays a critical role in the development of SDI's. During this conference indeed many issues have been tackled and discussed. GSDI is an association on the move.



GSDI President Abbas Rajabifard

Prof. Dr. David Coleman, Dean of the Faculty Engineering at the University of New Brunswick in Canada has been voted as President-elect of the GSDI Association.



Past President Bas Kok and President Abbas Rajabifard

All presentations will be available later this month through the GSDI and the INSPIRE websites.

NEXT GSDI CONFERENCE

The next GSDI 12 conference will be in thrilling Singapore, 18-22 October 2010, with Singapore Land Authority and have as leading theme: Realising spatially enabled societies.

NEXT INSPIRE CONFERENCE

INSPIRE next year will have its own conference again. This time in beautiful Kraków, Poland, 22-25 June 2010, under the patronage of the Surveyor general of Poland and organised by the Polish association for Spatial Data.



Geonovum director Rob van de Velde and part of his team

EUROGI

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